



## 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.*

Hope everyone is doing well. It's been since the convention that we last put out any news and now that we're all caught up and well into the 2025 racing season this seemed a good time to check-in and check-out what's happening with everybody.

Just a few leftovers from the convention I would like to pass along. The 2025 edition was certainly a great affair, and I feel that everyone who attended felt the same. From start to finish it was informative, fulfilling and fun gathering with plans already in the works for 2026.

We will be back at the Holiday Inn East Mountain, Wilkes-Barre, but a week later, on January 16-18.

Although we did have a Sunday morning general meeting with some good feedback from all in attendance, I also got additional comments from those who could not be there.



### Paul Page

Dino,

Please thank your members for the wonderful hospitality they gave me. I really enjoyed the event. Your attention to detail is amazing. EMPA is lucky to have you. Thanks again and best wishes, Paul



Paul with Dino

Photo by Bob Yurko

### Board of Directors:

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

### Mike Lewis on Dover Motor Speedway as recipient of EMPA Ernie & Marlyn Saxton Service Appreciation Award

Thanks Dino! It was certainly a surprise and an honor for Dover Motor Speedway to be recognized during the convention. Thank you so much!

I enjoyed hearing Paul Page's stories of his adventures in the TV booth and his career.

Thanks for all that EMPA does throughout the year. Mike

### Gary Camp/Dover Motor Speedway

Dino! Thanks for the wonderful recognition for Mike and our team – truly appreciate it and anxious to see the trophy in person! Sorry I wasn't there myself too. Please know we enjoy working alongside you and appreciate all you do. Gary

Mike Lewis accepts the Saxton Appreciation Award, on behalf of Dover Motor Speedway from Dino Oberto.

Bob Yurko photo



[www.empamedia.org](http://www.empamedia.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.***



**Ben May and Nick Igdalsky on EMPA/Pocono Raceway Writers Contest**

It's an absolute pleasure, Dino! There are some wonderful writers on that list. Hope all is well, Ben May

I echo Ben's sentiment; it's our sincere pleasure to support a wonderful group that supports us right back! Glad you had a great event weekend, and you can already count us in for next year's sponsorship! Warmest Regards, Nick Igdalsk

There were other thanks as well from the Hall of Fame inductees to the special award recipients who all said what a great organization we have and how honored they were to be recognized by EMPA.

**AND NOW, IN THE NEWS**

From **Jason Beck**

*Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the wonderfully generous gift to our family during the EMPA convention weekend. The generosity of the entire EMPA membership was touching and humbling. The gift was a tremendous help during our 255-day stay in the NICU in Chapel Hill and helped prepare us for coming home in late February.*

*With love,  
Jason, Katrina, and Benjamin Beck*



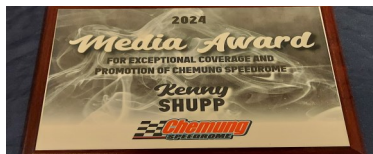
Jason, we were so happy to be able to help you guys out and know that you are all continually in our hearts and in our prayers. And it was wonderful to see that baby Ben has finally been able to come home! We're sharing, with your permission, two pictures from homecoming day that you posted in Facebook. Congratulations!!!



From **Kenny Shupp**

*I was once again very fortunate to have received a Media Award from Tyler Siri of the Outlaw Speedway at the most recent banquet. Thanks Bossman!*

Kenny, congrats and well deserved! You do some amazing work for **Outlaw Speedway** as their PR guy and all the excellent info you always send out in a timely manner. I understand you also received a media award from **Chemung Speedrome**. Congrats and congrats!



From **Joe Kaminski Jr.**

Joe travels 2.5-hours weekly to New York's Woodhull Raceway where he is the official track photographer. Recently, Joe received the **Woodhull Raceway Media Award** for his outstanding photography work.

BTW Joe is also a contributing photographer for **Area Auto Racing News** and **Dirt Track Digest**. He also pens a weekly column for the **Shamokin News Item**.

Joe, you are very deserving of the recognition, and may I add **THANK YOU** for all you continue to do for EMPA! Unknown photographer of a photographer.



From **Mallory Kutz**  
*I won the Ms. Motorama Pageant!!*

Wow Mallory that is fantastic and a huge congratulations. Seems since you attended your first EMPA convention good things have been coming your way!



Photo by Michael Klotz



From **Rich Corbett**

After shooting the ASA Stars race at New Smyrna and three days working with the ARCA Menards Series at Daytona, I have a couple weeks off before heading out west to Phoenix for the ARCA Menards Series race on March 7. Then I'll be back home in Pensacola, shooting the opening weekend at 5-Flags Speedway March 21-23 for the ARCA Menards East Series, Vore's Compact Touring Series and the ASA Stars National Tour. I'll be working at all 20 ARCA Menards Series National races in 2025 plus selected ARCA East Races, USAC Sprints in the Midwest and the Indianapolis 500 during the month of May. I always have EMPA membership applications with me at the tracks!  
RC

Rich not only are you a workhorse with all the traveling and shooting you do, but you continue to be a great ambassador for the organization and for that we say **THANK YOU!**

From **Robin Ervin**

Hi Dino,  
Carol asked for news bits.  
Well, I started archery in 2024 and in January I entered my first archery tournament.  
Robin Ervin



Robin, that is some pretty amazing stuff. Aside from being so dedicated to the sport of auto racing, you certainly are expanding your horizons as well with archery. (Just try not to point those arrows at Tom! LOL). Robin provided this photo.

From **Linda Mansfield**

I will publish my fifth book this spring. The eBook drops March 8, and the paperback and hardcover shortly thereafter. Entitled "Emma and the Reindeer," it uses the pen name Emma Gallagher. It's environmental kids' lit for kids ages 8-12. Although it's not a racing book, a sprint car driver is mentioned! For more info, please see [LindaMansfieldBooks.com](http://LindaMansfieldBooks.com).  
Thanks! Linda

Linda, splendid work as always. You have continually put out one amazing piece after another and it's always an enjoyable read.

**The Society of Professional Motorsports Journalists**

I would encourage all our members to check out the Society of Professional Motorsports Journalists website and Facebook page.

Paul Page is the president of the organization, and he gave us some great insight into their group during his presentation at the convention.

There is strength in numbers, and we feel that our two groups can forge a great relationship together.

<https://www.motorsportsjournalists.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1296619428167446>



Bob Yurko photo

During this year's DIRTcar Nationals held at Volusia Speedway Park, EMPA awards were formally presented to David Gravel for his Al Holbert Memorial National Dirt Driver of the Year and to Mat Williamson on winning the Richie Evans Memorial Northeast Dirt Driver of the Year.

Carol Houssock and Ron Hedger were on hand to make the presentation to Gavel, while World Racing Group's Chris Dolak handled the honor for Williamson.

Photos by Paul Arch



Thanks everyone for all the info, I really appreciate hearing from you, and I know so does the membership through these newsletters. Dino

Brent Smith gave an informative presentation during the convention. Photo by Dino Oberto.

Ryan Flores sent along this cool shot of his kids next to his EMPA Junie Dunlavey Spirit of the Sport Award.



In closing I would personally like to thank you all for the support and membership with EMPA.

As professional members of the motorsports media, let's not forget that we are all ambassadors to the sport and our craft and we must continue to represent ourselves in such a manner which is a reflection of who we are and what it means to be part of this amazing organization.

**EMPA Board of Directors**

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Until next time,  
Peace, out.  
Dino

