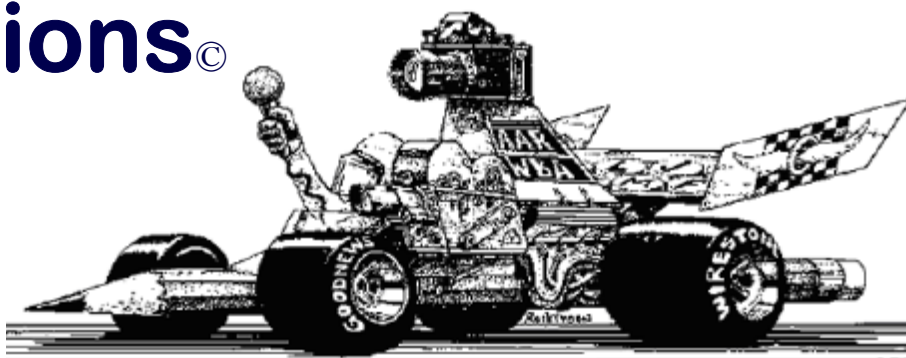


ImPRESSIONS[©]



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

January 2008



Vol. 41 No. 1



Dario Franchitti with AARWBA's highest honor,
the Jerry Titus Memorial Trophy
Photo: Dan R. Boyd

Journalism Contest Entry Deadline January 31

There are **revised rules** and **new categories!** Go to aarwba.org and click on "Contest" to review the rules/categories and download an entry form. Total prize money has increased **25 percent** thanks to the **Indianapolis Motor Speedway** and **IndyCar Series**.



Full coverage of the 38th All-America
Team ceremony presented by
A1GP World Cup of Motorsports.

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Dave Densmore (center) happily accepts the
Jim Chapman Award from Michael Knight (left)
and Paul Page.
Photo: Dan R. Boyd

American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association, Inc. (www.aarwba.org)
"Dedicated To Increasing Media Coverage Of Motor Sports"

All-America Dinner Report

Dario Franchitti, who won the Indianapolis 500 and IndyCar Series championship and then moved on to NASCAR, was announced as recipient of the Jerry Titus Memorial Trophy for 2007 at the 38th annual AARWBA All-America Team ceremony, presented by A1GP World Cup of Motorsport, on January 12.

The Titus is earned by the driver who receives the most All-America Team votes cast by AARWBA members. Named in memory of the late journalist and professional racer, it is AARWBA's highest honor.

Emerson Fittipaldi, the legendary Indy-Formula One-Champ Car champion, was the featured speaker. Approximately 200 members, guests and VIPs were in attendance at the Hyatt Regency ballroom in downtown Indianapolis.

"It makes me very proud to receive the Titus Award," said Franchitti, who accepted from President Dusty Brandel. "2007 was a wonderful season for me, and awards like this will help to remind me of what I was able to achieve with my team. Thanks to all my friends who voted for me in the media."

Other Team drivers on-hand to claim their "Horsepower" Trophies were: Tony Schumacher and Tony Pedregon (drag racing); Jon Fogarty and Scott Pruett (road racing); Mika Salo, Jaime Melo and Alex Lloyd (at-

large); and Frank Kimmel (touring series). Also elected were Sebastien Bourdais (open wheel); Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon (stock car); Donny Schatz and Jerry Coons Jr. (short track); Alex Gurney (road racing) and Ron Hornaday Jr. (touring).

Several special awards were presented: Pioneer In Racing Award: Carl A. Haas, one of motorsports' most successful team owners and entrepreneurs, was honored for longtime dedication and achievement that have made a difference in the sport. The Pioneer is one of AARWBA's oldest and most prestigious awards and is not given every year. Dinner Chairman Michael Knight made the introduction and presentation.

Jim Chapman Award: Dave Densmore and Bob Carlson received the honor for excellence in motorsports public relations. It is named in memory of Chapman, the late legendary PR executive, who was Babe Ruth's PR rep and director of racing for CART series sponsor PPG Industries. Densmore, who has represented John Force and his sponsors for many years, and Carlson, the veteran Porsche Cars North America publicist, were chosen by a blue-ribbon committee of journalists, all of whom knew Chapman. It's the first time two people have been honored in the same year. The plaques were presented by Knight, Mike Harris and Paul Page, all close friends of Chapman.

Continued on next page

This month's issue of **ImpRESSIONs** is sponsored by



Edelman is the largest independent PR agency, with 46 offices and 2800 employees worldwide. Edelman Motorsports is part of the Edelman's Sports and Sponsorship Department, and established its presence in Charlotte in July 2007, offering PR services, marketing, media relations, sponsorship negotiation, and program activation.

