



Racing into the Future Remembering the Past *On the Way to "50"*

by John Buskey

2024 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Williams Grove Old Timers (WGOT) Convention. The convention will be held at the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing (EMMR) and the Latimore Valley Fairgrounds.

Open Wheel reporter Frank Gudaitis attended Convention in 1985. His article published in the May 1985 issue of Open Wheel highlights the enthusiasm and future of the WGOT and EMMR. Over 120 vintage race cars attended this event. Gudaitis described the infield at Williams Grove as "quite a feast for the eyes" claiming "there was something for everyone's interest ranging from very archaic sprinters dating back more than half a century, to superbly restored show cars several decades newer."

It was shortly after this article was written that the museum and track at Latimore Valley would be used for future conventions. Through the (nearly) 50 years, many race cars, memorabilia, memories and most importantly many PEOPLE have attended this event at the track and the museum.

The purpose behind this current article is to start the invitations for attendance at this milestone 50th convention. We would like to invite many of the cars and PEOPLE that have attended past and present conventions to attend. Over the years many cars, drivers, owners, mechanics, and fans have made this event great. Many of the older cars have seen ownership change for one reason or another. And sometimes that ownership means the vehicle has not attended convention recently. Understandably not all those older cars want to run on the track. That is okay! It would be wonderful to have them as part of the static display. If you know of a car that has changed ownership check with them to be sure they know they are invited.

Yes, this is an early invitation, just over a year away. August 2024. BUT we hope this allows more time to make plans or reservations. And more time to get

those old race cars dusted off and ready to bring out. Again, if not for track time, then for display. Also, a very large part of the museum is all the memorabilia that shows the history of the sport. This is one of the reasons EMMR has become one of, if not the best, museums in the country. Whether it is pictures, parts, etc. bring it along to share with everyone. The museum has added many new items and displays. So, pass the word that 2024 will be the 50th WGOT convention.

In the meantime, the 49th convention will be held August 26-27, 2023. Come on out and enjoy the activities. More to follow!



Photo taken by Frank Gudaitis at WGOT Convention in 1985. From Frank Gudaitis, "The Williams Grove Old Timers," Open Wheel, May 1985, 66.

**Want to learn more about the
EMMR collection? Schedule a guided
group tour for your organization,
colleagues, or family and friends
by emailing Kathy Armstrong at
karmstrong@emmr.org.**

A big thank you to Nancy Miller for her several years spent as President of EMMR. After elections, Nancy handed the gavel to me at the September Board meeting. Nancy will still be active in the museum as a board member and my spokesperson.

My responsibility now is to guide EMMR through current times and prepare it to move into the future. We have a great group of volunteers that keep the museum running. We were lacking a plan for the future or the expertise to develop one.

The Kevin Gobrecht Foundation has made it possible to achieve hiring Alison Kreitzer as our Executive Director. Alison has museum experience and is also a race fan. Over the last three months working with Alison, I know we have the right person for the job. She knows what needs to be done and how to make it happen. Alison's energy and enthusiasm is contagious.

We are currently in the middle of moving the library to the annex building. Cabinets and shelves from the Chris Economaki room were moved to the annex by a terrific group of volunteers. Thank you all! Great job! We are now sorting and filing newspapers, magazines, etc. to make space, in preparation for moving the balance of the library contents. Steve Bubb has been out the last couple of weeks with some health issues slowing this process, but we are getting there. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Steve.

Our rotting wood guard rails along the parking lot are being replaced with steel posts and rails by Barry Murphy and crew.

In closing, I am excited about the future of our precious museum. With the great volunteers we have now and new volunteers to come- we will get there.

— Barry Klinedinst, *President*



Barry Klinedinst
President, EMMR

A Welcome Message from Our New Executive Director

I am incredibly excited and honored to join the **Eastern Museum of Motor Racing** as the new **Executive Director**. As I step into this role, I am humbled by the tireless work of Lynn Paxton and the team of dedicated volunteers who have built the Eastern Museum and assembled its one-of-a-kind collection over the past thirty years.

An avid dirt track racing enthusiast and Mechanicsburg native, I grew up attending racing events at **Silver Spring, Lincoln, and Williams Grove**. I was first introduced to the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing as a young child. I remember playing games at the Latimore Valley Fair and walking through the rows and rows of craft vendors. Over the years I've continued to visit EMMR attending Silver Spring Reunions and roundtables. I also spent hours in the library skimming through old programs, photographs, scrapbooks, and books, while working on my doctoral dissertation in American history.

I bring experience in museum collections care, history education, nonprofit management, marketing/communications, and event planning to the **Eastern Museum of Motor Racing**. I endeavor to carry out the mission of EMMR's founders to educate and inform members of the public about the history of American motor racing.

