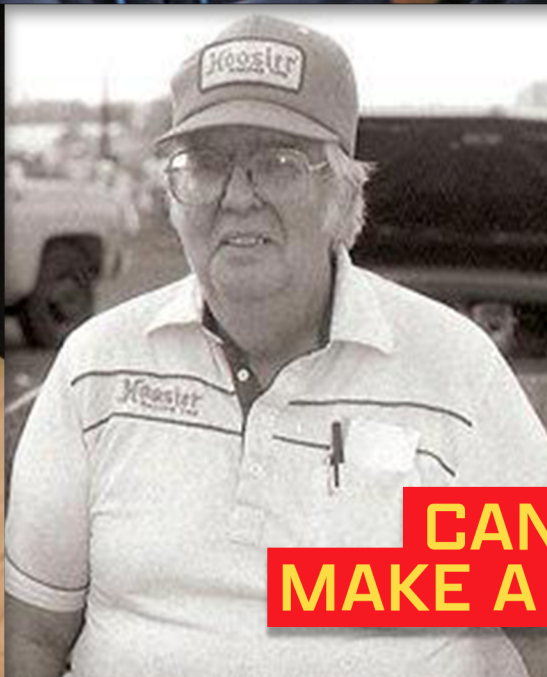




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Tom Curley was one-of-a-kind, but he was a man who believed he could make a difference. He not only worked hard at his craft, he educated and understood the value of everyone doing well. He knew it helped him. There are people out there who believe and understand this, but as the world closes in, there are less-and-less who believe in the position that "a rising tide lifts all boats..."

Can One Person Make a Difference?

Our business is extremely challenging, and many of us often feel like "one-man bands." Promoters, operators, officials, and series administrators frequently wear more hats than anyone ever sees. But despite the challenges, each of us is making a difference.

And the truth is, one person absolutely can make a difference.

Your individual actions — whether they are small acts of kindness, a willingness to listen, or stepping up to lead when necessary — can create lasting, positive change. Sometimes it is as simple as a conversation or taking a few moments to help someone who needs it.

As promoters of this sport, we have the ability to spark ripple effects that extend far beyond the racetrack.

A single act of professionalism, a moment of compassion in a difficult situation, or a thoughtful decision can influence competitors, employees, and fans alike. In an environment that can occasionally feel hostile or stressful, simply offering an ear and showing respect can go a long way.

There are many ways individuals in our business make a difference every day:

Small Acts of Kindness

Something as simple as greeting a fan, helping a competitor, or showing empathy in a tense moment can brighten someone's day and influence how they view the sport.

Community Involvement

Working with local communities and municipalities, volunteering time, or participating in civic events strengthens the relationship between racetracks and the areas they serve.

Leadership and Advocacy

Speaking up when something needs attention and helping guide others toward solutions is an important part of leadership within any organization.

The Ripple Effect

Helping one person often leads to that person helping others. The impact of that action spreads far beyond the original moment.

Sometimes it is easy to feel like one person's actions are just a drop in the bucket. But history — in racing and elsewhere — shows us that individual efforts often become the catalyst for much larger movements.

If you focus on what you can control — your actions, your voice, and the support you offer others — you can create meaningful change in your immediate environment and beyond.

You do not have to be famous, wealthy, or powerful to have an impact. Ordinary people make a difference every day by mentoring others, volunteering their time, or simply offering encouragement at the right moment.

In racing, we often talk about speed, competition, and championships. The headlines usually belong to the drivers who win races, the teams that capture titles, or the tracks that host the biggest events.

But every once in a while it is worth asking a different question.

Can one person really make a difference?

In a sport built on thousands of moving parts — drivers, crews, officials, promoters, sponsors, and fans — it is easy to assume that no single person can truly change the course of things. Racing is, after all, a team effort.

But history tells us otherwise.

Throughout the years, this sport has been shaped by individuals who simply refused to let it fail. People who believed in racing enough to keep pushing forward when others might have walked away.

Some built engines. Some opened racetracks. Some organized races when no one else would. Some promoted events, wrote stories, or kept the history alive.

What they all shared was the same belief — that the sport mattered.

Sometimes that belief meant taking risks. Sometimes it meant sacrificing time, money, or comfort. And sometimes it simply meant refusing to give up when things got difficult.

Over time, those individual efforts ripple outward. One decision leads to another. One opportunity creates the next generation of racers. One race becomes a tradition. One small act of dedication becomes part of the foundation the sport stands on.

That is how racing has survived for more than a century.

Not because of one organization or one series, but because of countless individuals who cared enough to keep it moving forward.

As President John F. Kennedy once said: “One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.” So can one person make a difference?

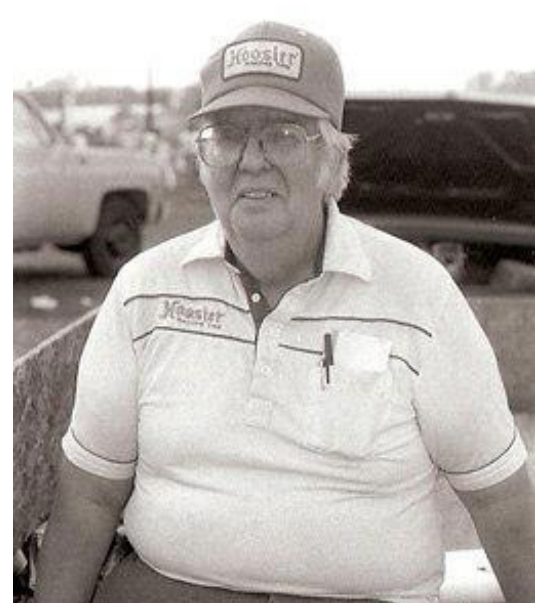
History says yes.

