



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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The Night That Jimmy Blewett Took His 100th Career Win

by Earl Krause

When Jimmy Blewett battled back from a flat right rear tire to take top honors in the 75-lap Modified feature at Wall Stadium on October 20, 2012, it represented a special moment for the then-32-year-old resident of nearby Howell, NJ. It was his third win at Wall for the 2012 season and his 44th career feature win there, which tied him with legend Jim Hoffman for sixth on Wall's all-time victory list. It was also his 100th career triumph in the Northeast-based Modifieds. "I'm proud that I got that [100th win] right here at Wall, with my Grandpa and the



Blewett took his 100th career win in this Don Ling, Sr. tribute car. Photo by Jim Smith



NASCAR publicity shot

team, at what will always be my 'home track' where it all started for me," reflected Blewett later that night in the pit area as he celebrated with his wife Katie, young son James, family patriarch John "Grandpa" Blewett, Sr. and the dedicated team of the white, blue and silver #66 that he ran to the memorable win. That car was lettered in tribute to late sponsor Don Ling, Sr., who Jimmy credited after his victory as being a very special inspiration. Don, who also fielded top #66 Modifieds as a car owner, had died at age 70 in May, 2012.

"These guys," said Jimmy, waving his arm over toward the crew that were preparing to load that Modified back into its hauler for the short trip back to the home shop. "This



All smiles in Victory Lane with family and crew. Photo by Jim Smith

team...they're the reason for my success. This past week, they were never home. They were at the shop, not with their families, putting in crazy hours so that we could be here tonight."

Jimmy first raced as a teenager in Go-Karts on the infield road course at then-paved New Egypt Speedway. He debuted at Wall at age 18 near the end of the 1999 season in a Pro Stock. He moved into the Modifieds for 2000 in the family #76 and took his first victory in that division at age 19 that August at Wall.



Two brothers Photo by Mary Hodge

Nicknamed "Showtime", Blewett will never deny that he has had a fiery relationship with Wall, and often left for greener pastures. That's included running (and winning) with dirt Modifieds at NJ's Bridgeport and New Egypt Speedways. In October

2011, he won for the first time on the Syracuse Mile during Super DIRT Week with a 358-Modified. His first dirt victory at New Egypt came with a Sportsman car in 2010.

Still, he and his family are truly part of Wall Stadium's rich racing fabric. Grandpa and his Modified race-driving son John Blewett, Jr. began great careers there. They were followed onto the high-banks by John Jr.'s sons, John Blewett III and then Jimmy.



Blewett's first year at Wall was in this Pro Stock, 1999. Photo by Jim Smith



Jimmy, "Grandpa" (John Blewett, Sr.), and Dad (John Blewett, Jr.) were on hand to congratulate John III on a win at Wall in 2002. Photo by Bill Van Pelt

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.

Along with wheeling Modifieds from the family shop, Jimmy has also driven on the NASCAR Modified Tour circuit for leading car owners such as Dick Barney, George Bierce, Ed Partridge and Joe Bertuccio. In addition to his Wall triumphs, he has won at Florida's New Smyrna Speedway, Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park and New York's Chemung Speedrome; at the 2007 "North-South Shootout" at Concord (NC) Speedway and on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at Martinsville (VA) Speedway, Stafford Motor Speedway in CT and Riverhead Raceway, Long Island, NY. In both 2007 and 2008, Jimmy was the Northeast's "Winningest Asphalt Modified Driver", as determined by Area Auto Racing News.



Getting ready to race in 2018.
Photo by Jim DuPont



One of many accolades



Another familiar Wall ride awaits the next race.



Blewett in his Modified.
Photo by Jim Smith

2011 Syracuse 358 win.
Photo by Pete MacDonald



Racing the Scott Brannick-sponsored Modified at Wall. Photo by JJ Lane

On the way to a 2013 win at Bridgeport. Photo by Tyrone Photography



NASCAR Modified Tour win in 2016 at Stafford, CT. Photo: speed51.com

Posing with the trophy and the checkers at New Egypt Speedway.



"Showtime" at the indoor races in 2018.

Showing off a new Sprint car in 2014. Photo by Steve Sabo



Blewett's SK Modified North-South Shootout triumph in 2007 was especially poignant. It came just months after brother John III had been fatally injured in a Tour Modified crash at Thompson. When Jimmy won that Concord main, it was at the wheel of the same car that "JB III" had driven regularly that year at Thompson.

Jimmy Blewett has become one of the very best in Northeast pavement Modified racing, a driver that can never be counted out. As the 2019 season concluded, he had 78 wins, which placed him in second place on Wall Stadium's all-time Modified win list. Overall, the Blewett family has well over 200 victories among Wall and other paved and dirt tracks.

There is no denying Jimmy's incredible, natural car control skill and absolute passion for his profession. Make no mistake, he will never settle for second place!