I am grateful to the EMMR Board of Directors and volunteers for their support and assistance in helping me adjust into my new role at the **Eastern Museum**. I will collaborate with the EMMR team to improve the way we work as an organization. Together we have already started to revitalize our strategic plan and vision for EMMR.

I look forward to the opportunity to get to know you - **our donors, volunteers, members, and community partners** - and invite you to attend our exciting calendar of 2023 events. Stop by the museum or visit emmr.org to learn more about our volunteer opportunities and how you can get more involved with EMMR.

— Alison Kreitzer, Ph.D., *Executive Director*



Alison Kreitzer, PhD
Executive Director

We need your help! EMMR is accepting donations of new household items, automotive products/supplies, as well as restaurant and small business gift cards. Items will be raffled at the Latimore Valley Fair, Cruise-In Car Show during Convention, and Drag Racers Reunion. Please drop off your raffle donations at the museum gift shop. Email us at admin@emmr.org to discuss potential items for donation.

***The Richwine family
proudly supports the Eastern
Museum of Motor Racing.***

***Thank you to all
the EMMR volunteers!
-Betsy Guidara & family***



Library Feature

at Eastern Museum of Motor Racing

As the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing's hard-working staff prepare to reopen the museum for the 2023 spring and summer season, everyone will notice a large change. The change will be with the Chris Economaki Library.

We are pleased to announce a new look to the library. In fact, we are announcing a new location for the library. When EMMR first opened, the library was located on the first floor in the area now occupied by the gift shop. Upon the expansion of the museum, the library moved upstairs to its known location.

Over the last several years, the Chris Economaki Library has been bursting at the seams. Thanks to the many wonderful donations made to the museum, the library has expanded to the point a change was needed. The library room could no longer contain all of the donated materials.

This past winter a group of dedicated volunteers spent their days working on moving the library to its new location. The Chris Economaki Library is now housed in the EMMR annex building. The volunteers put in back-breaking work moving all the shelving and cabinets. All of the books,



Steve Bubb
Librarian and
Historian

programs, and other materials have made the move into the new location.

Everyone will notice some changes to the new library. First, there is more room. It will be easier to navigate the new library. The library will also have a clean look, there will be no more clutter to the library.

I designed this new library following a visit to the library at the International Motor Racing Research Center in Watkins Glen, New York. I fashioned the library with security at the utmost. We, at EMMR, are stewards of your donations and this library is set up to guard against theft. It is unfortunate that theft occurs; however, this new design will help deter this unwanted problem.

We are still in the process of completing the move. Until the move is completed, there will be limited library hours. We ask that anyone wishing to conduct any research, please email me at library@emmr.org to set up an appointment. I am also seeking several individuals that are interested in becoming library assistants. I need several dedicated individuals to handle the library when I am not at the museum.

I am looking forward to showing everyone the new Chris Economaki Library. The library will have an area for researchers, a new collections center, and will also house our large racing newspaper collection. This is a big step forward for EMMR in making the museum a major automobile racing research center.

— **Steve Bubb**, *Librarian and Historian*
SFBubb754@msn.com

In Appreciation to **Richard "Toby" Tobias** and all the Tobias Speed Equipment Employees, Mentors, and Friends, for the many great memories during my years, 1969–1978 at the Speed Shop.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Sam Brubaker, Lee Osborne, Jim Keppley, Kramer Williamson, Carl Sweigart, Ray Shannon, Fred Demler, Dick Hoffer, Mish Marinkov, Chet Tobias, Joe Yiengst, Stu & Kerry Gamble, Hokey, Arlene, Dick Hauer, Pete Kutz, Ronnie Tobias, Bill Russell, H. Brightbill, and Ted Althouse.

Tommy Long – Lebanon PA

In Honor and Memory of My Father

Thomas Albert Long

Thank you for the introducing me to local dirt track racing and all the special racing memories we had together.



And In Honor of My Racing Hero, Employer, Friend, and Mentor

Richard "Toby" Tobias

Tommy Long – Lebanon PA

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Happy New Year!

I hope you are enjoying the great weather we have been enjoying so far this year. I have been busy processing memberships. There doesn't seem to be a slow period. I get everything caught up and the next thing I know, I have another pile of memberships. That's a great problem to have!

If you have a change of address, phone number or email address or if you have any issues or questions about membership – please let me know at membership@emmr.org or at the museum 717-528-8279.

EMMR offers 2 different memberships: 1) LIFETIME MEMBER – is a one-time payment of \$200. With this you get a laminated membership card, a Lifetime Member Pin, some goodies, 10% discount in the Gift Shop plus a quarterly newsletter. 2) ANNUAL MEMBER – is \$20 a year. You get a yearly membership card, a quarterly newsletter and 10% discount in the Gift Shop.

