



Vintage Views

**The official publication of the
Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club**

**Dedicated to the Preservation of Stock Car Racing History
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Kevin Bacik's Passion for Racing History Leads to Restoration of Frenchie's #6 Modified

by Earl Krause, as published in Area Auto Racing News April 6, 2021

Kevin Bacik has a passion for racing history, especially when it comes to Northeast pavement Modifieds. This passion includes a car that was legendary in the 1980s - the Frenchie's Auto Body #6 Chevrolet Cavalier, fielded by Frank "Frenchie" Courvoisier and driven to victory in many events in that era by top drivers. Several years ago, Kevin obtained that car from the collection of his brother Steven.

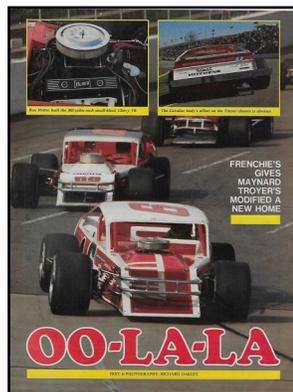


The famed #6 had been changed into several other Modifieds into and through the 1990s. Although it wasn't recognizable as the Troyer/Courvoisier #6 of some three decades before, it was definitely still the same car that had originally been built and driven by Maynard

Troyer himself. When Kevin Bacik saw it, he knew what his mission would be.

"I had seen, as a fan in the grandstand at Pocono for the Race of Champions years ago, that car [the #6]," recalled Kevin, a 64-years-young resident of West Babylon, NY. "In my heart, I knew that this car, which was always one of the most beautiful and fastest when Maynard Troyer first drove it, HAD to be restored to be the 'Frenchie's' number 6."

A WINNING DEBUT: The #6 began as the personal Modified of its builder and original owner, Maynard Troyer, who was often in Victory Lane at Northeast tracks during the 1982 season. Troyer was expanding his pavement and dirt Modified building business, which consumed much of his time. At that year's Race of Champions, he announced his retirement from driving. That's when Frank Courvoisier entered the sport, purchasing the #6 from Troyer. The immaculate orange, white and gold Modified was then based in Courvoisier's "Frenchie's Auto Body" shop in Pt. Pleasant, NJ,



minutes from Wall Stadium. The car made an impressive late-season debut. In the November 1982 Turkey Derby at Wall, Courvoisier's new driver, young Tony Hirschman of Northampton, PA, finished second to winner Lenny Boyd. Hirschman led many laps before pitting for a flat tire and restarting at the rear. Turning the wrenches as Crew Chief for Frenchie's new team was Ron Buck, Sr., already established as one of the best in his field at Wall Stadium. Ron Hutter, a premier motor builder of the day for Modifieds, built the original 362 c.i. Chevy under the hood. Along with Frenchie's, Ideal Kitchens also sponsored the effort. Ideal Kitchens was a local company owned by winning car owner Howard Harvey.



Winning success for Frenchie, Tony and the team continued at Wall in 1983. The highlight of that season was an exciting win at July's prestigious 200-lap Garden State Classic. The #6 also pulled into Victory Lane at Wall in the 1980s by another track standout driver, Jerry Cranmer.

Through the 1980s and into the '90s, the #6 changed owners, color, and number. It was driven by several drivers at Wall Stadium. Ken Woolley, Jr., a top NJ racer, was among the last to be at the wheel of the original #6 in the late 1990s, when it was Gary Hartman's red, white and blue B & G Marine/North American Construction #5. Ultimately, it found its way to the home-based vintage race car "shop and museum" of Steve Bacik in Tobyhanna, PA.

MOTORSPORTS HISTORY ON LONG ISLAND: The Bacik brothers share a strong appreciation for the rich history of pavement Modified racing in the Northeast, especially on their native Long Island. Kevin and Steve Bacik are active members of the Long Island Vintage Auto Racing Series (LIVARS). As with similar groups around the country, its mission is to preserve local racing history. LIVARS drivers and car owners run competitive events at Riverhead and other Northeast tracks such as at NY's Bethel Motorsports Park. The restored Frenchie's #6 Modified has been a popular addition to the lineup when LIVARS is at the track!

