



# ***Vintage Views***

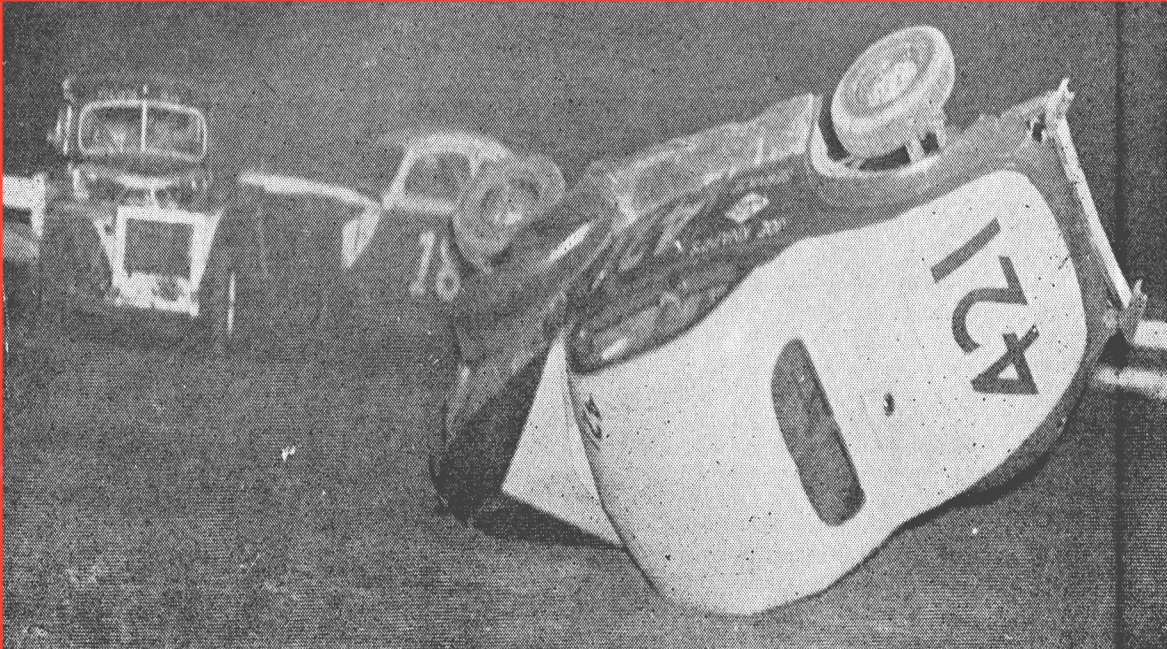
***The official publication of the  
Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club***

Dedicated to the Preservation of Stock Car Racing History  
Winter 2024

## **MORRISTOWN**



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**CHILLS! SPILLS! THRILLS!**

See the Nation's Most  
Sensational Sport

### **STOCK CAR AUTO RACES**

on a track designed for  
SPEED and ACTION

**The NEW MORRISTOWN RACEWAY**  
(SORANNO PARK)

West Hanover Ave., Morris Township

**TONIGHT at 8:30**

Gen. Adm. \$1.25 tax incl. Children 60c tax incl.  
A beautiful flower presented to each lady attending the  
opening night events, courtesy Soranno Florists, 47 Park  
Place.

- **Gigantic Fire Works Display**
- **Drill by Post 59 Drum & Bugle Corp**

Tickets Available at Soranno Florist, 47 Park pl.

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](http://www.gsvscc.org).



# "MEMORIES IN MOTION"



## MORRISTOWN RACEWAY: THE BEGINNING



Greetings! race fans, its good to be back sharing the past with you once again in this format. So without further ado, let's get racing into the past. The greeeen is out.