To become a member or renew your membership, you can go to www.emmr.org and click on Membership. You can fill out the form online and submit it with PayPal payment. You can also print the form and send it in with a check made out to EMMR. There is also a form included in this newsletter you can use. Another option is to join or renew when you are at the museum. Just stop by the office and ask for a form.



Toni Winslow
Membership
Coordinator

All Membership Applications and Renewals are to be mailed to:

EMMR Membership, PO Box 688, Mechanicsburg PA 17055-0688.

Just a note to those who mail their membership in – it might take up to 3 to 4 weeks for the turn around to get your membership card back in the mail.

Memberships for 2023 are now being accepted. The expiration date is listed on the bottom of your membership card for Annual Memberships. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31, so please double check your membership card for the expiration date to make sure you are up to date because we would hate to lose you as a member. We do not send out reminder cards except for those that are 2 years past.

Also, if you know of a Member that has passed away, please contact the museum (717-528-8279) or email me at membership@emmr.org, so the information can be updated in our records and they can be recognized at the annual Convention.

— Toni Winslow, *Membership Coordinator*

Join Today!

EMMR Membership

☐ Annual is \$20.
☐ Lifetime is \$200.

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I prefer to receive the EMMR newsletter via:

☐ by email as a PDF which is in full-color and fastest delivery.
☐ by U.S. Postal Service, prints in all black ink, slower delivery.

☐ I have a vintage or antique race vehicle, contact me.
☐ I might be interested in volunteering, contact me.
☐ I might have something to donate, contact me.

Please make checks payable to "EMMR" and mail to:
EMMR Membership
PO Box 688, Mechanicsburg PA 17055-0688

Museum phone:
717 528-8279
www.EMMR.org

Gerhart Brothers featured at Holiday Open House Roundtable

The Eastern Museum of Motor Racing hosted their annual Holiday Open House on December 5, 2022. Pennsylvania natives Bobby and Billy Gerhart spoke during the afternoon roundtable about their racing careers. The brothers also discussed their father Bobby Sr.'s racing career and shared memories from regional tracks, including Silver Spring, Selinsgrove, Susquehanna, Williams Grove, Reading, and Langhorne.

The Gerharts were inspired by their childhood interactions with Central Pennsylvania greats, such as Lynn Paxton and Davy Brown, to pursue their own careers in racing. Bobby started racing in 1976 competing at over 60 tracks in 23 different states. Throughout his career, he has raced in dirt modifieds, ARCA, the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, NASCAR Cup Series, and NASCAR Xfinity Series. Billy served as the crew chief and lead mechanic.

When asked if they ever cheated throughout their racing careers, Billy exclaimed that the brothers were "never caught." He went on to say that the rulebooks are printed in black and

white, but what's in between is gray. And, that gray area belongs to the drivers, mechanics, and race teams.

Bobby commented, "this area is surrounded by people who are passionate about racing." The Gerharts emphasized how important the support from Central Pennsylvanians had been throughout their careers, stating that they depended on a volunteer crew of talented, local guys to travel to Daytona and compete each winter.

Drag Racing Exhibit News



Jeff Golden, Drag Racing Coordinator

Welcome drag racers and racing fans! It's been a busy 4 months.

24th Annual "The Original USA-1 Nostalgia Dragfest"

Bruce Larson hosted his annual show on Saturday, November 19, 2022. EMMR participated by displaying Biddy Winward's Linwood Altered. A lot of people took pictures of the car, and it was a very good example of the cars and what is displayed in the Museum's drag racing area.



Jeff Golden
Drag Racing
Coordinator



Biddy Winward's Linwood Altered on display at Bruce Larson's Dragfest.

Holiday Open House - Saturday, December 3, 2022

Saturdays' events focusing on drag racing kicked off in the morning with 22 participants in the valve cover racing competition. The afternoon roundtable discussions were focused on performance engine builders featuring Dennis Quitoni, Paul Gold, and Henry Kunz. They talked about winning engine combinations that lasted throughout the season. A special thank you to these gentlemen for taking their time to participate in an engaging discussion.

Bob Shultz finished in second place at the valve cover racing during the Holiday Open House.



Photo Courtesy of Jeff Unfried



The final valve cover race to determine the winner at the Holiday Open House

Photo Courtesy of Jeff Unfried



Announcer Frankie Burke and Holiday Open House valve cover racing winner Gene Gosthian.

Photo Courtesy of Jeff Unfried

Dragfest @ Lebanon Valley Exposition Center & Fairgrounds

This year, EMMR was represented at Dragfest, the Indoor Drag Racing Showcase & Custom Car Show, at the Lebanon Valley Exposition Center & Fairgrounds on Saturday, January 7 & Sunday, January 8, 2023. It was a great opportunity to greet drag racers and friends at the show.



