



Vintage Views

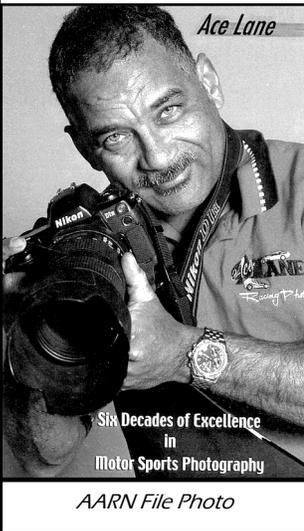
*The official publication of the
Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club*

Dedicated to the Preservation of Stock Car Racing History
July August September 2022

Ace Lane, Jr. Honored by Northeast Dirt Modified Hall of Fame

*by Bob Marlow, Area Auto Racing News
June 28, 2022*

John "Ace" Lane, Jr., a second-generation racing photographer and winner of numerous photography awards, is the 2022 recipient of the Northeast Dirt Modified Hall of Fame's Andrew S. Fusco Award for Media Excellence. Lane was honored, along with driver inductees and



additional special awards, at the 30th annual induction ceremonies on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at the Northeast Dirt Modified Hall of Fame and Museum, located on the grounds of Weedsport Speedway in Weedsport, New York.

The award is presented in memory of Hall of Fame board member and legal counsel Andy Fusco, who passed away in 2015. Previous recipients include

Lew Boyd, George Caruso, Jr., Lenny H. Sammons, Don & JoAnn Davies, Mel Thomas, and Tery Rumsey, but Lane is the first photographer to receive this award.

Lane follows his late father into the Hall, as John "Ace" Lane, Sr. was named the recipient of the Leonard J. Sammons, Jr. Award for Outstanding Contributions to Auto Racing posthumously in 1995.

Ace Lane, Sr. first picked up photography while stationed in Sicily during the World War II. Following the war, the sounds coming from the Newmarket Speedway not far from his home in Middlesex, New Jersey, drew his interest. He soon found that he could combine his interest in photography with his interest in racing, and his own Hall of Fame career was launched.



*Ace Lane, Sr.
EMPA Photo*

The photos of Ace Lane, Sr. were featured regularly in the pages of the now-defunct Illustrated Speedway News, and when Area Auto Racing News premiered in 1963, an Ace Lane, Sr. photo was on the front page. Ace Lane, Sr. became the Track Photographer at the Flemington Fairgrounds and was a familiar sight at countless other tracks.

Ace Lane, Jr., born in Plainfield, New Jersey, accompanied his father to the speedways from the age of five. Some of his earliest memories include stock cars at Hinchliffe Stadium and Midgets at the Polo Grounds. Shortly he would be shooting 8mm movies for his father at Flemington, perched atop a stepladder in the track's infield parking area.

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.



Ace Lane, Sr. and Walt Chernokal with their awards. AARN File Photo

For the wintertime indoor TO Midget races at the Teaneck Armory, his father placed him in the seats near the third turn. At Langhorne, he filmed for his dad from inside the third turn.

After the races, father and son would rush to the darkroom at home in South Plainfield to develop the film (this was long before digital photography) and print the best shots in order to get them to the Courier News and the Star-Ledger by deadline. Even before he reached the age necessary to be permitted in the pits in New Jersey, Ace Lane, Jr. was shooting in tandem with his father and beginning to form his own style.

Sadly, Ace Lane, Sr. passed away in 1973 at the too-young age of 53. Although now deprived of many more years alongside his personal hero and primary mentor, Ace Lane, Jr. was by this point well-positioned to pick up the torch and establish a Lane family heritage.

But it was not a given that the son would assume the father's duties. Just as racers must prove themselves by winning, Ace Lane, Jr. had to prove himself worthy of the trust of speedway operators and racing publishers.

With endorsements from well-established colleagues including Walter Chernokal and Sam Rosenberg, and armed with a Bachelor of Science degree from Montclair State College, where among other things he was the Photography Editor for the yearbook, it did not take long. Soon Ace Lane, Jr. was, like his father had been, the leading photographer at the Area Auto Racing News and Track Photographer at the Flemington Fairgrounds. Not long afterwards, photographs by Ace Lane, Jr. began to appear nationally in *Stock Car Racing* and *Open Wheel* magazines and in *National Speed Sport News*.

