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Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

bvhsri.org ♦ 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike (Rte 246) ♦ PO Box 125, Lincoln RI, 02865

And they're off! Relive the Narragansett Park racing days! Bob Kynch will give a presentation on October 16

Rhode Island once had two major thoroughbred racing facilities: Lincoln Downs and Narragansett Park. Bob Kynch worked at both of them, and still follows the races in Northern New England. Join him as he relives the days in Pawtucket's Narragansett Park, with the crowds, the beautiful animals, and even the train that brought the people to the Park to enjoy the sport of kings.

Bob Kynch started working at the Rhode Island racing facilities as a young man, and still is a part of the racing set. Join him as he goes back to the heyday of horse racing in Rhode Island. This was one of the major forms of enjoyment for many people in decades past. Kynch will show you the reason why, and give you an apprecia-



A postcard of the Narragansett Race Track in Pawtucket from the 1950s.
Image courtesy of Wikipedia

tion for the joys of this sport.

Narragansett Park was open from 1934 to 1978. It originally consisted of a one-mile racing oval, a 14,000 seat grandstand, 270 betting and paying booths, a clubhouse, and 22 barns. The City of Pawtucket constructed a four-lane highway leading to the entrance of the track and a double track railway was built near the stand.

On its opening day, on August 1, 1934, there

were 37,281 people in attendance. During its early years, Narragansett Park was one of the most financially successful tracks in the country. Many people summering in Newport came up for the races. For years, during the racing season, daily trains, known as "Gansett Specials" ran from Boston's South Station to the station tracks at Narragansett Park. The trains left Boston around noon to

2:00 p.m. Sunday,
October 16

*Narragansett Park
Race Track*

Bob Kynch

**BVHS, 1873 Old
Louisquisset Pike,
Lincoln, RI**

arrive in time for the first race and returned at the end of the last race. The track began a slow decline in the 1950s. In 1979, the stockholders voted to sell the track to the City of Pawtucket.

According to Wikipedia, it was one of the first race tracks in the country to install a photo finish camera and a starting gate.

On September 2, 1977, the Beach Boys performed at the Narragansett Race Track to an audience of 40,000, which remains the record for the largest concert crowd in Rhode Island history.

**Most events are free.
Everyone is welcome.
Donations are gratefully accepted.**

2:00 pm, Sunday, October 16: Bob Kynch will give a presentation on the Narragansett Park Race Track.

2:00 pm Sunday, November 20: There will be a showing of “Kittycunk Speaks,” a film about the history of the Blackstone. John Marsland, president of the Blackstone Valley Watershed Council Friends of the Blackstone will introduce the movie.

2:00 pm Sunday, January 22: Andrew Noone, author of “Bathsheba Spooner, A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy” will give a presentation.

2:00 pm Sunday, April 16: Jim Bailey will speak about his research and his upcoming new book about Captain Henry Every, the pirate.

1:30 pm Sunday, May 21. Annual Meeting and talk by Kevin Klyberg, Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park Ranger.

October is Archaeology Month

The RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission organizes RI Archaeology Month, with free programs throughout October. For more information see: <https://preservation.ri.gov/archtober>

Saturday, 1:00 p.m., October 15: **Revisiting the Archaeology of the Kelly House and Blackstone Canal (walking tour)** Captain Wilbur Kelly House, 1075 Lower River Road, Lincoln

Wednesday, 6:00–7:00 p.m., October 19: **Project Highlights from Engaging the Americas at the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology** (live virtual program) Register: <https://tinyurl.com/yey5km6r>

Saturday, 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. October 22: **Archaeology of College Hill Community Archaeology Day (hands-on archaeology)** Corner of Hope Street and Lloyd Avenue, Moses Brown School, Providence. Contact:

joukowsky_institute@brown.edu or (401)863-3188

Saturday and Sunday, October 22 and October 23: **Archaeological Excavations at Old Potterville School (meet archaeologists, engage in local history)** 316 Old Plainfield Pike, Scituate More information: www.facebook.com/ScituatePreservation

Monday, 6:00-7:00 p.m., October 24: **The Search for HMS Gaspee: History, Technology, Citizen Science, and Results (panel presentation and discussion)** Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Contact: rhodeislandmap@yahoo.com

Throughout October: **Archaeology of the Pierce Rum Distillery in Bristol (video recording)** Go to www.preservation.ri.gov/archtober for the link.



Visitor discusses exhibit with Susan Clarke at the Arnold's Lonsdale Bakery on Great Road Day.

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