Victor Mironow (left) created this 1/4 scale model of Bruce Larson's (right) funny car.

Photo by "Maslie" Mihalio

continued on page 6

EMMR Mid-Winter Party - Saturday, February 11, 2023

EMMR hosted the Mid-Winter Party on Saturday, February 11, 2023, featuring the annual valve cover racing in the morning with 20 participants. The afternoon roundtable topic was "How to Cheat at Drag Racing & Win" with special guests Tom Brown, Kip Kurzman, J. D. Kurzman, Wes Downing, and Jeff Golden all of which were tech inspectors. The speakers and drag racing participants shared stories about events that they saw happen at the track and were able to look back and laugh.

Photo by "Mushie" Michallo



"How to Cheat at Drag Racing & Win" roundtable participants.

Photo by "Mushie" Michallo



Valve cover racing at the Mid-Winter Party. Donna Kowalski, Tom Ehrhart, Gene Gosthian, and Jeff Golden (left to right).

Upcoming Events:

Mark your calendars for the **EMMR Spring Open House** on **Saturday, April 1, 2023**. The morning will be dedicated to honoring the late Richard "Bud" Hahn and his lifelong association with drag racing and EMMR. The morning will also include the unveiling presentation of Bill "Mr. Smooth" Tovlin's Model A Altered and memorabilia. The afternoon roundtable will feature Race Car Builders & Fabricators. The event will also offer a bake sale and 50/50 raffle.

Don't forget that the **Vintage Eliminator** cars will be racing at **South Mountain Raceway** in Boiling Springs, PA three times in 2023: **April 16th, July 9th, and September 17th**.

6th Annual Car & Bike Show benefiting York County Veterans Outreach at the Church of the Open Door at E. Market Street, York, PA is scheduled for **May 27, 2023**. This event will feature an EMMR display with nitro engine fire-ups.

The Drag Racers Reunion will be held on **July 8th & 9th, 2023** full of events at EMMR on Saturday and South Mountain Raceway on Sunday. **SHOW on Saturday and GO on Sunday!**

Friends of EMMR are valuable and continuously donating for our continued mission. The EMMR stage looks great with the addition of table covers made by **Canvas & Covering of York** and the logos on the covers donated by **Kyle & Denny Zirkle** (Ed Zirkle's grandson & son). We also thank **Sensenig Hardware of Ephrata** for the donation of a portable air compressor, which is critical to our ongoing maintenance of displays.



2023

WV RACING HERITAGE FESTIVAL CELEBRATION
@ Pennsboro Speedway

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 / 9AM-5PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 / 9AM-4PM

Share your own racing history!

Text Ashley Ness to register: 304-678-7100



THE INDYCAR CORNER

Heroes of the Wooden High Banks

by Jerry Hair
IndyCar Corner Columnist
for EMMR Times
newsletter



The American Automobile Association (AAA) first began sanctioning auto racing in America in 1904 as the governing body for the very first Vanderbilt Cup race which was held in Long Island, New York. They sanctioned the first Championship Car race in 1909 but it wasn't until 1916 when they awarded an official IndyCar National Championship title. Except for the brick surface at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, which first held races in 1910, the early days of Indy car racing were largely conducted on public roads and small dirt tracks. In 1915, just one year before the first National Championship was awarded, races were starting to appear on the earliest generation of the wooden board tracks.



Jerry Hair
Indy Car Columnist

In May of 1916 the first official National Championship race (won by Eddie Rickenbacker) was held at the two-mile wooden oval at Sheepshead Bay, New York. From that point forward and up until the last official National Championship race to be conducted on a board track speedway was held in Altoona in September 1931, a total of 178 National Championship races were held across a total of 21 different board track speedways. The Uniontown, Pa. 1.125 miles speedway hosted the most races at 21 feature events, but other events were held at: Chicago, Tacoma, Des Moines, Sheepsheads Bay/Brooklyn, Omaha, Cincinnati, Beverly Hills, Fresno, Cotati (near Sonoma), San Carlos, Kansas City, Charlotte, Culver City, Laurel MD/Washington DC, Salem NH, Miami, Atlantic City, Akron, along with three tracks right here in Pennsylvania; the aforementioned Uniontown, and Altoona Speedways, plus the .5 mile speedway in Bridgeville.

