



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.

Board of Directors:

- Ron Hedger, President
- Dino Oberto, Vice President
- Len Sammons
- Earl Krause
- Jeff Gromis, Treasurer

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- Carol Houssock, Secretary

NASCAR HALL OF FAME

We decided to delay this newsletter a short while to allow us to report on our participation on the Class of 2017 HoF voting panel in Charlotte. As always, we went to vote on behalf of the EMPA membership with five or six candidates at the top of our list. Also typical, after the lengthy discussion period we changed our mind slightly. In the end, we voted for four of the five elected – Raymond Parks, Benny Parsons, Rick Hendrick and Mark Martin – while also marking the ballot for Robert Yates, who lost out to Richard Childress.

We always do a substantial amount of EMPA business in Charlotte as well. While at the Hall of Fame and the World of Outlaw races, we confirmed a number of sponsorships, discussed a few more possibilities with interested parties and pitched a number of media people about becoming members.

Hopefully other members are pushing memberships as well, as we lose a few stalwarts every year to health issues, retirement from the sport and changes in the media business. We need a dozen or more newcomers each year to stay even and hope for more to help continue growing the organization.

MEMBER NEWS

JR Kennerup recently assumed the position of General Manager of the Holiday Inn Express in Vestal, NY.

Dave Reininger has some ongoing health problems and tells us “I’m starting treatment (chemo & radiation) for colon/rectal cancer but the surgery will not take place until the beginning of August. The good news is that the doctor has told me to remain active. That said, I’ll be staying close to home this summer.”

Photographer Bruce Thomas lost his battle to cancer on May 6th. Our condolences go out to his companion Linda and his mother. The EMPA made a contribution to the fund set up to cover the expenses associated with his unfortunate passing.

Jeff Gromis and Bill Huneke both lost their fathers recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jeff and Bill and their families.

On a personal note, I am pleased to report that the two kidney stones that had me in agony during the 2016 EMPA convention and another that surfaced in Florida in early May are now history. I am also being told that my weeks of radiation treatment last fall left me free of cancer, though tests will still be done at regular intervals into the distant future. Hopefully convention prep will be handled much easier this time around with my energy somewhat restored. We thank the board members and contest chairs who went above and beyond to help out when needed in late 2015.



www.empaonline.org



AARWBA WINNERS

A number of our members were winners in the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcaster Association contest, with the awards presented the day before the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500. Two even tied for first. We have the edited results below:

MAGAZINE EVENT REPORT: 3rd—Bruce A. Bennett, "Showin' the Love," Speedway Illustrated; Honorable Mention—Karl Fredrickson, "Speedway 51," Speedway Illustrated

MAGAZINE FEATURE WRITING: 3rd—Mike Adaskaveg, "Big Al's Legacy," Speedway Illustrated

MAGAZINE TECHNICAL WRITING: 2nd—Linda Mansfield, "Helmet World," Speed Sport; 3rd—Karl Fredrickson, "Brake Debate," Speedway Illustrated; Honorable Mention—Mike Adaskaveg, "Safety for the Big, Tall, and Small," Speedway Illustrated

ONLINE FEATURE WRITING: 3rd—Linda Mansfield, "Racing Crewman Recuperating," Restartcommunications.com

PHOTOGRAPHY - PRINT, ACTION: 1st—David Moulthrop, "The Numbers Game," Speed Sport; 2nd—Mike Adaskaveg, "The Spin on Tires," Speedway Illustrated; 3rd—Dick Ayers, "Stafford Speedway Action," Area Auto Racing News; Honorable Mention—Bruce A. Bennett, "Dueling Indoors," Speedway Illustrated

PHOTOGRAPHY - PRINT, PEOPLE: 1st—David Moulthrop, "Conquering Daytona," Speed Sport; 2nd—J. A. Ackley, "Silent But Victorious," Speedway Illustrated; 3rd—Mike Adaskaveg, "Endless Summer," Speedway Illustrated

PHOTOGRAPHY - ONLINE, ACTION: 1st (tie) - David Moulthrop, "Hot Seat," Nationalspeedsportnews.com and Dick Ayers, "Jarrett Andretti Flips," Raceproweekly.com

PHOTOGRAPHY - ONLINE, PEOPLE: 1st—Dick Ayers, "Greeting Her Dad," Raceproweekly.com

PODCAST/WEBCAST: 2nd—David Reininger, "Reno Air Races," Inthepitsmedia.com



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

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Vice President
Board
Board
Board
Secretary

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