



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.

NASCAR HALL OF FAME VOTE

Members know by now that mechanic/owner Robert Yates, pioneer driver Red Byron, truck series superstar Ron Hornaday and two EMPA Hall of Fame members – crew chief/owner Ray Evernham and broadcaster Ken Squier – were elected to the NASCAR Hall of Fame in May. For those interested in how the EMPA votes were cast, on the first ballot we voted for Byron, Evernham, Squier, Yates and Mike Stefanik. Round one ended with a tie between Hornaday and Alan Kulwicki and we voted for the former on the tie breaker. We still have high hopes of seeing Stefanik, another EMPA HoF member, voted in before our tenure as President and thus voting panel member, comes to an end.

MEMBER NEWS

From Steve Ovens: Just after joining EMPA, I was honored with the track Media Award from two different tracks - Outlaw Speedway and Woodhull Raceway -writing for Race Chaser Online and the Morning Times as well as our work on Turn 5 Live.

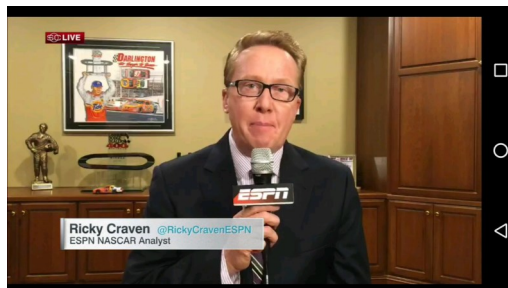
From Bruce Bennett: I recently became a grandfather for the first time. Little Nora Joan Bennett made her debut on January 22, 2017. And yes, there is a racing connection. I was the first person my son told, right after we checked in at Indianapolis Motor Speedway and picked up my credentials for last year's 100th running of the Indy 500. What a weekend that was! Of course, he swore me to secrecy until they made the announcement 3 weeks later. Think about that one for a moment - they wanted to keep it a secret, so the first person they told was a journalist.

Rick Sweeten had shoulder surgery on May 17th, with a lengthy recovery to follow before he's ready to use his cameras again. You can send him a note of encouragement at linesixservices@yahoo.com.

Duane Canfield sent this screen shot of Ricky Craven on ESPN. Duane noted that Ricky has his EMPA statue on display!



www.empaonline.org



DUES

We have a few members who still owe dues for 2017. We contacted everyone months ago and some have had extenuating circumstances, so we have continued sending newsletters. After this issue, we will no longer carry these names, as it is unfair to those who renewed their memberships in a timely manner. A six-month grace period would seem to be more than fair.

Hopefully the handful of members in this situation will apply for membership again once their situations are resolved. Please fill out a form, available on the EMPA website, and send it along with your current contact information.

EMPA AWARD PRESENTED

Martin Truex, Jr. won the membership-voted National Driver of the Year but was unable to attend our convention in January. While at Pocono last weekend he received his award from EMPA Vice President, Dino Oberto (left) and Board member Earl Krause (right). Thanks to Jim Smith for providing the photo!



AARWBA CONTEST

Many of our EMPA members also belong to AARWBA and participate in their annual contest. Award winners were announced at the association's breakfast held prior to the Indianapolis 500 each year. Rather than excerpt the EMPA members who were honored, we've left the list intact to give readers a sense of their contest format relative to ours.

Newspaper

Feature

1. Dick Mittman, "The Rookie, the Pig and A Win in the 100th," Indianapolis 500 Oldtimers Newsletter
2. Scott Walsh, "Quite A Ride: Almirola to Make Milestone Start at Pocono," Scranton Times-Tribune
3. Michael Knight, "50 (Team Penske Anniversary)," Arizona Republic

Column

1. Scott Walsh, "Score One for NASCAR's Little Guys," Scranton Times-Tribune

Technical

1. Scott Walsh, "Sprint Cup Goes Digital- Dashboards," Scranton Sunday-Times

News

1. Jerry Garrett, "Timing is Everything at Exhibition Place," New York Times
2. Scott Walsh, "Will to Win: Power Drives to Another Monday Victory at Pocono," Scranton Times-Tribune
3. Mark Armijo, "Razor-Thin Win," The Arizona Republic

Magazine

Feature

1. Louise Noeth, "New Age: Powering Today's Youth Market," PRI Magazine
2. Mike Adaskaveg, "Racing's Healing Power," Speedway Illustrated
3. Linda Mansfield, "Canard: A Christian on a Dirt Bike," Speed Sport Magazine

Column

1. Louise Noeth, "Law & Order: Inside Rulemaking," PRI Magazine
2. Mary Mendez, "Keep the Pits Open Under Caution," Inside Track
3. Dick Berggren, "A Matter of Opinion," Speedway Illustrated

Technical

1. Mike Adaskaveg, "Hidden Danger," Speedway Illustrated
2. J.A. Ackley, "How to Make Four-Cylinders Live," Speedway Illustrated
3. Linda Mansfield, "One Make, One Motivation," Speed Sport Magazine

Event

1. Mike Adaskaveg, "A Fateful Friday," Speedway Illustrated
1. Mary Mendez, "Timing is Everything at Exhibition Place," Inside Track Motorsports News
2. Ron Hedger, "A Dirty Week at Oswego," Speed Sport Magazine
3. J.A. Ackley, "The Dirt on Oswego," Speedway Illustrated

Radio/TV Broadcast

TV Race Broadcast, TV Feature Program and Radio Race Broadcast – no entries

Radio Feature Program

1. Alex Wolff, "The Pace Lap- Honda Indy 200 Preview," WIMA Radio

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AARWBA Winners, Continued

Print Photography

Action

- 1. Louise Noeth, "Velocity Victory: Don Vesco Sets World Record," Position Paper (Sareth Salt & Utah Alliance)
- 2. Mike Adaskaveg, "Wissota 100: Dakota Gold Mine," Speedway Illustrated
- 3. Bruce Bennett, "Nose to Tail," Speedway Illustrated

People

- 1. Bruce Bennett, "Need a Push, Dad?" Speedway Illustrated
- 2. Mike Adaskaveg, "Wisconsin Barnstormer," Speedway Illustrated
- 3. David Moulthrop, "Father and Son Moment," Speed Sport

Online Media

Deadline News Report and Feature Report—various winners

Column

- 1. Patrick Reynolds, "Gimmicks Hurt NASCAR All-Star Race," speedwayreport.com
- 2. Ron Hedger, "Hedger: The Long Look," speedsport.com

Blog, Technical Report, Website and Photo-People —various winners

Photo-Action

- 1. Donald B. Figler, "A Champion's Salute," speedsport.com
- 2. Louise Noeth, "How to Shred a `Chute North of 375 MPH," hemmings.com
- 3. David Moulthrop, "Sizzling Hot," speedsport.com

Books

Tammy Kaehler, "Red Flags," published by Poison Pen Press

Kay Presto, "Chasing the Checkered Flag," self-published by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform for Kay Presto



The Race of Gentlemen 2017—Wildwood, NJ
Thanks to Dave Pratt for the photos!



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Until next time.....Ron