North Jersey with its population density, became a hotbed of interest for local stock car racing as the 1940's came to an end. A local florist named Joe Soranno embarked on an ambitious project that built a half mile dirt track on the purchased property, at the foothills of the Kittatinny Mountains. This land formerly known as the Whippany River Polo Club, where he, his wife Mary and two kids lived became known as Soranno Park, aka The New Morristown Raceway, Morristown Raceway, or to the locals Morristown Speedway. Joe, an avid sports fan, and businessman saw an opportunity to capitalize on the popularity of full contact, full fendered auto racing. By May of 1950 Soranno was trying to finish the track that intended to make Morristown Raceway one of the best race tracks on the East Coast. There was only one problem, the inaugural race set for June 9<sup>th</sup> had to be postponed, due to bad weather conditions. To finish construction of a racetrack that was formerly known to be a polo field, they had to wait which became such a disappointment as anticipations mounted.

After three weeks of postponing the opening event of Morristown Raceway, June 30, 1950 became the official opening of the track for competition. It was a hot 85 degrees with the sun beating down on the race track all day, water trucks kept it wet as they could, as the cars and drivers rolled in from the tri state area. The infield was just as green and full of grass as it was when horses ran laps around the place in all directions. Forty years prior, soil to build the polo field was imported from Holland, who would of thought? and there was an old joke amongst the drivers that they were competing on "foreign soil." But Joe was concerned about a dry racetrack as he should have been. Mary seeing Joe concerned said, "it's a hot one out there today Joe, don't you forget your water now." Joe jokingly said "Yeeees Mary but at this rate I don't know who needs more water the whole town of Morristown or the racetrack to keep it racey?" As the day wore on the staff of the track began to arrive for warmups. "There he is Mr. Flags, Craig Mellinger, Hey Craig I hope we can keep the dust down tonight for your sake buddy" Said Joe. "I think we'll be alright Joe, it's still early and it looks like it'll cool down by race time, but do your best" said Craig. Many might not know but the flagger was on the inside of the race-track not up on a perch type flag stand like many may envision. Speaking of the opening night activities at the track, Nat Kleinfeld will handle the mic for the upcoming season, as the premier racing authority in the East. So keep your eyes open and your ears clear as Nat delivers all the action on the speedway.



Ray Flannagan, took command to co-promote the opening nights racing and drivers from all over the East Coast were expected to compete including all the drivers of the Morris Plains, Atlantic Stock Car Racing Club (ASCRC) owned by Bob Laurie. Its drivers: Pappy Hough and Ralph Sheeler who were standouts in Newark; Gordon Oldford, Charlie Dyer and Johnny DuBois thrilled fans at Long Branch; and Johnny Carbral, Charlie Muscatel and Jim Delaney who have been making noise at Middletown. Muscatel and another Lambertville gang driver Lenny Brown along with Sammy Malach had returned from their winter racing in Florida where the hard charging Brown was a favorite. It'd be hard to pick the favorite on opening night but all the

aforementioned have intent on being part of the 60 drivers who have filed entries for the program that begins at 8:30pm. Also on display will be exhibitions of sports cars and hot rods for fans to enjoy.

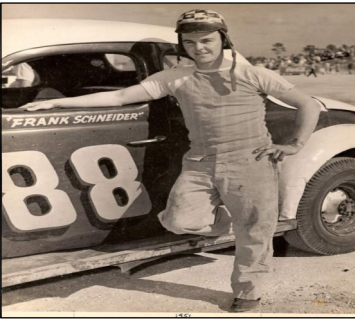
Details of Opening nights race at Morristown have yet to be found to this day, but we know Nelson Applegate of Denville, took the win, in the Nary Ferriero #55, Jim Reed of Yonkers, NY finished second and



“The Benardsville Flash,” Eddie Ader of Benardsville, finished third. Of special note of Eddie Ader finishing third on this night, was his brother Walt Ader, who had just competed in the 1950 Indianapolis 500 just weeks prior, was on hand for the race expecting to drive a 1947 Ford to pace the field, that won best in show at the Indianapolis Sports Car Show.



