



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.

Thanks to all who participated in the convention and/or the various contests. The entire weekend, from the Champion's Night through Sunday's business meeting, went off extremely well. Ray Evernham had to fight bad weather in North Carolina and had a long wait for his flight while Max McLaughlin and his father, Mike, had to endure snow covered roads for a long ways. But all of our guests, including New Englander John Holland, managed to make it to King of Prussia eventually. We lost some members who had planned to attend to bad roads in the PA/NJ/CT/NY area but amazingly few. Thanks to all who fought the battle – and won – to attend.

We had an excellent kickoff to Saturday's press conference session when IndyCar's CJ O'Donnell spoke at the Dover International Speedway sponsored breakfast. His "state of the art" video presentation wowed everyone, and when combined with his insightful comments, got us off to a rousing start.

Another first time visitor who was impressed with the EMPA convention was Rob Rhoads, who provided Unique Pretzel gift baskets to participants in Friday's Champions Night program. He also brought a basket for the Jerry Reigle Memorial Award winner, sprint car superstar Lance DeWease, who could not attend Saturday's NASCAR/EMPA Hall of Fame Banquet. We enjoyed interviewing Lance, who was in and out quickly as he and his wife were celebrating their wedding anniversary that evening.

Board of Directors:

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

Officers:

Carol Houssock, Secretary
 Jeff Gromis, Treasurer



Seated L-R: Matt Janisch, Ryan Watt, Mike Sweeney, Matt Hirschman
 Standing L-R: Kevin Davison, Ryan Godown, Eric Beers, Brandon Grosso
 Seated on table is Rob Rhoads of Unique Pretzel



Dino Oberto with CJ O'Donnell from Indianapolis Motor Speedway



www.empaonline.org



MEMBERSHIP:

Once the membership rolls are updated (many don't renew until after the convention if they are not attending), we will be attaching a membership list to the monthly newsletter for reference by members. Please renew asap if you have not done so, as I will be dropping non-members from the list.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S FORUM

Rick Sweeten tells us that the EMPA Photographer's Forum is going very well and continues to grow. If you want to get online with the other shooters, email Rick at linesixservices@yahoo.com for instructions.

CONTEST WINNERS

Special Awards:

EMPA Hall of Fame: **Tony Hirschman, Kenny Brightbill, Howie & Mary Hodge, Ray Evernham, Kramer Williamson**
Junie Donlavey Spirit of the Sport Award: **Bryan Clauson Family**
Al Holbert Memorial National Driver of the Year: **Martin Truex, Jr.**
Richie Evans Memorial Northeast Driver of the Year: **Matt Sheppard**
Chris Economaki Newsmaker of the Year: **Indianapolis Motor Speedway**
Jerry Reigle Outstanding Contribution to Sprint Car Racing Award: **Lance DeWease**, presented by World Racing Group
John Blewett III Young Gun Award: **Max McLaughlin**, presented by New England Racing Fuel

EMPA Member Awards:

President's Award: **Bob Yurko**
Ace Lane, Sr. Memorial Photography Award: **Dick Ayers**
Jim Hunter Memorial Writer Award: **Ron Hedger**
Ernie & Marilyn Saxton Dedication to EMPA Award: **Bill Brice III**

Jim Smith photos



EMPA Vice President, Dino Oberto, 'rubbin' elbows', literally, with Matt Hirschman (L) and his father, Tony Hirschman. Tony joined our prestigious Hall of Fame.



Hall of Fame inductee Howie Hodge doing what he does best, shooting pictures! He and his wife, Mary, received a standing ovation when accepting their award!



Ron Hedger with Lance DeWease

Pocono Raceway Writers Contest

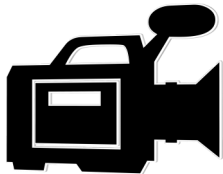
Personality profile: **Mike Aaskaveg** (Speedway Illustrated), Ron Hedger (Speed Sport Magazine), Jim Donnelly, Hemmings Classic Car

Race Report: **Bill Huneke** (Asbury Park Press), Dino Oberto (Hazleton Standard Speaker), Jeremy Elliott (Pennlive.com/The Patriot News)

Column: **Dick Berggren** (Speedway Illustrated Magazine), Karl Fredrickson (Speedway Illustrated Magazine), John Snyder (Area Auto Racing News)

