



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 -

Thought it would be a good time to catch up on what is turning out to be a very busy racing season. So many good storylines and so many great photo and video opps.

And with that in mind it's a good time to start thinking about that special news item, photo or video to enter into the 2020 respective contests.

Member News

In the last newsletter we reached out to you all to send us some info on happenings within the membership and the response was very positive. So here's some more of the same.

Board of Directors:

- Dino Oberto, President
- Earl Krause, Vice President
- Carol Houssock, Secretary
- Jeff Gromis, Treasurer
- Karl Fredrickson

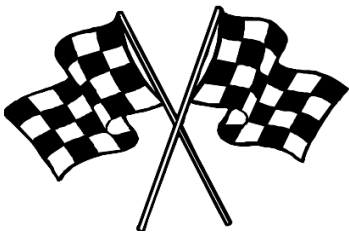
From Bob Marlow on the Ray Brown presentation:

"The ceremony at Weedsport went very well, and Ray's daughter, Carole Brown Woods, and grandson, Jason Kane, were on hand. They were very pleasantly surprised by the EMPA award, and they were clearly moved by the Dirt Modified honor."



Carole Brown Woods, daughter of 2019 EMPA Hall of Fame inductee Ray Brown, receives the EMPA award from announcer and writer Bob Marlow during the recent Northeast Dirt Modified Hall of Fame ceremony in Weedsport, New York. Marlow spoke of Ray Brown's racing accomplishments and Ms Woods regaled the attendees with childhood stories of accompanying her father on his racing travels. Ray Brown's grandson, Jason Kane, was also on hand for the presentation. Brown's racing resume is impressive in both Modifieds and Midgets, and a profile can be found on the EMPA website.

We'd like to thank Bob for making the statue presentation of 2019 Hall of Fame inductee Ray Brown to his family at the recently held Dirt Hall of Fame ceremony in Weedsport



www.empaonline.org



From John Snyder:

On Sunday, July 21st John was inducted into the Hudson Valley Historical Racing Committee's 2019 Hall of Fame Class. The HVHRC is dedicated to preserving the heritage of auto racing in the greater Hudson Valley region. Currently, it has more than 1,000 members.

"It was a real honor and somewhat humbling to be recognized by the HVHRC for what essentially is working behind the scenes. Others in the Class---drivers, team owners, engine builders, and mechanics--represented a true cross section of auto racing. I greatly appreciate being chosen to join an outstanding roster of auto racing personalities."

John, we're all very proud of your well-earned induction into the HVHRC. You have been a huge asset to Northeast racing and VERY MUCH to EMPA. Congratulations again!

From Steve Post:



As most of you all know Steve not only works the NASCAR radio circuit for MRN but also does a weekly internet show "WingedNation.com" and sends along some noteworthy info on that front.

In 2011 MRN saw a demand for coverage beyond the "big three" series in NASCAR. "The World of Outlaws Report" was produced covering the series in a 15-20-minute program distributed on the network's website.

Growth in Sprint Car racing and solid listenership to the program led to the launch of "Winged Nation" a year later; covering all winged Sprint Car racing. The show was hosted by Kendra Jacobs (daughter of Kenny Jacobs) and Steve. And, the show flourished. There are now three Winged Nation shows each week.

Winged Nation is the weekly Tuesday gathering discussing the weekend of racing with winners and newsmakers from cross the country. The show, available on WingedNation.com and related social media networks, is audio and video.

The Winged Nation Podcast (drops Thursday) serves as a place for general topics and a preview of the upcoming weekend. The show, available on WingedNation.com and related social media networks, is audio and video.

The third weekly show is Winged Nation on MAVTV featuring an interview with the sport's top personalities, interactive segments with fans, highlight videos, tech pieces and more. This television program airs on MAVTV on Saturday mornings as well as on demand on the LucasOilRacing.TV app.

Winged Nation also does live "road shows"; pre-race stage shows this year at the Chili Bowl, Weikert Memorial at Port Royal, Music City Nationals at Nashville, Jackson (Minn.) Nationals, the Kings Royal at Eldora and upcoming at the Knoxville Nationals. Future events this season are being planned for The World Finals in Charlotte and the Performance Racing Industry (PRI) trade show in Indianapolis in December.

