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June 20, 2018

Summer is the season for racing in Vermont. We were reminded of all the thrills, (many) spills, and community spirit of racing at our recent appearance at Thunder Road in Barre. We're looking forward to getting out to many more tracks in July & August.

But don't forget- the History Center is air conditioned if you need a break from the heat with a dose of racing remembrance.

Programs & Events



**Throwback Night at Devil's Bowl
June 24, 6:00 pm**

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE ENEWS!

If you visit the VHS tent at any of our [upcoming auto-themed events](#), let us know you get our Auto Racing Enews & we'll give you a great prize as our thanks.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT HOURS

The *Anything for Speed* exhibit will be open the Second Saturday of each month.

Devil's Bowl Speedway, West Haven, VT

Join VHS for a fun time at [Devil's Bowl](#) featuring vintage modified racers. Visit the VHS tent for auto racing trivia and to learn more about the *Anything for Speed* exhibit.

**Track Walk at Northeastern Speedway
July 14, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Northeastern Speedway, Waterford, VT
Join us at the former site of [Northeastern Speedway](#) for their annual reunion event, a guided walk around the track, play auto racing trivia, and more at this special get together featuring cars from the 1950s and beyond.

**Track Walk at Thunder Road
July 21, 11:00 am
Thunder Road International
Speedbowl, Barre, VT**

It's your chance to get on the track! Join us for a guided walk around the track, play auto racing trivia, and more. Rain Date: July 28.

The History Center will be closed July 3 & 4.

JOIN THE VHS FAMILY!

Your membership will support the *Anything for Speed* exhibit and complementary programs, and others like it!

We offer different membership levels and benefits for individuals and families of all sizes. [Learn more here.](#)

**Spotlight On: Northeastern
Speedway**



In July 1959, stock car racing in Vermont took a huge leap forward with the founding of Northeastern Speedway in Waterford. The tumultuous decade of the

1950s, when tracks could spring up and then vanish practically overnight, had proven a strong and widespread interest in permanent tracks for racing.

A group of coworkers at St. Johnsbury's Ralston Purina plant banded together to form the Northeastern Racing Association and leased land in nearby Waterford. They broke ground on a 1/5th mile track incorporating the lessons learned from the successes and failures of previous tracks.

At the new track, drivers were guaranteed purses from a cut of the admissions for the evening. Officials kept an accounting of wins and losses, and tallied points through the season. Spectators enjoyed comfortable and spacious grandstand seating, and there was even the luxury of dedicated restrooms.

Though it effectively changed the business model for tracks that came after it, Northeastern did not last long. Thunder Road in nearby Barre opened the following year, and though Northeastern made a number of upgrades – paving the track among them – their business dwindled, and they closed in 1966.

In recent years, landowner Paul Bellefeuille has been restoring Northeastern with love and meticulous attention to detail. Several of the items he has collected to document the track's history are on exhibit at the History Center, and in 2011 Northeastern became the first racetrack in Vermont to get an official Vermont state historic roadside marker. (Catamount Stadium in Milton became the second just a week and a half ago.)

We're excited to celebrate at Northeastern on July 14 as part of its annual track reunion!

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