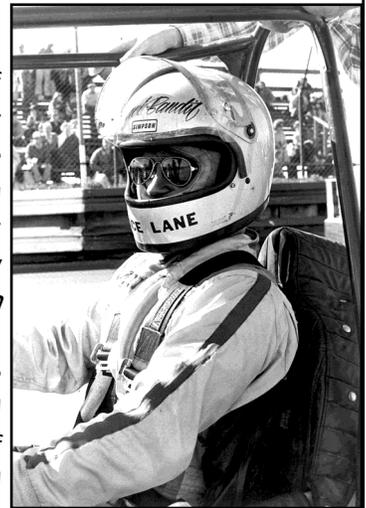
"But I always wanted to race," he told us recently, and so he pursued opportunities in go-karts, TO Midgets, Midgets, and Sportsman stock cars. He was able to claim a limited number of victories. But then, as now, racing was an expensive endeavor, and Ace Lane, Jr. was not able to secure the necessary backing for a sustained effort.

He did, however, achieve success as a racing promoter, operating the go-kart series at Flemington Fairgrounds for many years. Among the young drivers who came through the Flemington series was a third-generation driver from Nazareth, Pennsylvania, by the name of Marco Andretti.

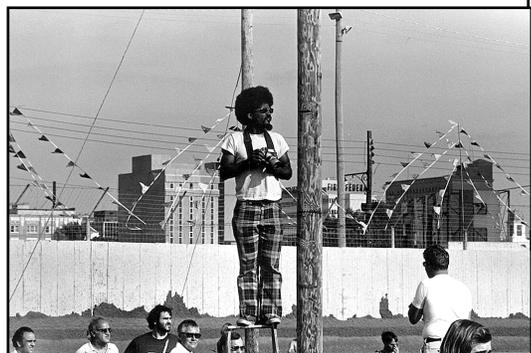
In 1997, Ace Lane, Jr. prevailed upon *Program Dynamics* publisher Steve Barrick to produce a book of his father's racing photography. Utilizing his father's negatives, Ace Lane, Jr. made new prints of hundreds of vintage photographs. With the assistance of Barrick, Earl Krause, and this writer, *The Auto Racing Photo Journal of Ace Lane, Senior* came off the presses the following year. A collector's item today, the book is, in words of Ace Lane, Jr., "the telling of the true story of my father."



Ace Lane, Jr. gets the story AARN File Photo



Ace Lane, Jr. is ready to go TO racing at New Egypt Speedway, AARN File Photo



...and the photo. Whatever works! Photo by Ron Heddendorf

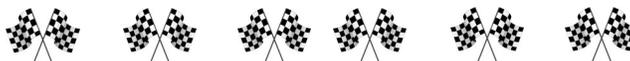
Ace Lane, Sr. won the Eastern Motorsports Press Association's Photographer of the Year award in 1972. Following his passing, the organization renamed the award in his honor. Ace Lane, Jr. then went on to win the award himself in both 1978 and 1998. Continuing the family legacy in racing photography have been Ace Lane, Jr.'s own sons Tommy and John-John. John-John, affectionately known as "J.J.," was himself presented with the EMPA award in 2018. Tragically, the immensely popular "J.J." Lane passed away in 2020 at the far-too-young age of 38.



Ace Lane, Jr. receives an award early in his career.
AARN File Photo

Incidentally, the nickname "Ace" was first given to Ace Lane, Sr. because of his uncanny ability to excel at a variety of pursuits, including sports, carpentry, and music. Ace Lane, Jr. was commonly known as Johnny to his friends through his college years, but proudly assumed his father's nickname as well. It's appropriate, because Ace Lane, Jr. is talented in ways beyond photography. He was a successful high school wrestler, a builder of winning RC cars and go-karts, and skilled behind the wheel.

Apart from family, photography has provided his greatest reward, and he entered the Northeast Dirt Modified Hall of Fame as a deserving recipient of the 2022 Andrew S. Fusco Award for Media Excellence.



Please Give a Warm Welcome to...

We continue to have guest speakers at our monthly meetings. Asphalt car owner and driver **Lenny Boyd** was in the hotseat in August; **Doug French** joined us in September. Thanks to both for participating; to **Earl Krause** for serving as Interviewer and **Ray Shea**, Chief Videographer. Who will be our next guest speaker?



Lenny Boyd greeted the gang at the August meeting.
Photo by Ray Shea



Earl Krause (R) interviewed driver and car owner Doug French at the September meeting. Ray Shea worked the video camera. *Photo by Linda Cooper*

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR DUES?



