



## Message from EMPA President, Ron Hedger

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

### Board of Directors:

Ron Hedger, President  
 Dino Oberto, Vice President  
 Len Sammons  
 Earl Krause  
 Jeff Gromis

### Officers:

Carol Houssock, Secretary  
 Jeff Gromis, Treasurer

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We recently reminded a dozen members who had not renewed for 2016 that their renewals were due and found out that two members were retiring from the sport. Photographers Loren Carman and Jim Hamm tell us they will no longer be shooting motorsports, so we wish them well in their future endeavors and thank them for their past support of EMPA.

Thanks to those who promptly responded to the reminders by mailing their renewals. We had a few others that were delayed when our plans changed and we remained in New York after starting mail forwarding to Florida. We thank everyone for their patience.

### TROPHY TREVAILS

Shortly after we packed up Brian Carter's Newsmaker statue, Donny Schatz's Driver of the Year statue and a replacement statue for Daryn Pittman, who accidentally knocked his DoY award off a shelf and ruined it, we had to delay our Florida trip when my wife suffered health issues.

Ed Lamberton graciously agreed to transport the trophies to Volusia Speedway Park and present Schatz's on opening night of the WoO program, a plan that came apart when Schatz failed to make it to the frontstretch for the nightly awards ceremony. With Ed having a commitment at East Bay the following night, we prevailed on Paul Arch to do the honors and finally, everything went well. Schatz even marked the occasion with another win. We thank Ed and Paul for their efforts on behalf of the EMPA.



Tommy Hein photo



Paul Arch presenting trophy (Arch photo)



[www.empaonline.org](http://www.empaonline.org)



## REMINDER:

We've had a number of calls and e-mails about a member being asked to leave the press center at Daytona recently because he was observed collecting autographs.

Others should take a lesson from the incident and act accordingly. Remember, what may be common at the weekly short tracks you frequent is not acceptable at NHRA, NASCAR, ARCA, IndyCar and other major events, with the image of all of us suffering when a sanctioning body takes action in cases like this. Please act like the professionals you are and respect the procedures established by the sanctions.



### WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR WORLD?

If you have news to share, such as awards received, affiliation with a new media outlet, marriage, etc etc, please let us know and we will inform the other members of your accomplishments.

## VIDEO CONTEST

Longtime member Mel Thomas has agreed to assume the chairmanship of the video contest in place of Bill Channel, who has decided to retire after many years of sharing his expertise with us. Mel and Bill had worked together on the contest rules in the past so it should be a smooth transition.

Mel is currently working with a college professor in his area who has extensive experience with contests and is willing to judge the EMPA entries after Mel collects them. More information will be provided once the details are worked out

As I stated at the business meeting, we need more entries for 2016 to maintain the contest at the level of recent years. Some regulars apparently missed the entry deadline for 2015 because they waited for the printed newsletter to come out before reading the rules. By then, the deadline was past and they were unable to compete. We get the newsletter out as soon as possible after the fall awards/convention planning meeting but video judging especially is time consuming so the deadline is likely to be past again this year when your printed newsletter arrives.

**Please read your e-mail newsletters through the summer, as we start reminding everyone of contest rules and deadlines at least four months before entries are due. And the info can always be found on the EMPA website if you accidentally delete the newsletters.**

We also know that there are many skilled videographers out there who are not members, so please encourage them to join the EMPA and participate in the annual contest. We hope to add a classification for radio/internet racing shows and are open to suggestions as to format.

**Suggestions for rule changes for the Video Contest can be directed to Mel Thomas at [melthomas63@gmail.com](mailto:melthomas63@gmail.com).**

## CONVENTION SEMINAR

Our Saturday afternoon seminar in 2017 will focus on improving your writing and reporting skills. Former AP motorsports writer Mike Harris and website writer Kevin Kovac have agreed to be on the panel, with one or more participants to be added in the future.

Until next time..... *Rox Hedger*

## LEADERSHIP CONTACT DIRECTORY

President	Ron Hedger	<a href="mailto:rjhmedia@juno.com">rjhmedia@juno.com</a>
Vice President	Dino Oberto	<a href="mailto:dlmo@ptd.net">dlmo@ptd.net</a>
Board	Earl Krause	<a href="mailto:earl@aarn.com">earl@aarn.com</a>
Board	Len Sammons	<a href="mailto:lhs@aarn.com">lhs@aarn.com</a>
Board	Jeff Gromis	<a href="mailto:jjg495299@comcast.net">jjg495299@comcast.net</a>
Secretary	Carol Houssock	<a href="mailto:carol2race@aol.com">carol2race@aol.com</a>

