



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 all is going well with everyone as we enter into the meat and potatoes of our respective racing season.

I'd like to start out by saying what an honor it was for me to represent EMPA as a Panel Member for the class of 2020 at the NASCAR Hall of Fame May 22 in Charlotte. Our organization has always been supported by NASCAR, as well as others, and they continue to be a loyal backer. We extend a huge THANK YOU to NASCAR and the Hall of Fame in allowing us to have a voice in the yearly voting.



(Photo of the Hall of Fame Panel Room provided by Dino Oberto)

Board of Directors:

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

Member News

We've got some news to pass along about various members as to the happenings with them.

From Mel Thomas:

"I have been selected to go into the Northeast Dirt Modified Hall of Fame as the recipient of the Andrew S. Fusco Award for Media Excellence on Thursday, July 25 at the Hall of Fame in Weedsport, NY. I am really honored for this award after 42 years of doing video."

Congratulations, Mel, on a well-deserved and honorable award!

From Linda Mansfield:

Linda recently attended the annual Little 500 and offered up this inspiring report...

Nolen Racing wanted to defend its victory in the Pay Less Little 500 at Anderson (Ind.) Speedway, but it had no clue that it would end up leading 499 of the 500 laps of this national asphalt Sprint Car race over the Memorial Day weekend, including the one that counted. The team's Kody Swanson won, while its Shane Hollingsworth finished fourth. The only lap the yellow Nolen V6 Chevy car wasn't in the lead was one lap when they were making a pit stop inside the quarter-mile oval. Massachusetts' Bobby Santos III, who finished second, led that lap. Such domination is very rare in any form of motorsports.

Thanks, Linda, and sounds like it was another great race at Anderson.



www.empaonline.org



From Herb Anastor:

"On March 23 I spoke about Board Track Auto Racing (1910-1931) during a program entitled "Open Wheel Madness - Board Track and Dirt Track Racing in the Early 1900s" that was held at the International Motor Racing Research Center in Watkins Glen, New York.

My talk -- which included a PowerPoint photo presentation -- was part of the IMRRC's monthly program of "Center Conversations" in which experts from all over the country join with racing enthusiasts to discuss all aspects of racing, including specific cars, series and people.

I was joined in this program by fellow Area Auto Racing News staffer Stephen Bubb, whose topic dealt with Big Car (Sprint Car) and Midget Racing in the 1920s and 1930s.

The International Motor Racing Research Center collects, shares and preserves the history of motorsports. Spanning continents, eras and race series, the Center's collection embodies the speed, drama and camaraderie of amateur and professional motor racing throughout the world.

The Center welcomes serious researchers and the casual fans alike to share stories of race drivers, race series, and race cars captured on our shelves and walls, and brought to life through a regular calendar of public lectures and special events."

Thanks for the input, Herb, and I'd like to add that if anyone ever gets the chance it is highly recommended to check out IMRRC. It's an amazing place filled with great racing history. We'd like to reach out to them also to attend the convention.



(Photo from IMRRC Website)

Todd Dziadosz:

Road & Track Magazine current online issue has published Todd Dziadosz' 2019 EMPA BRICES NAPA photo contest 2nd place crash action photo of Robert Wickens' Pocono crash. The in-depth story focuses on Wickens remarkable recovery and struggles. Take a look if you have time. Here is the link. www.roadandtrack.com/motorsports/a27546422/the-long-rise-of-robert-wickens/ Article by Sam Smith, May 23, 2019

Great to see the recognition, Todd, on getting published with Road and Track.

Robin Ervin:

A special shout out and congrats to EMPA webmaster Robin Ervin, who got her first national feature story published. It appeared in the May edition of Speedway Illustrated. Robin's fine piece was on Wall Stadium Speedway.

From Jim Donnelly:

"I have started a new website, Jim Donnelly On Wheels, which deals with all things automotive. I'm interested in receiving racing news and, especially, photos that I can post with credit, particularly if they're historical in nature. Feel free to give out my email, and please use my web address, www.jimdonnellyonwheels.com. Thanks!"

Jim thanks, and best of luck on the new website And hey, members, get in touch with Jim for needed content.

Jeff Withey



We'd like to send out a get-well to member Jeff Withey who has been battling some health issues and has not been able to get out to many events as of this writing. Jeff signed up with us last year and we hope is up and running soon. Take care, Jeff.



From Sandie Herensperger:

"I attended my 59th Indy 500 this year. Great race! Visited the Museum that featured Mario's 50th anniversary of his 500 win. Except for a few cars he raced in Europe I saw him race all of them. Ugh... how the years go by!!!"

From Earl Krause:

Please continue to submit Hall of Fame nominations. Send your write-up nominations in the form of a brief resume of the candidate's accomplishments to: Earl Krause, EMPA HoF, PO Box 8547, Trenton, NJ 08650.

Thanks, Earl, on the HoF info. We encourage everyone to take a close look at deserving individuals for entry into our esteemed Hall.

Rich Corbett:

Rich Corbett continues to a great job of rustling up members in his native mid-west and everywhere his travels take him and for that we say thank you. We've included this neat photo of Rich doing what he does best, in this case a neat shot from this year's Indy 500 taken by Jeff Barrie.

From Carol Houssock:

"I recently returned from Paraguay, where I attended a global conference on poverty. While at the conference last year, I noticed a number of dogs and cats in the adjacent Indigenous



community and asked if they spay and neuter them. They do not, as people living in deep poverty are the priority for financial support, not animals. Over the winter my contact, a former UN Ambassador, identified Veterinarians who agreed to volunteer their time. I conducted a successful fundraiser among family, friends and co-workers to more than cover the cost of supplies for 150 animals. On May 23rd I met the Vets, observed their work, and can boast that 144 dogs and cats



at 56 households were treated for internal and external parasites. Spaying and neutering will be next. Also, as a result of this initiative, animal education and care will be introduced into the schools serving these native Paraguayans."

(Photos provided by Fernando Pfannl, Fundacion Paraguaya)

Steve Barrick:

2019 marked Steve's 37 overall 500, first in 1964, then next two years with his parents. He went back in '69 through '73, didn't go back until '86 because of Program Dynamics Inc., returned in '88 through '95, boycotted during the IRL years, went back in 2000, and hasn't missed one since. 2019 was 20th straight. Plus first year US GP.

Keep the news coming!

We are just 6 months from the 2020 convention...
Peace and out!
Dino

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