



BEN STECHSCHULTE

*Essex County Fairgrounds,
Westport, 2009*

I began photographing the demolition derby as an assignment for *Adirondack Life* in 2006, and I've continued the project in still pictures and video every summer since.

Initially it was the derby cars, freshly painted and parked along the roadside, that attracted me. There is a poignancy to the demolition derby. Lifeless cars, through mechanical ingenuity, are resurrected and painted with the names of friends and family, then ceremoniously destroyed. Many components of the derby cars are recycled and reappear year after year, like the drivers themselves, in different cars, creating a variation on a theme. I see something new in the derby every year.

Adirondackers are what make this place so special to me.

→ See an exhibition of these photographs and others from this issue at View, in Old Forge, February 14–April 5; opening reception March 1 at 1 p.m.