

CLASS OF 2016

George Silva

One of Maine's early stock car racing pioneers was actually a native of Springfield, Mass., yet made an indelible mark here in the Pine Tree State during an impressive eight-year career.

George Silva, father of fellow 2016 Hall of Fame inductee Pete Silva, started his career behind the wheel in 1951 at Unity Raceway. When he first hit the track, he chose the rather unique 'X' as his car number. That number was later carried to great success by his son Pete as a proud family tradition continued.



Among his many on-track accomplishments, George earned the Eastern Maine Stock Car Championship in 1955. During his time behind the wheel, he notched over 40 wins.

Along with the famed Unity Raceway, Silva also garnered victories at Waterville/Oakland, Noyesdewock, Exeter and at the Windsor Fairgrounds track. George also competed in races at Cherryfield and Ellsworth speedways, and at both the Belfast and Lewiston Fairgrounds.

George won several extra-distance races during his career. One time in the mid-1950s, he drove in two divisions on opening day at Unity. In the premier class, George piloted a No. 66 Jr. Ford Coupe owned by the Thayer family of Bangor. In the support class, he drove an early 1950s Oldsmobile with an overhead valve engine, the first one to compete at Unity. After two heats, two semi-features and two features, George went home with six wins.

Silva's personal life was centered on his love of family, friends and racing. One of his many proud moments came when he and son Pete were inducted into the Unity Raceway Hall of Fame. George was also very proud of the fact that sons Pete and Michael both raced and won down south.

George Silva passed away in August 2005.

