

Grand Marshall

# KEN BRENN SR.

An open-wheel and dirt-track Modified stock-car racing car owner with an unblemished record of integrity and professionalism, Ken Brenn Sr. of Warren, New Jersey, was involved in many areas of auto racing. But win or lose, his efforts were always first class and he treated everyone with gentlemanly courtesy and respect.

Brenn's stellar Midget history shows a long association (1954-1972) with the American Racing Driver's Club. Listed on its Honor Roll as a Lifetime Member, he was a five-time champion car owner with fellow EMPA Hall of Fame members Len Duncan (1963-1964) and Johnny Coy Sr. (1968-1969, and 1971) handling his immaculate No. 24s. And the construction company owner and former Warren mayor was also a two-time (1969-1970) ARDC president.

But Brenn didn't just race with ARDC as he took his Midgets far and wide in search of competition and they raced in such iconic events as the "Turkey Night Grand Prix" at the old legendary half-mile Ascot Park Speedway in Gardena, California. And at one point he and his longtime mechanic Dick Briggs fielded four Midgets that were each capable of winning.

Historians figure Brenn provided rides for over 150 top drivers, including EMPA Hall of Famers Larry Dickson, Jan Opperman, Jiggs Peters, Mitch Smith and Ray Tilly, plus others like Don Branson, Bert Brooks, Ernie McCoy, Jimmy Caruthers, Gary Bettenhausen, Bobby Unser, and Jimmy Kirk. And EMPA Hall of Famer Wally Dallenbach Sr. credits his rides in Brenn's Midget, Sprint and Championships Cars as the big boost that got him to the Indianapolis 500. But two drivers- Indy 500 winners Rodger Ward (1959 & 1962) and fellow EMPA Hall of Famer Mark Donohue (1972) - had the unusual distinction of winning races in Ken Brenn Racing Midgets on the 1.5-mile road-course in Lime Rock, Connecticut.

Ward's victory came on July 25, 1959, when he beat some of the top Formula-1 and LeMans Sports Car drivers with Brenn's 12-year-old Offy Midget in a "Formula Libre" race (any kind of cars with no restrictions) that made national headlines. While Donohue - who went on to have great success in world-class Sports Car competition - used Brenn's rear-engine Offy-powered Midget in July 1963 to win his first professional race.

There is also this interesting side note to Brenn's career as a car owner in major open-wheel competition. In 1958, he designed and added a roll bar to his Midgets and in 1959 that roll bar was adopted by the entire circuit. Then, on July 31, 1966, his No. 24 Sprint Car - which driven by future three-time (1968, 1970, and 1975) USAC Sprint Car Champion and EMPA Hall of Famer Larry Dickson - was the first USAC Sprint Car to ever use a roll cage when it did so at the then-new half-mile-dirt Cumberland (Md.) Raceway.

Plus, as the ARDC president, he had a great deal to do with the group making roll cages - and shoulder harnesses - mandatory for 1970. In the early 1970s Brenn's interests changed to Dirt-Track Modified Stock Cars when he found he could make more money racing those cars in New Jersey than he could traveling all over with his Midget. So, he bought a 1937 Chevrolet coupe built by EMPA Hall of Famer Budd Olsen and with EMPA Hall of Fame driver Stan Ploski Jr. driving the fuel-injected 427-cubic-inch Chevy-powered yellow No. 24 won: Flemington's 1971 & 1973 Modified titles and 1973 National Dirt Track Championship 200; 1973's East Windsor title; and the 1973 N.J. State Modified honors.

After Ploski left the team, Ken Jr. - who won Flemington's first-ever Rookie title in 1972 in the team's original '37 Chevy coupe - filled the seat in the No. 24s and won the 1978 New Jersey State Modified title and Flemington's 1982-1983 Modified championships. And Brenn's youngest son Jimmy - Flemington's 1978 Rookie titlist - also ran a second KBR entry.

Brenn's Modifieds also included a unique Gremlin-bodied car built by Indianapolis-based open-wheel builder Grant King in 1976. And Ken Jr.'s big victory on July 3, 1983, at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse came in a car built by Sprint Car wizard Gary Stanton. Ken Sr. - who promoted East Windsor and Bridgeport (N.J.) Speedways briefly in the 1970s - fielded winning Modifieds for Ken Jr. until the talented driver with the Old Western look became the "hired gun" in Mike O'Shea's No. 74 Trenton Mack ride in the early 1980s. And while that ended Ken Brenn Sr.'s active years as a race-car owner, he continued to be a man who the racing community regarded as one of its finest representatives.

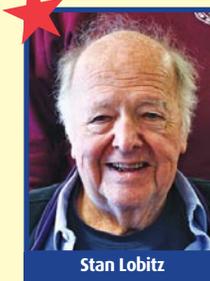


Ken Brenn Sr.

