



Message from EMPA President, Dino Oberto

Greetings all,

EMPA is an organization of professional writers, broadcasters, announcers, videographers, and photographers working in the motorsports industry,

We have for you in this edition of the EMPA newsletter, the winners from this year's voting. I'll say that some individuals were far and away clear cut, but there were a few that did come right down to the wire and the reason why we always stress how every vote counts.

We thank everyone who sent in their ballots, and congratulations to the winners. And now may we present to you the top vote-getters in the respective categories.

2021 EMPA Al Holbert Memorial National Driver of the Year
Kyle Larson

2021 EMPA Richie Evans Northeast Dirt Driver of the Year
Stewart Friesen

2021 EMPA Richie Evans Northeast Asphalt Driver of the Year
Matt Hirschman

2021 John Blewett III Young Gun Award presented by New England Race Fuels
Briggs Danner

2021 EMPA Chris Economaki Memorial News Maker of the Year
Andy Jankowiak

2021 EMPA Promotional Effort of the Year
Brett Deyo/Short Track Super Series

2021 EMPA Junie Dunlavey Memorial Spirit of the Sport
Ken Brenn, Sr.

2021 EMPA Jim Hunter Writer of the Year
Winner will be announced during awards dinner

2021 EMPA Ace Lane Sr., Photographer of the Year
Winner will be announced during awards dinner

Those winners, along with the Hall of Fame inductees Bob Rossell, Bob Frey, Howie Commander, Van May and Don Krietz Jr., plus a select number of other special awards will take place the night of January 15 during our formal awards dinner.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER



We are also happy to announce that joining us at the convention as our keynote speaker will be **Scott Walsh**. Scott is well-known throughout northeast Pennsylvania as one of the premier sports writers with a respectable amount of coverage dedicated to motorsports, both locally and nationally.

In 35 years at The Scranton Times-Tribune, Scott has covered everything from high schools to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins. His current beats include motor sports, local colleges, high school cross country and high school baseball. He also is a copy editor and page designer.

His articles have won awards from the Associated Press Sports Editors, American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association, Eastern Motorsport Press Association, the Society of Professional Journalists Keystone Pro Chapter and the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Keystone Press.

He also has been honored by the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League and the Minor League Football Alliance. In 2016, he was presented the Media Service Award by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

A Long Island, New York, native, Scott graduated from the University of Scranton in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in Communications. Since 2002, he has been an adjunct professor in the Communications Department at Scranton, teaching courses in Sports Writing and Sports and Social Media.

Scott lives in Peckville with his wife, Andrea, and has two daughters in college, Bridget and Emily.

Convention news

For those who have yet to send in their weekend meal plans we ask that you do so ASAP as we need exact headcounts to give to the hotel.

Friday evening – Yes ___ No ___

Saturday Dover International Speedway lunch – Yes ___ No ___
Lunch guest and name Y/N _____

Saturday evening dinner – Yes ___ No ___
Dinner guest and name Y/N _____



Dinner meal choice (please check one)

Chicken Francaise (*Chicken battered in egg with light zesty lemon butter sauce*) _____

Burgundy Sirloin Tips (*Tender beef tips braised in a classic Burgundy wine sauce*) _____

Our Friday night Champions Salute list of drivers is filled and we will have that to show shortly after all have been confirmed.

A special thanks goes out to Kolten Gouse and BAPS Motor Speedway for their help on Friday evening. Also to DirtTrackDigest.TV who have come onboard as supporters of our Video Contest.

Saturday morning's press conference line-up is also filled up and looks great too. Again we'll have all that info you for you in short order

Until then peace, out...Dino

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