

BILL CLAREN
Pleasantville Speedway Track Announcer



Bill started his racing career in the post WWII era, racing Midgets and gives Bill Schindler and Pappy Hough the major credit for a thorough education in the sport.

Bill took the knowledge he acquired in Midget auto racing and applied it to sports car racing. In doing so, he became the first pro sports car series champion in U.S. racing history in 1954.

He was president and founder of SCODA, Sports Car Owners and Drivers Association. Bill made a deal to create Nascar's first sports car division in 1955 and for several years it was called NASCAR-SCODA. In the mid 60's he reverted it to just SCODA. He now thinks this

was a big mistake, but at the time, it seemed like the right thing to do.

Bill wrote articles for many trade and local papers in New Jersey. He wrote for the Star Ledger and the Morris County Daily Record. In 1994 he began writing for Gannett Times Beacon Newspapers and recently added the Gannett Ocean County Observer of Tom's River.

In 1976 Bill created the American Formula Ford Association. AFFA became the first U.S. pro series training ground for Indy Car drivers; it predated the Indy Lights Series started by CART.



Michael Andretti, Davey Jones, Scott Goodyear, Chip Ganassi and Chip Robinson are among the drivers who got their professional start in AFFA. At one Indy race, there were 9 AFFA drivers in the starting lineup.

He was also track announcer for New Egypt Speedway and then served as PR director for SCODA, ARDC, AFFA, Pleasantville/Atlantic City Speedway, New Egypt Speedway and Truex Motor Sports.

Bill also covered major NASCAR and Indy car races for ABC's World of Sports radio show for seven years. At one point in time he had nine shows a week on several New Jersey radio stations. Man! Talk about a workload, I wonder what he did in his spare time?

In 1995, he was elected to the Living Legends of Auto Racing Hall of Fame. He continues to write columns for 5 Gannett papers and is a panel member on a one hour Monday night NASCAR radio show on WSTU in Stuart Florida.

I remember the first time I met Bill was the night that my car got pretty messed up, so he asked me if I would come to the announcers booth for an interview, which I did. We have since rekindled an old friendship with each other after some 35 years.
