



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 as this edition of our newsletter is our first post-convention and it's time to get caught up with you all.

For many of us, our respective racing activities are well underway and we always look forward to reading all those accounts and checking out the great photos that go along with it. Matter of fact it was neat running into a lot of the EMPA gang while in Florida for this year's Speedweeks races.

Before we move on with current news I'd like to touch on some leftovers from the convention.

It was, by all accounts, a great event. We've always had nice compliments from previous conventions but never has there been such positive feedback then what we just had.

Our new venue at the Holiday Inn in Wilkes-Barre and their staff made us all feel very welcome.

Friday night's **Belmont's Garage Champions Salute** was, as always, a nicely attended gathering. Thank you again **Andy Belmont** for your support on making this a well-received evening.

Saturday morning went very well and we're moving in the right direction too with how we look to do that portion of the convention, with the emphasis on our speakers and improving on the agenda. Since then I've gotten some great input on how we can continue along those lines.

Karl Fredrickson did a superb job of putting together the panel that had us all focused. **Dave Argabright, Steven Ovens and Bob Stephens** all presented excellent insight on the topics discussed. Likewise, our three book authors, **Dave Argabright, Buffy Swanson and Jim Kelly**, gave us a good understanding into the efforts in putting a novel together. Karl shared a couple of his pictures.

Board of Directors:

- Dino Oberto
- Karl Fredrickson
- Carol Houssock
- Jeff Gromis
- Pete MacDonald



www.empamedia.org



*The Mission of the EMPA is to acknowledge excellence in motorsports reporting and those whose 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.*



And speaking of Dave he passed along a note of thanks...

Just wanted to pass along my thanks for your invitation to join you at the convention. It was so nice to see so many longtime friends and meet many new friends. Thank you for all your efforts to keep EMPA going strong.

Dave Argabright

Dave, it was our pleasure and speaking on behalf of everyone in attendance, having you come to the convention and listening to you speak, it really enhanced how fantastic the weekend was.

It was also great to have good friend to EMPA **Mike Lewis** from **Dover Motor Speedway** back with us on Saturday. And the same goes with **Steven Ovens** from **Land of Legends Raceway** plus **Chris Dolak** with **World Racing Group**.

The **Brice's NAPA Auto Parts EMPA Photo Contest** was amazing by all accounts with the number of entries received. Of course a huge thanks to **Bill Brice** for his ongoing support with the contest and the organization.

And much appreciation again to Dover Motor Speedway, **Gary Camp** and Mike for continuing to sponsor our Saturday luncheon.

Moving to Saturday evening's Hall of Fame and Awards dinner, let me say that will be a hard act to follow with the line-up of attendees. Just as significant was that we got through it in a timely manner – which is something we've been striving for – that gave us plenty of time afterwards for some very nice socializing in the hospitality rooms. I also feel that by making some of the presentations prior to lunch it made a huge difference in keeping the evening's awards to a reasonable time frame.

To **Nick Igdalsky**, **Ben May** and **Pocono Raceway**, thank you yet again for the sponsorship with the writers contest. Also to **Dan Luginbuhl**, **Tom Wanick III/Wanick Construction**, **John Holland/New England Race Fuels**, **Michael Jarworecki, Sr.**, **Chris Dolak/World Racing Group**, **Maple Grove Raceway**, **Buckley's Automotive**, **American Racer**, **Towne Camera**, **Himmer Graphics** and **Snyder Web Design & Photography** for the over-the-top support to the organization.

I want to especially thank the Board of Directors, **Karl Fredrickson**, **Carol Houssock**, **Jeff Gromis** and **Pete MacDonald** for the all the hard work in making this past year's convention a great success. **Debbie Gastelu**, **Justine Oberto**, **Earl and Pam Krause**, **Joe Kaminski**, **Dave Moulthrop**, **Jim Smith**, **Bob Yurko** to you and all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes, THANK YOU!

The post coverage of the convention was amazing. To ALL of you who gave us exposure, whether it was in a publication, website or social media postings, it was very much valued and it shows just how strong EMPA is doing through our solid membership and marketing partners.

And now, in the news...

