



Vintage Views

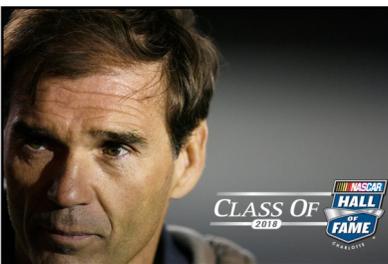
The official publication of the
Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club

Dedicated to the Preservation of Stock Car Racing History
January, February, March 2018

New NASCAR Hall of Fame Inductee Ray Evernham Proud of His New Jersey Racing Heritage

by Earl Krause, Area Auto Racing News May 30, 2017

Editor's Note: On January 19, 2018, Ray Evernham was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame. His moving speech was full of humility and appreciation for his career in racing. Starting out, he said, "It is just impossible to find the words to express what it feels like to stand up here...when you look back at your career, you realize that there's so many people that helped you. Whether they taught you something, or gave you a few bucks, a pat on the back or a vote of confidence...I don't remember everybody's names and their instances, but I want you to know that I'm standing here tonight because of you." He went on to



recognize those who were key in the progression of his career. He summed up his speech by saying, "Thank you for all of you who believed in me, and thank you for honoring my work tonight."

Ray Evernham has been a member of and friend to the GSVSCC since its inception. Earl Krause spoke with Ray after the Hall of Fame inductees were announced last year. Here's what they had to say:

Ray Evernham grew up in and around the Central New Jersey town of Hazlet in the 1960s and '70s. He was a "car guy" in that era when big-motor street and race cars were the focus of teenagers, so it was not surprising that he looked toward already famed Wall Stadium as a place to watch, and then participate in stock car competition on summertime Saturday nights.

In 1975 at age 18 (the minimum age to race at that time), Evernham signed in to Wall's pit area – not as a crewman, but as a driver, with his very own stock car to race. Ray entered the ranks of the Stadium's newly-developed Modern Stock division. The Modern Stocks were full-fender cars powered primarily by six-cylinder motors and was a perfect entry-level division.

The Modern Stocks started Ray Evernham on a path that led him to international recognition at the highest level of

NASCAR. On May 24, 2017, some 40 years later, he was named as a member of the NASCAR Hall of Fame Class of 2018. He is in esteemed company, with NASCAR's first champion Red Byron; champion Cup level team owner and engine building



Ray's Modern Stock in 1977
Photo credit: GSVSCC

master Robert Yates; NASCAR Truck Series champion Ron Hornaday Jr.; and broadcasting legend Ken Squier.

When I spoke with Evernham the day after his notification of the Hall of Fame honor, he was reflective of what it represented and how far he had come from those first racing days. "Emotion...the feeling of just what it means is just now beginning to come to focus," he said. "To be in that company [of HoF inductees], to even have been considered...is overwhelming. Very importantly, I look at this [HoF induction] as recognition to Wall Stadium and all of the New Jersey 'racing family' who helped me, and believed in me...to get me to where I am right now. They were people who gave me the direction and drive to succeed. And Wall Stadium...it's where I grew up, as a fan and then a racer. There, and with IROC is where I learned not just how to race, but also how to prepare cars, to not give up... to focus on a goal." Indeed, Ray Evernham's



Running a Modified with John Blewett, Jr.
June 2, 1979 Photo: GSVSCC

racing foundation is in New Jersey.

It's where he first owned and drove a race car in those full-fender Modern Stocks at his home track of Wall as a teenager.

(continued)

GSVSCC meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday from January through November, 7:30 p.m. at the West Long Branch Firehouse, Rt. 71 (Monmouth Road) and Cedar Ave. West Long Branch, NJ.
For directions call 732-330-8349 or go to www.gsvscc.org.

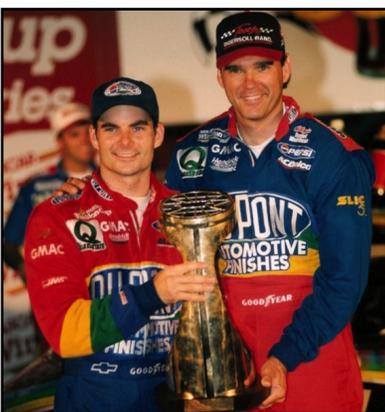
He became division Rookie of the Year in 1976, and its champion in 1977. He then moved into the Modifieds, at Wall and then-paved New Egypt Speedway with his #19 and #61 cars. He competed and won in the Dirt/Asphalt Modifieds at Flemington in the early 1990s.

