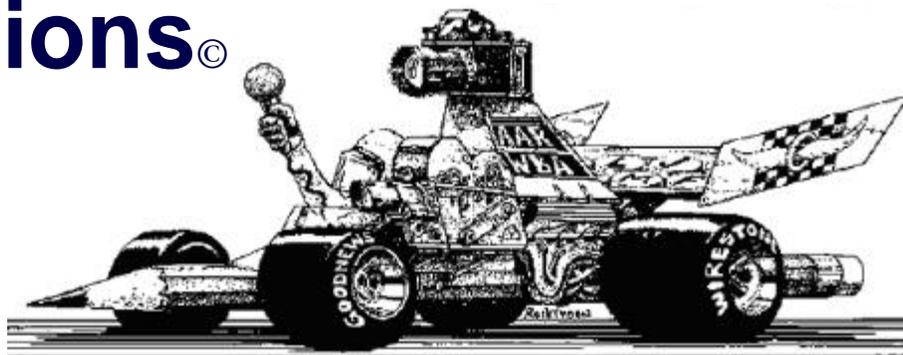


ImpRESSIONs®



The Official Newsletter Of The American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association

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2012 AARWBA ALL-AMERICA TEAM



Compiled by Patrick Reynolds, Chair All America Team

The American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association has announced its annual All America Team, which the group has done every year since the conclusion of the 1970 season.

A team of special drivers representing multiple forms of professional motorsports is elected each year by AARWBA. The association's members vote on drivers within their participating categories of racing and the top two from each discipline are elected to the first team.

This is the 2012 All-America team:

In the Open Wheel Division, **Ryan Hunter-Reay** and **Will Power** were the leading choices. Driving for Andretti Autosport, Hunter-Reay claimed his first IZOD Indy Car Series Champion this year, and Verizon Team Penske's Will Power sat on five pole positions and won three races in the series on his way to second place in 2012 points for the third consecutive season.

Two-person teams were the selections for Road Racing: **Scott Pruett** and **Memo Rojas** who drove their Telmex BMW-Riley for Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates, and **Klaus Graf/Lucas Luhr** who drove for Muscle Milk Pickett Racing. Pruett and Rojas are the 2012 Grand-Am Champs, giving owner Chip Ganassi his third straight and sixth overall Prototype title since 2004. Graf and Luhr were the ALMS 2012 LMP1 driver champions scoring six wins this season.

AARWBA 2012 All-America Team

A USAC Sprint Car Championship and seven feature victories earned **Bryan Clauson** a slot on the All America Team's Short Track division. Clauson also started the Indianapolis 500 as the 2011 USAC National Champion. **Donny Schatz** is the other Short Track Division representative on the strength of his fifth World of Outlaws Sprint Car title. In 2012 Schatz claimed 11 A-Main victories, 39 top-five, and 60 top-ten finishes.

Brad Keselowski led the All American First Team voting in the Stock Car category as well as all divisions across the ballot. The 2012 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion earned the most votes of any driver during the voting process. **Jimmie Johnson** fills out the other position with a third-place Sprint Cup standings finish, five points-paying wins, and the All Star Race win.

Antron Brown and Jack Beckman are the Drag Racing Category representatives. Brown piloted Don Schumacher Racing's Matco Tools Dragster to six wins in 11 Final Round appearances and earned his first NHRA Top Fuel crown. Beckman made it a sweep for DSR as he won the NHRA Funny Car title with three Final Round triumphs.

In the Touring Series, **James Buescher** is recognized for his NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Championship. Driving for Turner Motorsports, Buescher visited Victory Lane four times in the series following his dramatic last-lap win in the Daytona NASCAR Nationwide Series race. The driving duo of **Emil Assentato and Jeff Segal** won the 2012 Rolex Grand Am Series /GT Class in the AIM Autosport Team FXDD with Ferrari. They claimed wins in Miami, New Jersey, and Road America.

Johnny O'Connell and Tristan Vautier were the At Large category's top vote earners. O'Connell chauffeured Cadillac Racing's machine to a win in St. Petersburg and two wins in Detroit on his way to the Pirelli World Challenge GT Championship. San Schmidt Motorsports enjoyed the 2012 Indy Lights crown with Vautier leading them to four wins, five poles, and leading over half of the laps contested during the entire series.

NHRA Funny Car driver **Courtney Force** was voted the Rising Star award after finishing fifth in the Championship Countdown. She also won the NHRA's Road to the Future Award with four final-round appearances, two number-one qualifying awards, and a win in the Northwest Nationals.

