

PAST & PRESENT

Stafford Motor Speedway has a rich and storied past, both in racing and beyond. The facility's history reaches well back beyond the origin of NASCAR itself which was founded by Bill France, Sr. in 1948. The Arute family has tried to preserve much of the facility's rich history within the Fairgrounds Banquet & Eatery located on the property.

Stafford Motor Speedway has existed for 130 years. Known as the Stafford Springs Agricultural Park in 1870, these historical fairgrounds hosted New England's largest agricultural events, bringing patrons directly to the entrance gate via the Connecticut Trolley Company.



Soon after World War II, automobile racing began to gain popularity and has continued to this day. In 1959, Stafford Motor Speedway began its long lasting relationship with the National Association for Stock Car Racing, Inc. (NASCAR), with George Janowski winning the Speedway's first NASCAR track championship. The half-mile oval took on a coat of asphalt in 1967. Thus, it was transformed from one of the toughest dirt tracks in New England into an ultra fast half-mile with semi-high banked turns.

In 1970 Stafford Motor Speedway was purchased by Jack Arute, Sr. and became a showcase for NASCAR Modified racing. Since then, several Stafford competitors have been propelled into the upper ranks of the sport. Drivers such as Geoff Bodine, Brett Bodine, Ron Bouchard, Greg Sacks, Jimmy Spencer and Steve Park all competed regularly at Stafford Motor Speedway, launching their NASCAR Nextel Cup Careers and going on to stardom in the sport.



The famed Connecticut race track has become the standard by which all other NASCAR Whelen All-American Weekly Racing Series facilities are judged. Stafford's Friday night showcasing of SK Modifieds®, Late Models, SK Lights, Limited Late Models and DARE Stocks, is unequalled in the Northeast. From April through September, NASCAR competitors and fans flock to the Connecticut half-mile to enjoy the best NASCAR racing in the region.

In a time when the cost of entertainment has become increasingly expensive, Stafford Motor Speedway has emerged as the premier family fun spot of the new millennium. The admission price for children ages 6 to 14 is only \$5.00, where children 5 and under are FREE for every NASCAR event.

"Because it lacks nothing in customer service and is efficiently and professionally operated, Stafford has a reputation as one of the best short tracks in New England."

Owen Canfield, THE HARTFORD COURANT