Because in racing — just as in life — change often begins with someone who simply decides that the sport is worth fighting for.

And fortunately for all of us, this sport has always been filled with people like that.



Glenn Donnelly left a prominent position at General Electric in 1970 to work at his vision, which evolved in to Driver's Independent Race Tracks (DIRT). Donnelly was one many who people believed in and made a difference in the Northeast.



Bob Memmer started the United Midwestern Promoters (UMP) series in 1984 with a vision of uniting racetracks to provide structure and sensible rules for dirt late model racing to help local short track competitors grow the sport. Memmer, known as the “friend of the little guy”, maintained true to his founding mission for U.M.P. and applied those same grassroots principles for over twenty years to help keep the sport healthy throughout his career.



While Chris Economaki was never a promoter of a single venue, he was a promoter of the sport — and he made a difference. A significant one.

If it weren't for individuals like Tom Curley, Glenn Donnelly, Dick Memmer, Chris Economaki, and many others, the opportunities we have today simply wouldn't exist. They helped unify a sport that, even then, had plenty of moving parts and competing interests.

They believed in something bigger than themselves.

They brought people together.

They pushed the sport forward.

In today's world, things can feel more fragmented. Different agendas, different directions, and at times, a lack of common ground. Maybe that's where the lesson lies.

Maybe it's time to take a page from those who came before us.

To focus less on division and more on direction.

To remember that the strength of this sport has always come from those willing to work together — even when it wasn't easy.

Because if history has shown us anything, it's this:

When people commit to the bigger picture, this sport moves forward.

And when it moves forward, it creates opportunity for all of us.





Get in touch with Racing Promotion Monthly and plan custom Taste of RPM sessions for your track or sanctioning body.

In late 2024, Adam Stewart, owner of Crate Racin' USA, asked a simple question: would RPM be interested in participating in his sanction's promoters meeting? That question sparked an idea.

The result was Taste of RPM—a condensed, on-site version of the RPM Workshops designed to bring practical education, discussion, and collaboration directly to promoters and track operators. The program has since provided RPM with the opportunity to reach more facilities, engage new audiences, and introduce tracks to the value, depth, and impact of the full RPM Workshop experience.

Taste of RPM sessions are customizable and can be tailored to fit the needs of your organization, covering topics such as promotion, operations, staffing, safety, officiating, and best practices—delivered by people who understand the business from the inside out.


If you're interested in hosting a Taste of RPM and exploring how the Workshops can benefit your track or sanction, we invite you to reach out and start the conversation.

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MON, FEB 15 &
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RPM@DAYTONA- THE SHORES RESORT, DAYTONA BEACH, FL



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: RPM WORKSHOP DATES ANNOUNCED FOR 2026 & 2027

Dates for the upcoming RPM Workshops—the industry’s premier short track promoter and operator gatherings—have been confirmed for the 2026 and 2027 sessions.

RPM@Reno Western Workshops
December 1, 2 & 3, 2026
Silver Legacy Resort - Reno, Nevada

RPM@Daytona
February 14, 15 & 16, 2027
Tentatively scheduled at The Shores Resort - Daytona Beach Shores, Florida
(Subject to change based on availability)

The RPM Workshops continue to provide short track operators, series officials, and industry stakeholders with critical insight, shared resources, and invaluable networking as the industry evolves and adapts to new challenges.

Be sure to mark your calendars, make your plans, and join us in Daytona and Reno to help shape the future of short track racing.



Is Your Customer or Employee Experience Just... Average?

Are your leaders and employees simply going through the motions each day?
 Are your teams completing tasks instead of building relationships?
 Are your leaders managing... or just managing people instead of leading them?
 If that sounds familiar, it may be time to think differently.

What is Kaizen?

You may have heard the term Kaizen.
 Kaizen is a Japanese business philosophy centered on continuous improvement — the idea that small, consistent changes across all areas of an organization can lead to significant long-term success. It's not a one-time fix.
 It's a mindset.
 And most importantly — it involves everyone. From leadership to frontline staff.

What If You Applied Kaizen to Your Operation?

What if you stopped accepting the status quo?
 What if you challenged your team — and yourself — to improve something every day?
 Start by asking the right questions:

- Are we identifying problems and opportunities — and working on them together?
- Can we remove unnecessary steps that hurt the customer experience?
- When something isn't working, do we address it — or ignore it?
- Are we truly listening to our team members?
- Do employees feel safe sharing ideas, concerns, and feedback?
- Are we reinforcing and recognizing our core values?
- Does our onboarding process create a strong first impression?
- Are we training effectively — or just hoping people figure it out?

The Reality

If those questions are being pushed aside, delayed, or ignored — that's not Kaizen.
 That's survival mode.
 And while you stay the same, your competition may be improving. They're building stronger relationships. They're creating better experiences.

They're giving customers — and employees — what they actually need.

What About Your Team?

Ask yourself this:
 Are you struggling to find and keep good people?
 Or are you building an environment where people want to work?
 A strong employee experience doesn't happen by accident. It's built through consistent effort, communication, recognition, and development.
 When people feel valued, they perform better.
 When they perform better, your business improves.

So, What's the Choice?

You can continue doing things the way you always have...
 Or you can embrace continuous improvement.
 Get your team involved.
 Create a culture where ideas matter.
 Make small improvements — every day.
 Because success isn't built overnight.
 It's built over time.
 One improvement at a time.

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Linda Holdeman looking down on the action at Oswego (NY) Speedway, where she broke barriers to show her incredible talent in publicity and promotion before moving on to Winchester (IN) Speedway with her husband Roger.