From 1983 through 1989, he was with the International Race of Champions (IROC) Series based in Tinton Falls, NJ. He started as a fabricator and worked his way up to team crew chief and manager. In the 1990s, while racing Modifieds at Wall and Flemington, he operated his Ray Evernham Race Prep shop in Manasquan, NJ.

In 1992, the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club (GSVSCC) was formed with the goal of preserving the rich stock car racing history of New Jersey. Some of the earliest GSVSCC meetings were held at Evernham's Race Prep shop. Ray – then and now – has been a great supporter of the organization and its historic racing mission. That includes sponsoring the GSVSCC's annual "Bob Thomas 'BT' Memorial Dedication to Local New Jersey Racing" award, named in honor of Ray's late, good friend and fellow IROC manager Bob "BT" Thomas.



Photo credit: AP/Terry Renna



Jeff Gordon and Ray Evernham
Photo credit: ameriarnatv.com

Some 25 years ago, Ray Evernham was already looking toward his future, which meant a move south to NASCAR racing. Ultimately, he earned 47 NASCAR Sprint Cup victories and titles on that level in 1995, '97 and '98 as Crew Chief for driver Jeff Gordon and Rick Hendrick's #24. Later, Ray would lead the return of Dodge to the Cup Series, fielding his own team.

What sets Ray Evernham apart is that he has never forgotten his Wall Stadium and New Jersey roots. That includes giving recognition to those in the sport on a local level that helped or inspired him – such as IROC's Jay Signore and his late wife Barbara, Bob Thomas, East Windsor Speedway racer Fred Dmuchowski, and Wall stock car driving legend Bob Howard Sr.

Ray is also highly regarded as a racing businessman and television motorsports analyst. He's a racing historian – very significant to the GSVSCC - with his own mission of preserving antique race cars and keeping them in a museum setting to be appreciated for future generations. That interest led to Ray developing and hosting the "AmeriCarna" show on the cable TV network Velocity. He and fellow Wall racing native Eddie Bohn and staff members find and then meticulously

restore historic racing and street cars while documenting the "real life" American car culture.

Ray's wife, Erin, is an accomplished race driver in divisions ranging from Sprint Cars and Midgets to the ARCA Series. In July 2015, Ray and Erin became parents of their daughter Cate Susan. Ray also has a 24 year-old son, "Ray J".

While there is no doubt that Ray Evernham has Hall of Fame statistics, he also represents Hall of Fame character in his life. Ray has worked tirelessly on behalf of charities such as the Leukemia Society of America, the National Bone Marrow Donors Association and IGNITE, an organization that supports people with Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. For Ray, it's personal: while a youngster, Ray J. survived the blood disease leukemia. He also has Asperger's. A young man that serves as a real inspiration, Ray J. has also proudly worked at his dad's Ray Evernham Enterprises.



Photo credit: Hendrick Motorsports

Ray Evernham is no stranger to the Hall of Fame. In January, 2017, he was inducted into the Eastern Motorsport Press Association Hall of Fame. He was similarly honored by NJ's Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club in 2014. Ray enjoyed returning home to attend those ceremonies, and comes back to Wall Stadium to visit friends whenever possible.

Back in the early 1980s, when Ray was racing in the Modifieds at Wall, I was there one night in my media role. My race-fan dad, Earl Sr., accompanied me. Dad viewed the racing from the grandstand, and after the event had concluded, he joined me in the pit area. It was there that I introduced Dad to Ray Evernham. Ray not only shook my father's hand with a welcoming smile, but also took the time to show him the various "points of interest" on his signature red #61 Pinto Modified on its open trailer. Some years after their initial meeting, Dad renewed his acquaintance with Ray during one of his visits to Wall in the early 2000s. Dad, who loved racing and the mechanical side of cars, had a great time. My Dad, who has since passed away, was very honored to have met Ray that night and always enjoyed those memories. I have never forgotten how Ray Evernham took the time to speak with my Dad and "show him around" his Modified.

To me, that has always represented the true manner and characteristics of Ray Evernham - not only at his second home at race tracks in New Jersey and around the country, but in life itself.

Ray and Jeff Gordon took time out to chat with club members John Dooley and Jim Zuk when they met up with them at Daytona. This article appeared in the March 1993 newsletter.



On camera for *Americarna*
Photo credit: *americarnatv.com*



Ray poses with Wally Dallenbach, Sr. (L),
Al Gehrum (C) & the XL-1 at
2013 Turkey Derby
Photo credit: *Jim Smith*



Ray brought out his last Modified for
2013 Turkey Derby Photo credit: *Jim Smith*



Ray and Eddie Bohn at the GSVSCC 2014
Hall of Fame Awards Banquet
Photo credit: *Jim Smith*

Dear Club Members,

Myself and fellow club member, Jim Zuk made our annual trip to Daytona for Speedweek. This has to have been our best trip ever.