One other tradition that AARWBA has followed is to elect a **Second Team** to be honored along with the above All-America winners. Here are the categories and names of that illustrious group of drivers:

Open Wheel: **Dario Franchitti and Scott Dixon/Helio Castroneves (tie)**

Road Racing: **Chris Dyson/Guy Smith (team) and Ryan Dalziel**

Short Track: **Bobby East and Darrell Lanigan**

Stock Car: **Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Clint Bowyer**

Drag Racing: **Tony Schumacher and Ron Capps**

Touring Series: **Ricky Johnson and Oliver Gavin/Tommy Milner (team)**

At Large: **Frank Manzo and Jimmy Owens**

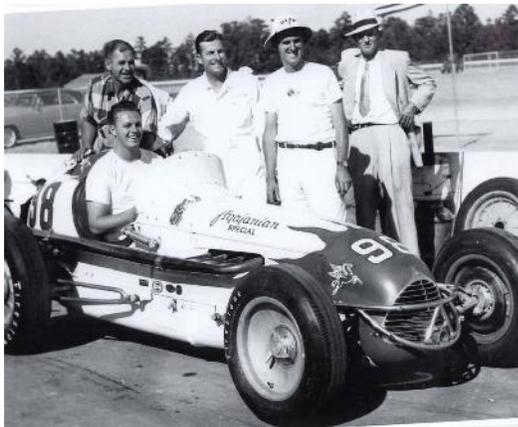
The country's top forms of professional motorsports are represented in this championship group voted on by AARWBA as the 2012 All America Team.

Founded in 1955 AARWBA is a motorsports organization comprised of writers, broadcasters, photographers, and other media-related professionals. The organization's charter is aimed at providing not only proper recognition for members of the motorsports media, but to recognize their work as well as the work of the competitors that they follow in print, on the air, and on film.



California Gold

By Bob Gates



A new book, California Gold, The Legendary Life of Troy Ruttman, authored by AARWBA member, Bob Gates, has just been released and is receiving great reviews. Ruttman is considered by many, including his peers, like Dan Gurney, Parnelli Jones, Rodger Ward, Bobby Unser and Jim Rathmann, as the most naturally talented driver this country has ever produced.

Ruttman rose to the height of celebrity and accomplishment, winning two CRA Roadster Championships, a URA Midget Championship, the AAA National Sprint Car championship, and the Indianapolis 500 by the time he was 22 years old.

Shortly after his Indianapolis victory, Ruttman injured his arm in a freak sprint car accident, that cost him nearly two years of his career, and put him on a downward spiral of personal hardships, fueled by alcoholism, that cost him his family, and fortune.

He pulled himself out of that tailspin, but in what became a pattern in his life, he would routinely land in the pit of despair, only to claw himself back to the top, as he dealt with the loss of his 18 year old son in a racing accident, saw multiple marriages dissolved, and fortunes loss.

Yet his battles back are what makes his story inspiring, and fascinating. Gates chronicles it all with the help of Troy's family, including his first wife, and his daughter, and racing legends like Bobby Unser, Dan Gurney, and Parnelli Jones, who considered him not only a hero but a personal friend.

The book retails for \$40, and the 240 pages, and more than 200 photos, are printed on gloss, high quality paper. It is available through the publisher, Pitstop books at www.pitstopbooks.com Costal 181, www.costal181.com, and various auto racing museums and book stores, including at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

A few comments:

Bob:

"A nice job on the Ruttman book. As they say, once I picked it up I couldn't put it down. I appreciate the fact you were so thorough despite the fact you didn't get a chance to interview him. Most bios have "holes" in them. It looks like you left little out."

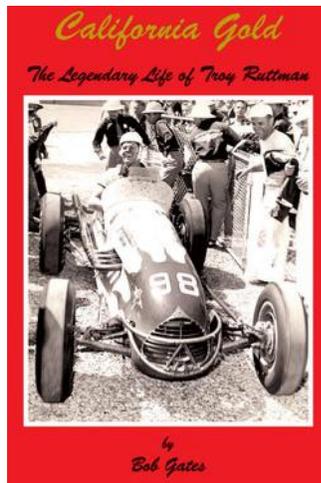
- Gary London, National Speed Sport News



Dear Bob,

"Thank you very much for sending me the Troy Ruttman book. I look forward to reading it slowly and carefully to savor all the contents from a time that is gone, and a Hero driver the fans idolized.... I was one of his biggest fans."

All the best, Dan Gurney



"I want to give a shout of congratulations to my pal Bob Gates for his new book "California Gold." It's a very enjoyable read on the life of the great Troy Ruttman. I met Troy a few times early in my career and he was indeed a fascinating man who lived an extraordinary life."