Linda Holdeman, 81, A Trailblazer in Motorsports Promotion

Linda Holdeman passed away peacefully of natural causes on March 11, 2026, at the age of 81. Her husband Roger, who passed in 1996, shared her deep passion for motorsports, and together they became one of the sport's most respected promotional teams.

Linda began her professional career in public relations in the late 1960s with the Syracuse Blazers hockey team. She later joined Oswego Speedway, starting in a PR role at a time when women were not permitted in the pit area. Small in stature but unwavering in determination, Linda refused to let barriers define her path. Through persistence, creativity, and undeniable talent, she rose to become the track's promoter and general manager in 1985.

She had a unique ability to turn ideas into impactful promotions—ones that attracted major sponsorships and filled grandstands. Rarely seeking credit, Linda let the success

of the speedway speak for itself. What mattered most to her were the relationships she built and the community she helped grow.

On December 17, 1988, Linda married the love of her life, Roger Holdeman. Following her final season at Oswego Speedway in 1989, she joined Roger at Winchester Speedway in Indiana, where he owned and operated the facility. Together, they built a home on the speedway grounds and formed a true partnership—both in life and in racing—becoming a powerhouse team of promoters. Despite the demands of the business, they often said they were simply “having fun.”

Linda's creativity was evident in many of her most memorable promotions. At Oswego, she introduced the “Wings and Things” exhibition, where Supermodifieds ran with wings for the first time. The event captivated fans, highlighted by Bentley Warren setting a new track record—an achievement still remembered today.

At Winchester, her ingenuity took on a different form. To fund the construction of an infield restroom facility, Linda secured sponsorship from the Tidy Bowl Corporation—prompting many to joke that she may have been the only promoter in racing history to “get the bathrooms sponsored.” It was a perfect example of her ability to see opportunity where others might not.

Philanthropy was always central to Linda's work. Through creative fundraising efforts—silent auctions, drivers volunteering to have their heads shaved, pie-eating contests, and more—she raised significant funds while bringing people together with laughter and purpose. Giving back was never an obligation to Linda; it was an extension of who she was.

Over the years, Linda received numerous honors, including the Key to the City of Oswego, New York, and USAC's Diana Fell Gilmore Woman Behind the Scenes Award. She and Roger were inducted into the Dayton Auto Racing Fan Club Hall of Fame, received the Key to the City of Winchester, Indiana, and in July 2025, she proudly attended and accepted their joint induction

into the USAC Hall of Fame. She was also featured on the front page of USA Today's sports section in a story titled “The Lady and Her Track,” published on August 31, 1989, during her final Classic Weekend at Oswego.

Linda is survived by her children and their spouses—Tracy O'Brien (Michele Waters), Kevin O'Brien (Tammy O'Brien), and Kymberly Brantigan (Arthur Brantigan); grandchildren Kevin O'Brien and Ashlyn Strupe; sisters Sheila Ayotte and Barbara Carusa; and many cherished members of her extended racing family in both Oswego and Winchester. The friendships she built within those communities were among the greatest joys of her life.

Linda's life was defined by determination, creativity, and an unwavering belief in what was possible. She broke barriers without seeking recognition, built communities wherever she went, and turned racetracks into places of connection, generosity, and joy.

Her laughter, her grit, and her gift for making everyone feel welcome will continue to echo through the grandstands she once filled.

She has now crossed the finish line—and will be missed by many.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Linda's honor may be made to Riley Hospital for Children, Women in Motorsports North America, or the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