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.

Kevin is also a member of the Atlantic Coast Old Timers and Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club. He will have the #6 at CT's Stafford Speedway for the April 24-25 NAPA Spring Sizzler Weekend during the event's Vintage All Stars presentation.

THE RESTORATION: With much enthusiasm and investigation, Kevin Bacik verified that the car that his brother Steven had was indeed the original Maynard Troyer #6 of 1982 that had become the Frenchie's Auto Body Modified. While the car wasn't a "basket case," it did need a lot of work and burning of the midnight oil to be brought back to its original appearance.

"All of us (Kevin and the group that did the restoration) wanted to make sure that this car would once again be the showpiece that it was when it was Maynard's (Troyer) personal car; and then Frenchie's when it was at Wall, Pocono and around the Northeast in the mid-1980s," stated Kevin Bacik. "And not only did I want it to look like it first did, it also had to be race-ready for our vintage events, with that sound of the 1980s Modifieds, so that fans of today could see it for real... and fans like me, who watched it actually race, could share the memory. We accomplished that, thanks to many friends who shared the passion."

Kevin "grew up around racing on Long Island," and recalled that as a young fan he admired region Modified legends "Gentleman Jim" Hendrickson and his #X-3 car owner Tony Ferrante Sr. Bacik also admired "Chargin' Charlie" Jarzombek and his famed #1, and members of the Jarzombek family.

Kevin is a firm believer in giving back to his community and the Island. He has been a dedicated member of the North Lindenhurst, NY, Fire Department and is retired from civil service employment.

HELP FROM FRIENDS: When the time came to restore what became the "new" Frenchie's Auto Body #6, Kevin Bacik was "all in." He emphasized that "so many people were instrumental in the restoration...because of the car's history we wanted to make sure that it would be perfect. Everyone had a part in it."

As such, there were many people involved. Help came through hands-on, long days and nights in the shop; through donations and supplying of replacement and key period parts; or with all-important advice and recollections of being on the original team. The group included Kevin's girlfriend Betty Blau, brother Steve Bacik, good friend and vintage racing enthusiast Mark Miller, engine builders Jack and Scott Merkel, Modified drivers Sal Acardi Jr., Wayne Anderson, Jamie Tomaino, Tommy Rogers, Jr., Donnie Wagner, Ken Woolley, Jr., John Meade, Tony Ferrante, Jr., Tony Hirschman and his son Matt, and Legend driver Steve Woytysiak. Troyer dealers and specialists, including Billy Colton and "Troyer Bob" of Troyer Engineering also contributed to the effort. They were with Troyer in when the car debuted in 1982 and supplied key, accurate background on the construction. The Courvoisier family offered encouragement and help with accurate details of the car when it was in their shop during the mid-1980s. Marty Himes, THE racing historian of Long Island and the curator of the Himes Racing Museum consulted, as did Tony Ferrante, Sr., Joe Bertuccio, Kenny Unger, Joe Larson, Tommy Baldwin, Jr. and R.T. Peterson. "R.T. (Peterson) is one of the true 'good guys' in our sport," said Kevin Bacik. "He gives me tires, now I just got a new radiator from him for our vintage Modified - for free!"

Kevin also offers sincere thanks to others on the rear deck of the #6. Under the lettering, "With a little help from our friends!" are the names of Anthony Salvie, Steve Mehner, G. Forge Collision, Jimmy Reed, Certified Transmission, Flo-Rite Headers, Tom Jensen, Kenny Vogel, George Meade, Mike Zelma, Speedmaster Automotive, Wolf Wheels and Gary McDonald. Sal Arcardi, Jr. enjoys driving the restored Modifieds of the Bacik brothers at vintage on-track events. Team mascot dog Pugsley is a key member in the shop and pit area and is always by Kevin's side!