It was very rewarding when Jim and I met fellow club member Ray Everham, and driver Jeff Gordon after racing practice. We Chatted for about twenty minutes and both Ray and Jeff were very pleased and confident, as we all know the results.

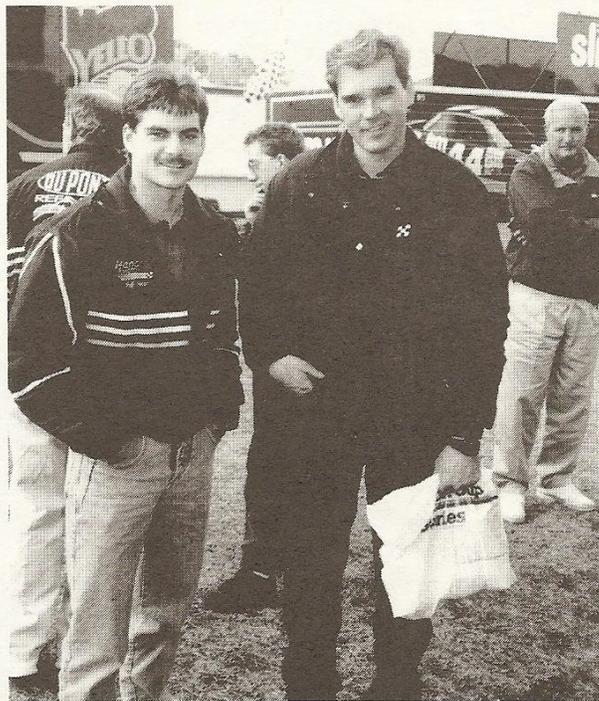
Ray's dream has always been to work the Winston Cup and for the last two months they have been averaging an 80-90 hour week. Ray is very pleased with the entire team, and a young one at that.

Ray finds time to read the newsletter and sends his best regards to all back East.

Jim and I also had the pleasure to visit and chat with Whip Milligan. As you know, Jim and Whip's relationship goes back a number of years. Jim couldn't believe that despite Whip's physical problems, his sense of humor is still riding high.

Whip wants to thank everyone for their cards and letters and sends his regards.

John M. Dooley, Sr.



Jeff Gordon (L) and Ray Everham (R) at Daytona

MOTORSPORTS 2018

Lots of visitors enjoyed seeing our race cars, photos, newsletters and other stuff at the PPB Motorsports Race Car and Trade Show held on January 19-21. THANKS to our club members who helped with the club's booth : Don Bruno, Robyn Clickner, Paul Ielmini, Ray Shea and Al Voorhees.



We've Got Gremlins — the #82 of Butch Malsbury and Al Voorhees *Photo by Ray Shea*



The #67 of Paul Ielmini
Photo by Ray Shea



2018 Ms. Motorsports — Club President Ray Shea gets all the tough jobs. *Photo by Jim Smith*



Hot Off the Press — Linda's got newsletters, membership forms, 2018 schedules, brochures....oh, and candy, of course. *Photo by Linda Cooper, with help*



Lawn Mower Racing — the hot new thing.
Photo by Linda Cooper

JANUARY 17, 2018

The January meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order by President Ray Shea at 7:35 p.m. Twenty members were in attendance.

A moment of silence was observed by the attending members for the passing of longtime member Paul Hayes. Paul was the club's Treasurer for many years. His financial knowledge assisted in making the club a financially sound organization. His work ethic will surely be missed. Another member of our racing family recently left us - Jim Gratton. Jim could often be seen at the scales in the pits at Wall Stadium performing his duties there. Jim loved racing. For several years he fielded race cars for his sons Billy and Bobby.

Welcome back to our Vice President Marty Van Druten. Marty was out for a while due to illness and shoulder surgery. It was also good to see our President Ray Shea doing well after having foot surgery.

Ray Liss reported that progress is being made for club cars to appear at the Vintage Automobile Museum in Point Pleasant, despite the snow and inclement weather.

The club is preparing for this year's Motorsports show in PA. Al Voorhees is to set up the display with the assistance of other club members.

This is always a worthwhile event and the club is pleased to be able to participate.

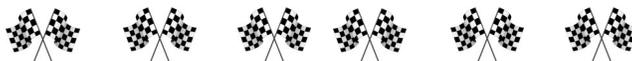
The Hall of Fame banquet will be held on March 18 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Branches in West Long Branch. This will be the 27th year for this special event, during which we will recognize the people who created the racing history that our organization honors. Honorees this year are: Driver - Jerry Cranmer, Joe Hall and Tom Michel; Owner - Jim and Ruth Bauma; Bob Thomas Award - Jeff Hardifer; Lifetime Achievement Award - Jeff Gravatt.