You should have received a membership renewal form in the mail. Contact Ray Shea if you need a new form. Dues are \$25 per year.

GET WELL WISHES

Sue Brice
John Fillimon
Ray Liss
Susan Malsbury



Get Well Soon

CONDOLENCES

on the passing of :
Russ Brannick
Wayne Hurd
Pete Linzky
Marcia Richards

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

will be the club's Annual Meeting. The Election of Officers will take place. Nominations for Officers are due by November 13 if returned by mail or at the meeting.

Since the club doesn't meet in December, this will be the last meeting of 2022.

Come out and support the club!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR



ANNUAL MEETING



WALL STADIUM DISPLAY SEPTEMBER 10

Photos by Linda Cooper



Owner / Driver : William Rodgers
of Jamestown, PA
Make / Model : 1937 Ford Coupe
Dirt Track Stock Car
Motor / Drivetrain:
1946 Ford / Modified Flathead
Lincoln Zephyr 3 Speed Trans.
1937 Ford Rear End

History: Originally owned & raced by Dick Forbrook, father of Guy Forbrook, owner of World of Outlaws / Sprintcar team. This car won Duel Track Championships in 1956 & 1957 in Esterville, Iowa & Morgan, Minnesota. "Hank" was his uncle & chief mechanic. "Tammy" refers to the popular song of the 1950's era, sung by Debbie Reynolds. The race car sat for over 30 years in a barnyard before it was restored to it's present condition.

CLUB PICNIC

It's been a while since we got together and had a picnic. On September 25, we met at Windward Beach in Brick, NJ. About 30 people attended. It was a great time to see old friends and make some new ones. **Thanks** to all those who helped make the picnic a success: Ray Liss and Larry Housman, who planned the event and did the legwork; Cheryl Liss and Bonnie Huyler for purchasing and providing the necessities; and all those who brought side dishes and desserts. *Photos by Linda Cooper*



JUNE 15, 2022

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

Ray requested a moment of silence to recognize the recent passing of asphalt racing great Jim Hoffman. He told the group that Jim's family loaned the club a scrapbook about Jim's racing career. The album was available for folks to look at. Thanks to Jim Hall for assisting Ray in scanning the photos and articles from the album.

Get well wishes go out to racing historian and photographer John Fillimon. John recently had a stroke, but he is recovering well.

On July 3, a party will be held by the Flemington Speedway Historical Society for Ken Brenn, Sr. to celebrate his upcoming 95th birthday. Ken invited GSVSCC members to attend. The party will be held at the Elks Club in Flemington, across street from racetrack from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. If anyone wants to carpool, let Ray Shea know.

The club had a static display show at Wall Stadium on June 4. Thanks to Steve Golembeski, Jim Hawkes and John Malsbury for bringing their cars. The display was very well-received by the race fans and brought traffic into the Museum. We look forward to another show at Wall on July 16.

The annual Cruise to the Jersey Shore Car Show organized by Lee Greenwood on the Long Branch Promenade was rescheduled from this Sunday, June 19 to July 31.

Ray Liss and Larry Housman are working on the arrangements for a club picnic. A tentative date is October 2. The picnic will be held at Windward Beach in Brick. We look forward to good fun, good food and good fellowship.

The group welcomed Jimmy and Linda Bennett. It has been quite some time since the Bennetts have been able to attend meetings.

Linda Cooper announced that Roger Benedict, a friend of hers, has donated racing memorabilia, photos and negatives relating to New Egypt Speedway. Roger was a track photographer at NES in the 1970s and 1980s. Thanks go out to Roger for his donation.

Next month's guest speaker will be Lenny Boyd. We hope to have Doug French as our Guest Speaker at the August meeting. We also hope to have Gloria Katona in coming months.

Al Voorhees was asked to represent the club at the Ocean County Fair.

We still have 30th anniversary decals available for \$3 each.

Thanks to Doug Peabody, longtime club member, who donated his 50/50 winnings of \$100 back to the club. Thanks also to Tom Dancer, recently-joined club member, who donation \$50 to the club. He enclosed a note showing his appreciation for the club and Ray's leadership. He also encouraged the club members to "keep going".

Al Voorhees said he is working on rescuing Bruce Roslin's car #00. He plans to have it at the Wall Stadium show on July 16.

Ray is looking for a bookcase to hold club photo binders and other stuff. Please let him know if you know of a sturdy one.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

JULY 20, 2022

The July, 2022 meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Sixteen members were in attendance.

