

## History Bonus – March 2023 by Charlie Parsons

Many of you may have heard of Bryar Motor Sport Park but know little about it. Bryar was a road course located on what is now New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Although they share the same location none of the old Bryar course remains. Below is a track map of the old track. Bryar was created by Kieth Bryar in 1964 and a small oval was added a few years later. The track was mostly flat but had a hill which started at corner 4, peaked at 5 and ended at “the bowl” at corner 6. While most turns were banked, turns ten and six were particularly steeply banked which is why turn six is called “the bowl”. While the racing was great the track was short on amenities. The paddock area was dusty hard packed dirt which was littered with potato size rocks. There was a snack bar in the Duckworth Chain building next to pit lane. A note about the building, there was a stairway to the roof where much of the track could be seen.

I had the opportunity to drive Bryar a number of times with Corvettes of Mass. and also a track day with the Sports Car Club of New Hampshire and I can tell you that it was one of my all time favorite tracks to drive. I suspect that speeds of around 100 MPH could be achieved. Bryar was probably best known for hosting AMA motorcycle races with nationally known racers in the 60's and 70's. Well, maybe it was more famous for the camping at the races. Campers at and around the track were legendary for their drunken antics, nudity and general debauchery! These events were the forebearers of the now, rather tame motorcycle week-end. Although the bikes were the big event Bryar also hosted the SCCA Trans Am series with Mark Donahue, Parnelli Jones, and all the rest. NASCAR also made a presence known with it's short lived pony car series the Grand Am and also with the NASCAR North Sportsman series. The NASCAR North boys ran the course counter clockwise or in essence backwards from the normal rotation. When run in this way the Loudon Regulars called it NODUOL, Loudon backwards. Bryar came to an end in 1989 when it was sold to Maine banker Bob Bahre. Bahre removed the track and replaced it with the New Hampshire International Speedway that we now know as NHMS.