The 2018 club event schedule is available.

It was noted that a two-year contract was signed for the operation of Wall Stadium. The club and its members are eager to show their support for the facility this season.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

John Malsbury, Secretary



Come out to the
VINTAGE AUTO MUSEUM OF NJ
1800 Bay Avenue, Bldg. 13
Pt. Pleasant, NJ

This year's display, pictured here, will be open from through February, 2018. Check the Museum's website for visiting hours: www.vintageautomuseum.org or call (732) 899-0012.



Photo by Larry Housman



Photo by Larry Housman



Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club

2018 Schedule

DATE	ARRIVAL TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
April 22	3:00 p.m.	Bridgeport Speedway <i>3/8 mile track</i>	Regular Show
April 28	3:00 p.m.	New Egypt Speedway	Regular Show
May 6 (Rain Date 5/25)	9:00 a.m.	Patterson Farms, Freehold	Family Fun Day Car Show
May 12	3:00 p.m.	Wall Stadium	Regular Show
May 26	3:00 p.m.	New Egypt Speedway	Regular Show
June 9	3:00 p.m.	Bridgeport Speedway <i>5/8 mile track</i>	Regular Show
June 9	3:00 p.m.	Wall Stadium	Regular Show
June 10	9:00 a.m.	Sayreville High School	RJC Charities Fundraiser Car Show
June 30	5:00 p.m.	New Egypt Speedway	Regular Show
July 7	3:00 p.m.	Bridgeport Speedway <i>5/8 mile track</i>	Regular Show
July 14	3:00 p.m.	Wall Stadium	Regular Show
July 21	5:00 p.m.	New Egypt Speedway	Regular Show
August 11	3:00 p.m.	Bridgeport Speedway <i>5/8 mile track</i>	Regular Show
August 18	3:00 p.m.	Wall Stadium	Regular Show
August 25	3:00 p.m.	New Egypt Speedway	Regular Show
September 9	8:00 a.m.	Warren Twp. Municipal Grounds	Car Show
September 22	3:00 p.m.	New Egypt Speedway	Regular Show
September 22	3:00 p.m.	Wall Stadium	Regular Show
October 14	9:00 a.m.	Patterson Farms, Freehold	Family Fun Day Car Show
November 23	9:00 a.m.	Wall Stadium	Regular Show

*Events listed in **BOLD** are static display events*

2018 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Drivers: Jerry Cranmer, Joe Hall and Tom Michel
Car Owners: Jim and Ruth Bauma
Media: Lenny Sammons, Jr.
Lifetime Achievement Award: Jeff Gravatt
Bob Thomas Award: Racing Historian Jeff Hardifer

The club's annual banquet and Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held on **Sunday, March 18, 2018** at Branches in West Long Branch from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$45 per person. Non-members are welcome to attend. Banquet forms went out in the mail. If you didn't receive one, contact Ray Shea at (732) 330-8349.



OOPS!

Haste makes waste...or in this case, errors. In the Fall 2017 issue, we offered get well wishes to Harriet Hawk. Harriet is married to Stan Hawk, not Jim Hawk, as reported. And it's Jim *Hawkes*, anyway. Apologies all around.



GET WELL WISHES

Connie Joyner
Tom Grob

CONDOLENCES

Cliff Krause, promoter of Wall Stadium
Sam Riggleman, former racer and memorabilia vendor at Wall Stadium



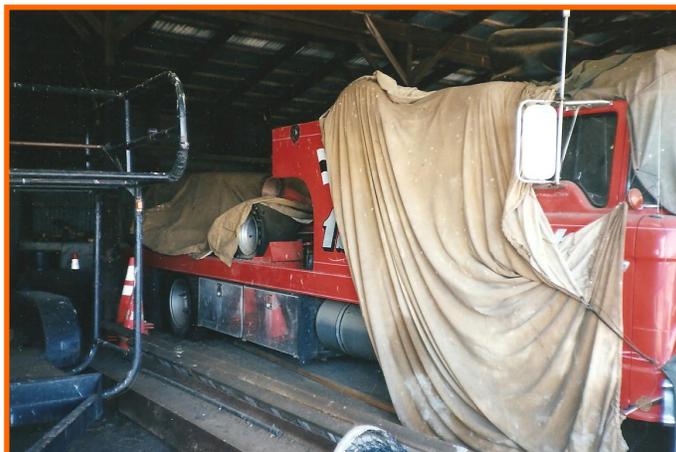
Folks are needed to catalog the club's archived items. Contact Ray Shea if you can help out.

