

The Thompson story begins on a quiet September afternoon in the farming community of Thompson CT. in the year 1938. With no advance warning, the skies turned black as huge storm clouds raced over the area. The 'Long Island Express' was ready to bear down on New England. The effects were devastating as the famous 1938 hurricane roared through this quiet farming town. When the skies cleared, buildings, trees and just about anything in the storm's path had been destroyed, including the farm of John Hoenig. In the aftermath of the Great New England Hurricane, many chose to rebuild. However, John Hoenig had a dream. If that dream was to become a reality, now was the time. He began to remove trees and clear the land, built a sawmill and moved thousands of cubic yards of gravel. Before long, the nation's first asphalt racetrack was beginning to take shape and John Hoenig's dream was coming true.

By the standards of the day, a .625-mile, high-banked racetrack was huge. In spite of the critics, Hoenig persevered and on May 26, 1940, the gates opened for the first time to a capacity crowd. The word of this new "Super Speedway" spread across the country and soon Thompson became known as the "Indianapolis of the East".

During the late 40's, the oval began attracting sports car enthusiasts. When WWII ended and fuel rationing had come to an end, members of the newly organized SCCA gathered at Thompson's ½ mile paved oval with 15-degree banking for the Club's first speed event on July 22, 1945. On July 26, 1947, the biggest SCCA time trial event was held on the oval track. Connecticut's Thompson Speedway was the only purpose-built road-racing track in the 1951 series, and the first such track used by SCCA. The 1951 version utilized a quarter-mile oval inside of a half-mile oval.

In the late 60's, Thompson Speedway opened an expanded road course. This configuration included re-designing turns from the original layout, and updating the viewing area and the paddock. Thompson, Connecticut had become the Center of Auto Racing in the Northeast, as well as a known motorsports destination in the United States. Almost all of New England Region's Road Racing activities were conducted at Thompson from the 50's until 1977.

In June 2013, the Hoenig family began work to reconstruct the current 1.7 mile road course with a paddock and new staging area. The new facility was named "Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park". The newly rebuilt road course celebrated its "soft opening" with New England Region, SCCA on the weekend of June 6-8, 2014 – and we are... still here.

The next year SCCA's Track Night in America found a home at Thompson – introducing more new drivers to SCCA than any other track in the country.

To 'Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park', on our 75th Anniversary, New England Region would like to dedicate this Park Bench to you for your 'welcoming environment'. It has been a pleasure working with you all these years!