Winged Nation is also aggressive with content on its social media accounts throughout the season and produces a series of shows during the off-season titled "Winged Nation Presents".

While Kendra Jacobs has moved on to Knoxville Raceway as the Marketing Director, Post is joined now by co-hosts Ashley Stremme (daughter of Central Pennsylvania sprint car racer Joe Diehl) and Erin Crocker Evernham.

The show has thousands of listeners/views each week and multiple partnership with sponsors: Sage Fruit, Hercules Tires, Drydene, Red Brand Fence, Weld Racing, Classic Ink Screen Printing & Embroidery, Lucas Oil ASCS Tour, National Sprint Car Hall of Fame & Museum, Aggressive Hydraulics, Hepfner Racing Products and Plan B Sales.

Steve, great things happening there with you and your gang. You do a great job and continued success.



From Karl Fredrickson:

I had the privilege of attending NHMS in a professional capacity on Sunday (7/20), with all the great and near-great elbow-rubbing we get to do, but spent Sunday evening an hour away at Hudson (NH) Speedway, getting back (finally!) behind the wheel of a race car with the Pro-4 guys. What a blast!

Karl, thanks for the news and keep in mind those guys are rubbing your elbows too!

From Ron Hedger:

I'm sending a pic of me during the presentation of the Saratoga Automobile Museum's Drive for Excellence Award at the recent Summer Gala. I'm the first Trustee in many years to receive it. The photo has my wife Lynne, daughters Kristen and Michelle and granddaughters Julia and Karina.

Photo provided by Ron Hedger



From Carol Houssock:

I had the pleasure of presenting the 2019 Jimmy Blewett III Young Gun Award to Tanner Gray prior to the K&N Pro East race at Watkins Glen. Gray earned the award by vote of the EMPA membership but was unable to attend the convention in January. He outdistanced other nominees based on his outstanding performance. At 19, he claimed the Pro Stock championship and holds the record as the youngest champion in NHRA history.

Photo by Duane Canfield

From Mike Feltenberger:

Mike sends along news from his TV Show *Strapped In* on BCTV and www.bctv.org. The *Strapped In* Auto Racing Show on BCTV, and listed on youtube.com, is becoming one of the most watched shows on both of the BCTV's media outlets. *Strapped In* will be celebrating its 16th year of live broadcasting with the upcoming September program.

The show has featured many of local racing talents of the past and present, with guests being Freddy Adam, Gary Gollub, Charley Gilmore, Craig Von Dohren, Jeff Strunk, Don Kreitz Jr., Duane Howard, Tim Buckwalter, Bobby Braxton, Keith Hoffman, Doug Manmiller, 2017 Miss Motorsports Taylor Albert, announcer Jeff Ahlum, Linda's Speedway promoter Michael Batz and a gamut of specialty shows in regards to HO Slot Car racing, Radio Controlled racing, the Fan Forum show, and iRacing online.

The show started as a 30-minute program but the popularity and requests from viewers lengthened the show to 60 minutes. Show is host by Mike with noted columnist Randy Kane as co-host. Special show co-hosts include track announcer Barry Angstadt and Grandview Speedway official Eric Gambler.

Thanks Mike, your *Strapped In* show has always been top notch and keep up the great work of bringing the short track news to the forefront.

From Bob Yurko

Bob would like to mention to the photographers with the season at full speed, now's a great time to take a minute and think about capturing that creative shot for the convention. Maybe a picture story or chasing that awesome action shot is in your focus going forward. Last year's contest might have been



Listed below are the winners in the 2019 AARWBA Media Contest. Congrats to those who also belong to EMPA!