Feature: **Mike Adaskaveg** (Speedway Illustrated), Linda Mansfield (Speed Sport Magazine), Ron Hedger (Speed Sport Magazine)

News: **Jeremy Elliott** (Pennlive.com/The Patriot News), Mike Adaskaveg (Speedway Illustrated), J A Ackley (Speedway Illustrated)



American Honda Motor Co. Video Contest

Broadcast News Segments: **Brian Unangst** (BRC13 Sports)

Independent/Non-Broadcast Single Camera: **Matt Thomas** (Thomas Video Productions), Mel Thomas (Thomas Video Productions, Bob James (Bobco Racing Video)

Multi Camera: **Mel Thomas** (Thomas Video Productions), Matt Thomas (Thomas Video Productions)

Non Event/Compilation Video: **Matt Thomas** (Thomas Video Productions), Joe Coss, Mel Thomas (Thomas Video Productions), Bob James (Bobco Racing Video)

Online Media/Radio Video Events/Webcasts: **Matt Thomas** (Asphaltvision.com)

Radio Broadcast: **Ed Lamberton**

Brice's NAPA Photography Contest

Action: **Bill McGaffin**, Tommy Hein, Brent Smith

Action Sequence: **Harry Meeks**, Tommy Hein, Dick Ayers

Crash Action: **Jack Kromer**, Phil Cavali, Jack Kromer

Feature: **Pete MacDonald**, Brent Smith, Mike Petrucci

Picture Story: **Paul Arch**, Paul Arch, Paul Arch

Portrait & Personality: **Bob Yurko**, Phil Cavali, Bob Yurko

Pure Art: **Mel Stettler**, Brent Smith, Mel Stettler

Unpublished Color: **Rick Sweeten**, Brent Smith, Mike Petrucci

Action Cam: **JJ Lane**, Bob Yurko

Portfolio: **Mike Petrucci**

Best of Show: **Bob Yurko**

Janice Brice Memorial: **Bob Yurko**



HALL OF FAME UPDATES Robin Ervin continues to update the bios on EMPA Hall of Fame members as she gets more information. If you see bios that need to be expanded or revised, please let her know. Mike Feltenberger gave us a heads up that he had seen some names misspelled while looking through the website. If you see errors, please send Robin a note at robinervin2@comcast.net and give her the proper spellings. Most of the drivers that have been honored with inclusion in the EMPA HoF raced before her time and are strangers to her. If the names come to her wrong, she does not recognize the error.

NEW MEMBERS Since the last newsletter was distributed, Pete MacDonald, Todd Ridgeway, Ryan Yanoshak, Steve Post and Walter Smith have become members of the EMPA. They swelled the new member total to 17 for 2016. Welcome all!

TREASURER'S REPORT Jeff Gromis will have the accounts settled and reconciled before the next newsletter and will give members an update on our financial standing. He indicated at the business meeting that it should be within a few dollars of last year's post-convention report.



All of the winners (L)
EMPA member winners (R)
Jim Smith Photos



CONTEST THANK YOU'S—If you won an award please thank your contest sponsor:

VIDEO: TE McHale – Manager of Motorsports Communications, American Honda Motor Co – 1919 Torrance Blvd – MS:100-3W-4C – Torrance, CA 90501-2722

WRITING: Brandon Igdalsky, President – Pocono Raceway – Box 500 – Long Pond, PA 18334 or brandoni@poconoraceway.com

PHOTO: Bill Brice III – Brice's Auto Supply – 626 Park Ave. – Freehold, NJ , 07728 or Jandy19@aol.com

ELECTION RESULTS

Jeff Gromis edged Mel Thomas for the one-year seat on the board of directors. Next year we will have that seat and a pair of two-year seats up for election. They are now held by VP Dino Oberto and Earl Krause.

In a related note, I announced at the business meeting that I will not seek another term when my current term expires two Januarys from now. Len Sammons then indicated that he too will not run again. That means there are spots up for grabs. We're hoping a few "youngsters" will throw their hats in the ring and start building experience to take over the organization down the line. It's a great deal of work but very rewarding.

Until next time..... *Ron Hedger*

LEADERSHIP CONTACT DIRECTORY

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Vice President	Dino Oberto	dlmo@ptd.net
Board	Earl Krause	earl@aarn.com
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Board	Jeff Gromis	jjg495299@comcast.net
Secretary	Carol Houssock	carol2race@aol.com

