

THE BRIDGE

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Riding with John Rahill

by Peter T. Mallary

I was late. Being caught in lots of federal stimulus construction traffic was actually not so stimulating. And it was a touch ironic, as I was on my way down I-89 to the New Hampshire International Speedway at Loudon.

I was going to meet John Rahill.

John is a founding partner at Black River Design, a successful architecture firm in Montpelier. John also likes to drive fast cars—just as fast as he can. John is also an instructor, showing neophyte enthusiasts

how to drive fast and safe on a real race-track.

It was a little after eight in the morning when I arrived. I got my pass and set out to find John and his partner in speed, Peter Hood of Middlesex. I walked through a wide tunnel and emerged inside the track—an odd and imposing sight, with rows and rows of high, long, empty stands. I headed toward the middle of the infield. Fighting back my alpha-male assumption that I know where everything in the world is, I actually asked someone where to find John.

“Is he the one with the ‘rough?’” was the answer.

I was clueless.

In a situation like this it is always wise to find a person with a golf cart. My new best friend Christina emerged behind the wheel of one. I hopped in. Christina was off the track that day because of a back injury.

“Was it a driving injury?” I asked a bit too eagerly.

“Horseback riding,” she said.

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John Rahill and Peter Hood's "Ruff" on the track at Loudon. Photo courtesy Rahill/Hood.

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A Note to Readers and Friends

In the past, *The Bridge* has typically been a 20-page paper. This week's issue is 16 pages long. We have reduced the size of the paper as an important step in bringing our income into alignment with our expenses.

There are a number of factors that account for the serious financial situation that we now face, but clearly the general economic downturn has taken its toll.

We are taking careful stock of our financial situation and are considering the available options.

I want to thank our hardworking staff. It is they who have shouldered and continue to shoulder the largest burden.

This is important. Please weigh in with your good suggestions and advice and please feel free to phone me at 223-5112.

Over the next few weeks, we will be using these pages to stay in touch with our readers and friends.

—Nat Frothingham, publisher