



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 things are going well with you all. I know it's been a spell since the last newsletter, and I didn't mean to take so long in getting something out. Throughout the season we have had the chance to catch up with some of you and from what I can tell it's been a productive year for many of us.

So, let's get caught up on a number of things.

Media Picnic at Grandview

Back in late June we held a summer EMPA picnic at Grandview Speedway and it went well. A big thanks to Bob Miller for his hospitality too. Bob noted that next year he would like to move us somewhere in the pits which would be better for all as we are busy that night covering the races.

Cheers

Congratulations are in order for a pair of outstanding photographers. One of our oldest and most dedicated members, Ace Lane Jr., was inducted into the Northeast Dirt Hall of Fame in Weedsport, NY. Likewise to Jack Kromer who went into the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame in Knoxville, IO earlier this year. Both are very deserving. *Way to go Ace and Jack, we're all proud of you guys!*



More congrats!

Big shout out to Jim Donnelly who was a finalist for the Dean Batchelor Award for excellence in automotive journalism presented by the Motor Press Guild in Los Angeles. Jim was one of two finalists in the feature writing category, for a feature that appeared in the inaugural issue of Crankshaft magazine. *Awesome Jim!*

Stepping with Steve

Steve Barrick, Area Auto Racing News Assistant Editor/Writer and Program Dynamics weekly program publisher, visited the Statue of Liberty National Monument on Liberty Island State Park on August 17 with wife Pam, daughter Gretchen Gayeski, and grandson Luke Gayeski, 4. "Luke was my pace car," Steve remarked of the 215-step climb from the bottom of Lady Liberty to the base of her pedestal.

Steve, you're ready for an Ironman competition!



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On the move

EMPA Member Jay Corbett, originally living in Glen Park, NY, will be transferring with his regular job at TSA to the Pensacola, Florida area in October. Jay's dad, EMPA, AARN and ARCA Series Photographer, Rich Corbett, based in Owensboro, KY, has stepped down from his airline management position and accepted a "retirement position." Rich will also be relocating to the Pensacola area at the end of the ARCA season. Rich will continue his association with the EMPA, AARN, The ARCA-Menards Series and NASCAR.

Rich, congrats on your retirement, take it from me you're going to love it!

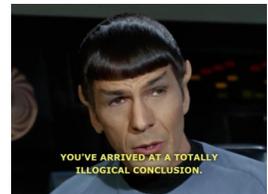
In the 'Are you serious' category



Here's something of interest and alarming concern to our members, especially photographers.

On August 6th, ARCA Menards Series driver Nick Sanchez won his third race of the season in the Henry Ford Health 200 at Michigan International Speedway. ARCA Series Photographer, Rich Corbett posted this photo of Sanchez to Facebook offering congratulations to Sanchez on the victory. Within two hours, Corbett, a member of the Eastern Motorsports Press Association, was informed his Facebook account had been disabled for posting an image abusive to children. It was speculated the driver, holding up three fingers was flashing a "white supremacist" symbol, even though a black crew member in the photo is also holding up three fingers in celebration of the team's third victory. Facebook has not responded to Corbett's repeated attempts to protest the decision to disable his account. Corbett's Facebook page continues to be disabled.

Personally this is a sad state of affairs. Rich, you do a fabulous job and keep up the great work.



Our condolences

As many of you know by now, we lost a one of our most beloved members when **Marilyn Saxton** passed away in late July. The wife of past EMPA president Ernie Saxton, Marilyn was the driving force behind the scenes of the organization and credit to her for many of the things we do at the convention because of her amazing work.

Most recently we also lost another outstanding member, **Pat McKee**, who passed away on August 21. Pat was a very dedicated photographer at Wall Stadium Speedway in NJ and shot for Area Auto Racing News and Program Dynamics. He was a genuinely all around nice guy that will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts and prayers to their families. May the rest in peace.

Reminder

We now have an official Facebook page. You'll have to copy and paste this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/950672392163896/members>

Once there just request to join and we'll get you in. Presently this will be open to EMPA members only. We know this will be a great tool for communicating and eventually getting new members to join.



Convention News....

First of all **Save the Date**. The 2023 convention will be back at Genetti's Bets Western and Convention Center in downtown Wilkes-Barre, Pa., the weekend of **January 13-15, 2023**.

The staff at Genetti's is really looking forward to hosting us again. They have, however, informed us that *Friday night rooms are very limited* due to some collegiate sporting events that are taking place. Saturday will not be a problem. As for Friday, what you can do is call the hotel and see what availability they have. Again it will be limited. The number to call at the front desk is **(570) 823-6152**. Tell them you are with EMPA to get the special room rate.

What we are looking at is other nearby hotels, and our plan is to run a shuttle to Genetti's for all of our Friday night events. Most hotels are within two miles.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have but we'll make it work.

Planning for the convention and the schedule of events will be taking place in short order. We are looking at continuing to tweak some of Saturday's happenings in order to best make it a well-organized affair. We've been open to hearing suggestions and will alter where possible. All ideas are welcome.

Anyone who would like to nominate an individual for the Hall of Fame please send their names along with a bio to Earl Krause at earl@aarn.com

Also for any of our other special awards please send your thoughts to me at dlmo@ptd.net

2023 is also an election year. Because of the pandemic, we actually skipped electing for seat(s) on the Board. In a previous Board of Directors meeting, we decided that there will no longer be a one year term. It does not do any good to that person, in the event they are not reelected. We also talked about having all terms three years in length. The changes will require action by the current Board to amend our Bylaws but that is the Board's intent.

The Board seats now held by Earl Krause and me (Dino) are up for election. If you would like to have your name on the ballot along with ours, now is the time to let any one of us on the Board know. The two members receiving the most votes will win those two seats for three years. Likewise, next year the seats held by Carol Houssock, Karl Fredrickson and Jeff Gromis will be up, and we will then ask for other nominations for that ballot.

As always, if you do not vote when asked to do so and then attend the convention, we will give you the opportunity to do so during our Sunday meeting. We do, however, encourage you to vote on the large ballot that will have nominees in our many non-Board categories.

There's going to be a lot more convention news in the coming weeks.

Until then

Peace, out

Dino

EMPA Board of Directors

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