Board tracks were constructed entirely of wood with the actual track surface typically consisting of 2 inch by 4 inch boards laid on edge. Track length varied from 1.25 to 2* miles with banking in the turn as high as 50 degrees. These tracks were relatively inexpensive to construct, but because there were no suitable wood preservatives available at that time, very expensive to maintain. By 1930, 20 of these tracks were shut down or abandon and the Altoona Speedway which had the longest tenure of any (9 years) was the last to host a National Championship race on September 7, 1931. The fewest number of races occurred at the Miami Speedway which was destroyed by the 1926 Miami Hurricane after only conducting a single event.

This was often called the "Golden Age" of motor racing, and the men who raced on these high-speed wooden high banks were as well-known as any modern NFL or NBA star athlete would be today. It was not uncommon for 60,000 or more spectators to attend these events and many of the event attracted larger crowds than the Indianapolis 500 did during the same time-period. And the speed reached on these wooden speedways was incredible! Tommy Milton's pole wining

qualifying effort of 142.93 MPH achieved at the Miami wooden high banks in February 1926 was a full 30 MPH faster than the pole winning speed for the 1926 Indianapolis 500. Tommy's Miami pole speed would not be exceeded at Indianapolis for another 30 years.

Anyone who had the guts to compete on these wooden high banks is a true hero of our sport. Men like Tommy Milton, Jimmy Murphey, Ralph DePalma and his nephew Peter DePaolo, Dario Resta, Frank Lockhart, and the Chevrolet brothers...Gaston and Louis risked their lives in pursuit of fame and fortune, and yes, significant money could be earned for those who mastered the high banks. As an example, a typical USAC Silver Crown race winner today might receive \$10,000 -\$15,000 for winning a 100-mile event, but by comparison, in the board track era Jimmy Murphy averaged earnings of almost \$24,000 per start (not just a win) in today's dollars.

Racing on these tracks was difficult and dangerous. The primitive tire technology of the day and the incredibly high g-forces achieved due to the excessively steep banking of the turns made tire failure a constant concern. Also, at these speeds given the lack of driver safety protection, a mechanical failure of any type could be disastrous. Drivers were often ejected from their cars or crashed through the outer guardrails falling 30 feet or more to the ground. Even if they didn't crash, drivers faced splinters of wood from the track bombarding them in the face or were forced to dodge holes in the track caused by rotten sections of wood. Unfortunately, fatalities were all too common. Winner of the 1919 Indianapolis 500 perished in an accident at the Altoona Speedway in 1923, and 1924 Indy co-winner Joe Boyer and 1929 winner, Ray Keech also both lost their lives at Altoona. The 1920 Indianapolis winner Gaston Chevrolet also would die in a crash in November of that year at the Beverley Hills Board Speedway.

Four drivers achieved 10 or more victories during this period: Tommy Milton, Jimmy Murphy, Ralph DePalma and Peter DePaolo.

Perhaps the most successful of them all was **Jimmy Murphy**. Jimmy would see the checkered flag first 18 times, winning an amazing 36% of the races he participated in on the board speedways. A winner at Beverley Hills, Fresno, Uniontown, San Carlos, Tacoma, Cotati, and Altoona, Jimmy earned more than \$123, 000 in winnings or more than \$1.2 million in today's dollars. Like many would be drivers of that era, Jimmy began his racing career as a riding mechanic and got his big break when he filled in for the injured Eddie O'Donnell. One of the best and most versatile drivers of his day, Jimmy would win the 1922 Indianapolis 500 and the 1922 and 1924 National Championship. He would also be the first American driver to capture a Grand Prix event, winning the 1922 French Grand Prix.

continued on page 8

FROM **Mike Winslow** CURATOR

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and is ready for the New Year.

The **Stan Lobitz Tribute Movie Party** and Auction on November 6, 2022 was well attended and went well as did the **Holiday Open House** on December 3 & 4. The round table with Bob and Billy Gerhart was very interesting and entertaining as well.

We had a display at the York Racing Extravaganza where we renewed memberships, sold some gift shop items and talked about EMMR to a lot of folks. Thanks to everyone who brought their cars and to all the volunteers who helped. We had a similar display at the Reading Fairgrounds Racecar Show and Reunion on February 24-26 at the Classic Auto Mall in Morgantown, PA.

We have been very busy moving the library to the annex building and appreciate all the volunteers that have helped. We had to move all of the cars from the annex to the new storage building as well as making room for some new additions.

New cars on display include: Unrestored/original Kurtis Kraft #15 midget w/110 Offy, Edmunds #15 coil over midget with Scat/AutoCraft VW, both on loan from Keith Majka, Barry Klinedinst's #54 Lloyd Champ Car and Dave Blaney's 1997



Mike Winslow
Curator

Vivarin #10 sprint car (will be put on display this spring). Also two Harley-Davidson board track racing motorcycle re-creations with original H-D engines from Tom Keefer. EMMR was also given the opportunity to have a display case at the Hershey AACA Museum during their "Racing to the Finish Line" racing themed special exhibit. If you get a chance, check it out.