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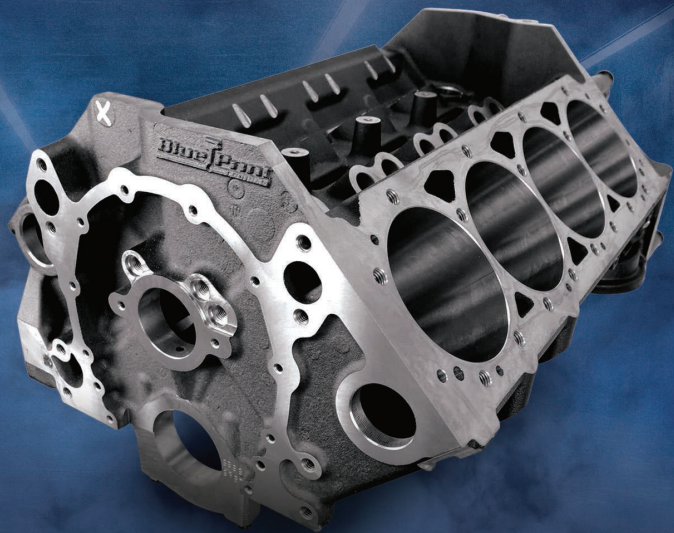
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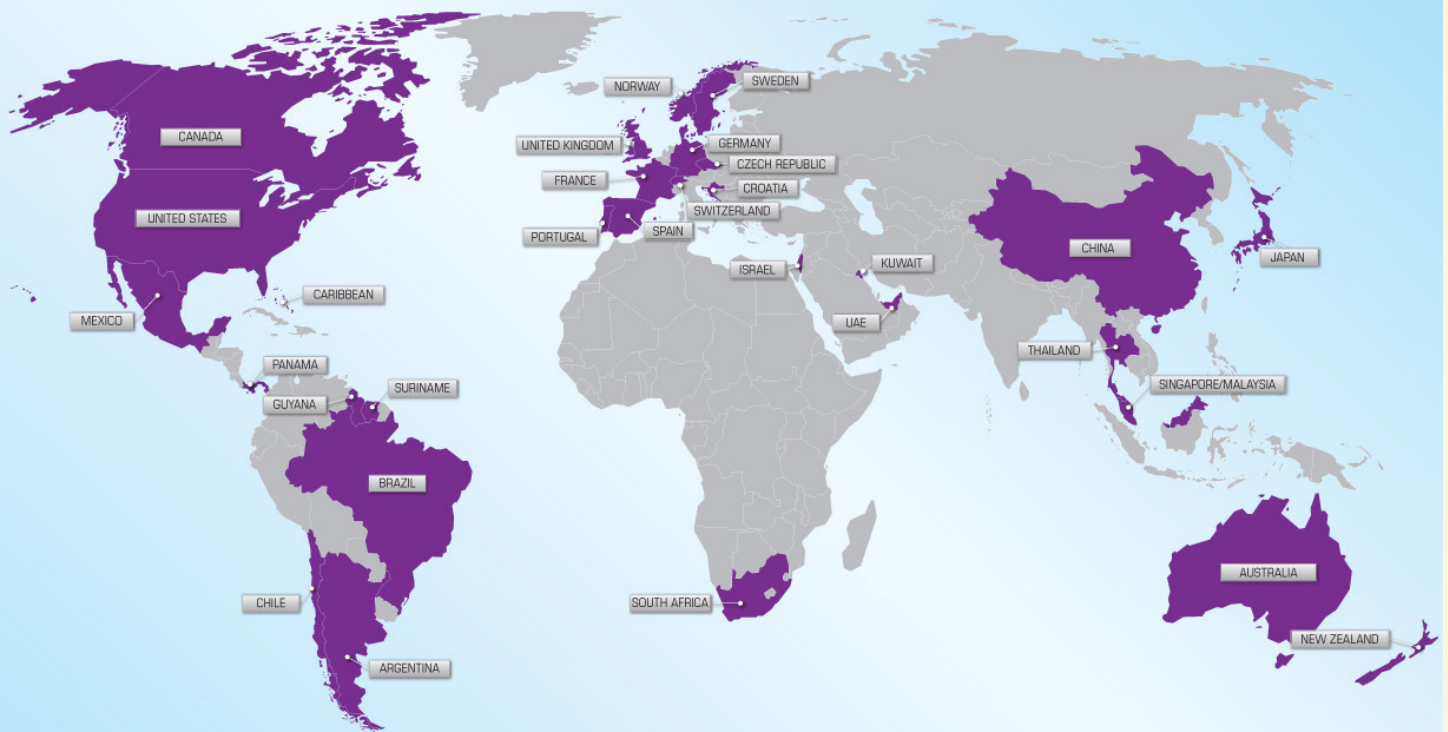
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The RPM Newsletter and Workshops was once again part of the TOPS H.Q. Workroom and Lounge which provides meeting space for Track Operators, Promoters and Sanctioning Bodies, along with hosting the popular “BS & Brews” which gives industry folks the opportunity to network and let their hair down in casual conversation.





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Speedway Near Pueblo Colorado Set to Reopen Under New Ownership

A long-closed race track near Pueblo, Colorado, is set to return to life under new ownership, according to published reports.

Located between Colorado Springs and Pueblo, High Banks Speedway at Beacon Hill — formerly known as Beacon Hill Speedway and I-25 Speedway — will be reopened by new owners Steve Lacy and Adam Hilton. Hilton is expected to serve as the facility's general manager.

The track has been inactive for approximately five years, but plans are in place for a reopening toward the end of the 2026 season, with a full schedule anticipated in 2027.

Ownership has outlined plans for significant improvements, including a new racing surface and updated facility amenities. The proposed racing program is expected to feature a variety of divisions, including Super Stocks, Late Models, Legends, Bandoleros, and Mini Stocks.

The reopening marks another positive step for grassroots racing, as dormant facilities across the country continue to find new life through renewed investment and leadership.



New Ownership Sparks Revival at Northwest Florida Speedway, Rebranding to Blackwater Speedway

A new chapter is underway for Northwest Florida Speedway, as Ron Wolverton has officially taken ownership of the quarter-mile facility, launching an ambitious effort to preserve grassroots racing while positioning the venue for long-term growth.

For Wolverton — a lifelong drag racer turned dirt track promoter — the journey into ownership has been anything but ordinary.

“The whole thing has been a miracle after miracle,” Wolverton said. “We pulled off a construction feat that even the big guys couldn’t pull off. We didn’t start until January 9 before we got to moving dirt, and I couldn’t have done it without all the volunteers and community members that came out to help.”

One of the most notable improvements has been the restoration of the racing surface. Rather than bringing in outside material, Wolverton and his team reconditioned the track using original dirt from the property, returning the oval to its roots.

Now entering his first season as a promoter, Wolverton’s connection to the facility developed quickly after relocating to the Baker, Florida area just a few years ago.

“I’d been a drag racer my whole life and had never been to a dirt track,” he explained. “My aunt and uncle owned one in Jackson, Mississippi, but at the time I didn’t want anything to do with dirt. Then I moved here about two miles from the track and could hear them racing every night. It gave me chills — it sounded so good.”

Encouraged by a driver he sponsored, Wolverton attended his first event — and was immediately hooked.

“I was blown away by the family atmosphere and seeing multiple generations racing together. I started coming every chance I could. Then I heard the track might be sold and turned into a truck stop or subdivision. I thought, ‘I just started liking this — we can’t lose it.’ I wanted to save it for the community.”

That decision has been reinforced by overwhelming local support.

“I knew it meant something to the community, but I didn’t realize how much,” Wolverton added. “The support has been incredible. I’ve had people stopping by every day just to say thank you. I’ve been blessed with the right people to help make this happen.”

Supporting the speedway’s efforts is Cortni Potapowicz, who joins the leadership team to expand the facility’s marketing and entertainment reach. Her background includes producing major music events, hosting television programming, and performing in aerial arts — experience expected to enhance the overall fan experience.

