



# Kevin Koval & John Bove

## Raise Awareness for Missing Children

### COVER STORY

By Jenna Caputo

Photos by Louis Torres Photography

The 10th Annual FIREBALL RUN is coming to town! The world-famous TV and internet-streaming adventure travel series is crossing into Southern Saratoga County on September 29-30th. The FIREBALL RUN is not a Reality-TV series. Labeled as “factual television,” the show is the only episodic series that films an entire, unrehearsed season in real time. For 26 episodes, the show follows 40 rally teams for eight days through eight regional areas as they compete in a legendary 2000-mile, life-sized trivia game filled with exclusive, once-in-a-lifetime adventures. Taking the road less traveled, the teams venture on an epic quest through America’s under-discovered places and obscure historic artifacts. Each destination holds a clue and a challenge that the teams must complete before moving on to the next destination.

The winners go home with bragging rights, a plastic road sign, and most importantly, the chance to bring awareness to a greater cause.

Each year the adventure is completed specifically to raise awareness for America’s missing children. Associated with the Child Rescue Network based in Florida, each team is assigned a missing child from their hometown and 1000 posters to deliver throughout the event while completing their challenges. This media campaign has so far resulted in the successful recovery of 48 missing children.

“I am very excited to welcome the FIREBALL RUN to Southern Saratoga County,” states Pete Bardunias, President/CEO of the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County (CSSC) and the lead organizer of the event for this area. “Our 17 communities plus a few of our nearest neighbors have always been a sort of ‘flyover country,’ often overlooked by travelers in their quest to reach more well-known locales. This is our chance to show people what they’ve been missing!”

Clifton Park Town Supervisor Phil Barrett agrees. “Clifton Park is excited to host a dynamic show with

a very meaningful mission of helping families across the nation. FIREBALL RUN will provide a boost to the hospitality sector of our economy and highlights new initiatives we have unveiled in 2016 in cooperation with CSSC.” In fact, the show is expected to bring over \$1 million into New York State in the form of cash and in-kind investments, as well as jump start NY tourism promotion efforts worldwide.

Welcome and farewell events are open to the public and scheduled in Ballston Spa. Details can be found at [www.southernsaratoga.org](http://www.southernsaratoga.org), [www.cliftonpark.org](http://www.cliftonpark.org) or [www.ballston.org](http://www.ballston.org). Southern Saratoga is proud to have two local contestants, Kevin Koval from Adirondack Basement Systems & John Bove from G.A. Bove Fuels, participating in the event. Learn a little more about these local teams before cheering them on during the show on [www.fireballrun.com](http://www.fireballrun.com)!

**What did you enjoy growing up?**

**KK:** The outdoors. Working on anything mechanical. I wanted to

know how everything worked. I always had to take apart all my toys as a kid.

**JB:** Baseball. Sports.

**Your job?**

**KK:** Owner of Adirondack Basement Systems – helping people get the most out of their homes by waterproofing their basement, encapsulating their crawl space, or lifting and stabilizing their home. Also involved in rehabbing distressed real estate.

**JB:** Owner of G.A. Bove Fuels – providing oils & energy services and full-service heating & air conditioning.

**How did you get into your line of work?**

**KK:** “I have been involved in construction since I was 13 years old. I was formally trained as an electrician at Hudson Valley and I started my own general construction company at the age of 24. This led to my getting involved with the Basement Systems

Network and it was one of the best decisions I could have made.”

**JB:** It was the family business. Grandfather started it in 1930. “I remember riding around with him in the oil trucks at about 5 years old.”

**Community activities?**

**KK:** Member of the Town of Halfmoon Zoning Board; Crescent Boat Club Board of Directors.

**JB:** Sponsor of G.A. Bove Fuels Charity Golf Tournament – a fundraiser for Albany Med Children’s Hospital, bringing in over \$20,000 each year to help them continue providing a comfortable atmosphere for the families that need to stay there; Saratoga County Board of Directors; Mechanicville School Board; SEDC Board of Governors

**Why the FIREBALL?**

**KK:** The president of the Chamber of Commerce first approached me about it. He said that he thought I was the perfect fit for this type of

adventure. I try to never give up an opportunity and really experience life.

**JB:** I remember watching the old Cannonball run movies. I’ve always been a car guy and into local history. I always want to help kids out. I get to see & do things I normally wouldn’t, hang with my buddy, get a week off of work. It’s a win-win for everyone!

**Team member?**

**KK:** Todd Lutinski – originally from the Albany area and now owns a Basement Systems dealership in the Boston area.

**JB:** Bill Connallon from Wilton – A propane supplier and “the only one I could stand being in a car with for 7 days!”

**What car?**

**KK:** I intend on using a 1969 Chevy panel van. It’s in the process of being restored and I’m hoping it’s done in time, but if not, I will use my pick-up.

**JB:** A 2016 Dodge Hellcat Challenger in Plum Crazy Purple. ■

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