This year's **49th Annual EMMR Convention** will be held on **August 25, 26 and 27th**. We will be honoring **Marlin Heller**. Marlin was a fixture at EMMR and is greatly missed. **Leroy Felty** will be our Grand Marshall. This year, in cooperation with Lincoln Speedway, **Steve Kinser** will be our special guest at the convention on Sunday, August 27.

The Thursday night work parties are ongoing through the end of March. Come join us 6-9 p.m. every Thursday.

— Mike Winslow, mwinslow@emmr.org

Upcoming Events:

3/19 – 3rd Sunday – History of Maryland stock car racing

4/1 & 2 – Open House and EMMR Auction

5/7 – Gary Wolford Fish Fry and Auction

5/13 – 2nd Hot Rod Annual at Lincoln Speedway

THE INDYCAR CORNER

continued from page 7

Also with 18 board speedway wins was the 1921 and 1923 Indianapolis 500 winner **Tommy Milton**. Tommy completed more races on the high banks (85) than any other driver and would finish first at Uniontown, Sheepshead Bay, Tacoma, Beverly Hills, Kansas City, Charlotte, and Culver City. He also achieved the fastest single lap speed on the boards when he qualified first at Miami in 1926 and ranks first in money earned on the boards.

The 1915 Indianapolis 500 winner **Ralph DePalma** is credited with a total of 24 National Championship wins, 16 times on the boards. However, Ralph's wooden speedway victories would occur at only three different tracks: Chicago, Sheepshead Bay, and Beverly Hills. DePalma may be best known for the iconic photo of him and his Riding Mechanic pushing their car towards the finish line to finish in the 1912 Indianapolis 500 after a mechanical failure with two laps to go. He had led 196 of the 200 laps but would only be scored 11th.

Ralph's nephew **Peter DePaolo** would win 12 times on the board speedways, with wins coming at Fresno, Salem, and Altoona. DePaolo was born in Philadelphia and began his racing career as a riding mechanic for Uncle Ralph and while not achieving the level success of his uncle, he would achieve victory in the 1925 Indianapolis 500 where he was the first winner to average more than 100 MPH for the full race distance.

He would also be crowned the 1925 National Champion. All Pete's wins apart from his 1925 Indianapolis 500 victory would come on the board track circuit and his \$21,000 (today's dollars) winnings per board track speedway start is second highest behind only Jimmy Murphy.

If you would like to learn more about this "golden age" of motor racing, I recommend you check out the following books: *King of the Boards* by Gary Dolye, *Board Track Guts and Glory* by Dick Wallen, *Wall Smacker* by Peter DePaolo.

— Jerry Hair, JLHAIR@comcast.net

Collection of Jerry Hair



A program from the Thanksgiving Day 1916 opening event at the Uniontown, Pennsylvania Board Track Speedway. The event was ultimately postponed due to rain and eventually run on Monday, December 2. The race was won by Louis Chevrolet.
Collection of Jerry Hair

2023 EVENTS



South-central Pennsylvania,
north of York Springs
717-528-8279
www.EMMR.org

Schedule as of 03/01/2023. See www.EMMR.org or call 717-528-8279.

JAN. 5 thru MARCH 30: THURSDAY NIGHT WORK PARTIES, at EMMR, 6 to 9 pm.

FEB. 3-4 RACING XTRAVAGANZA; York Expo Center, York, Pa.

FEB. 11 MID-WINTER DRAG RACING PARTY at EMMR: 10am-4pm. AM: Annual Winter Nationals Valve Cover Racing. PM: "How to Cheat at Drag Racing & Win" Roundtable.

FEB. 24-26 READING FAIRGROUNDS RACE REUNION and CAR SHOW at CLASSIC AUTO MALL, Morgantown, Pa.

MAR. 19 3RD SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE, at EMMR, 1-3 pm. "History of Maryland Stock Car Racing featuring Al Torney and Larry Jendras Jr."

APR. 1-2 SPRING OPEN HOUSE at EMMR 10am-4pm. 4/1: New Drag Racing Exhibit Unveiling & "Race Car Builders and Fabricators" Roundtable. 4/2: Auction at 12 p.m., "A Tribute to Steve Smith" Roundtable from 1-3 p.m., Refreshments, Bake Sale and 50/50.

APR. 7 EMMR NIGHT with STATIC DISPLAY at WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

APR. 9 EASTERN MUSEUM OF MOTOR RACING CLOSED

APR. 16 VINTAGE ELIMINATOR RACE at SOUTH MOUNTAIN RACEWAY, Boiling Springs, Pa. Open at 8 am. EMMR APPRECIATION DAY.

