



## 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.*

### MEMBER ON TV

Followers of Ray Evernham's popular AmeriCarna TV show enjoyed longtime member Herb Anastor's appearance on an early April program highlighting board track racing. Herb did a great job discussing the board tracks alongside a midget from the Nutley (NJ) Velodrome days.

### HONDA AMERICA VIDEO/BROADCAST CONTEST CHANGES

While the rules are still a work in progress, we will be adding a class for radio shows broadcast on traditional radio stations and/or the internet for 2016. Members should keep this in mind as the season progresses and retain tapes or thumb drive records of their best efforts for submission to the contest.



On a related note, if you have a friend or colleague who would be a potential entrant, please be sure to sign them up for EMPA well in advance of the fall contest entry deadline. And as we have said before, we need more entrants on the video side as well.

We'll get you more information as soon as contest chairman Mel Thomas works out the details with the new judge, a college professor with considerable experience managing similar contests.

Tentatively, Mel is looking at having three categories:

- (1) Broadcast – 3 classes
- (2) Independent/Non-Broadcast – 3 classes
- (3) Online Media – video and audio classes

Input and/or questions contact Mel at [melthomas63@gmail.com](mailto:melthomas63@gmail.com) or call him at 315-729-2023.

**Board of Directors:**

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

**Officer:**

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### NASCAR HALL OF FAME VOTE

We will be voting on behalf of the EMPA membership for the next group of HoF inductees in late May. If you have strong feelings for or against any nominee, please let us know your thoughts and reasoning prior to the vote. We'll add that info to the complicated thought process that goes into narrowing the large field to the five names we vote for.

[www.empaonline.org](http://www.empaonline.org)



## PHOTOGRAPHERS – BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

When drag racer Ronnie Davis had a fatal crash in North Carolina recently, he was not the only participant to suffer harm. A photographer was hit by debris and seriously injured, so we're including the relevant paragraph of the NSSN story on the tragedy to remind EMPA members to always think safety as the season unfolds.

*"Photographer and Drag Illustrated staffer Ian Toucher, who was injured when Davis' car crashed Saturday afternoon, remains in serious condition at the UNC Medical Center in Chapel Hill. He suffered several injuries after being struck by debris from Davis' car, including a broken pelvis, a broken leg, a broken vertebrae and a number of lacerations."*

## FROM PHOTO CONTEST CHAIRMAN BOB YURKO

The Photography Expo 16 is October 19-22 in New York City. It's a great event, with members able to register for free at <http://www.photoplusexpo.com>. If things work out, Bob is going to try and have an EMPA get-together during the Expo.



Also from Bob Yurko— Racing action at Grandview (L), and Bridgeport

## EMPA HALL OF FAME

Chairman Earl Krause has requested that future Hall of Fame nominations come to him at the Area Auto Racing News office rather than home.

Written nominations and supporting material – NO E-MAIL, Please – will reach Earl at:

Area Auto Racing News, ATTN: Earl Krause-EMPA HoF, 2829 South Broad St., Trenton, NJ 08610. Earl can be reached at the AARN office at (609)-888-3618 if there are any questions.

Remember – it's never too early to begin the process!

## SHIRT AND VESTS

EMPA Treasurer Jeff Gromis is preparing another shirt and vest order. Polo shirts are \$17 (\$18 for XXL), short sleeve denim shirts are \$23 (\$24 XXL), long sleeve denims are \$33 (\$34 XXL) and EMPA photo safety vests are \$26. Shipping is \$5 for one or two items, \$8 for more than 2. Orders to Jeff at 632 Eastside Drive, Landisville, PA 17538.

## UPDATE ON BRUCE & TERESA ROGERS

EMPA member Sandie Herensperger recently spoke to Teresa about their recovery from a serious traffic accident in Ormond Beach, FL. Both are now back in PA, and Bruce will continue his recovery at a rehab facility. Teresa is feeling much better and you'll see her back on the job at Grandview Speedway. Both appreciate the support received from the racing community.

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

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