Like all other types of race cars, important backing comes from several Long Island-based businesses. Support comes from Eric Bennett's Best Buy Auto Sales (West Babylon), Dennis Freese's Oval Speed Unlimited (Massapequa Park), Start to Finish Elite Auto Repair (Islip) and Print Memos (Lindenhurst). All those people and businesses were instrumental in the detailed re-creation of a true period piece of Northeast Modified racing.

MEMORABLE DEBUT: In 2017, the restored #6 returned to the track with its signature Frenchie's Auto Body look, as immaculate as before, at PA's Mahoning Valley Speedway. Floyd Santee, then-track promoter and racing enthusiast, had the honor of "christening" the car. Mark Miller pulled the car into the homestretch Victory Lane before the start of feature racing. As Kevin Bacik stood proudly alongside, track announcer Dino Oberto told the fans the interesting history of the #6. Then Floyd Santee broke a bottle of champagne over the front bumper of the #6. Miller then led the field of the current-day Modified main event on their pace lap. It was a fitting return for a famous Modified!



PATTERSON GREENHOUSES' FAMILY FUN DAY

It was a pleasure to gather at Patterson Greenhouses in Freehold, NJ for the Spring Family Fun Day. Classic cars, vintage race cars, current competitive race cars, vendors, and live music filled the farm. The GSVSCC Hospitality Tent was on the scene with copies of newsletters, brochures, candy, and membership forms. Thanks to those club members who supported the club at this event.

Photos by Linda Cooper



FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW BY THE BEACH

It was a beautiful day by the beach—for a car show, that is. On June 20, 2021, GSVSCC was on the scene. Al Voorhees and Butch Malsbury brought their #82 purple Gremlin, which won the "Old Race Car" trophy. The Hospitality Tent welcomed lots of curious visitors. Old friends stopped by, and new friends were made. Sunburn may have been a part of the day as well. *Photos by Linda Cooper*



APRIL 21, 2021

The April meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by President Ray Shea. Twelve members were in attendance. Ray introduced the group to Jim Kelleher, the club's new Treasurer.

Ray said it will take folks some time to realize we are meeting again. We look forward to a better turnout next month.

Ray announced the following folks who recently passed away: Nick Piscitelli, former Sprint car driver; Dick Davis, a pioneer of Jersey Shore racing, one of the first people to organize stock car racing in the area, Shore Race Club, business owner and pilot; Bill Wayland, who bought the 9A that belonged to late member Dean Applegate; Pete Chesson. A moment of silence was held for these individuals.

Ray announced get well wishes to Larry Housman; Pam Krause, who is doing well and is coming along with her therapy; and John Malsbury. We wish all these a speedy recovery.

Ray mentioned that racetracks will be opening soon for their 2021 seasons. He wished a successful and safe season to all of the club's members who participate in active competition.

Patterson Greenhouses' Family Fun Day will be held on May 2. Their Fall event is scheduled for October 10. We are hoping for a nice day, and another great attendance. The Spring event will be a fundraiser for cancer patients. The club will once again make a donation to the cause.

Ray introduced information about having polo shirts printed with the club's 30th anniversary shirts. A page showing samples was available. Ray asked for interest from the membership. Shirt colors were discussed. 30th anniversary decals are available, as well as banners for the Museum and on-site pop-up canopy.

Ray announced that a work crew was formed to stabilize the foundation of the club's museum. The museum has been shifting lately. Many thanks to the following for their time and effort: club members Don Bruno, Jim Hall, Rich Parker, Ray Shea, Terry Van, and Al Voorhees, and Tim Gardener, Charles Stone and Charlie Stone. Great work!

Ray announced that the club was contacted by a person looking to give away posters from the 1970s. Joe Franchino came across the posters at a thrift shop and donated them to the club.

Al Voorhees said he expects to get information about a car show at the Casola Farms in Holmdel this season. Our club would be welcome to participate.

A dirt track vintage show will take place at New Egypt Speedway on May 8 and Bridgeport Speedway on May 11. They are expected to put on a rolling display. These events are being promoted by a group that is not affiliated with GSVSCC.

A question was asked about having our cars on display at Wall this season. Ray believes the Krauses are waiting for COVID restrictions to ease before allowing our cars to appear. They don't want to have people gathering in crowds at this time. Ray will continue to work with Diane and Emily Krause.

