



## 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.

The 46th annual convention is now history and thanks go out to everyone who participated in making it happen and/or supporting the various contests.

As always, we thank the many event, award and contest sponsors who make the annual EMPA convention possible. Our honor roll of sponsors includes NASCAR, IndyCar, Pocono Raceway, Brice's NAPA, Honda, Firestone, World Racing Group, Dover International Speedway, New England Race Fuels and Michael Jaworecki.

Our January newsletter always includes the winners of our contests and those whose votes earned them special awards. We also include several photos of the event, thanks to Jim Smith.

### Member News

Congratulations go out to two EMPA members for their work with the New York State Stock Car Association. Writer Tom Coughlin was recently elected to his second term as President and photographer Jann Ivancic-McGaffin was voted onto the Board of Directors.

Founded nearly 50 years ago, N.Y.S.S.C.A. is dedicated to the betterment of the sport and maintains an injured member benefit fund for those suffering racing related accidents. It also presents one of the largest award banquets in the Northeast in conjunction with their annual Hall of Fame inductions, held every January at the Saratoga Automobile Museum in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

N.Y.S.S.C.A. membership is open to drivers, owners, sponsors, fans and the media.

### Board of Directors:

Ron Hedger, President  
 Dino Oberto, Vice President  
 Len Sammons  
 Earl Krause  
 Carol Houssock, Secretary

### Officer:

Jeff Gromis, Treasurer

**Champions' Night** kicked off the weekend. It was great hearing from both seasoned veterans, and the next generation of racers coming along in a real hurry (and with last names you'll surely recognize).



Top (L to R): Ryan Watt, Mark Harman, Mike Sweeney, Ryan Tidman, Matt Hirschman, Jimmy Blewett, Kevin Hirthler, Scott Riggelman

Bottom (L to R): Brayden Spencer, Austin Beers, Jayden Harman, Tyler Truex

Jim Smith Photo

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



## MEMBERSHIP:

Once the membership rolls are updated 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. Remember to encourage others to join!

## CONTEST WINNERS

### Special Awards:

EMPA Hall of Fame: **Michael Andretti, Randy LaJoie, Shirley Muldowney, Fred Rahmer, Bruce & Theresa Rogers**

Junie Donlavey Spirit of the Sport Award: **Dave Cruickshank, Chubby Ciarrocchi**

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: **Kyle Larson**

Jerry Reigle Outstanding Contribution to Sprint Car Racing Award: **Port Royal Speedway,** presented by World Racing Group

John Blewett III Young Gun Award: **Brandon Grasso,** presented by New England Racing Fuel

### EMPA Member Awards:

President's Award: **Carol Houssock**

Ace Lane, Sr. Memorial Photography Award: **Paul Arch**

Jim Hunter Memorial Writer Award: **Karl Fredrickson**

Ernie & Marilyn Saxton Dedication to EMPA Award: **Dave Moulthrop**

Jim Smith Photos

Port Royal Speedway receiving the Jerry Reigle Outstanding Contribution to Sprint Car Racing Award



Hardware going home with Hall of Fame inductees and EMPA award members

Karl Fredrickson, center, winner of the Jim Hunter Memorial Writer Award. Dino Oberto (L) and Steve Ovens also took home awards for writing.



## Pocono Raceway Writers Contest

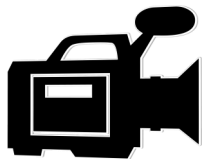
Personality profile: **Mike Adaskaveg** (CC Racer), Jason Beck (CC Racer), Ron Hedger (Speed Sport Magazine)

Race Report: **Jason Beck** (CC Racer), Steve Ovens (Race Chaser Online), Steve Barrick (Area Auto Racing News)

Column: **J. A. Ackley** (Speedway Illustrated Magazine), Dan Anderson (Speedway Illustrated), Steve Ovens (Race Chaser Online)

Feature: **Karl Fredrickson** (Speedway Illustrated), Dan Anderson (Speedway Illustrated), Mike Adaskaveg (Speedway Illustrated)

News: **Mike Adaskaveg** (Speedway Illustrated), J. A. Ackley (Speedway Illustrated), Dino Oberto (Hazleton Standard Speaker)



## American Honda Motor Co. Video Contest

Broadcast News Segments: **Brian Unangst** (BRC13 Sports), Mike Feltenberg  
National Program: **Matt Thomas**

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

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

Non Event/Compilation Video: **Matt Thomas** (Thomas Video Productions), Mike Petrucci, Bob James (Bobco Racing Video)

Online Media/Radio Video Events/Webcasts: **Steve Ovens** (Turn 5 Live on the Performance Motorsports Network, Ed Lamberton (The Wheel People Show)

## Brice's NAPA Photography Contest

Action: **Mike Petrucci**, Ace Lane, Jack Kromer

Action Sequence: **Duane Canfield**, Harry Meeks, Rick Sweeten

Crash Action: **Jack Kromer**, Evan Canfield, Jack Kromer

Feature: **Jim Smith**, Jack Kromer, Duane Canfield

Picture Story: **Paul Arch**, Jim Smith, Paul Arch

Portrait & Personality: **Bob Yurko**, Evan Canfield, Rick Sweeten

Pure Art: **Mike Petrucci**, Todd Dziadosz, Ace Lane

Unpublished Color: **Todd Dziadosz**, Rick Sweeten, Brent Smith

Portfolio: **Jack Kromer**

Best of Show: **Jim Smith**

Janice Brice Memorial Honorable Mention Award: **Brent Smith**

Howie Hodge Memorial Peer Award: **Brent Smith**





Jim Smith Photos

Winning photographers: top row—Bob Yurko and Jim Smith  
Bottom row—Todd Dziadosz, Mike Petrucci, Paul Arch, Jack Kromer, Brent Smith, Duane Canfield



Winning videographers Mike Petrucci, Matt Thomas, Mel Thomas, Steve Ovens



“Fast Freddie” Rahmer shares a light moment with EMPA’s John Snyder. Welcome to the Hall of Fame!

**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:** Nick Igdalsky, President – Pocono Raceway – Box 500 – Long Pond, PA 18334 at
- PHOTO:** Bill Brice III – Brice’s Auto Supply – 626 Park Ave. – Freehold, NJ 07728

**ELECTION RESULTS**

EMPA Vice President Dino Oberto and Earl Krause won re-election to the Board of Directors with two-year terms while Carol Houssock edged Jeff Gromis to win the one-year term.

With Ron Hedger announcing that he will resign from his position before his term is over, the board will be appointing a member to complete his term. Dino Oberto will become President upon Hedger’s resignation in late spring.

Len Sammons will also be leaving the board when his term ends in December, so we’re hopeful that a few more “youngsters” will throw their hats in the ring and start building experience to take over the organization down the road.

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

**LEADERSHIP CONTACT DIRECTORY**

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Board	Earl Krause	earl@aarn.com
Board	Len Sammons	lhs@aarn.com
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Treasurer	Jeff Gromis	jig495299@comcast.net