All season long thrilling battles from all-star fields of cars, in front of 5000-7000 fans were cheered upon on a weekly basis, that was to culminate on Friday Night October 27<sup>th</sup>, for the NJ State Half Mile Stock Car Championship, at what was considered at this point as ,”The Fastest Half Mile Dirt Track in the East.” October 13<sup>th</sup> was a double feature show which begun with a regular distance race and was followed by the, “Race of Champions.” On a chilly night fans witnessed red hot competition as Frankie Schneider, who has been long denied a feature win this inaugural season at Morristown, was outdueled in the first feature by Nelson Applegate. In the follow up “ROC”event, Schneider, Courtwright and Applegate had a terrific 3 lap race start going on and on lap 4 they went 3 wide with no one willing to lift. As they entered



the corner Courtwright would be the odd man out as he was forced wide only to lose control in front of Applegate and allowed smooth sailing for Frankie Schneider as he took the special Race of Champions feature. Schneider would go two in a row winning the feature on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Going into champions night October 27<sup>th</sup>, Frankie Schneider, the 1949 ASCRC Modified Champion was the favorite in a tight battle for the points, followed by 6x Winner from Ramsey, Bobby Courtwright, 4x Winner Nelson Applegate, “The Quiet War Hero,” Goldon Oldford of Westfield, and the current ASCRC points leader, Johnny Cabral, all were within striking distance to be the 1950 Morristown Raceway Champion. Schneider the week prior had not



“The Champ”

only won the race but set new track records for the 5 mile heat race, and the 12 1/2 mile record as well in the feature. As the season came to a close it was Nelson Applegate who would become the 1950 Morristown Raceway Champion on Champions Night.

As we’ve looked back on this opening season of Morristown Raceway, Joe Soranno cannot forget the people who made it all possible, the FANS and the STAFF. “Night after night a packed house was never, not the norm. From myself, the owner, the promotor, to the announcer, the flagger and the officials, we say it has been one heck of a season of thrilling victories, agony of defeats, painful accidents, tough competition, and more cars than we ever could have imagined. A special, “Thank You,” to the 2 Ambulance crews: The Morris Minute Men and the Cedar Knoll First Aid Squad for their on track assistance to the many accidents and some injuries the track sustained this past season. A big shout out to the tow truck staff as well, where would we be as a racetrack without you keeping the track clear and taking part in all the aid to the drivers and cars? Thank You as well. As we celebrate our first champion at our banquet for this year, we welcome all who would be willing to attend. Congratulations to our Champion, Nelson Applegate, the weekly winners, and all the competitors who put on great shows for the fans in 1950, we appreciate you all and we look forward to serving you once again in 1951.”

*\*Thank You to Jeff Hardifer for all his effort on researching NJ racing history.*

## A MESSAGE TO OUR FANS

It will always be our policy to give the fans at Morristown Raceway the finest racing attractions possible. No expense or effort will be spared to bring to you the best drivers and the fastest cars for every event here. We are also interested in your comfort and enjoyment while you are here. If you have suggestions as to how we can make it a pleasure for you to attend the races, please let us know about them. Send your letters to Bob McGovern, Morristown Raceways, Inc., Morristown, N.J.

# Monthly Minutes

By Linda Cooper

## October 18, 2023

- The October, 2023 meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President Ray Shea. Eighteen members were in attendance.
- The Invocation was given by Tom Simmons, GSVSCC member and Chaplain with Racing with Jesus Ministries.
- Get well wishes were offered to Darlene Voorhees, Maureen Isnardi, Gil Hearne, Ray Liss, and to Larry Housman and his wife.
- Condolences went out to Don Bruno on the passing of his sister.
- Ray reported that the Touch-a-Truck event in Freehold was rescheduled from October 7 to October 8 due to inclement weather. Unfortunately, the club was unable to appear, as we were committed to appear at Patterson Greenhouses' Family Fun Day, also on October 8. Thanks to Terry Van and Allen Patterson, who had their cars on display. \$5000 was raised from the show.
- Ed Isnardi was on hand to be interviewed with Earl Krause about his Weissglass Stadium secrets
- Aliceann McGann said she is working on getting our new insurance policy settled.
- Ray said Hall of Fame award nomination ballots will be mailed out soon. The Hall of Fame Banquet will be Sunday March 24, 2024 12:00-4:30pm at the Spring Lake Manor in Spring Lake.
- Ray announced that Jim Levers donated a Charlie Kremer jacket to the club. We will display it next year in our museum. Ray sent him a thank you letter.
- Ray informed the group that Fleming's Pumpkin Run will be held on November 4. Jim Hall talked about getting Pumpkin Run shirts made up since the line was a mile long to wait last year. See or reach Jim Hall about the shirts made up ahead of time.
- The 3 Wide's Picture Vault has new site: Wall Wide Recap. Check it out.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

