



## 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.*

### Board of Directors:

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

Greetings, all -

Well we're finally getting caught up after the convention and I can at last get out some post weekend news.

I'd like to start out by saying it was another great convention and the thanks goes to so many.

Our Board of Directors, Earl Krause, Carol Houssock, Karl Fredrickson and Jeff Gromis are to be commended on the hard work put in to make sure all was as good as to be expected. Congratulations, Jeff, on being re-elected to the Board.

Thanks as well to Joe Kaminski for another well-done job of getting us a nice array of door prizes.

To Matt and Mel Thomas, Pam Krause, Herb and Teri Anastor, Debbie Gastelu, Bob Yurko, Jim Smith, Dave Moulthrop, Christine Worthington and Justine Oberto...thanks for all the behind the scenes effort you all did.

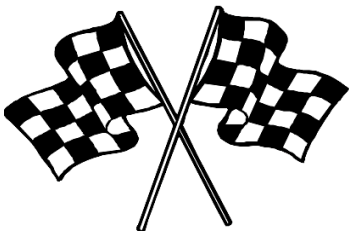


**A BIG THANK YOU goes out to Bones Bourcier (L) who was positively spot on with his Saturday afternoon presentation and being part of the entire weekend. Bones, you were indeed a welcome addition to the entire affair. Bob Yurko photo**

We'd like to thank NASCAR, IndyCar, Pocono Raceway, Dover International Speedway, BAPS Motor Speedway, Brice's NAPA Auto Parts, New England Race Fuels/Sunoco, World Racing Group, and Michael Jaworecki Sr. and Jr. for the amazing support to the organization.

Dan Luginbuhl, we express our utmost gratitude for your generous donations to EMPA. You have been a great friend to us all and very deserving of your Hall of Fame induction.

And finally, to the membership who attended the convention. It was a pleasure to see you all and enjoy our time spent together as both professionals and friends. To those who could not make it out we certainly missed having you and hope you'll be able to join us in January of 2021!



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



**Post-convention Comments:**

It remains our goal to continue to improve on what we are doing while maintaining the integrity of what EMPA stands for. The landscape in this business is evolving and so must we.

We did receive some very nice comments, both personally and via email, about the way things were done this year and it was very heartwarming.

*“Spoke with Ken Schrader this morning and he also said it was a great function and he enjoyed being there. Dino, thanks for your and the EMPA’s understanding and for the honor.” Ron Drager, ARCA*

*“Hi Dino, Just a short note to tell you I think whomever was in charge of ordering this year's award plaques did a fantastic job. They're beautiful!” Regards, Bruce A. Bennett*



*“Hello Dino, it was great to see you again at the EMPA convention — and I am still in shock after being inducted into the EMPA Hall of Fame. This very special honor is certainly the highlight of my career and I appreciate your thoughtfulness along with the board — Thank you! Have a good year and I look forward to seeing you again at the EMPA convention in 2021” All the Best — Dan (Luginbuhl)  
Hall of Fame Inductee, Dan (L), with Herb Anastor Bob Yurko photo*

*“To the Board and members of EMPA – I can’t express how much I appreciate the award and recognition. I enjoyed Saturday night at your wonderful banquet. It was a very special night and a highlight of my racing career.”  
Thank you – Bob Miller (Hall of Fame Inductee)*



**A Very Special Delivery**

**Dave Moulthrop recently delivered Sam Posey's EMPA Hall of Fame award to Sam at his painting studio in Sharon, CT where it now sits quite close to his TV Emmy! Randy McKee photo**

**Rolling Out The Welcome Mat**  
Welcome aboard to our newest EMPA members: Dylan Corcoran, Raven Janoski, Jim Kelly, Brad Ovens and Art Rorick.

**Membership reminder...**

We still have a few individuals who have not yet renewed their 2020 memberships. We don’t want to see you go so please get your renewals to us as soon as you can in order to remain active with the organization and continue to receive the newsletters.

**2021 Convention...**

We will be finalizing plans with the Crowne Plaza for returning in 2021 and, as of now, figure on the same weekend in January.

I would like to note that the Board is planning on a spring meeting to go over some in-house items that need attention as we prepare for the 2021 convention. We then meet again in the fall with getting plans together such as HoF, dinner, award, etc.



And the winners are....