APR. 16 3RD SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE, at EMMR, 1-3 pm. "Late Models with Alan Sagi"

APR. 21 TOMMY HINNERSHITZ CLASSIC with EMMR STATIC DISPLAY at WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

APR. 28 EMMR STATIC DISPLAY at WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

APR. 29-30 WORK PARTY at EMMR / LATIMORE VALLEY FAIR GROUNDS (LVFG)

MAY 7 GARY WOLFORD MEMORIAL FISH FRY and SILVER SPRING SPEEDWAY REUNION at EMMR/LVFG. 9am-2pm. Vintage Race Car Display. Auction at 12 p.m.

MAY 13 Latimore FISHING DERBY FOR KIDS at LVFG, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Sponsored by Adams Co. Trout Unlimited.

MAY 13 EMMR HOT ROD ANNUAL at LINCOLN SPEEDWAY, Abbotstown, Pa, 8 am- 4 pm. Vintage Car On Track Exhibition, Thrill Show, Swap Meet and Food.

MAY 14 EASTERN MUSEUM OF MOTOR RACING CLOSED

MAY 20 VINTAGE RACE CAR ON TRACK EXHIBITION at CIRCLE M RANCH SPEEDWAY, Auburn, Pa. (Rain Date: 9/23)

MAY 21 CAR SHOW at EMMR for Oldsmobiles, Buicks, Pontiacs, and Cadillacs. Hosted by the Blue-Gray Chapter of the Oldsmobile Club of America.

MAY 21 3RD SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE at EMMR, 1-3 P.M. "Hurst Performance History with Designer and Engineer Don Glover"

MAY 26 DOUG ESH TRIBUTE RACE with EMMR STATIC DISPLAY at WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

MAY 27 6TH ANNUAL CAR & BIKE SHOW benefiting YORK COUNTY VETERANS OUTREACH at CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR, 4075 E. Market Street, York, Pa. EMMR DISPLAY with Nitro Engine Fire-Ups. 10:30 am - 3:00 pm.

JUNE 2 EMMR STATIC DISPLAY at WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

JUNE 4 VINTAGE RACE CAR ON TRACK EXHIBITION at BEDFORD SPEEDWAY, Bedford, Pa.

JUNE 10 ANTIQUE CAR SHOW at EMMR/LVFG. Hosted by the Gettysburg Region Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA).

JUNE 15 JUBILEE DAY in Mechanicsburg, Pa. EMMR EXHIBIT located at Clay's Service Center on West Main Street.

JUNE 16 EMMR STATIC DISPLAY at WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

JUNE 23-25 38TH LATIMORE VALLEY FAIR, A Country Festival at LVFG. Arts, Crafts, Flea Market, Live Entertainment all weekend. 6/24: Tractor Pulls and Vintage Race Car On Track Exhibition.

JUNE 28 VINTAGE RACE CAR ON TRACK EXHIBITION at HAGERSTOWN SPEEDWAY, Hagerstown, MD.

JULY 8 DRAG RACERS REUNION, DAY 1 at EMMR Featuring Nostalgic Drag Racing Cars and Drivers. Inliners club display. CAR SHOW with \$10 donation for door prizes. Vendors and Food. DRIVE-IN MOVIE at SOUTH MOUNTAIN RACEWAY Saturday evening at dusk.

JULY 9 DRAG RACERS REUNION, DAY 2 at SOUTH MOUNTAIN RACEWAY, Boiling Springs, Pa. Nostalgia Drag Racing. Funny Cars, Altered, Vintage Eliminator & Pro Stick. Nitro Dragster Engine Start Ups. EMMR APPRECIATION DAY.

CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

Print production by Kay Diehl Melchi, volunteer—February 2023

2023 EVENTS



South-central Pennsylvania,
north of York Springs
717-528-8279

CONTINUED from other side

www.EMMR.org

Schedule as of 03/01/2023. See www.EMMR.org or call 717-528-8279.

JULY 16 FRANK SAGI TRIBUTE with RACE CAR DISPLAY (prior to the races) & VINTAGE RACE CAR ON TRACK EXHIBITION at HAGERSTOWN SPEEDWAY, Hagerstown, MD.

AUG. 18 VINTAGE RACE CAR ON TRACK EXHIBITION at CLINTON COUNTY SPEEDWAY, Mill Hall, Pa.

AUG. 18-20 VINTAGE JAPANESE MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET & SHOW at EMMR/LVFG.