NEW MEMBERS

Jeff Hardifer
Scott Riggleman
Joe Zalescik



IT'S DAYTONA TIME AGAIN! Here's a shot of Red Farmer getting some "air" on the beach in the 100-lapper Modified/Sportsman race in 1953, his first NASCAR race. At 84-ish years of age, he's still racing & plans to race in 2018. Photo credit: www.speedhunters.com



Where do race cars go when they're retired?

PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER

from the Fall, 2017 issue



Here's a photo of a popular PA racer waiting to race at a popular NJ dirt track. Do you know the name of the driver, the location and, for bonus points, the year?

It's Doug Hoffman behind the wheel of the Leon Conklin-owned #125, ready to race at Flemington (NJ) Speedway in the "Wendy's 200" in 1987. For those not familiar with Doug Hoffman, read on:

Doug Hoffman was a resident of Allentown, PA, born on October 30, 1958. He began his racing career in 1977 on asphalt, driving his Late Model #60 Over at the former Dorney Park Speedway in PA. He took to racing easily, winning in only his fifth start. He also won at Evergreen Speedway in nearby Hazleton, PA, another asphalt track. He then made the switch to dirt racing and the rest, as they say, is history.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Hoffman was the only racer in his family. Without the advantages of being a "legacy" racer, it was fortunate that he struck up a friendship with Budd Olsen, a former driver and successful chassis builder. Olsen mentored Hoffman and shaped him into the accomplished racer he would become. In the early 1990s, Doug Hoffman, the dirt racing champ, returned to asphalt racing on an occasional basis with good results: in 1992, he won the NASCAR Winston Modified Tour 200 at Flemington Speedway.

During his 32-year career, he won 482 features at 38 tracks in nine states and two Canadian provinces. He took home 25 championship titles. Highlights of his career include beating out rival Brett Hearn for the 1991 Mr. DIRT championship; winning the 1996 Super DIRT Week Fay's 300 in Syracuse, NY (after starting in the back using a provisional starting spot); winning the 2004 NASCAR Dodge Weekly Series Northeast Region championship; being honored as a 2011 Northeast Modified Hall of Fame inductee; and entering the Eastern Motorsport Press Association's Hall of Fame in 2015.

Although he continued to race occasionally, in 2005 Hoffman traded his helmet for a promoter's hat, promoting Mahoning Valley Speedway in Lehighton, PA until 2011. In 2012 he left Mahoning to promote Bridgeport Speedway in Swedesboro, NJ. He helped to revitalize the track by bringing back the big-block Modifieds and introducing his Poker Series, which had been successful at Mahoning Valley.

Sadly, Hoffman passed away suddenly on December 24, 2012. He is survived by his wife Gena, daughters Joette and Skye, a granddaughter Mattie and brothers Michael, David, Donald and Keith, also a racer, who has taken over his brother's position at Bridgeport. Away from the track, Hoffman owned and operated DCH Trucking, LLC from 2003 until his passing.

Although often considered an "intense" racer, Hoffman was well-liked in the sport, both as a racer and a promoter. In March of 2013, the first "60-Over Special Doug Hoffman Memorial" was held at Bridgeport Speedway. The Memorial has been run each year since and is well-attended, a testament to the regard Doug Hoffman's fans and competitors still hold for him. This year's event will run on March 30-31, 2018.

PHOTO TRIVIA



King of _____! Who is this guy and why does he look happy to be crowned?

Look for the answer in our next issue, or go to our website www.gsvscc.org if you can't wait that long.

If you have a photo you'd like to share, send it to Linda Cooper via e-mail at: vintageviews@gsvscc.org or by mail to: 7 Thompson Street, West Long Branch, NJ 07764. Prints will be returned promptly.

Be sure to provide the pertinent facts!



VINTAGE VIEWS, THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GARDEN STATE VINTAGE STOCK CAR CLUB

Linda Cooper—Publisher/Editor

vintageviews@gsvscc.org ☎ 732-456-3947

President Ray Shea - 732-330-8349
bigblock7s@comcast.net

Vice President Marty Van Druen - 732-255-2807
coacher5@comcast.net

Secretary John Malsbury-732-364-3303
susanmalls@optonline.net

Treasurer Mary Anne Hayes-732-458-4074

Membership Ray Shea 732-330-8349
bigblock7s@comcast.net

Event Coordinator Ray Shea 732-330-8349
bigblock7s@comcast.net

On the Web www.gsvscc.org
Club E-Mail gsvscc@comcast.net/info@gsvscc.org