### Honda Video and Broadcast Contest

**BROADCAST:** Motorsports Programs, Series or Segments produced for TV content.

**Class 1 – News Segments – Motorsports Related**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Steve Ovens – “New York Nationals Track Conditions” at Lol Raceway**

**2nd Place – Brad Ovens – Land of Legends raceway, August 3**

**Class 3 – National program devoted to a specific motorsport event**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – FLX Media Group, Matt Thomas – Fonda Speedway, 7/3, MAVtv Show**

**INDEPENDENT/NON-BROADCAST:** Motorsports Related, may be edited or unedited

**Class 1 – Single Camera coverage of an entire race event, weekly or special**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place - Thomas Video, Mel Thomas 2019 Chemung Champ Night, 9/20**

**2nd Place - Thomas Video, Matt Thomas 2019 Freedom Raceway, ESS Sprints**

**Class 2 – Multi Camera coverage of an entire event or series race**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place - Thomas Video, Mel Thomas 2019 Oswego Opener – May 25 & 26**

**2nd Place - Thomas Video, Matt Thomas 2019 Fulton Outlaw Modified 200, 10/5**

**Class 3 – Non Event/Compilation Video – could be a music video, crash or highlight video, a documentary video or race series highlight video**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place - Matt Thomas, FLX Media Group 2019 ESS Champion Video – Paul C.**

**2nd Place - Mel Thomas, Thomas Video 2018 Smash N Crash Video**

**3rd Place - Art Rorick, FLX Media Group 2019 ESS Speedweek Video**

**ONLINE MEDIA/RADIO – Motorsports programs or segments produced for the Internet or Radio Broadcast.**

**Class 1 – Video Events/ Webcasts – Race events, highlight shows or short news segments, Youtube or results programs covering a variety of tracks or events. (Not broadcast on TV.)**

**1st Place - Matt Thomas, FLX Media Group Webcast, Georgetown Speedway, on dirttrackdigest.tv, 8/27/19**

**2nd Place - Art Rorick, FLX Media Group Webcast, Land of Legends, on raceflix.com, June 29, 2019**

**3rd Place - Brad Ovens Webcast, “Ohsweken Outlaws at USA International”**

**4th Place - Steve Ovens Webcast “Rivalz Elite Pro Series at Volusia”**

### Friday Night Convention Action



**Billy Pauch, Sr. and Matt Hirschman discussing, well, it's anybody's guess!**

Bob Yurko photo



**Dino, Earl and Carol interviewed these champions, who represented several tracks and series' competing in the area. This is a popular Friday night 'feature'!**

Bob Yurko photo

**A light moment in Carol Houssock's interview with Billy Pauch, Jr.**

Bob Yurko photo



## More Winners....

## Pocono Raceway/EMPA 2019 writers contest

### Feature

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Adaskaveg "LITTLE CAR, BIG PROBLEMS" CC Racer, June 2019
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dino Oberto "Althouse, Sweeney continue intense rivalry" Standard-Speaker, Hazleton, Pa. July 18, 2019
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jason Beck "FINDING THE ALABAMA GANG" Speedway Illustrated, July 2018

### Column

- 1<sup>st</sup> J.A. Ackley "A Business Approach to the Racing Business", Speedway Illustrated, June 2019
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bruce Bennett, "Can I have Your Autograph?" Speedway Illustrated, October 2019
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dino Oberto "Voting on NASCAR Hall of Fame class proves meaningful" Standard-Speaker, Hazleton, Pa., 5/2119

### Personality Profile

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jason Beck "SAVED" Speedway Illustrated, November 2019
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Barrick "Chris Hile Has Become A Top Modified Racer With His Wife As A Teammate", Area Auto Racing News, October 8, 2019
- 3<sup>rd</sup> J. A. Ackley "THE BRIDGE OF ICE" Speedway Illustrated, September 2019

### Race Report Deadline

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ron Hedger "Friesen Dominates In \$53,000 Fonda Score", [SpeedSport.com](http://SpeedSport.com), September 29, 2019
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeremy Elliott "David Gravel, finally puts together a Saturday masterpiece to claim his first Knoxville Nationals crown", [SprintCarUnlimited.com](http://SprintCarUnlimited.com), August 11, 2019
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Evan Canfield "The Fire Starter Wins Indoor Battle & War in Syracuse" [Speed51.com](http://Speed51.com), March 11, 2019

### Race Report Long Term

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bruce Bennett "The 100,000 Dollar Show" Speedway Illustrated, November 2019
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Adaskaveg "Wild in the West" Speedway Illustrated, March 2019
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dino Oberto "Weatherly Hillclimb attracts record turnout", Standard-Speaker, Hazleton, Pa., June 16, 2019