Under Wolverton’s leadership, the facility will sanction Karl Kustoms IMCA Modified competition, awarding track, Florida State, Close Racing Supply Eastern Region, and National points.

The facility will transition from Northwest Florida Speedway to Blackwater Speedway — a name inspired by the nearby Blackwater River, which flows from southern Alabama into the Pensacola Bay region.

The name carries regional significance. Okaloosa County derives its name from the Choctaw phrase *oka-lusa*, meaning “water black,” while the Blackwater River is known for its dark, tannin-rich coloring — making the new identity a reflection of both geography and heritage.

While looking ahead, Wolverton has been quick to acknowledge the past.

“Scott Sessions and Beverly Cooley built a strong legacy here,” he said. “For 13 years they kept racing alive in Baker and made this a destination for racers. That legacy isn’t going anywhere — it’s something we’re building from.”

He emphasized their continued presence in the racing community.

“This isn’t an ending — it’s a new chapter. They’ll remain part of the track and our racing family. The foundation they built is what allows us to move forward.”

The facility itself carries a deep history. Originally sanctioning with IMCA in 1996 as North Okaloosa Motor Speedway — where Todd Neiheiser became the inaugural champion — the track later operated as Blackman Motor Speedway before evolving into Northwest Florida Speedway.





Cocopah Speedway Set for Return in October 2026

Cocopah Speedway in Somerton, Arizona, is preparing for a highly anticipated return, with plans to reopen the 3/8-mile dirt track in October of 2026.

The facility, located near Yuma, has long been known for its high-speed racing and strong presence in sprint car and modified competition. Following an indefinite closure in late 2024, the upcoming reopening marks another chapter in the track's resilient history.

Cocopah Speedway is no stranger to overcoming challenges. The facility previously experienced a decade-long dormancy from 2000 to 2009 before returning to prominence as a destination for major regional events, particularly during the late fall and early spring months.

The track features concrete grandstand seating and has built a reputation for hosting competitive, high-energy racing programs that draw competitors and fans from across the Southwest.

While specific event details have yet to be announced, the October 2026 reopening signals a renewed commitment to grassroots racing in the region. Fans and competitors are encouraged to follow local Arizona racing channels for schedule updates as the reopening approaches.

The return of Cocopah Speedway is another reminder of the cyclical nature of the sport — tracks may go quiet, but with the right effort and support, they can come back to life and once again serve their racing communities.



Industry Leaders Promote Right to Race During West Virginia Adventure Motorsports Day

Industry leaders, racers, and small business representatives gathered at the West Virginia State Capitol in Charleston on February 12, 2026, as the annual West Virginia Adventure Motorsports Day returned with strong support from SEMA and PRI.

The event brought together racers, off-road enthusiasts, builders, and industry stakeholders from across the state to highlight the growing impact of motorsports and off-road recreation on West Virginia's economy and culture.

That impact is significant.

Motorsports and related activity in West Virginia generate approximately \$174.94 million in total economic output, support nearly 1,000 jobs, provide \$53.35 million in wages and benefits, and contribute \$13.70 million in state and local taxes.

More than 30 display vehicles filled the Capitol grounds, ranging from dedicated racecars and lifted trucks to side-by-sides and custom off-road builds. Over 30 businesses participated, representing the manufacturers, builders, and service providers that support the state's motorsports community.

A key focus of the day was advocacy.

Attendees met directly with legislators to support Right-to-Race legislation (SB 655/HB 4478), introduced by Sen. Mark Maynard and Del. Gary Howell. The proposed legislation is designed to protect established racetracks from nuisance lawsuits filed by individuals who move near existing facilities after operations are already in place.

The goal is simple — provide stability and certainty for racetracks, allowing them to continue hosting events, supporting local economies, and serving their communities without the ongoing threat of costly litigation.

"West Virginia understands that motorsports and off-road recreation are more than hobbies — they are part of the state's identity and a meaningful driver of economic activity," said Christian Robinson, SEMA and PRI Senior Director of State Government Affairs. "Events like this give small businesses, racers, and track operators the opportunity to connect directly with lawmakers and ensure that policies protect both competition and the facilities that make it possible."

Efforts like this continue to highlight the importance of advocacy at all levels of the sport, as industry leaders work to protect the future of racing and the facilities that make it possible.





A FEW THINGS - EDITOR'S DESK



Some folks that had an opportunity to see this speech, suggested that it be shared with all of you. It was part of a Championship Celebration on the last day of February.

Tonight, I want to start a little differently.

Fact.
A thing that is known or proved to be true.
Responsibility.
Having a duty to deal with something.
Being accountable.
Accountability.
Owning your actions.
Integrity.
Doing what is right, even when it isn't easy.

Ethics.
The principles that govern our behavior.

And finally...

What does it mean to be human?
To be human means we are emotional.
We are passionate.
We are imperfect.
We make mistakes.
We learn.
We grow.
We try to find meaning in what we do.

So why read definitions at a racing banquet?
Because since 2016 — when we began this journey — I've often wondered if some of these words are fully understood in our community.

Sometimes I don't think they are.

Let me add two more.

Leadership.
The action of leading a group of people.
Respect.
Recognizing that someone deserves appropriate treatment.

Over the past several years, I've received messages — verbal interactions, texts, calls, comments — that would surprise many of you. Some of you in this room have sent them.

When someone is yelling at you, you begin to ask yourself:
Is it true? Are we really that bad?

If you saw some of what I've seen, you would understand the restraint it takes not to respond in the same tone it was delivered.

And yes — sometimes I haven't been perfect in my response. I'm human.

