

CLASS OF 2018

Doug Ripley

With a stellar career spanning over four decades, Doug Ripley became a household name among short track stock car racing fans throughout the state. The native of Washington, Maine, first climbed behind the wheel of a race car in 1961 and continued until his retirement in 2006.

During that 45-year stretch, Ripley earned an estimated 75 feature wins and five points championships. Doug competed at several tracks including Unity Raceway, Wiscasset, Speedway 95, Oxford Plains and even Spud Speedway in Caribou.

His titles came in a variety of competitive classes, including Bombers (1962); with the Northeast Ice Racing Assn. (1971); in a Late Model Sportsman (1983); and as the Flagpole Champion (2001-2002).

Ripley's most recognized car during that illustrious career was a 1957 Ford known simply as "The Boneshaker." It doesn't take much to imagine what the ride in that machine must have been like. As the owner of a chicken farm, Ripley, in his familiar No. 9, was known as "The Flying Chicken Farmer."

Among his many career highlights was a hot streak where he won the feature on four consecutive weeks at Wiscasset, then went to Unity the following weekend and won the feature there. Ripley was also named 'Driver of the Month' on two occasions during his notable career.

One of Ripley's most memorable moments in the sport came when he and his two sons, Wayne and Daren, competed in the same race and finished first, second and third. We've all seen the pride a Dad shows when one son does well; yet when both Wayne and Daren joined him on the podium, that pride could be seen from outer space.

In 1978 and again in 1979, Ripley competed in a 200-lap event for Super Streets known at the time as the Little Guy's 200. As the first Maine driver to cross the finish line, Ripley added another strong run to an already-impressive driving resume. Doug Ripley joins five other deserving inductees in the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame's Class of 2018.