Linda Cooper talked about the possibility of buying a new DVD player for the Museum. The machine in there now is a mystery to operate and isn't reliable anymore. Being able to show vintage racing movies is a great part of the museum, and we should be able to continue it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

MAY 19, 2021

The May meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order by President Ray Shea at 7:40 p.m. Seventeen members were in attendance.

Bob Menschner, Chaplain of Racing with Jesus Ministries, gave the invocation.

Ray mentioned that we have more members coming out to meetings as each month goes by. This is very encouraging. He encouraged all members in the area to come on out to our meetings.

Condolences were offered to the families and friends of Reb Schaeffer, former Wall Stadium official and Ed Moench, Wall Stadium racer. A moment of silence was held for these individuals.

Get well wishes go out to Terry Van, John Malsbury, and Harry Reed.

An announcement was made about the Atlantic Coast Old Timers' (ACOT) upcoming events. GSVSCC car owners/drivers are welcome to participate in ACOT events. Some of the expected shows were mentioned.

Patterson Greenhouses' Spring Family Fun Day was a success. The event was held on May 2, 2021. Many visitors came out to see the classic cars, vintage cars, and two competitive race cars, as well as checking out the vendors. The club once again gave a donation to the day's charitable cause, as well as Jim Hall, who donated money from his racing t-shirt sales.

Membership renewal forms were mailed out last week. Also enclosed was a survey for car owners regarding interest in attending static display events. Responses are still coming in.

Shirts commemorating the club's 30th anniversary have been ordered. We eagerly await receiving them.

Dave Reynolds, former Wall Stadium Modern Stock racer, has a Camaro rear bumper to sell. Check with him if you're interested.

Joe Franchino donated 1970s dirt racing-related publicity posters to the club. They are available for anyone who wants them.

Ray introduced a visitor to the meeting – Amanda Nicol, daughter of Tucker Nicol, and granddaughter of former Wall Stadium owner and promoter Jennie Nicol. Mandy has been researching her grandmother. Recently, she traveled from her home in Miami to continue her research. Ray helped Mandy with her research and shared many photos with her. Ray presented Mandy with Jennie's personal phone from the track office. Mandy thanked Ray for helping her with her research. She also thanked Ray and the club for saving items that were discarded from the track. She spoke about her research and told a few interesting stories, joined in by some in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

JUNE 16, 2021

The June meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order at 7:44 p.m. by President Ray Shea. Twenty members were in attendance.

The invocation was led by club member Bob Menschner, Chaplain with Racing with Jesus Ministries.

Bob then requested that Earl Krause and Ray Shea join him at the front of the room. Bob presented a plaque to Ray commemorating his 30 years of service to the club. A round of applause sealed the sentiment. Ray spoke in appreciation, accepting it on behalf of the many members who have served the club over the past 30 years. He was touched.

Earl Krause announced the recent passing of Dieter Schmidt, who was a dirt car owner and an auto body business owner. He had many talented drivers in his cars: Fritz Epright, Billy Pauch, Doug Hoffman, and Jimmy Horton, among others. Also recently passed is central Pennsylvania racer Steve Smith, Sr. Originally from Florida, he was a Sprint car driver of great renown. His son, Steve Smith, Jr. is also an expert sprint car racer. Earl invited Bob Menschner to offer a prayer for all of those who have passed away in the past year.

Ray sent get-well wishes to Harry Reed, Terry Van, and John Malsbury. We all send our wishes for a speedy recovery to them.

Ray welcomed Pam Krause to the meeting. Pam suffered a health crisis over a year ago and has made terrific recovery. We were all glad to see her.

Ray offered a coming attraction for tonight's meeting: after the business portion, Ray Liss would be interviewed about his racing experiences.

Ray offered birthday wishes to club member Ken Brenn, Sr. We all wish him a happy 94th birthday.

Ron Kohler, longtime racer, also turned 94 recently. Earl mentioned that Ron will be honored at Wall Stadium on July 10, 2021.

