The summer of 1953 saw the end of street racing in Bridgehampton after a driver was killed during a practice run and the next day several spectators were injured in another accident. Given that this followed a similar incident involving spectators in Watkins Glen, it meant the end of street racing in the entire state of New York.

But the enthusiasm for racing in Bridgehampton persisted. From a card table set up in front of the Candy Kitchen restaurant, local merchants and farmers, Manhattanites, and several car clubs began to sell $5 shares in the Bridgehampton Road Races Corporation, which then started buying woodlots in the hills between Bridgehampton and Noyac in order to build a race track. Those lots, as the name suggests, were undeveloped land where owners would cut wood for daily necessities, for fuel to heat their homes, for building furniture and fencing, and to supply New York City with cordwood.

By 1957, the first races on the 2.86-mile-long “thinking man’s” track – not your basic oval built for speed, in other words – began. The track prospered for nearly 42 years, drawing the likes of Mario Andretti and becoming legendary in the sport. With encroaching residential development, however, and with noise complaints on the rise, the track’s days were numbered. By 2002 it had become the Bridge Golf Course. The golf club plays homage to its former incarnation by using part of the race track and its spectator bridge as the drive leading to the clubhouse.