But those definitions help clarify what may not always be understood.
I want to recognize our officials and employees in this room tonight. If you would, please stand.

There is a unique phenomenon in our sport.

People will go to every official — including me — searching for the answer they want, not necessarily the answer they receive.

And when they don't get it, they look for someone else to change it.

Let me be clear.
These officials and employees do a job.
They stand by me.
And I stand by them.

If we get something wrong, we own it. We carry it. We fix it. And we move forward.

But we will not undermine one another to satisfy emotion in the moment or a personal belief about what someone thinks should be right.

Believing you're right is not the same as being right.

That is responsibility.
That is accountability.
That is leadership.

I recently heard something that stuck with me:

"I would rather lose honorably than win dishonorably."

Some may shrug at that. Some may scoff.

But the people who built this sport — the ones we claim to admire — lived by that creed. Somewhere along the way, parts of our industry drifted from it.

We don't have to. We shouldn't.

And we also need perspective.

For many, this is entertainment. For some, it's a hobby. For very few, it's a primary source of income.

That matters.

The sport is important — but it is not the entirety of our lives. Family matters. Friends matter. Education matters. Health matters.

The life you build outside these walls matters.

We must never lose sight of that balance.

What we have here is special.

Tracks close. Challenges arise. Rumors circulate. The reality is — no one is coming to save us.

If this sport is going to survive and thrive, it will be because of the people in rooms like this one.

We cannot move forward weighed down by division, misinformation, or unnecessary conflict. Deep down, most of us still understand honor, integrity, and responsibility.

Tonight, though, is not about conflict.

It's about accomplishment. It's about recognizing champions who competed with passion, dedication, and class. To our champions — congratulations.

Enjoy this moment. You earned it.

As we look ahead to 2026, we take another step forward. We will be on FloRacing next season — a partnership built on mutual respect for the product we present.

That is opportunity. Not just for the Series.

But for every one of you who chooses to be part of something bigger.

The future of this sport will be shaped by what we collectively decide to stand for.

Fact. Responsibility. Integrity. Leadership. Respect.

Those aren't just words.

They are choices.



2026 Season Is Underway — Are You Maximizing Your Fan Engagement?

The 2026 racing season is officially in full swing, and it's the perfect time to make sure you're taking full advantage of the tools available to keep your fans informed, engaged, and coming back for more.

This week, we want to highlight two key features available through MyRacePass that can make an immediate impact on your track or series.

Push Notifications — One of Your Most Powerful (and FREE) Tools

We've talked about push notifications before, but it's worth repeating — this is one of the most valuable tools you have, and it's completely free.

Push notifications allow you to send updates directly to your fans' mobile devices in real time.

Think about the impact of that:

- Race day reminders
- Schedule updates
- Weather alerts or cancellations
- Breaking news and announcements

All delivered instantly.

To maximize this feature, make sure your fans:

- 1. Favorite your track or series in the MyRacePass app**
- 2. Enable notifications on their device**

Encouraging fans to take these two simple steps ensures they stay connected to everything you're doing. Providing clear instructions through social media or at the track can go a long way in increasing engagement.

New Feature: Driver, Team, and Owner Points Now Available in the App

As we move deeper into the 2026 season, don't overlook one of the newer features introduced in late 2025.

You can now display:

- Driver points
- Team points
- Owner points

...directly within the MyRacePass app.

While it may seem like a small addition, this is a major convenience for fans and teams alike. No more directing people to outside sources — everything they need is now in one place. For tracks and series that utilize team or owner points, this creates a cleaner, more professional experience for your audience.

To learn how to apply team or owner points, visit:

<https://support.myracepass.com/hc/en-us/articles/115002423187-Adding-Points-and-Pay-at-the-End-of-the-Event>

Stay Connected

As always, if you have any questions or need assistance implementing these features, the MyRacePass team is ready to help.

support@myracepass.com

Taking advantage of these tools isn't just about convenience — it's about creating a better experience for your fans and competitors.

And in today's environment, that makes all the difference.



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A Few Business Reminders as We Head into 2026

Our business isn't the easiest, but it's still a business. With the start of a new season approaching, we thought it would be helpful to share a few reminders about the evolving legal and regulatory environment small businesses face heading into 2026. From employment laws to AI regulations and tax-reporting requirements, small businesses are operating in an increasingly complex landscape. Staying proactive with compliance can help avoid unnecessary penalties and disruptions.

Here are several key areas to keep in mind.

1. Employment and Labor Law Updates

- **Minimum Wage Increases:** Nearly 20 states are implementing minimum wage increases, many of which took effect January 1, 2026.
- **Worker Classification:** Enforcement around independent contractor vs. employee status continues to tighten. States such as New York and New Jersey apply strict tests like the “ABC Test.” Misclassification can result in significant fines and legal exposure.
- **Paid Leave Expansion:** Several states continue expanding paid family and medical leave requirements.
- **Retaliation Scrutiny:** Regulators are paying closer attention to management actions—such as schedule changes or reassignments—that occur after an employee raises concerns.

2. Tax and Financial Compliance

- **New Reporting Rules:** Following the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, employers should prepare for new tax reporting requirements that track **tips and overtime compensation separately**.
- **Qualified Business Income Deduction:** The **20% QBI deduction** for pass-through entities remains permanent.
- **Bonus Depreciation:** The depreciation allowance for equipment and vehicles decreases to **20% in 2026**.

- **Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI):** Although enforcement of the Corporate Transparency Act has experienced delays, businesses should continue maintaining accurate records of beneficial owners.