— article courtesy of EMPA

# STAN LOBITZ MEMORIAL

Stanley Lobitz was born in Hazleton, Pa. After attending the Culinary Institute of America, he joined his father, mother and brother at Lobitz Catering Service and this became his lifelong vocation. Many people will remember chatting with him at Friday night dances, at the carving station at the Friday night buffet or sharing a cup of coffee in the Hawaiian Room. It would be impossible to estimate the number of people whose lives he touched by catering their weddings, funerals, showers, banquets and holiday parties.



Stan Lobitz

Stanley was married to Mary Ellen and had four children, Stanley, Daniel, Barry, and Liza of whom he was very proud.

Stan was a true, generous and loyal friend to many, once he called you friend, you were a friend for life. Many of his dearest friends knew him from his great passion: cars. He loved all cars, beginning all those years ago with drag racing at the Forty Fort Airport and local hot rod clubs and finally with the world of Open Wheel Racing, which is where his heart belonged. His support of the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing and the American Racing Drivers Club and his expansive collection of cars and racing memorabilia were among his proudest accomplishments. He was fond of saying, "There ain't nothing I USED to own." Even more impressive was his vast knowledge of the sport's history, which he was always happy to share.

He supported EMMR for years with the Lobitz Movie Parties held in November at his catering establishment. It was a great fundraiser with an auction of racing memorabilia and movies of old racing days. He treated everyone to food and drink all day long and in the evening, he served a wonderful banquet. Some of you may remember when Stan drove his motorhome down on the Thursday nights before convention and catered the members who were working to get ready for it. They were the fun days.

Stan was a lifetime member of ARDC and EMMR. In 1999 he was presented the ARDC President's Award, and in 2012 Stan was awarded The Junie Dunlavey Spirit of the Sport Award by The Eastern Motorsport Press Association.

"Junior" taught us much, both by word and example. He showed us that there is nothing you can't do if you set your mind to it. He could build or make anything with his hands, and in fact, was instrumental in designing and building Lobitz's from a one room milk bar, into a vast 2,000 person banquet facility, including the Safari, Mexican, Hawaiian, International and Fountain rooms.

He could repair or restore anything, he could solve any problem. He never said no to a friend in need. His help came swiftly and without judgment; no matter what you dreamt up, he could make it possible. He would try anything once, and loved an adventure, near or far. He was always at the ready to hop into his trusty black Suburban and hit the road. He loved companionship and being surrounded by people. He was a consummate storyteller; and had a sly, irreverent sense of humor. He loved talking on the phone with his friends from across the world. He was quick to laugh, but was also quick to weep. He loved the simple pleasures, such as sharing a good meal, or having a smoke.

He appreciated talent in all of its forms - from works of art to the simple beauty of nature. In his younger days, he and his father would often show up at home with a new animal to add to the menagerie; from countless dogs, to a baby geese, peacocks, horses, a wild boar, a rattlesnake and even a jaguar cub.

He was in all ways larger than life. Whether you knew him as Mr. Lobitz, Stanley, Stan or Stashu or Junior or Jun or Dad or Bumpy or uncle or maybe even the Polish Prince of Auto Racing, he was likely to have made a significant impact on you due to his large and commanding presence. Many people will remember his mentorship, his friendship, his sense of humor, and generosity. Stanley Lobitz would have loved knowing how much he is loved and missed. He struggled to leave this life, because he took such pleasure in living it.

2022



48th Annual

# EMMR / WGOT CONVENTION

at: Latimore Valley Fairgrounds and Eastern Museum of Motor Racing

# AUGUST 26-28 2022



# STAN LOBITZ MEMORIAL



Ken Brenn Sr., Grand Marshall for 2022



Stan Lobitz

HONORING:

★ Grand Marshall

# KEN BRENN SR.

# FREE Parking and Admission

# held at the historic and beautiful Latimore Valley Fairgrounds

314 Latimore Valley Rd, York Springs, PA

Midway between Harrisburg and Gettysburg, PA



Located a minute off of US Route 15, just north of York Springs, PA. museum ph 717-528-8279 www.EMMR.org

# 2022 EMMR/WGOT CONVENTION



Meet race car drivers from the past and hear their stories of racing during the last 60 years! View antique and vintage race cars then hear the engines roar to life for laps on the historic dirt track!

## FRIDAY AUGUST 26, 2022:

10a-4p **Eastern Museum of Motor Racing (EMMR) open** to the public.  
(Museum will stay open until 6pm if Williams Grove rains out).

5 pm- **Race cars need to be at Williams Grove Speedway by 5:00 pm for EMMR Track Time.**  
Questions? Contact Beth Wishard at 717-253-3467.