## November 15, 2023

- The November, 2023 meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by President Ray Shea. Twenty-eight members were in attendance.
- The invocation was given by Tom Simmons, club member and Racing with Jesus Ministries Chaplain.

- Get well wishes go out to Doug Megill. Condolences were offered to Mike Shea on the recent passing of his mother.
- Also, Marty Himes, Long Island racer and racing historian passed away. Marty had his own racing museum at his home. Billy Tanzosh, Nazareth Speedway competitor, also recently passed away.
- Ray remarked on the good attendance tonight and welcomed a few folks whom we haven't seen in a while.
- He announced that Tom Wardell has an original club jacket available. Contact Tom if interested.
- Bill Pfister Jr is in attendance and will be our interview guest tonight.
- Ray announced that nominations for the club's Hall of Fame are due tonight for next year's awards.
- Dues for 2023 are long past due. Check with Ray if you are unsure about your membership status.
- Fleming's Pumpkin Run was held on November 4, 2023. Two club cars were on the scene. Ray thanked Terry Van and Ray Liss for bringing their cars. Lots of good things have been said about the event: the weather was beautiful and the place was crowded. Ray Liss said he spoke with owner Harry Fleming and thanked him for once again for holding the event
- The 2024 Motorsports Expo is coming up next January. If you have an idea for a club display, contact Ray promptly, as time is needed to plan and create our display.
- New insurance policy was discussed. Aliceann McGann has been researching insurance policies for the club's activities. Bill Pfister Jr. said he has experience in the insurance industry. He will meet with Aliceann to go over her findings. The Officers will be meeting in coming weeks. The insurance information will also be reviewed there.
- There will be no meeting in December.
- Ray Liss presented some ideas for improving the club in the future;
  - Have meetings on a quarterly basis instead of monthly;
  - No racing-related display will be held at the Vintage Automobile Museum in Pt. Pleasant in January. The museum has a storage problem;
  - Logistical problems prevented the club's picnic this year;
  - Use email for the newsletter and to communicate with and update members;
  - Pay contractors when the Museum needs structural improvements.



# Monthly Minutes

By Linda Cooper

## January 17, 2024

- The January 17, 2024 meeting of the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club was called to order at 7:42 p.m. by President Ray Shea. Fifteen members were in attendance.
- The invocation was given by Tom Simmons, GSVSCC member and Racing with Jesus Ministries Chaplain.
- Ray reminded the group that wintertime is upon us again. If poor weather is predicted, club members should make sure our meetings are still being held before venturing forth. Give Ray a call, check the 3WidesPictureVault website or check our website or Facebook page.
- Get well wishes go out to Darlene Voorhees (husband Al reported she is doing well).
- Condolences are offered for these folks who recently passed away. The list is longer than usual because we haven't met since November of last year: Bob Borden former racer and friend of Ray Shea; NJ racer Craig Sutphin; Mary Tobias, widow of Dick "Toby" Tobias; Art Lentini, Flemington Modified dirt racer and builder/innovator of racing radiators; retired NASCAR Cup racer Cale Yarborough; Ryan Pemberton, former NASCAR Crew Chief; Tim Steele, former ARCA driver; Gil de Ferran, Indy Driver; Johnny Bryant, former Southern Modified racer; and Don Schumacher, former drag racer.
- The 2024 Pioneer Pole Building Motorsports Race Car and Trade Show is being held this weekend in Oaks, PA. Ray offered safe travels to anyone who will be making the trip.
- Ray announced the following Hall of Fame 2024 Honorees: Drivers – Pete Brittain and Phil Cox; Car Owners – Don Ling, Sr. and Jim Romeo; Engine Builder Frank Boardwick; Bob Thomas Award – Vic Patti. The awards banquet will be held on Sunday, March 24, 2024 at the Spring Lake Manor in Spring Lake, NJ. Ticket forms will be mailed soon and can also be obtained from the club's website.
- Ray Shea announced that Ray Evernham is in the news again: he has purchased the rights to former racing series IROC (International Race of Champions). The SRX Series has been postponed. Ray Evernham was involved with the SRX Series in its first year of operation. We are eager to know if the IROC Series will be revived.
- Ray showed the group a Charlie Kremer Jr. fan club jacket that he framed to be displayed in the Museum. Thanks to Jim Levers for donating the jacket.
- Continuing with the Show and Tell portion of the meeting, Ray displayed model cars handmade by Scott Cook that he donated to the club. He also sent collectible racing t-shirts and a framed photo collage. These items were available for folks to check out. Thanks Scott
- Ray informed the group that the Wall Stadium banquet will take place on February 3. Anyone who is interested in attending should go to the track website for information.

