

R is for Race

A Stock Car Alphabet



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*To Paul Newman, Kyle and Pattie Petty, and the remarkable staff and volunteers
at the Victory Junction Gang Camp in Randleman, North Carolina.*

BRAD



*To my children, Gemma and Ian, and my husband Mike.
Also to my mother, my grandfather George, and all my friends with NASCAR.*

JANE

Almost ever since there have been automobiles, people have raced them. The first auto race in America took place in Illinois on Thanksgiving Day in 1895 when six cars raced just over 54 miles through the snow from the city of Chicago to the city of Evanston and back. Only two cars completed the race, and the winner finished in nearly eight hours! Fourteen years later, in 1909, America's original speedway hosted its first racing event. At the new Indianapolis Motor Speedway, driver Barney Oldfield set a world record by reaching a speed of 83.2 miles per hour. A few decades later, groups of men in the southeastern United States would occasionally race each other in souped-up versions of cars that were available to the general public. This was the beginning of stock car racing.

Another **A** is Bobby Allison. In 1988, he won stock car racing's biggest event, the Daytona 500, for the third time. His son, Davey, finished in second place.



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