Eastern Museum of Motor Racing

## SATURDAY AUGUST 27, 2022:

9a-10a **Coffee & Donuts** in the Infield.

10a-4p **Eastern Museum of Motor Racing (EMMR) open** to the public.

10a **Race Car Registration.**

10a-3p **Car Cruise-In** for all cars, trucks, motorcycles at EMMR. See ad below left.   
★ (Rain date: Sunday, August 28).

11:45a **Drivers Meeting** at the flagstand.

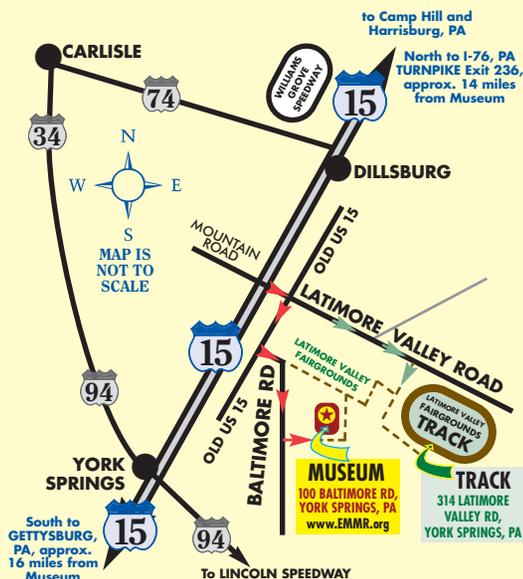
12:00p **Inliners International** at pavilion below EMMR. Steve 215-459-7741

12p-3p **Vintage Race Car Track Time Exhibition** at Latimore Valley Fairgrounds.   
★

4:30p Race cars need to be at **Lincoln Speedway by 4:30 pm** for EMMR Track Time. Contact Beth Wishard 717-253-3467.

### LOCATION MAP

The Museum and Fairgrounds are located approx. 3 miles North of York Springs, PA. Or 14 miles South of the Pennsylvania Turnpike: I-76 exit 236. And 16 miles North of Gettysburg, PA.



### LATIMORE VALLEY FAIRGROUNDS and RACETRACK

314 Latimore Valley Rd,  
York Springs, PA



## SUNDAY AUGUST 28, 2022:

9a-11a **Coffee & Donuts** in the Infield of Latimore Valley Racetrack.

10a-4p **Eastern Museum of Motor Racing (EMMR) open** to the public.

10a **WGOT/EMMR Annual Membership Meeting** at infield pavilion. All welcome, please attend.

11a **2022 Grand Marshall:** ★   
**KEN BRENN**, followed by a   
♥ **Tribute to STAN LOBITZ.**

12:45p **Drivers' Meeting** at flagstand.

1p-4p **Vintage Race Car Track Time** at Latimore Valley Fairgrounds Racetrack. Don't miss this! ★

## CRUISE-IN

at EASTERN MUSEUM of MOTOR RACING



**Saturday, AUGUST 27, 2022** 10 am to 3 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, Aug. 28, 10 am to 3 pm



**Registration Fee:**  
\$10 Donation or  
Pre-Register by  
August 21 for \$8.



**Grand Door Prize**  
Drawing for Pre-Registered Vehicles.  
Must be present to win.

**Dash Plaques and Goody Bags**  
to first 100 participants

All Vehicles and Makes Welcome!

**Best-of-Show CASH Awards**  
and **20 Sponsor Awards!**

**Car \$100. Truck \$100. Street Rod \$100.**

**Door Prizes, Music, Food, 50/50 Drawing, Raffle**

Awards sponsored by:  
**H.M. Kelly, Inc.**  
New Oxford, Pa.

Please collect and bring your **soda tabs** for **Ronald McDonald House.**

Info: Carol Weaver 717-465-2191  
or [eaglespoint97@yahoo.com](mailto:eaglespoint97@yahoo.com)  
(On August 28 museum 717-528-8279)

ALSO! **Vintage Race Car Track**  
Time exhibition from 1 pm to 3 pm at Latimore Valley Race-track, free shuttle. **Plus visit the impressive Museum!**

## EASTERN MUSEUM of MOTOR RACING

EMMR and Fairgrounds are a Living History Museum!

The Fairgrounds are 60+ acres including a 1/2-mile **Dirt Track** that originally operated in the 1930s. At the other end of the Fairgrounds is the 24,000-sq.-ft. **Eastern Museum of Motor Racing**



(EMMR), which showcases 80+ vintage race cars, a Research Library, Book Store, and Gift Shop. Phone 717-528-8279. The

Museum's regular hours are 10 am to 4 pm on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from April through November. Maintained by dedicated volunteers, admission to the EMMR is free but donations appreciated.

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