### News Deadline

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jeremy Elliott "Dominic Scelzi and Scelzi Motorsports hire longtime friend Jimmy Carr to spearhead their operation", [SprintCarUnlimited.com](http://SprintCarUnlimited.com), November 6, 2019
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Steven Ovens "Woodhull Raceway "Pushes All In" On RUSH Sanctioned Crate Late Models", [WoodhullRaceway.com](http://WoodhullRaceway.com), December 17, 2018
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Aaron Creed "A Touch of Midwest Flavor Adds to SCSCS Tradition for Inaugural Salem Visit", Super Cup Stock Car Series, July 21, 2019

### News Long-Term

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Adaskaveg "FLYING FANS", Speedway Illustrated, October 2019



### Convention Highlights on Saturday



**Non-judgmental and judgmental happenings on Saturday afternoon. Karl Fredrickson (L) and Matt Hirschman address the crowd, while photo judging takes places in an adjacent room. Bob Yurko photos**

## NAPA Brices Auto Supply EMPA Photography Contest

### Action

1 – Todd Dziadosz  
2 – Harry Meeks  
3 – Jack Kromer  
Honorable Mention: Dick Ayers, Eric Storch, Rick Sweeten

### Action Sequence

1 – Harry Meeks  
2 – Richard Jester  
3 – Harry Meeks  
Honorable Mention: Kristen Cocca, Brent Smith

### Crash Action

1 – Todd Dziadosz  
2 – Jack Kromer  
3 – Harry Meeks  
Honorable Mention: Rick Neff, Eric Storch, Rick Sweeten

### Pure Art

1 – Eric Storch  
2 – Todd Dziadosz  
3 – Brent Smith  
Honorable Mention: Dave Pratt, Rick Sweeten, Debbie Gastelu

### Unpublished Color

1 – Duane Canfield  
2 – Brent Smith  
3 – Todd Dziadosz  
Honorable Mention: Mike Feltenberger, Christine Bragdon (2)

### Feature

1 – Todd Dziadosz  
2 – Bob Yurko  
3 – Mike Petrucci  
Honorable Mention: Mike Petrucci, Mike Feltenberger, Debbie Gastelu

### Picture Story

1 – Duane Canfield  
2 – Matt Butcosk  
3 – Paul Arch  
Honorable Mention: Paul Arch (2), Rick Sweeten

### Portrait & Personality

1 – Mike Petrucci  
2 – Harry Meeks  
3 – Evan Canfield  
Honorable Mention: Rick Sweeten, JJ Lane, Jack Kromer

### Portfolio

Todd Dziadosz

### Best of Show

Duane Canfield

### Howie Hodge Winner

Harry Meeks

**John “JJ” Lane and Ace Lane, Jr. presenting the Ace Lane, Sr. Memorial Photography Award to Duane Canfield.**

Bob Yurrko photo



## More Saturday Action at the Convention

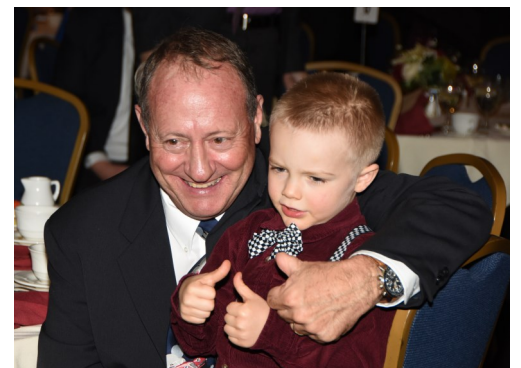


**Mike Petrucci (L) received the Janice Brice Memorial Honorable Mention Award for his great shot.**

**Bruce Ellis won the World Racing Group’s Jerry Reigel Memorial Award. Every year Jerry’s mother is on hand to help present the award for exceptional sprint car coverage.** Bob Yurko photos



## Convention 2020



Thanks to Bob Yurko and Jim Smith for providing so many great pictures!

Thumbs up for a job well done!

On a personal note I would like to say how very proud and humble I am to serve as President of EMPA. It is great to be affiliated with so many true professionals who do an amazing job at covering the sport of auto racing and have EMPA's best interest at heart.

Until next time,  
Peace and out  
*Dino Oberto*

President	Dino Oberto	dlmo@ptd.net
Vice President	Earl Krause	earl@aarn.com
Secretary	Carol Houssock	carol2race@aol.com
Treasurer	Jeff Gromis	jgg495299@comcast.net
Member	Karl Fredrickson	kfredrickson@speedwayillustrated.com