Newspaper Feature: 1. Dr. Michael C. Johnson, Amarillo Globe News, Tiny Houses

News:1. Jerry Garrett, New York Times, Will Power Finally Wins An Indy 500 Magazine

Feature: 1. Mike Adaskaveg, Speedway Illustrated, Paradise Found 2. Ron Hedger, Speed Sport Magazine, Hot Shoe's Checkered Past 3. J.A. Ackley, Speedway Illustrated, Overcoming Adversity

Column: 1. J.A. Ackley, Speedway Illustrated, For the Ages 2. Bruce A. Bennett, Speedway Illustrated, Getting Attention 3. Jason Beck, CC Racer, Give Peace a Chance

Technical: 1. Mike Adaskaveg, Speedway Illustrated, Searching for Answers 2. Jason Beck, Speedway Illustrated, Test Day

Event: 1. Jason Beck, Speedway Illustrated, A Snowball's Chance in Florida 2. Mike Adaskaveg, Speedway Illustrated, Winter Showdown 3. Bruce A. Bennett, CC Racer, Dirt Trackin' in Trenton

Radio Feature Program - 1. The Pace Lap-IndyCar GP Preview, WIMA Radio

Print Photography Action: 1. Bill Taylor, Flat Out Magazine, Their Action on the Big Screen 2. David H. Moulthrop, Area Auto Racing News, Turn Four Turmoil 3. Don Figler, National Speed Sport News, Completing Teammates

People: 1. Bruce Bennett, Speedway Illustrated, Recycled Recreation 2. Bill Taylor, Speedway Illustrated, Fans Cheering Alan Kulwicki's First Win and "Polish Victory Lap"-Phoenix 1988 3. Mike Adaskaveg, Speedway Illustrated, Winter Showdown, Crazy Train Online Media

Deadline News Report: 1. Patrick Reynolds, www.speedwayreport.com, Winning the Indy 500 Took Some Will Power 2. Ron Hedger, speedsport.com, Marks is up to Weedsport Challenge 3. Kay Presto, www.carsandcompetition.com, Tight and Hight Battle it out for NHR Funny Car Championship

Feature Report: 1. Patrick Reynolds, www.speedwayreport.com, Dusty Brandel Blazed a Courageous Trail in a Man's World 2. Deb Williams, espnw.com, Sandriana Shipman is Recovered and Ready to Return to the Dirt Track-and She's Got a New Ride 3. Larry Mason, carsandcompetition.com, Firestone Racing Tires-Way Beyond Round and Black

Column: 1. Ron Hedger, speedsportnews.com, Hedger: Welcoming a New Class 2. Patrick Reynolds, www.speedwayreport.com, What Danica Patrick's Career Meant to Motorsports 3. Deb Williams, RacinToday.com, Fans are Fanning Ryan Blaney's Racing Fires

Blog: 1. Jerry Garrett, Garrett On the Road, Logano Wins 2018 Championship 2. Patrick Reynolds, speedwayreport.com, Racing Hearts Beat Hard in the Santos Family

Technical Report: 1. Larry Mason, www.carsandcompetition.com, Indy Car Tech - The Driver's Seat Website: 1. Larry Mason, www.LarryMason.net 2. Patrick Reynolds, www.speedwayreport.com 3. Kay Presto, www.carsandcompetition.com

Photo-Action: 1. Dr. Michael C. Johnson, Motorsport.com, Fire in the Hole 2. Larry Mason, www.carsandcompetition.com, Rossi in Route to Victory 3. David H. Moulthrop, speedsport.com, Lost Opportunity

Photo-People: 1. David H. Moulthrop , Digital Area Auto Racing News, Champions Cheer 2. Larry Mason, www.carsandcompetition.com, Cara Adams is Prepared with Notebook 3. Dr. Michael C. Johnson, RacedaySA.com, Chip

Books Non-Fiction: 1. Sean Cridland, Hurley: From the Beginning 2. Norm DeWitt, Making it Faster II: The Indianapolis and Grand Prix Cars 3. Phillip Gary Smith, The Eclectic 18: Maniacs on a Mission

Jim Reed passing:

We would like to send along our condolences on the passing of EMPA Hall of Famer Jim Reed. Jim passed on June 29th at the age of 93.

Thanks, everyone, for the news. Proud of ALL our members, and keep up the great work.

Until next time peace and out,

Dino

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