- At the November, 2023 meeting, Ray informed the group that well-known former racer Wally Dallenbach, Sr. would be relocating from Colorado back to New Jersey since his wife's passing last autumn. Ray said Wally has moved back to NJ. We hope Wally will be a guest interviewee at an upcoming club meeting. Many race enthusiasts know of the background of Wally's son Wally, Jr. as a former NASCAR Cup racer and TV racing commentator. Ray also filled the group in on son Paul's varied racing-related accomplishments – road racing, six Pike's Peak Hill Climb victories, stunt driving for movies, and providing instruction for law enforcement and military personnel.
- It's January, and that means indoor racing in our area. Ray offered congratulations to the winners of the Allentown races. The Atlantic City races will be held on January 26-27 and Trenton races will be held on February 23-24, 2024. Those who are interested in attending should visit the Area Auto Racing News website for more information.
- Ray mentioned that Scott from Ocean Trophies retired last year. However, we are pleased that Scott will still be able to make our banquet trophies for this year's banquet.
- The meeting was journed at 8:13 p.m.



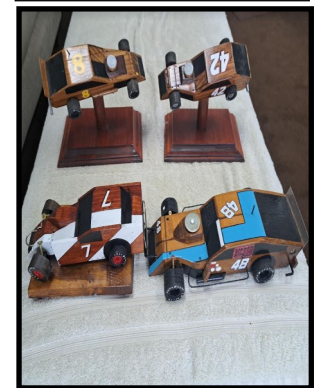
Jim Levers donated a Charlie Kremer Jr Jacket



Earl Krause interviews Ed Isnardi about Weissglass



Bill Pfister Jr speaks with Earl Krause



Donated wooden models from Scott Cook

**DON'T  
FORGET  
MARCH  
24th**

**12:00-4:30pm**



**CONDOLENCE**

on the passing of  
Don Bruno's Sister  
Mike Shea's Mother  
Henry "Hank" Partenfelder

**GET WELL WISHES**

Darlene Voorhees  
Maureen Isnardi  
Gil Hearne  
Ray Liss  
Larry Housman and his Wife



**PHOTO TRIVIA**

*Here's a photo of a driver who you might remember more in a modified notching a handful of wins in the 70's than you would in a compact.*

Look for the answer in our next issue, or go to our website [www.gsvscc.org](http://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 @ [vintageviews@gsvscc.org](mailto:vintageviews@gsvscc.org)



**SEASON  
OPENER**

FRI. MARCH 22 + SAT. MARCH 23  
RAIN DATE: SUN. MARCH 24



SAT MARCH 16 OPEN PRACTICE ALL DIVISIONS



**SAT MARCH 30TH**

**SUPER DIRT CAR SERIES: MODIFIEDS + CRATES**

**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.

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

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**2024 Schedule TBA**