AUG. 25 JACK GUNN MEMORIAL with EMMR STATIC DISPLAY at WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

AUG. 26 EMMR CAR SHOW during CONVENTION at EMMR, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Registration fee \$10.00 (Rain Date is Sunday, 8/27) Carol Weaver 717-465-2191

AUG. 26-27 49th Annual EMMR/WGOT CONVENTION at EMMR/LVFG. Honoring Marlin Heller and Grand Marshall Leroy Felty. 8/26: VINTAGE RACE CAR ON TRACK EXHIBITION AT LVFG, 12-3 p.m. 8/27: ARDC REUNION.

AUG 27 "A Century of Speed with Special Guest Steve Kinser" ROUNDTABLE CONVENTION, 1-3pm.

SEPT. 1 JIM & SANDY KLINE TRIBUTE RACE with EMMR STATIC DISPLAY at WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

SEPT. 3 DIRT CLASSIC X at LINCOLN SPEEDWAY, Abbotstown, Pa. EMMR SILENT AUCTION.

SEPT. 9 EMMR - A DAY AT THE GROVE with VINTAGE RACE CAR ON TRACK EXHIBITION and CAR SHOW, at WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, Pa. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SEPT. 16 CENTRAL PA CORVAIR CLUB'S CAR SHOW at EMMR. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

SEPT. 16-17 WORK PARTY at EMMR/LVFG

SEPT. 17 EMMR GLORY DAYS at SOUTH MOUNTAIN RACEWAY, Boiling Springs, Pa. Vintage Eliminator & MANDRA Racing. Local car clubs invited. EMMR APPRECIATION DAY.

SEPT. 17 3RD SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE at EMMR: 1-3pm, "Track Safety Part II- Nancy Miller and George Getty"

SEPT. 30 EMMR and NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL OF FAME AUCTION at WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, Pa. Auction in back pits, 10 am

SEPT. 30-OCT. 1 12TH ANNUAL JIMMY ETTER SWAP MEET & FLEA MARKET AT EMMR. All vintage car parts are welcome! Info: John Marks jtm64@comcast.net 717-645-0440

OCT. 5 EASTERN MUSEUM OF MOTOR RACING OPEN from 6-9 p.m.

OCT. 15 3RD SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE at EMMR, 1-3 p.m. "Pennsylvania's own and retired NASCAR driver Jimmy Spencer"

OCT. 29 "TRUNK OR TREAT" for the KIDS at EMMR 1-3pm with Barrel Train Rides for kids!

NOV. 5 LOBITZ PARTY at EMMR, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Movies, Refreshments, Auction at 12 p.m. and Roundtable.

NOV. 19 3RD SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE at EMMR: 1-3pm. "The Wolfe Dynasty: Lucas, Randy, and Donny"

DEC. 2-3 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE at EMMR, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 12/2: Valve Cover Racing, "Professional Drag Racers" Roundtable, Bake Sale and 50/50. 12/3: Auction at 12 p.m.

The GETTYSBURG REGION OF THE ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA is headquartered at EMMR.



Visit the FLEMINGTON SPEEDWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S exhibit at EMMR on the 2nd floor.

EASTERN MUSEUM OF MOTOR RACING (EMMR)

Museum Address: 100 BALTIMORE ROAD, YORK SPRINGS, PA 17372

Mailing Address: PO Box 688, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0688

MEMBERSHIPS: \$20 Annual or \$200 Life. Mail to PO box above.

Home of Latimore Valley Fairgrounds:

314 Latimore Valley Rd, York Springs, PA 17372



Schedule as of 02/25/2023. Updates: www.EMMR.org or Facebook or call 717-528-8279.

- MUSEUM OPEN: Every Fri, Sat. & Sun. April 1 to December 3, 2023; 10 am - 4 pm.
- Open EVERY FRIDAY in December - March, weather permitting.
- EMMR events and hours of operation are subject to change. Visit emmr.org for latest updates on all events as well as museum and library hours.





MUSEUM ADDRESS:

100 Baltimore Road, York Springs, Penna.

0.5 miles east of Route 15, 14 miles south of Pa. Turnpike

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PA Sprint Series Holds Banquet At EMMR

For the second straight year, the River Valley Builders PA Sprint Series, one of the nation's most successful economy sprint car racing groups, held its end-of-year banquet at EMMR on January 7.

PASS, which is part of the national IMCA/RaceSaver organization, ran 36 feature races at 10 different tracks in 2022. It recognized its top 15 in points for the year, including

Champion Garrett Bard of Wells Tannery, who captured the title for an unprecedented third straight year.

More than 80 attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and a catered dinner before the ceremony. EMMR volunteers provided set-up assistance and were present for support as needed during the event.

Photo by Frank A. Bohman



More than 80 PASS team members and families/friends attended the banquet, which fit perfectly in EMMR's space.

Photo by Frank A. Bohman



All drivers present for the banquet posed for this photo after awards were presented. Series Champion Garrett Bard is fifth from right.