From **Ron Hedger**

*I joined **Jim Donnelly (2022)** as a member of **The Villages Motor Racing Club Hall of Fame** in February. It's a very nice event for guest speakers from the previous year, who then become HoF members. The club is huge and does a number of trips to races around Florida each year. Party on, RJH*

Wow, Ron! Two Hall of Fame inductions in one year, but not surprising given all you have done for the sport. Well-deserved, my friend. (Photo from The Club's website: From left Gerry Hafer, Chris Bleistein, Ron Hedger, Joe Gerardi, Will Cagle, Bill Stevenson, John Mulloy, Bill Samuels. Not pictured Glen Carter)



From **Steve Barrick**

When Program Dynamics, Inc. (PDI) publishes and distributes the racing program at Wall Stadium on Saturday, April 20 for the track's season opener, it will be the first edition of the 50th year of program publishing for Steve and Pam Barrick, PDI's founders and owners.

"Longevity has its place, but as far as Pam and I are concerned, we're only as good as our next issue," Steve Barrick said.

Over the course of the past half century, PDI has produced weekly programs for 35 speedways in eight different states - New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and Delaware. The firm published and distributed what proved to be final editions for Flemington, East Windsor, Nazareth, Dorney Park, Danbury, Riverside Park, Freeport, and Old Dominion speedways.

"We are proud of the fact that 18 drivers who have won feature races in their careers were Program Dynamics program sellers before they were old enough to get behind the wheel of race cars," the Barrick's said.



Steve and Pam, your efforts in providing weekly coverage via a program book has always been top notch and just as important is the commitment to the history of those tracks you have so diligently covered over the years. Congratulations on a great half-century of affording readers with accurate race reports and stories along with equally perfect accompanying photos.

From **Brooke Johnpier**

*I'm more than pleased to say that I'm still working at **Speedway Illustrated** part-time, and through them I've officially got to get a taste of advertising. And for PEAK no less! Also, I've found my internship for college, and through it I will be able to interview some big name drivers in both dirt and NHRA, which is a dream come true for me. Can't wait to get into this industry full-time! Thanks, Brooke*

Brooke, awesome info there and congrats on how well you're doing. The future is in good hands!

From **Rich Corbett**

EMPA Midwest photographers Rich Corbett and John Lund have been named as the official staff photographers for the U.S. Short Track Nationals at Bristol Motor Speedway, April 5-6. The event already has 236 entries from the Vores Compact Touring Series, CRA Street Stocks and Midwest Modifieds competing on the high banks.

Fantastic news Rich and John! The U.S. Short Track Nationals is quite the event and now they have two awesome photographers to capture the action. We can't wait to see some of those shots too.



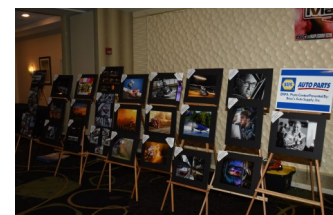
Was Evan Canfield happy to be the Ace Lane, Sr. Photographer of the Year? He shared a special moment, captured by Karl Fredrickson, with his mother and EMPA member, Stephanie.



Photo contest judging is underway

Photos by Jim Smith

And the winners are....



Post-Convention Award Presentations



At this year's Allentown Indoor Auto Races held January 5-6, EMPA president Dino Oberto presented Danny, Davey and Len Sammons with the EMPA Promotional Effort of the Year award. (Photo by Bob Yurko)

During the season opener at East Bay Raceway on February 13, EMPA member Allan Holland presented the Chis Economaki Memorial EMPA News Maker of the Year award to High Limit Racing's Josh Peterman and Brian Walker. The presentation was seen live on Flo Racing. (Photo by Paul Arch)



Rich Corbett (center) was presented the EMPA President's Award. He's pictured here with EMPA President Dino Oberto and ARCA president Ron Drager at Daytona International Speedway before the start of ARCA qualifying in February 16. (Photo by ARCA)

Due to illness, HOF Inductee George Kent was unable to attend the convention. Carol Houssock presented the award at the Chemung Speedrome banquet. George was extremely grateful for this honor.



Some convention pics:



The champions, and a few 'stragglers with a microphone:

Front row L-R: Zane Zeiner, Nick Robinson, Josh Patterson
Second row L-R: Brett Tonkin, Logan Watt, Micah Adams
Third row L-R: Dino, Ryan Godown, Buddy Sload, Carol, Earl
(Photo by Bob Yurko)



The authors: Jim Kelly, Buffy Swanson, and Dave Argabright
(Photo by Bob Yurko)



More pics from the convention, thanks to Jim Smith!



Until next time

Peace, out

Dino

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Smile everyone...
Awards Dinner
(Photo by Dino
Oberto)

