



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.

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL

May you enjoy the holiday season with your family along with a few quiet weeks away from racing and the pressure of deadlines. The off-season used to be counted in months, now it is measured in weeks, and becomes ever more precious. Enjoy!

RENEWALS

Please send your renewals along **as soon as possible**, whether you are going to the convention or not. We need everyone's support to keep the organization strong and allow members to build professional relationships. And, of course, your vote might be the one to decide a close award or Hall of Fame race.

SPEAKING OF VOTING....

Things went out a little late this year and a ton of ballots are not in yet. For those who will not make the December 5th deadline using the US postal service, I've decided to allow voting by email providing that you submit your votes using the email address that coincides with your membership information. I run the risk of counting votes without a renewal but we owe it to you and to the nominees. ***Please note that this is a one-time deal!***

SPONSORSHIP NEWS

EMPA's good friend TE McHale of American Honda Motor Co. has made possible a substantial increase in the prize money for the EMPA/Honda Video and Broadcasting contest recognizing work done in 2016. We greatly appreciate what TE and our other great sponsors do for the organization. Please include Honda's racing program in your coverage and consider a Honda when shopping for a new automobile.

AND SPEAKING OF THE CONVENTION...

We want everyone to participate in and enjoy the convention. But please don't just show up – let us know your plans in advance so we have accurate counts for all meals. Everyone has been very cooperative the last couple of years and we hope to maintain that new tradition.

Be sure to tell the hotel that you are with EMPA when you book your room. That way you get the discounted rate and we get credit towards use of the meeting rooms.

BUSINESS MEETING

We will have our usual EMPA business meeting and board election on Sunday morning of the convention. If you have anything in mind to discuss, please let me know so I can add it to the agenda.



www.empaonline.org



Member Dave Boland sent this along for fellow photographers:

Watkins Glen Council Member Ketchum Passes

Adrian L. Ketchum of Corning, N.Y., a Racing Research Center Governing Council member from the beginning in the late 1990s, died Oct. 1. His depth of experience with racing was crucial in the development of the Center.

Ade was a member of the Sports Car Club of America for more than 50 years. He held numerous positions in the Glen Region SCCA, including serving as Regional Executive three times, and was honored with multiple awards both by the region and nationally for his involvement. Ade played an important role, with others in the region, in assisting Corning Inc. in buying the Watkins Glen race track in 1983. As a result, Corning Inc. formed Corning Enterprises which later set up a partnership with the International Speedway Corp. Eventually ISC bought out Corning's interest.

Ade had a passion for photography and was recognized numerous times for his work. He received the Cover (photograph) of the Year Award for SCCA's Sports Car magazine in 1973 and 1977. He also received the 1977 SCCA National Public Relations Award. He was chief photographer for Watkins Glen International for many years and was inducted into the Corning-Painted Post Sports Hall of Fame in 1990 for his contributions to motorsports.

PHOTOS NEEDED

The Northeastern Stock Car Old Timers recently donated a shirt and headband belonging to famed flagger Tex Enright to the Saratoga Automobile Museum. I'm looking for photos of Tex in action if anyone has one or more in their files. They'll be included in a showcase I'm working on to tell Tex's story. They can be sent to me at rjhmedia@juno.com.

LOST SPEEDWAYS

Members Herb Anastor and John Snyder were a big part of the annual Lost Speedways program at the Saratoga Automobile Museum in late November. Herb made a great presentation on the history of board track auto racing while John added some brief comments on Tex Enright after I was given the shirt. In addition, Dave Dalesandro once again recorded the event for posterity with some great photos.

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

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