

Class of 2019
BOB BAILEY

Bob Bailey began his career in motorsports in 1969 and has become one of Maine's most successful and well-respected performance engine builders. Although Bob is best known for his engine building skills, he has also been a driver during his 50-years in the sport. He raced go-karts for several years in the 1980s and also drove a street stock at Wiscasset a few times in the 1970s. He won the feature after a couple of races and as he put it, "I decided to retire as a stock car driver while I was on top!"

In the beginning of his career, Bob was the engine builder and main mechanic working on teams fielded by his father-in-law, from Canada to as far south as Florida. In Maine, Earl Jones was the driver for the first few seasons racing in open-comp series, followed by Harvey Sprague for several more seasons. From there, the team moved on to concentrating on racing specific events, partnering with drivers experienced at different types of tracks, many larger than those in the northeast. Some of their notable affiliations included Ron Bouchard, Gene Glover and Gene McGar. Bob says, "It was a real achievement, as an unsponsored family team from Maine, qualifying for the Goody's 300 at Daytona."

During his years spent building engines on his father-in-law's team and at his own Hi-Torque Engines, Bob has had the opportunity to work with some of the greatest names in Maine motorsports, building engines for Bud Bilodeau, Dick McCabe, Stan Meserve, Bob Randall, Ricky Craven, Gardiner Leavitt and Brad Leighton, Mike Rowe, Tim Brackett and many others.

Bob enjoys contributing some of his free time to the sport. He has worked as a consultant, helping to build and promote cost-sensitive, technically reasonable rules for one area track and is often seen in the pit area lending his expertise to anyone who may be in need, whether or not they have one of his engines in their car.

Besides building high-performance engines, Bob utilizes his skills refurbishing motors for antique cars, which have been a life-long interest for him. He has won prestigious awards with his cars at Pebble Beach and enjoys touring the country in them with his wife, Elizabeth.