VINTAGE AUTO MUSEUM DISPLAY

Our club once again participated in the Vintage Automobile Museum of NJ's winter display. A variety of racers were on view for the visitors. *Photos by Don Bruno and Ray Shea.*



JANUARY 15, 2020

The January meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order by President Ray Shea at 7:32 p.m. with 21 in attendance.

Ray announced that Weisglass racer Johnny Bate recently passed away. Johnny was a member of the club and was always pleased to attend club meetings and events. A moment of silence was held for Johnny.

Get well wishes go out to Bill and Cathy Morsch. Both of them have had health problems in December. Thankfully, they are recovering well.

Plans for the club's 2020 banquet are under way. The banquet will be held on March 22, 2020 at Branches in West Long Branch.

Plans are also underway to have a club picnic. The date will be announced shortly. We haven't had a picnic in some time, so we're looking forward to doing it again this year. Helpers are needed. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Ray Shea or Ray Liss.

We would also like to return to having a display at Motorsports Expo. Since it's too late to be there for the 2020 event (January), we are looking to participate in the following year. Ray is working on a theme and will report on his progress.

Ray reported that the club has hundreds of photos that need to be organized and placed in protective sleeves. Kevin Eyres has volunteered to scan them into digital files and organize the prints. Ultimately, we would like to post the photos on the club's website. Filing/storage cabinets will be needed to contain the finished files.

The top participating car owners for 2019 were announced: Connie Joyner (1st), Gino Murin and Paul Ielmini (tied for 2nd), and Stan Hawk and Al Voorhees (tied for 3rd).

Ray announced that ACOT (Atlantic Coast Old Timers club) will be accepting vintage stock cars in their displays next year. They have a busy schedule, with appearances in Pennsylvania, New York, and New England. Ray suggested club car owners contact ACOT if they are interested in attending any of their shows.

Ray reported on replies he received as a result of a survey sent to club car owners recently. The survey asked if car owners would be willing to participate in static displays only, and if they would be willing to go on-track but follow a pace vehicle. Four car owners replied, saying that they would be interested in static displays. One car owner said he would be willing to go on-track behind a pace vehicle; two said they would not, two said they might be willing.

Ray said he will contact the NJ State Police to try to schedule a meeting with them concerning resuming on-track displays. He will also contact the three NJ race tracks to schedule dates for 2020.

Ray announced the following were chosen for the 2020 Hall of Fame:

Car Owners: Charlie Okerson, Harry Reed & Jim Wolf
 Drivers: Oliver Butler and Fritz Epright
 Bob Thomas Award: Tim Stephen
 Pioneer Award: Dale Clickner
 Lifetime Achievement Award: The Voorhees Family

Ray received a card from Troy Estelle, who received our scholarship award for 2019. He thanked the club for the scholarship.

Ray announced that club cars are in place at the Vintage Automobile Museum of NJ in Pt. Pleasant. Ray Liss listed the cars on display. This year's display has a variety of cars, karts and motorcycles on display. Thanks to Ray Liss and Larry Housman for their efforts in organizing this with the VAM staff. Ray Liss announced that on February 1 at 1:00 a slide show presentation will be held. Refreshments will be served. We're looking forward to an enjoyable event. The Jersey Shore Model Car Club also has a display. The VAM is raffling off a 1966 Mustang this year. Hurry down and get your ticket. Visitors to the museum are encouraged to vote for their favorite cars on display. Awards will be given to the winners on February 22.

Larry Housman said that flyers and brochures are available for the VAM show. He suggested members take some to distribute.

Terry Van asked for more information about meeting with the State Police. He also asked about alternatives for Wall Stadium displays.

Ray Liss asked about parameters for "vintage" classification. Ray Shea will address this when he meets with the State Police. He will hold a car owners meeting to discuss the results of the meeting.

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

Linda Cooper, Secretary

FEBRUARY 2020

The February meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order at 7:36 p.m. Eighteen members were in attendance.

Get well wishes go out to Don Patterson. A moment of silence was held for the recent passing of Wendy Kennedy, a former official at Flemington Speedway, and for Harry Tracey, a friend and crewman for car racer and builder Bob Emmons.

This year's banquet will be held on Sunday, March 22 at Branches Catering in West Long Branch. This year's honorees will be:

Car Owners: Charlie Okerson, Harry Reed, Jim Wolf
 Drivers: Oliver Butler, Fritz Epright
 Bob Thomas Award: Tim Stephen
 Pioneer Award: Dale Clickner

Lifetime Achievement Award: The Voorhees Family

The winter display at the Vintage Automobile Museum of NJ is just about over. Cars on display need to be removed this Saturday. Car owners should be there by 12:00. Fan Favorite voting results will be revealed and awards will be presented. Refreshments will be served. Cars will be removed after the festivities. Thanks to Ray Liss and Larry Housman for their work in presenting the display once again.

