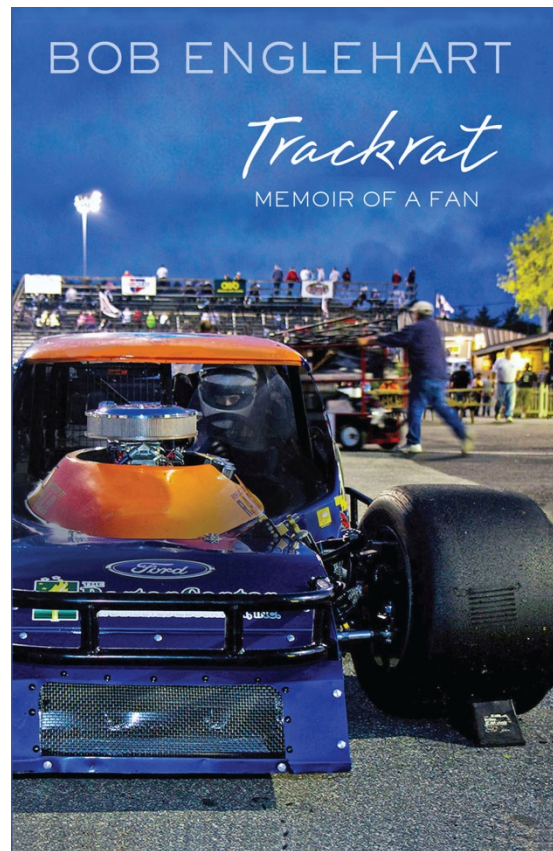


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Aug. 14 – *Trackrat: Memoir of a Fan* Book Launch with Author and Editorial
Cartoonist Bob Englehart at Hartford Public Library**



HARTFORD, Connecticut (July 24, 2014) – On **Thursday, August 14 at 5:30 p.m.**, **Hartford Public Library** will host a reception with **author and Hartford Courant editorial cartoonist Bob Englehart** celebrating **the launch of his new book *Trackrat: Memoir of a Fan*.**

What compels a young man or woman to spend ungodly amounts of money driving a racecar every weekend at the local track, risking life and limb at 150 miles an hour, entertaining friends and total strangers? Englehart had to find out after witnessing the tragic wreck that killed Boston-area driver Shane Hammond at Thompson International Speedway.

Trackrat explores a slice of American culture - the short track racing obsession - and how the author became a fan as a child, bedridden for a year by rheumatic fever with only his imagination, pencils, and watercolors to pass the time. Englehart writes about his parents' divorces and remarriages during an era when divorce was rare, and discovers the extraordinary motivation behind Shane Hammond's desire to race by a chance encounter with his mother and younger brother in the pits at the last race of the season. *Trackrat: Memoir of a Fan* is about love of family in spite of the complexity and confusion it may involve and the author's working class heroes on the track. This isn't NASCAR; this is your neighbor.

A fixture in Hartford journalism for over 30 years, Bob Englehart joined the Hartford Courant as an editorial cartoonist in 1980. He has awards from the Overseas Press Club, John Fischetti Contest, Planned Parenthood, and Free Press Association and was the finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1979. His cartoons have appeared in USA Today, Time, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, the New York Times, and the London Times. His cartoons are in the collections of the Thomas Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut, Eastern Connecticut State University, Connecticut Historical Society, Ohio State University, Indiana University-Purdue University library, and The Newseum in Washington, DC.

The public is invited to this free reception with the author, to be held at The Kitchen at Hartford Public Library at 500 Main Street, Hartford.

Copies of *Trackrat* will be available for purchase and signing. A portion of all book sales benefit Hartford Public Library.

This event is presented in partnership with the *Hartford Courant*.

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

As a finalist for the 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit hplct.org.

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