



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.

Greetings all,

Hope all is well with everyone and you're getting great news and photos of the current racing season, which of course is in full swing.

Now that things have settled down from the convention and we've had the chance to catch up on some items I'd like to start by saying we, as an organization, are on solid footing. Our bills are all paid, our taxes have been filed and our membership is good. As a matter of fact, we've seen a number of new folks come aboard and that's thanks to many of you who have taken the initiative to reach out to others and have them join us.



Some updates to pass along starting with we are still looking for someone to help us do an update/overhaul on the website. If there is anyone within the group who has an interest in this please get with me, or perhaps you may know of someone who does web design at a reasonable cost to do the same. This is a vital tool for us and want to get this work done sooner than later.

Board of Directors:

- Dino Oberto
- Karl Fredrickson
- Carol Houssock
- Jeff Gromis
- Pete MacDonald

With Earl Krause stepping down from the Board, we are happy to announce that Karl Fredrickson will be moving into the role of Vice President. I don't need to expand on Karl and how much of an asset he is to EMPA, let alone motorsports.

If anyone knows of members that may not be receiving this or any other info from us please get with Carol and myself so we can see to it that all is correct and updated.

Also, we have some folks who inquired about dues for the current year. You can still send them in by making your check payable to: Eastern Motorsport Press Association. Mail your check to:



EMPA c/o Dino Oberto. 211 Columbus Avenue, Hazle Township, Pa., 18202.

Online at: speedwayillustrated.com. Once there, hover over the word "Press" then select 2022 Membership to the EMPA. It's really for 2023, but you can pay there by credit card and receive a year of the magazine!



www.empaonline.org



The Mission of the EMPA is to acknowledge excellence in motorsports reporting and those whose who have excelled on the track and within the motorsports community. To foster an atmosphere to improve the quality of motorsports reporting through the fellowship and interaction of veteran media with less experienced members in a welcoming atmosphere where tips, techniques and ideas are exchanged and encouraged. To increase positive interactions between racetracks, sanctioning bodies and the working racing media.



IN OUR NEWS

From Mike Joy:

Hi Dino,

Many thanks to you and the entire EMPA membership for hosting a great convention and allowing me to have a small part in it.

Being inducted in the EMPA Hall of Fame is indeed a great honor. Spending an evening with fellow inductee Reggie Ruggiero was an added treat... it was great to reconnect and relive some of the great times we all had on the Modified Tour and at its great race tracks.

Special thanks to Speedway Illustrated's Karl Fredrickson for doing a great job hosting the media session, and to my business partner John Holland and my brother David for making the trip down from New England.

As contest winners were announced that evening, the sense of pride, feeling of accomplishment and shared enthusiasm was very evident.

You and your members play a great role in our sport. As the size, scope and even the mission of motorsports media continues to change and evolve, a proactive and committed press corps is more important now than ever before.

Best wishes for continued success, and again, many thanks.

Mike,

Much thanks to you as well for making the trip to join us. You, along with all of our Hall of Fame inductees, were all very deserving. You all made the weekend better than could be expected!

From Gary Camp:

Hi Dino!

I got your email and it encouraged me to share with you a quick note about the Dover race weekend.

We are working hard to share the news of all we have going on OUTSIDE of the race itself in our best-in-NASCAR FanZone. Attached is a little PDF with some highlights, and everyone is encouraged to visit DoverMotorSpeedway.com for the latest additions as we get closer to race weekend. (EMPA Note: the PDF is attached as a separate file)

We are excited to be bringing the world's largest moon bounce to the property (over 12k sq. ft), and a 900 linear foot obstacle course. Thanks, Gary

Gary,

You guys at Dover always bring on the good stuff when it comes to anything going on at "The Monster Mile." We are happy to share the info with the group, and by the way thanks again to you and all the staff for the support with EMPA and everyone in the racing media.



From Jim Donnelly:

Hi Dino,

I wanted to let you know that I am now affiliated with Tazio magazine, a quarterly publication on motorsport history that is based in the EU.

I am their specialist on American motorsport history, and recently had my first article published, on the Cummins Diesel that won the pole at Indianapolis 500 in 1952.

I am also working on the 50th anniversary of Porsche's first win with the 911 at the 24 Hours of Daytona in 1973. The website is <http://www.taziomagazine.com>. Thanks, best, JD.

Jim,

That's awesome news, and congrats on the new position with Tazio. They got a great writer when they took you on. Good luck and no doubt you'll have some top notch entries heading our way when it comes contest time.