If anyone is interested in buying a large-sized embroidered club logo patch, contact Ray Shea. He'll be placing an order soon.

A project is underway to catalog photos from Wall Stadium from the 1990s. Ray Shea has been working on this for the past several weeks. The photos were taken from boxes and folders and put into protective sleeves and ring binder notebooks. **Fifteen** notebooks were needed to contain the photos. Ray thanked Kevin Eyres, Tom Wardell, Ed Isnardi, George Klein and Jim Hall for helping with this huge project.

Ray found a box of club t-shirts from the 1990s. The shirts are printed with Perth Amboy Spring Works logo with club car illustrations. Let Ray know if you're interested in buying one for the bargain price of \$10.

Motorsports 2021 will be here before you know it. A display is being planned that will feature Doug Megill's #659 coupe to honor the Tom Skinner/Parker Bohn racing team. The Vega and Cavalier cars of Parker Bohn's grandsons are also planned to be included. Bill Force will make up artwork for the display. Photos will be displayed as well. We're looking forward to a great display next year. Thanks to those who are helping to bring it together.

Some of our club members and local racers traveled to Florida this month for Speedweeks. Among them were Rich Parker (with Al Voorhees helping as Crew Chief), Eddie McCarthy, Adam LaCicero, Jimmy Blewett, and Anthony Sesely. Kudos to the New Jersey racers who made the trip.

Ray was advised of a meeting held by the State Police's Racing Advisory Board. No representatives from the GSVSCC were invited. Ray said he will try to find out the results of the meeting.

The 2020 racing season is approaching. So far the club has static display dates at Wall Stadium on May 9 and June 20, 2020. If these displays go smoothly and we have good car turnout, future dates may be given.

Doug Megill announced that News 12 cable TV channel will be showing a news spot about Ace Lane, Jr. for Black History Month. Congratulations to Ace on this recognition.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Linda Cooper, Secretary

GET WELL WISHES

Stan Van Brunt



CONDOLENCES

to the family and friends of
Bill Yoder

CORONAVIRUS

As you know, since mid-March our country has been dealing with the COVID-19 virus crisis. As a result, March's club meeting was cancelled. The club's 29th annual **Hall of Fame awards dinner**, originally scheduled for March 22, has been rescheduled to **October 25, 2020**.

The GSVSCC Officers send our best wishes to members and friends of the club. We hope as many as possible can stay healthy, and those who contract the illness recover well. We look forward to getting together again soon.



PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER

from the Fall 2019 issue

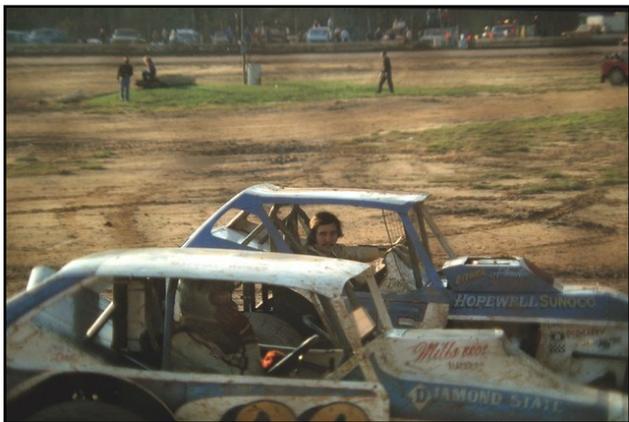


Photo credit: Corey Seeman

Here we go...these two drivers are getting ready to race. Who are they? Where are they about to race? When was this photo taken?

Longtime dirt racing fans will recognize East Windsor Speedway in Hightstown, NJ as the scene for this photo. That's none other than Billy Pauch on the inside in his #15, talking with Johnny Kozak in the Blue Hen Racing #30 on the outside.

Pauch, a resident of Frenchtown, NJ, brought in his first win back in 1975 and has since achieved legendary status. Over 730 wins and many championships later, he's still at it, with six wins last season (2019).

Kozak hailed from Pennsylvania and was a hotshoe at Reading Fairgrounds. He won the 1978 Reading Fairgrounds opener, as well as a pair of championship titles at US 13 and on the MODCAR circuit. He drove for Delaware's Blue Hen Racing team for a few seasons in the late 1970s.

This photo is dated November 18, 1979, the last race of the season.

Thanks to Pete Wortman, Nick Leach, Auto Racing Research Associates (ARRA) and racersguide.com for filling in the gaps on this topic.

PHOTO TRIVIA



This driver could be considered a "switch hitter", to use baseball terminology. If you know the name of the driver, you'll know what we mean. Hint: this photo was taken in 1962 at a paved track.

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.

Have you ever wondered what's in storage? Folks are **STILL** needed to catalog the club's archived items. Contact Ray Shea if you can **help out**.



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

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