3. AI and Data Privacy

- **State-Level AI Regulation:** States are leading regulation of artificial intelligence, particularly in areas such as deepfakes, AI use in employment decisions, and disclosure requirements.
- **CCPA Amendments:** Updates to the **California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA)** take effect January 1, 2026, addressing automated decision-making and AI risk assessments.
- **Cybersecurity:** As AI use increases, data protection and cybersecurity measures—including security audits and employee training—are becoming more important.

4. Consumer Protection and Contracts

- **Subscription “Cancel Button” Rules:** New regulations require a clear and easily accessible cancellation option for subscription services, particularly for businesses selling to EU consumers (effective June 2026).
 - **Drip Pricing Restrictions:** Businesses must display the **full price upfront**, including fees and surcharges.
 - **Contract Reviews:** Vendor, client, and employment agreements should be reviewed to reflect current legal requirements, especially around intellectual property, payment terms, and data protection.
- #### 5. Corporate Governance

- **Update Governing Documents:** Operating agreements, bylaws, and shareholder agreements should reflect current ownership structures and operational practices.
- **Succession Planning:** With many owners nearing retirement, clear continuity planning is essential to avoid disruption.
- **Registered Agent Compliance:** Ensure your registered agent and state filings are current to prevent administrative dissolution.

Actionable Checklist for 2026

- Review worker classifications (contractor vs. employee)
- Update employee handbooks for new state laws
- Adjust payroll systems for updated reporting rules
- Review AI and data privacy policies
- Update contracts with vendors, employees, and partners

Taking time to review these areas now can help avoid costly problems later and allow you to focus on what matters most—running your business and preparing for the season ahead.



Norton Raceway Park Will Not Open for 2026 Season

The checkered flag has officially fallen on Norton Raceway Park.

The former Barberton Speedway property, sold in December to Good Luck Properties for approximately \$500,000, will not reopen for the 2026 racing season. The 27-acre facility on Barberton's east side now faces a complete dispersal of its equipment and contents.

*Kiko Auctions will conduct an online auction from **March 27 through April 2**, featuring items from across the historic speedway property, including bleachers, concession equipment, signage, and more. The auction is listed as the **"Former Barberton Speedway, Equipment and Contents Dispersal."***

The speedway, which traced its roots back roughly 80 years, passed through several ownership groups over the decades. In recent years, mounting repair costs and ongoing financial challenges made continued operation increasingly difficult.

*Property owner Keith Luck said the intent behind the purchase was to expand the neighboring **Mulch Makers of Ohio** business, while noting he had long hoped someone could keep the track operating.*

In a statement, Luck said he understood the strong connection the Barberton community has to the speedway, having grown up in the city and attended races there with his father. He added that over the years he had passed on opportunities to acquire the property in hopes that others could preserve the racetrack's operation.

Luck also pointed to the broader economic pressures that have forced other Ohio racing facilities to close, citing increasing costs such as insurance and taxes, along with growing competition for entertainment audiences.

The property will now be used to expand Mulch Makers of Ohio, a business that currently employs about 40 people. According to Luck, the expansion is expected to create additional jobs and bring further economic benefit to the local community.

For racing fans, however, the news marks the end of an era for one of the region's longtime short-track venues.



Saw this sign during a recent commute in neighborhood that is less than 15 minutes from one track and approximately 30 minutes to another. My thoughts immediately went to "Why aren't we telling this folks where the race tracks are?" We will have more details on how this works out in the future as we have reached out to see if there is an amicable solution for the neighborhood and to help promote our sport.



Racing Community Mourns the Loss of Billy Hurt

On Saturday, March 14, the racing community suffered a significant loss following an incident at Kennedale Speedway in Texas.

While the details of the incident may be discussed at a later time, today our focus remains where it belongs — on supporting one another and honoring those affected.

*We extend our sincerest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of **Billy Hurt**. Billy served as the Safety Director for the ASCS and dedicated more than 23 years to advancing safety standards within our sport. His commitment to protecting competitors, teams, and fellow officials left a lasting impact across the racing community.*

Beyond the racetrack, Billy was a firefighter in Columbia, Missouri, and a proud member of the Boonville, Missouri community — a reflection of his lifelong commitment to serving others.

His loss is deeply felt throughout motorsports, and his contributions will not be forgotten.

We also want to extend our thoughts and prayers to Jerry Myers, a World of Outlaws Safety Official who was injured in the incident. We wish Jerry strength and a full, speedy recovery.

Moments like these remind us of both the risks involved in our sport and the strength of the racing family. As difficult as this time is, we must come together, support one another, and continue to move forward — honoring Billy's legacy by striving to make our sport safer and stronger for everyone involved.





North Central Arkansas Speedway For Sale

A rare opportunity to own North Central Arkansas Speedway — an established 3/8-mile high-banked dirt track that has been operating since 1989.

Situated on approximately 27.15 acres (m/l) just off Hwy 62 and bordering scenic Crooked Creek, this versatile property offers outstanding potential for a variety of ventures. While the track is currently closed, it has a long history of hosting multiple racing divisions and operating successful Friday night events from April through October.

improvements include a 2005, 1,560-square-foot manufactured home (3 bedroom / 2 bath) that is currently tenant-occupied, a two-bay shop with concrete floors, concession stands, storage buildings, restroom facilities, grandstands, and existing infrastructure supported by three wells and septic systems.



The acreage provides additional development possibilities, including the potential for an RV park during the off-season, or the opportunity to resume racing operations and restore the facility to active use. Equipment, merchandise, and additional assets will convey with the sale.

This is a unique chance to reinvigorate an iconic Arkansas speedway and build upon its established legacy.

Collaboration Link - ncbmh.paragonreels.com/CCR/collablink/db1d082c-abd5-432f-91bd-fc6c1b021e6b/listings/results?&forMslId=NCBMH



Central Missouri Speedway For Sale

Earl and Susan Walls have owned and operated Central Missouri Speedway (CMS) in Warrensburg, Missouri, for 31 years. They have recently announced this would be he and his wife's final year at the helm of the track and that the facility is now for sale.

