After an absence of nearly 30 years, the Bridgehampton Lions Club brought automobile racing back to the streets of Bridgehampton and Sagaponack after World War II. Bruce Stevenson, a Sagaponack summer resident and chairman of the newly minted Bridgehampton Road Races Committee, along with three leading sports clubs decided on a four-mile course that no longer would incorporate Main Street. Instead, the course started on Ocean Road at the Bridgehampton Golf Club, headed north to Sagaponack Road, east to Sagg Main Street, south to Bridge Lane, west to Ocean Road, and back to the starting point.

The first race was held on June 11, 1949, with more than 50 entrants, including Briggs Cunningham, George Rand, the Collier brothers, and George Weaver -- a who’s who of automobile racing, driving sleek, low-slung sports models, some of which were flown in from all parts of the country to the East Hampton Airport. The races were held until 1953, after which New York State banned automobile racing on public streets after fatal accidents here and at Watkins Glen, NY.