Thirtieth anniversary decals are available and will be sent to renewing members. Dues were due on June 1. Decals can also be purchased for \$3.00 each.

Branches Catering, the location of our banquets for many years, has been sold. Due to the uncertainty of the facility's future, a new venue has been secured for the 2022 banquet. On March 22, 2022, we'll be meeting at the Spring Lake Manor, Route 71, in Spring Lake, NJ.

Thirtieth anniversary polo shirts are available for purchase. They come in Ash (gray) and White. The cost of the shirts are: Small – XXL \$22; 3XL \$24; 4XL \$26. Contact Ray Shea to buy shirts.

Ray showed a display board that was donated to the club. The theme of the display is "Forgotten Speedways Remembered" and includes front covers of a number of PA and NJ track programs.

The club received donations of some T-shirts from Al "Peanut" Wardell (dating from the 1950s) and two from Raceway Speed Center – brand new. Thanks to Tom Wardell for the donations.

Good news! Fleming's Pumpkin Run is ON! This year's event will be held on November 6, 2021.

Ray brought an article from the Asbury Park Press written about Tuckerton Speedway. It was available for members to see.

The group welcomed Charlie Stone, new member.

The group congratulated Marty Van Druen on his driver's recent wins in the Factory Stock division at Wall Stadium. Elliott Wohl has been driving for Marty for several years now.

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

A VISITOR IN MAY

The club welcomed Ms. Amanda Nicol to the May monthly meeting. Mandy is the granddaughter of Wall Stadium promoter Jennie Nicol. Mandy has been researching her grandmother's life, particularly her years at the helm of the speedway. Ray Shea helped Mandy with her research and shared many photos of her grandmother.

As a bonus, the club gave Mandy a gift—Mrs. Nicol's personal (rotary dial) telephone from her office at the stadium. Mandy was touched, and thanked the Ray for his assistance.



APPRECIATION

In keeping with the club's 30th anniversary, club member Bob Menschner presented President Ray Shea with a plaque commemorating his 30 years of leadership for the club. Earl Krause worked the microphone for the presentation. A round of applause sealed the sentiment. Ray spoke in appreciation, accepting it on behalf of the many members who have served the club over the past 30 years. He was touched.

Photo by Linda Cooper



GET WELL WISHES

Larry Housman
Pam Krause
John Malsbury
Harry Reed
Terry Van



LOOK SHARP

in a GSVSCC 30th Anniversary Polo Shirt!
Colors are Ash (gray heather) or White.

Costs per shirt are:
Small to 2XL—\$22;
3XL—\$24;
4XL—\$26.

Contact Ray Shea to purchase.

Also available for purchase are decals, \$3 each.



WHEN /STHE BANQUET?

You probably know the club's 29th Annual Hall of Fame Awards Dinner, originally scheduled for March of 2020, was rescheduled twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, it is necessary to reschedule the banquet once again. The new date will be **March 20, 2022**.

Not only that, our longtime banquet location, Branches, is no longer. Our new location will be the Spring Lake Manor, in Spring Lake, NJ.

We appreciate your patience and look forward to getting together next year to honor racing folks, chat and tell stories, and enjoy a nice meal.