- Dave Argabright, Auto Racing Journalist

For those interested in getting a copy of my father's book, they can email me : tnttoddy@gmail.com. The price which includes shipping is \$46.00.

Thank you so much for your support.

Toddy Ruttman Kloos



American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association, Inc. (www.aarwba.org)

"Dedicated To Increasing Media Coverage Of Motor Sports"



News & Notes

AARWBA Member Takes Montagu Trophy For The Second Time



AARWBA member, Ian Wagstaff has won the Mercedes-Benz award for the Montagu of Beaulieu Trophy for the second time. At the Guild of Motoring Writers' Annual Dinner in the RAC, Pall Mall, London last week, Ian was presented with this prestigious prize for his biography of former Grand Prix mechanic, Tony Robinson. Tony was one of the foremost racing mechanics of the 1950s and 1960s. He worked for Stirling Moss – who described him as “an important contribution to my racing successes” - and eventually designed the BRP cars for Formula One and the Indianapolis 500.

Ian, who first won the Montagu Trophy in 2006 for his book, 'The British at Le Mans', is now working on a series of books for Haynes Publishing – best known for its owner's workshop manuals – about famous racing cars. The first of these, on the iconic Lotus 72 of the early 1970s, was published earlier this year and he is now writing one on the McLaren M23. This was the car that took James Hunt to the World Championship in 1976, a season that will be the subject of the eagerly awaited feature film, *Rush!*, scheduled for launch next season.

The Montagu Trophy is awarded to the member of the Guild of Motoring Writers who has made the “greatest contribution to recording, in the English language, the history of motoring” during the year. Ian's 2012 winning book, *Tony Robinson – the biography of a race mechanic*, is published by Veloce.

Photo caption: Ian Wagstaff (centre) receives the 2012 Montagu Trophy from Doug Hill (right) chief engineer at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu. Mercedes-Benz PR manager Angus Fitton (left) was also on hand for the presentation.

Doug Stokes Now At Irwindale Event Center



Doug Stokes recently sent Dusty this note:

A quick note to all of my friends and colleagues at AARWBA:

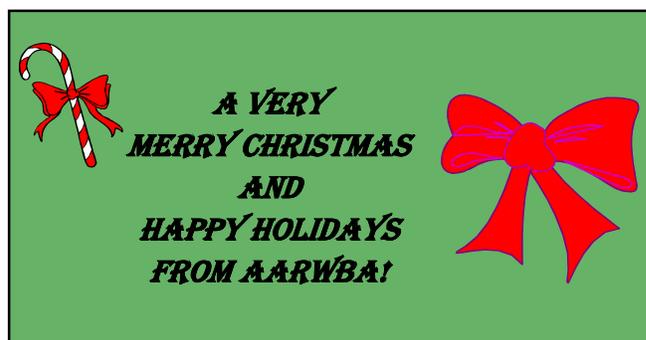
As many of you have heard by now, I've just signed-on to be a part of the new administrative/operations team at Irwindale Speedway (new overall name: Irwindale Event Center).

We're going to need a lot of good will and support to bring this great venue back to full function. I want all of you to know that we encourage and welcome your ideas and participation at this facility.

This is truly a new day for everyone involved.

Thanks very much!
- Doug Stokes

PS - I'm really going to miss working directly with my very dear friend and long-time colleague Stuart Rowlands, but he understands this transition. I fully expect that our professional "roads" will cross often and with good effect for all in future days ...



Naoki Shigenobu Comes Close, Real Close

Submitted by Dick Mittman

Japanese writer/photographer Naoki Shigenobu was only 40 some seconds away from the greatest story and pictures of his journalistic career.

Shigenobu has been covering the Indianapolis 500 since countryman Hiro Matsushita qualified for the world's most famous auto race in 1991. His 20-year longevity allowed him in early June to become the first of his race to become one of the new members of the Indianapolis 500 Oldtimers Association.

Now it was the start of the white flag lap at Indy on May 27 and countryman Takuma Sato was chasing down the leader, two-time champion Dario Franchitti, as the Scotsman cut low speeding into Turn 1. Sato dived even lower.

If Sato makes the pass most likely he would be the champion of the 96th Indy 500. And Shigenobu would be writing and snapping pictures that would be spread across the front page of papers from one end of Japan to the other.

Suddenly, similarly to JR Hildebrand in 2011, Sato's car went spinning around, grazed Franchitti's car and slammed the outside wall.

And just as abruptly Shigenobu had a 17th finisher to write about and photograph.

