

CLASS OF 2017

Tom Curley

Tom Curley grew from a childhood race fan into one of the country's most noted short track race promoters. And, yes, he even tried driving a race car for a handful of years in the mid-1960s.

It wasn't until 1978 when Tom became re-involved in racing, this time at the management level. He has owned and operated three race tracks – Airborne Park Speedway, Plattsburg, NY; Catamount Stadium, Milton, VT; and Thunder Road in Barre, VT – as well as managed and consulted others.

In 1979, he was named director of the NASCAR North touring series and later founded the American-Canadian Tour in 1985, giving local short track drivers a forum in which to become regional racing stars. Tom's touring series visited race tracks as far north as the Canadian Maritimes, as far south as Dover, Delaware and as far west as Ontario, Canada.

Realizing the Pro Stock-style race car was becoming costly, especially in the engine compartment, Tom introduced the late model stock car and crate engines. These rules, at least many of them, have been adopted by tracks all over New England.

Tom has been named the northeast Promoter-of-the-Year three times in a career that has spanned 50 years, and in 2004 was voted the national Promoter-of-the-Year by industry peers. He was inducted into the New England Auto Racers Hall of Fame in 2009 and the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