Along with the racetrack itself, which sits on 30-plus acres of land with a lake and diesel water pump, the purchase includes the Pub 13 Bar and Restaurant ready to operate, two concession stand buildings, the pit office building, the technical inspection and equipment storage outbuilding, and two large grandstands.



Race-related electronics includes a 10 x 20 LED message center and virtual scoring and timing board with switch and computer, and a Westhold timing and scoring system, which includes 130 transponders, scoring loop, and IDEC system, two loudspeaker announcer systems, newly installed lighting, and a new technical inspection drive-on scale and scale equipment,

Motorized equipment includes a Cat grader, two water trucks, a large and small size tractor, a box blade, tiller, Sheep's foot, two wreckers, and a push truck, The asking price is one million dollars, which includes all of the above.

The Walls will finish the season out with their current staff and previously announced schedule, which includes racing through mid-September. For 31 years, Earl and Susan Walls have hosted nearly 390 different drivers at the track and 78 different track champions, they have definitely earned their retirement wheels!

Serious inquiries about the track may be addressed to the business phone line at (816) 229-1338 between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday, or on race days (Saturdays) at Central Missouri Speedway, 5 NE, State Highway V, Warrensburg, Missouri. The sale price is one-million dollars.



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LOOKING FOR

New at RPM: Industry Job Board / Seeking Items / Services / Etc... Now Available

At the request of our friend and longtime RPM supporter **Calie Sullivan** of **WISSOTA**, we're introducing a new feature to better serve the racing industry community.

Calie inquired about listing an available position through RPM, which prompted us to create a dedicated space for **job postings and opportunities** across the motorsports industry. Whether you're hiring or seeking a position, **RPM is here to help connect the right people to the right opportunities.**

If your organization has a position open—or if you're a professional in the industry looking for your next opportunity—**don't hesitate to reach out.** We're happy to use this platform to help match talent with need.

To submit a listing or inquiry, please contact us directly.

Let's keep building the sport—together.



David Hoots Offering Assistance to Race Tracks

David Hoots of Lewisville, N.C., is offering his expertise to help race tracks refine their operations and procedures.

Hoots began his career as a NASCAR Winston Racing Series official while also working as a driver for UPS. He rose through the ranks to become the NASCAR Winston Cup Series Race Director, a role in which he developed a deep, detailed understanding of procedural standards and rulebook governance.

Since stepping away from his role with NASCAR in 2019, Hoots is now looking to lend his knowledge to short tracks across the country. His focus is on helping tracks clean up and simplify their rulebooks, ensuring clarity and consistency, and educating officials and promoters on what is essential — and what is not.

Race tracks seeking guidance on rules, procedures, or event operations can contact David Hoots directly at: TrackPositionLLC@gmail.com

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Megan Hazel - Owner

More Info

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Megan Hazel is an excellent resource with a great deal of “front line” experience in the business of short track racing during her career, with her most recent experience being at World Racing Group. She has a tremendous background in promotional efforts and customer service as well as marketing, publicity and public relations.



BAPS Motor Speedway — Open Position

Job Title: Jumbotron Content Producer

Company: BAPS Motor Speedway

Location: York County, PA

Employment Type: Part-Time, Seasonal (Event-Day Staff)

Level: Entry- to Mid-Level

BAPS Motor Speedway is seeking a **Jumbotron Content Producer** to elevate our live event fan experience through multimedia entertainment and real-time audience engagement.

Job Description

As an **In-House Technical and Jumbotron Content Producer** with a focus on live fan entertainment, you will support the BAPS competition and event team by managing video and LED playback systems. This role is essential in delivering dynamic, seamless visuals that enhance every event—driver introductions, highlight reels, sponsor-integrated graphics, replays, hype moments, and more—to create an immersive atmosphere for fans at BAPS Motor Speedway.

Key Responsibilities

- Operate the **dual-sided Jumbotron LED board** using **Motion Rocket software** for video playback, sponsor displays, full-screen content, animations, and real-time graphics during motorsport and specialty events.
- Create and cue **on-the-fly Jumbotron graphics**, including score overlays, lower-thirds, fan cams, promotional elements, and other integrated broadcast graphics.
- Collaborate with the **race director, general manager, promotional manager, and live announcers** to execute live show rundowns, synchronizing visuals with audio cues and on-track action.
- Troubleshoot technical issues, manage replay feeds, and integrate sponsor assets into live displays to increase brand visibility and engagement.

Qualifications & Requirements

- Associate's or bachelor's degree in **Content Creation, Media Production, Graphic Design**, or a related field preferred; equivalent hands-on experience in live sports events is welcome but not required.
- Proficiency with **Microsoft tools, Adobe Creative Suite**, or similar graphics and media creation/playback software.
- Ability to work **flexible, irregular hours**, including evenings, weekends, and holidays, during a **60+ event season**.
- Strong critical-thinking ability, good team collaboration skills, and a passion for **sports entertainment and fan engagement**.

Compensation & Benefits

- Part-time, seasonal position
- Compensation based on experience
- BAPS Motor Speedway hosts **60+ live events per season**, with potential opportunities for additional event days

This role provides a high-energy entry point into professional sports production, offering exposure to cutting-edge venue technologies such as Motion Rocket, MyRacePass, Orbits Live Timing, and advanced stadium video systems.

How to Apply

For more information or to express interest, please contact:

Kolten Gouse, General Manager Becky Dayton, Office Manager

BAPS Motor Speedway
690 York Rd, York Haven, PA 17370
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office@bapsmotorspeedway.com



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