Ray announced that, unfortunately, our guest speaker Lenny Boyd could not attend this month's meeting.

Rev. Tom Simmons, Racing with Jesus and Wall Stadium Track Chaplain gave the invocation.

Ray announced the following folks who recently passed away: club member Wayne Hurd -members recalled him at club events; Russ Brannick; Pete Linzky, who was a club member and was also active with the Vintage Automobile Museum of New Jersey. A moment of silence was held for them.

Get well wishes go out to Sue Malsbury, who had a recent fall and a stroke. She is on the mend. Get well also to John Fillimon, who is also recovering from a stroke.

We are looking forward to the Club Picnic, scheduled for September 25 at Windward Beach in Brick. **A few helpers** will be needed to help make it an enjoyable gathering. Please contact Ray Liss if you can help out.

We need to have an approximate head count to prepare. **Let Ray LISS know if you are planning to attend.** Bring a guest!

Ray Shea brought out some photos that were donated to the club from Roger Benedict, a former track photographer at New Egypt Speedway in the early 1970s. Many of the photos were of TQ Midgets and were available for folks to view.

The club had a static display on July 16 Wall Stadium. Thanks to Doug Megill for bringing his Lenny Boyd #22, Al Voorhees for bringing his #82 Gremlin and Terry Van with his #74 coupe. Our next show will be August 20. Ray also mentioned that Al represented the club by bringing his #82 car to the Ocean County Fair recently.

Ray Shea read a note from Club member Ray Boiseneau from New England. He has a large collection of race cars. Ray B. loaned us a car for the Motorsports Show in Atlantic City some time ago. He wrote to inform the club of his current activities.

Ray reminded the group that the Cruise to the Jersey Shore Car Show on the Long Branch Promenade will be held next week, July 31.

Al Voorhees mentioned that Doug Wolcott's mother, Corky, passed away this week. Our sympathies go out to Doug and his family.

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

AUGUST 17, 2022

The August meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Sixteen people were in attendance.

The Invocation was offered by Racing with Jesus (Wall Stadium) Chaplain Tom Simmons.

Ray Shea requested a moment of silence for Wall Stadium racer Barney Truex, Sr.; Marcia Richards, wife of member Ralph Richards; and Travers Cambra, Wall Stadium photographer for many years.

Get well wishes were offered to member Sue Brice.

The passing of Modified racer John Blewett, III 15 years ago, was observed.

Ray introduced tonight's Guest Speaker, asphalt Modified and Three-Quarter Midget driver/owner Lenny Boyd. Lenny was interviewed after the meeting was adjourned.

Ray reminded the group that we need a Newsletter Editor. The Editor does not need to be a member.

We are looking forward to having our first Club Picnic in some time! The date will be September 25 and it will be held at Windward Beach in Brick, NJ. Signup forms will be mailed out soon. Please send in your form if you will be attending so we know how much food to order. A few helpers would be appreciated.

Club cars will be at Wall Stadium Speedway this Saturday, Aug. 20

Officer election ballots will be mailed out in September. We will have a vacancy for the Secretary position. Please contact Ray Shea if you have any questions about Officer nominations/elections.

Tim Stephan was an honoree at this year's awards banquet. He was presented with the Bob Thomas Award last Saturday, August 13 in the pits at Wall Stadium.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Patterson Greenhouses' Family Fun Day - Fall Edition will be held on Sunday, October 9 at their location in Freehold, NJ. This is always a great day with classic cars, GSVSCC cars, vendors, food and music. Make plans to stop by the club's Hospitality Tent. Also, Fleming's Pumpkin Run will be held on Sunday, November 6 in Egg Harbor Township. Contact Al Voorhees or Doug Megill if you are interested in bringing your car to either of these events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m., after which Earl Krause interviewed Lenny Boyd about his long career as a race car driver and car owner.



SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

The September, 2022 meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by President Ray Shea. Fifteen members were in attendance.

Tom Simmons of Racing With Jesus Ministries gave the invocation.

Ray Shea said he had no announcements to make about folks passing away. This was welcome news. Get well wishes were offered to Ray Liss, who was recently hospitalized, Susan Brice and George LeBlanc, racing historian from Long Island.

