



## Message from EMPA President, Dino Oberto

Greetings all

Happy New Year to you all and welcome 2021!

I have some updates to pass along, so let's get right to it.

First, we have the results in from the Brice's NAPA Auto Parts EMPA Photo Contest. I want to say a huge thanks goes out to contest Chairman, Bob Yurko, and Brent Smith. They did a tremendous job of coordinating the contest into an online competition. The cooperation amongst the contestants was admirable to say the least.

There were 142 entries across 21 participants.

Bill Brice, likewise, was with us 100%. Thanks again, Bill, for all your support to the contest and EMPA.

Congratulations to all the winners and those who placed. Listed below are the top 3 in each category along with honorable mentions (HM), Portfolio, and Best of Show.

And the winners are....

### Action

- 1—Brent Smith
- 2—Pete MacDonald
- 3—Pete MacDonald
- HM—Bob Yurko

### Action Sequence

- 1—Harry Meeks
- 2—Rick Sweeten
- 3—Harry Meeks
- HM—Bill Snook

### Crash Action

- 1—Dave Moulthrop
- 2—Pete MacDonald
- 3—Dave Moulthrop
- HM—Jim Smith

### Feature

- 1—Pete MacDonald
- 2—Matt Butcosk
- 3—Brent Smith
- HM—Evan Canfield
- HM—Brent Smith

### Picture Story

- 1—Brent Smith
- 2—Paul Arch
- 3—Brent Smith
- HM—Rick Sweeten

### Portrait

- 1—Pete MacDonald
- 2—Harry Meeks
- 3—Tommy Lane
- HM—Pete MacDonald

*EMPA is an organization of professional writers, broadcasters, announcers, videographers, and photographers working in the motorsports industry, along with Associate and Corporate members.*

#### Board of Directors:

- Dino Oberto, President
- Earl Krause, Vice President
- Carol Houssock, Secretary
- Jeff Gromis, Treasurer
- Karl Fredrickson



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



More contest winners....

**Pure Art**

1—Evan Canfield  
2—Todd Dziadosz  
3—Brent Smith  
HM—Todd Dziadosz

**Unpublished Color**

1—Rick Sweeten  
2—Todd Dziadosz  
3—Todd Dziadosz  
HM—Matt Butcosk

**Portfolio**

Pete MacDonald

**Best of Show**

Pete MacDonald

**Janice Brice Honorable Mention Award**

Brent Smith

Here is the link that will take you to the winning entries. Just copy and paste on your browser.  
<https://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-BWs8hX/>

As for the **Pocono Raceway EMPA Writers Contest** we unfortunately have hit a snag and it is all due to the virus. Our judge and members of his immediate family are, and have been, dealing with COVID-19 over the past few weeks. He has informed me that they are doing as best they can with all the proper medical procedures and we should have the contest results by the week of January 11. We apologize for the delay as many continue to wage the fight against the pandemic. As soon as the winners list arrives in my hands we will get out the info ASAP!

Afterwards you can expect to see a full press release on all contest and ballot winners.

**Member News**

I will be getting out 2021 membership cards this coming week. I would like to send out a reminder that for those who have yet to pay their 2021 dues please do so as soon as possible. We're counting on everyone to keep us strong.

Please take a moment to say a pray for Mel Thomas and sons on the recent loss of their wife/ mother Diane.

This comes from Mel's Facebook page...

*"I'm overwhelmed by the support I have received on the sudden passing of my wife Dianne. It was a shock to me and my sons Mike and Matt. The outpouring of over 1200 comments on our posts have been received and we have tried to read them all. From family, local friends and the greater Motorsports community is unbelievable. Fans and drivers, track promoters and staff members, photographers and other video producers, the EMPA members and many others too numerous to mention have expressed sympathy, offered support in many ways from meals, food and other goodies that a diabetic shouldn't have. On behalf of myself and the boys, Thank You, Thank You isn't just enough but virtual hugs have been received. It has kept our spirits up on this divesting loss of Dianne."*

In closing, I have said it before but I reiterate on expressing my gratitude to the entire membership and our supporters for making EMPA a proud and great media motorsports organization.

Peace, out  
Dino

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