Some time later, Shigenobu snapped a picture of car owner Bobby Rahal with his arms wrapped around and consoling the dispirited Sato.

"He's a very, very popular driver in Japan, a legend," Shigenobu said a few days earlier.

Though Sato didn't win, he gave a banzai try and earned the respect of the large crowd at the track that Sunday and certainly added to his legendary status in his homeland. And Shigenobu, undoubtedly was as crest-fallen as Sato, carried out his reporter and photographic assignments with true professionalism.

Fifty years after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 to start a war that closed down the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for five years Hiro Matsushita in 1991 became the first Japanese race driver to qualify for the Indy 500. Driving the family business-sponsored Panasonic Lola Buick, Matsushita started 24th and finished 16th. He completed 149 laps but was still running when winner Rick Mears took the checkered flag.

Joining Matsushita in the field in 1994 was countryman Hideshi Matsude. Fellow Japanese following those drivers since have been Shigeaki Hattori, Tora Takagi, U.S.-born Roger Yasukawa, Shinji Nakano, Kosuke Matsuura, Hideki Matoh and Sato. Combined they have competed in 28 races with a best finish of fifth by Takagi in 2003.

Shigenobu has chronicled all their successes and failures for the avid Japanese fans.

"I'm working for Japanese auto sports magazine," he said, "and Response JP, a big website in Japan. I am reporting everyday.

"Hiro was the first Japanese driver. He is still my good friend."

Shigenobu was born in 1969 and notes he is the same age as Jean Alesi, the 47-year-old French "rookie" in this year's race.

On his first trip to Indy Shigenobu said the late photographer Art Flores "took care of me very, very much." He said his Indy was very emotional for him.

"I watch Indy 500 on TV every year," he said. "Foyt won, Johnny Rutherford won. This was when I was in high school. I take photos and write."

He took English in school, but says Japanese have trouble speaking in the language.

"We can read and we can write English," he explained.

Shigenobu actually traveled the entire racing circuit for several years. He, of course, saw Danica Patrick become the first woman to win an Indy car race by beating the men in Japan.

"We don't have a good female driver in Japan," he said. "Still, Japan people think motor racing for men."

Most noted personage of Japanese nationality at the Speedway prior to the influx of drivers was Chicki Hirashima, chief mechanic on Walt Faulkner's car in 1953.

An AARWBA member since 1992, Shigenobu was ecstatic about being able to become a member of the 500 Oldtimers Association.

"I'm very, very proud," he said.





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"Dedicated To Increasing Media Coverage of Motor Sports"

The AARWBA is the oldest and largest professional organization of its kind. Founded in 1955 in Indianapolis, it has grown to more than 400 members throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. Each year the AARWBA members select a 14-driver All America Team from Open Wheel, Stock Car, Sports Car, Drag Racing, Short Track, Touring Series and At Large championship categories. An annual banquet is held to honor these drivers each January. AARWBA also sponsors several contests for its members and established the "Legends in Racing" auto racing hall of fame.

AARWBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Name:		Date:
Company:		
Title:		
Business Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone:	E-mail:	FAX:

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Home address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone:	E-Mail:	FAX:
Preferred Mailing Address: HOME OFFICE (Please note that our newsletter, "ImpRESSIONs", is sent via e-mail)		
Preferred E-Mail Address For Newsletter:		

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

Media Professional (\$45.00)	Affiliate Member (\$65.00)	Associate / Corporate (\$300.00)
Signature of applicant:		Date:

Active Media Member

Applicants for active media membership status must submit the following materials to the membership committee for consideration. Materials must be submitted with your check.

- ✓ A fully executed membership application. (This information will appear in the membership directory unless you specify otherwise. Attach a note to this application if necessary.)
- ✓ Two 1" x 1.5" head shot pictures for use in the directory and for an I.D. badge.
- ✓ Tear sheets or samples of work as follows:
 - Two published articles on the subject of auto racing in a publication of general circulation within the past year.
 - Photographs on auto racing appearing in two publications of general circulation or two separate times in one publication, within the past year.
 - One video or audio tape of any race broadcast where spectators attended and exhibited the applicant's work within the past year.
 - One book on the subject of auto racing within the past year or three books on the subject of auto racing, or one book contracted from any trade publisher for a book on auto racing



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Open to public relations, team representatives, motorsports advertising personnel. Full voting rights and privileges except to hold office.

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Open to any person, regardless of affiliation or professional orientation, who is interested in furthering the aims of the American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association and/or motorsports in general. Corporate membership is limited to three (3) non-voting memberships for the \$300 fee.

Mail completed application, photos, and your check to the address shown above.

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