Ray announced the Club Picnic is coming up on Sunday, September 27 at Windward Beach Park in Brick. Those who are interested in attending should have sent in your forms by now. If you have not done so but would like to come, contact Larry Housman. We will need **volunteers** on Sunday, since one of our Picnic Coordinators, Ray Liss, is in the hospital. Chairs and tables will need to be set up. We will need BBQ grillmasters and food coordinators. Bring your lawn or folding chairs. Setup will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Ray announced that we still have vacancies for the positions of Club Secretary and Newsletter Editor. No extensive computer skills are necessary for either of these positions. Contact Linda Cooper for more information.

Thanks to who the following for bringing their cars for display at Wall Stadium on September 10: Jim Hawkes; John Malsbury; Keith Lange and Al Voorhees. Thanks also to our 50/50 raffle volunteers who worked the stands last week. They had a good crowd.

Two car show events are coming up: Patterson Greenhouses' Family Fun Day on October 9 and Fleming's Pumpkin Run on November 6. Contact Al Voorhees if you would like to include your car in the club's display.

An announcement was made that the Flemington Speedway Historical Society's Car Show is coming up on October 15. It will be held at the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds in Lambertville.

Ray said we will keep the meeting short tonight, since we have a guest speaker. He introduced the group to Doug French and his wife Robyn.

Ray thanked the management of Wall Stadium for allowing us to bring our cars for display and to run 50/50 raffles this season.

The Jobses family donated a racing memorabilia scrapbook to the club. His grandmother compiled the articles. It was very interesting. The scrapbook was available for folks to peruse. The scrapbook includes newspaper articles from the early 1950s - Wall Stadium, Long Branch, and others. Earl Krause read aloud an article about a race report from 1950s Wall Stadium that was very entertaining.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Guest Speaker Doug French was interviewed by Earl Krause. The group enjoyed the discussion very much.

PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER

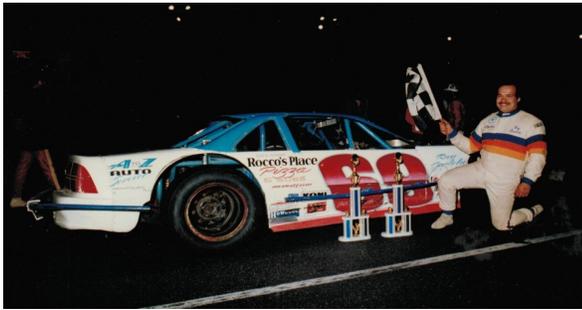


Photo by J. Lauren

Here's a photo of a winner, on and off the track. This track was NJ's Wall Stadium on October 19, 1991. Do you know who the winner in this photo was and the division in which he won many more races than this?

This driver is the late Ray Gastelu, photographed in Wall Stadium's Victory Lane on October 19, 1991 after a Modern Stock division win.

Gastelu was highly regarded as one of the finest - not only at Wall, but also throughout the Northeast, and not only for his on-track achievements.

Gastelu earned six driver titles at Wall and 49 victories in its former Modern/Pro Stock division - one shy of the all-time track record. He also raced on the asphalt at New Egypt Speedway, winning championships in 1981 and 1985.

Those accomplishments alone would have earned Ray the honor of being called a Grand Champion, which he most certainly was. Sadly, in 2001 he was stricken by a heart attack at Wall Stadium in a race car after pre-race warmups.

He was inducted into the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club Hall of Fame in 2011.

Ray Gastelu was a champion and Hall of Famer in another way: he was always the first to help a fellow racer and give information and a veteran's guidance to a new driver and team. Among those he mentored in the early 1990s was young driver Chas Okerson, who went on to become a six-time Pro Stock champion before taking four titles in the Modified division. He was well-known and very popular at Wall Stadium, where his trailer was always a hotbed of activity, even hours after the races concluded. He was every racer's friend and participated in charity events and autograph signings.

While Ray willingly shared his hard-earned knowledge with racers, he placed his greatest emphasis on his love for his wife Debbie, his family and friends - friends that were like family.

Ray Gastelu was dedicated to making the world - that of his racing life and for everyone he came in contact with - a much better place.



PHOTO TRIVIA

There's no doubt that these guys had a great story to tell at the end of this night. Do you know where this photo was taken? Maybe what year?

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.

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 Druten - 732-255-2807
coacher5@comcast.net

Secretary Linda Cooper - 732-456-3947
info@gsvscc.org

Treasurer Jim Kelleher - 732-449-7538
jayrk@verizon.net

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

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

Trustee Al Voorhees - 732-870-7128
avoorhees@seaboardfs.com

On the Web www.gsvscc.org

Facebook Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club
Club E-Mail gsvscc@comcast.net/info@gsvscc.org