IN OUR NEWS

From Bruce Bennett:

Hi Dino,

It has nothing to do with auto racing, but tomorrow I'm being inducted into the New Jersey Elected Officials Hall of Fame. Regards, Bruce.

Bruce, that is way cool and congratulations. No doubt there must be a lot of pride beaming in the Bennett household. What you do within your community is very commendable and it's nice to be recognized for your efforts.

From Herb Anastor:

Hi Dino!

On March 19, I was inducted into the Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club Hall of Fame in the category of Historian/Journalist during the group's 30th Annual Banquet at Spring Lake (NJ) Manor and this was certainly an unexpected honor.

But what made this even more-special for Terri and I was that among those in attendance were Lenny Sammons, Steve and Pam Barrick, Earl and Pam Krause, Bill and Sue Brice, Ace Lane Jr., Tommie Lane and Jim Smith.

It was nice to share the experience with Area Auto Racing News colleagues and EMPA Members. Best regards, Herb



Herb,

You, like so many others with EMPA, have a love and passion for motor racing and it's humbling and rewarding to be recognized by your peers. You do an amazing job with the historical pieces you produce and more so with the work behind the scenes with us. Well done and well deserved, Herb!

About Jeff Gromis:

Speaking of Hall of Fame inductees Jeff Gromis is being installed as part of the 2023 Coal Region Racing Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame Ceremony takes place on Sunday, June 25th in Schuylkill Haven. This is the third installment of the HoF, with prior presentations held in 2019 and 2022. Jeff joins 24 other recipients heading into the Coal Region Hall of Fame.

I speak for everyone when saying you are very worthy, Jeff. As a guy who hails from the coal region of Pennsylvania, I know the rich racing history in those parts and you have worked you tail off for many years as a member of the media and a race official to bring a focus on that area. Dino

From Ron Hedger:

I was the guest speaker at the Villages Racing Club in March. The retirement city has a large and enthusiastic racing club comprised of fans, former racers, crewmen, etc., and it was a great evening. This followed their February Hall of Fame dinner, where Jim Donnelly was inducted into their Hall of Fame after speaking a year ago. I will be honored next year. Ron

Ron,

Why does it come as no surprise that you were tapped to be a speaker with the Club? Being it that, the Saratoga Automobile Museum, or whatever, you are a joy to listen to. Now how about coming back to the convention so we can hear firsthand about your adventures?

Speaking of EMPA Member adventures— Carol shared these pictures from April 1st (no joke)

Rich Corbett is all smiles. With Carol Houssock (L) and friend, Julie List, at Mobile Int'l.



Carol and Aaron Creed, also at Mobile Int'l.



IN OUR NEWS

From Kasea Bauscher:

Kasea has added another hat to his rack of working as a track official as he is now the new Race Director at New Egypt Speedway, in New Egypt, NJ on Saturday nights. This goes with his same role on Friday nights at Big Diamond Speedway in Minersville, PA. Along with doing race directing Kasea also has a very popular weekly podcast show, The 4-Wide Salute: A Dirt Racing Podcast.

Let me say that NES got a good one in Kasea. I have been to my share of race tracks over the years and worked a bunch of them too and when it comes to Race Director, in my view he does an outstanding job. I have the pleasure to work alongside him at BDS and the way he conducts the show and affords respect towards ALL the drivers is quite commendable.

From Kenny Shupp:

Kenny passed along some info about his podcast, Life In The Fast Lane Rewind on WVIN radio, and a recent special guest on his show, our own Carol Houssock.

Thanks, Kenny, and great that you had Carol join you. We encourage you all to give a listen.

From Robin Ervin:

Tom and I just celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary.



Hey you two love birds, that's fantastic. May you enjoy another 20 and more!!

Congrats to Sandie Herensperger on the birth of her second grandchild, Skye Rose. All doing well!

And please keep Jeff Ulrich in your prayers as he continues to recuperate. He's had a rough time of it but we all wish him well. Good to see his column back in Area Auto Racing News!

Until next time,
Peace, out
Dino

EMPA Board of Directors

Dino Oberto	dlmo@ptd.net
Karl Fredrickson	kfredrickson@speedwayillustrated.com
Carol Houssock	carol2race@aol.com
Jeff Gromis	jjg495299@comcast.net
Pete MacDonald	pmacdonald11@hotmail.com

