



Message from EMPA President, Dino Oberto

EMPA is an organization of professional writers, broadcasters, announcers, videographers, and photographers working in the motorsports industry, along with Associate and Corporate members.

Greetings all,
Hope all is well with everyone, and apologies for being overdue in getting out a newsletter. It's been a busy and hectic racing season, (and away from the track ,too) which always is a good thing.

With that being said, I trust you are all having the same in your racing endeavors...great articles, great photos, and great videos. That also means getting your best work in place for the respective contests during the upcoming convention.

Speaking of which, we have some exciting info on the 2024 convention the weekend of **January 12-14.**



We are excited to pass the news that we have a new location for the convention. We heading to the

Holiday Inn Wilkes-Barre - East Mountain, 600 Wildflower Drive, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

This all came about after an email, then phone call came our way to stop by and see what they had to offer us. And it was good!

Turns out, they knew of the organization and our convention, and they reached out to see if we would have an interest in their facility.

Justine and I then met with them and got a grand tour of all that we would need over the course of the weekend. After some very productive negotiations and conferring on all the details with our Board members, it was clear-cut to us that this was perfect in all aspects.

Here are some things to look forward to:

We will have no issues with rooms as they have blocked two floors for us (there are seven floors). We will have plenty of space to hold Friday and Saturday events plus the photo contest ,which will have a dedicated room slightly away from the gathering spots. On the top floor we will have a hospitality room that we can use as we please.

There is a big parking lot next to the entrance. All very modern throughout and very nice rooms. Very easily accessible off I-81 and the PA Turnpike.

To put it in perspective I look at it as a cross between the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia and the Radisson in Trevoise when we were at those hotels.

Google the facility and check out the photos from our visit on the next page. We'll have more news on all this coming soon.



www.empaonline.org



The Mission of the EMPA is to acknowledge excellence in motorsports reporting and those who who have excelled on the track and within the motorsports community. To foster an atmosphere to improve the quality of motorsports reporting through the fellowship and interaction of veteran media with less experienced members in a welcoming atmosphere where tips, techniques and ideas are exchanged and encouraged. To increase positive interactions between racetracks, sanctioning bodies and the working racing media.





Pictures of hospitality room, banquet room, Bistro, breakout room, photo contest room, and exterior.



IN MEMBER NEWS

From Ernie Saxton

I have been selected to serve on the Historic Committee of the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America located at Daytona International Speedway. I get to nominate people for the Hall that have raced prior to 1960.

Hope you are doing well. Ernie

Ernie, congratulations and well deserved! PS, sure hope you can get to the convention.



From Brooke Johnpier

Before I even graduated high school this year, I got a job working at Speedway Illustrated part-time.

This was a dream come true for me as my dream job is a motorsports journalist, and this fall I'm going to St. Bonaventure University for Sports Media.

In the June issue, my first two articles were published, and it was just surreal seeing my name in one of the biggest motorsports publications out there. Because of my work with Speedway, I've also been asked to do a weekly column for Race Pro Weekly.

Brooke is one of our newest members and we couldn't be happier for her. It's good to know there is some excellent young talent coming in.

From Matt Butcosk

Here in Florida we are losing race tracks. We recently lost 4-17 Speedway to be torn down and replaced by a moto cross track. East Bay will be closing next year so if anyone never been to East Bay they should do it ASAP.

Matt, thanks for that info and it's never good news when we lose another track. This is a topic we need to be aware of and discuss during the convention.

As a side note, Bloomsburg Fair Raceway has been temporarily shut down also.

From Bruce Bennett



Ever checked off a bucket list item you didn't even know was on your bucket list? On a recent trip to Birmingham, England to show my son where his grandfather was born and raised, we made a side trip to Liverpool where we got to visit the legendary Cavern Club, once home to a fledgling rock band called the Beatles.

For myself, who grew up listening to the Beatles and photographing rock concerts, it was an amazing experience, especially when I added my signature to the thousands already adorning the club's walls.

Bruce, that is awesome! As a huge Beatles fan myself I have to say how cool that must have been for you. As the great John Lennon once said, "Just let me hear some of that Rock-n-Roll music!"

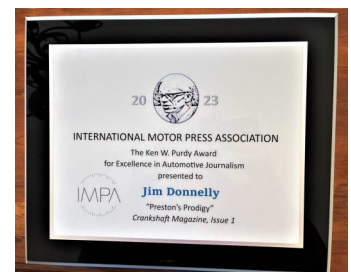
From Jim Donnelly

Hi all. I am the 2023 recipient of the Ken W. Purdy Award for Excellence in Automotive Journalism from the International Motor Press Association.

The award was presented for "Preston's Prodigy," my account of the restoration of Tucker 1044 in time for the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. The story appeared in the first issue of Crankshaft magazine. It was the first time the award had been presented since 2019, when David Hobbs won for his autobiography, "Hobbo." Needless to say, I'm very excited and gratified by this.

Thanks, best, JD.

Jim, outstanding! So proud of all our members and the work they do.



IN MEMBER NEWS

From Carol Houssock

I may be losing my race track. I've been the voice of Chemung Speedrome nearly every year dating back to its 2001 reopening. The lease between our current promoter and the track owner ends with our last race in September. What takes place beyond then is unknown. I hope to land somewhere (maybe even stay there) so I can start my 30th year behind the mic. But, I'm also gaining something even better —grandchild #5, a boy, is due in October!

Carol, here's hoping the track remains open and with you on the mic! Also, congrats on the upcoming birth of the baby!

From Deb Gastelu

Sue Brice and I have been dealing with breast cancer issues. Each of us has used our Facebook page to encourage women to have regular mammograms. If caught early enough, what you face can be severely lessened.

Deb, glad to hear that both of you are coming along in your respective battles. I know our entire membership joins me in sending prayers your way for full recoveries.

This and that...



If anyone has names for the Hall of Fame please send them along with a bio for each individual. We have already received some and look forward to more as we near the convention. Please send via email to: dlmo@ptd.net

Bob Yurko will once again be handling the Brice's NAPA Auto Parts Photo Contest so if you have any questions please get with. Now would be the best time so you can all be ready by convention time.

Writers, there is still time before we start asking for your entries for the Pocono Raceway Writers Contest but it's never too soon to start getting your best work together. All of the rules are the same as last year.

Pete MacDonald will be stepping up with our social media page. If anyone has current news stories of photos to show get with him so we can post for all to see. pmacdonald11@hotmail.com On Facebook, we're there with our entire name.

Thanks to Kirsten Snyder who's working to help freshen up the website.
<https://www.snyderwebdesign.com/>

We would like to revive the video contest and are kicking around some tweaks. Also, if anyone knows of a potential sponsor for this please let us know ASAP.

If you know of any members not receiving our newsletter, please let Carol and I know so we can correct that.

We really hope you all make plans to attend the 2024 convention. After coming out of the pandemic, having to find a new home, and now getting the opportunity at the Holiday Inn, we're looking very good and the organization is on solid footing.

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There will be plenty more news coming and, until then,

Peace, out

Dino.