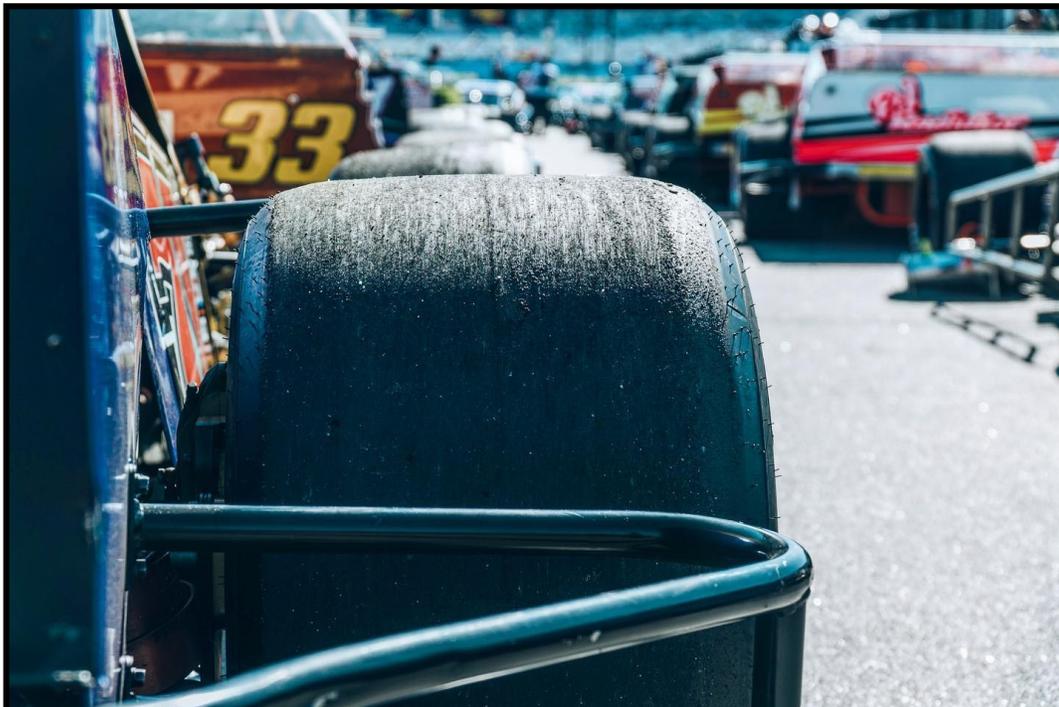


PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER

from the Winter 2021 issue



Here's a trophy that's as tall as the winner! It must have been for a pretty important race. What do you know about this photo? Photo from www.progcovers.com

You're looking at the 1984 Flemington 200 winner, Jack Johnson, as pictured on *Modified Country*, Flemington Speedway's weekly program.

The biggest crowd of the season packed the grandstands for the 200 on October 21.

During the season, Flemington promoter Paul Kuhl would give "Flemington 200" guaranteed starting spots to drivers from dirt tracks around the Northeast. Jack Johnson represented Fonda Speedway in the event. That's why you see Fonda promoter Ron Compani (R) celebrating in Victor Lane along with Johnson and Kuhl (L).

Some interesting tidbits: Johnson came loaded for bear with a brand-new Troyer "Mud Bus". It was actually a 1985 model that had all the right stuff for this extra-distance, post-season race.

Jack Johnson led from lap 156, taking over from Alan Johnson. On lap 160, Alan was in second place when he hit the inside fence in turn two, then the outside fence, which put him out of the race. A late-race caution on lap 197 set up a green-white-checked finish. Jack Johnson was not to be denied on the restart, as he pulled away from challenger Jimmy Horton. Horton then lost second to Billy Pauch as Johnson led the final two circuits. This was Johnson's second Flemington 200 win - his first was in 1972.

The top five finishers were: Jack Johnson, Billy Pauch, Jimmy Horton, Danny Johnson and Carl Collis. Sixth through tenth were: Ken Johnson, Ken Wismer Jr., Roger Laureno, Ken Brenn, Jr. and Scott Pursell.

Thanks to Area Auto Racing News for the facts. Photo from www.progcovers.com

PHOTO TRIVIA



Here's clever advertising. "Racing · To · Night" - but where? Look for the answer in our next issue, or go to our website www.gsvscc.org if you can't wait that long. Sometimes the website answer contains more information than we have space for in print.

Reader photos are welcomed. Contact the Editor.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

We will be celebrating the club's 30th anniversary all year long! As part of recognizing this milestone, we would like to hear from our members. We invite you to share a memory or two. Maybe you'd like to recall the reason you joined the club, why you're still a member, fun at track events or shows, group trips, or a practical joke or two.

To receive a paper form, contact Linda at (732) 456-3947. You can also send your thoughts via email to Linda at info@gsvscc.org, or use the Contact page on the club's website instead: www.gsvscc.org.



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

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