Steve Brown- Charlotte 704-696-2800

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Dinner Report Continued

Dusty Brandel President's Award: Robert (Rocky) Enriken, journalist and longtime chairman of the All-America Team selection committee, received the honor from Brandel. Enriken was acknowledged for his many contributions to the organization.

Gorsline Scholarship: The 15th annual scholarship, given by John Gorsline of The Gorsline Co., went to 19-year-old Star Mazda series champion Dane Cameron. The prize is awarded to an up-and-coming driver who displays the attributes of a future champion. Cameron became the first rookie to win the overall series championship. Vicki O'Connor, managing director of the Champ Car Atlantic series, made the presentation on behalf of John Gorsline.

A1GP Chief Commercial Officer Scott Hollingsworth greeted guests on behalf of the evening's new presenting sponsor. The international, 10-race, A1GP open-wheel series matches driver vs. driver, country vs. country. A1GP brings together 22 nations to compete on an equal basis.

A special audio-visual tribute was offered in memory of members Bill France Jr., Wally Parks and Shav Glick. Several speakers participated in the new Shav Glick Newsmakers Forum, where Franchitti received his Indy 500 winner's ring from IMS President Joie Chitwood and Dario's image on the Borg-Warner Trophy was unveiled. The pre-dinner reception was co-host-



Dario Franchitti studies his image on the Borg-Warner Trophy

Photo by Steve Snoddy

ed by ESPN, MAZDASPEED, Budweiser and Edelman Motorsports.

Popular announcer Bob Jenkins was Master of Ceremonies. Army SFC John Adams and Indianapolis 500 Oldtimers Club executive director Jack Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bob Carlson Thanks AARWBA

"I'm terribly disappointed at not being able to personally accept this wonderful award from you this evening. I'm in the final stages of recuperation from successful cancer surgery and expect to be up and about within the next month. At the same time, I'm very pleased to have my old friend Mike Harris accept this award on my behalf.

"I can't begin to tell you how much this prestigious award means to me. I knew Jim Chapman during the years Porsche raced on the CART circuit. My initial impression was how much he enjoyed supervising the all-female PPG pace car program. He always had a smile on his face and was an extremely popular man at the track.

"But Jim was much more than a host. Jim Chapman was the consummate public relations professional. He was always truthful and credible. Jim added a great deal to the CART series. It was clear he loved what he did and was always willing to do what it would take to enhance the series for everyone's benefit. He was willing to put as much INTO racing as he received FROM it. I believe this was one of his criteria for being a public relations professional. And that is why I am so honored and grateful to receive this award named after Jim Chapman.

"I would like to thank the voting committee for their support. I would also like to thank Michael Knight for organizing and maintaining this award that honors Jim Chapman's memory and highly professional work ethic. And finally, I would like to thank Porsche and Porsche Cars North America for allowing me to represent them and provide counsel to them for the past 23 years. For me, this is truly a dream job.

"I look forward to seeing you at the races this year."

Dinner Photos



Carl Haas proudly displays his Pioneer In Racing Award.



All-America Team group photo: (Top row, left-to-right): Tony Schumacher, Dario Franchitti, Featured Speaker Emerson Fittipaldi, Jaime Melo, Alex Lloyd, Jon Fogarty. (Bottom row): Scott Pruett, Tony Pedregon, Carl Haas, Dane Cameron, Mika Salo, Frank Kimmel.

Both photos on this page by Dan R. Boyd

Seen and Heard at the Ceremony

Tom Anderson, co-owner of Lowe's Fernandez Racing, and Michael Knight, dinner chairman, shook hands before the dinner on a two-year renewal for sponsorship of the Straight Shooters Award, in memory of Art Flores and Ron Hussey. The photographer winner will continue to receive a \$500 prize from Lowe's Fernandez Racing at the May breakfast meeting before the Indy 500. AARWBA thanks Tom, Adrian Fernandez and Tamy Valkosky.



During his Featured Speaker remarks, Emerson Fittipaldi revealed the news that A1GP World Cup of Motorsport will launch a new series, A2, which will be a national championship -- including the U.S. Watch for more details from our new dinner presenting sponsor. If you haven't done it yet, check out the media website, www.A1GP.com/press.

Be sure to watch for the February newsletter, where AARWBA members will have the chance to vote on the Champ Car Atlantic 35th Anniversary All-Star Team.

AARWBA thanks Don Helms, who put in a lot of effort on the dinner A-V package on very short notice. Don has a lot of experience in TV, sales/marketing and PR. Contact him at DonHelms@earthlink.net.

Members said they considered the inaugural Shav Glick Newsmakers Forum a success. We will try to build on this to make the Forum a recognized venue for important news announcements prior to future Team dinners. Journalists heard from A1GP, MAZDASPEED, Champ Car Atlantic, , IndyCar Series and ESPN before presentation of the Indy 500 winner's ring to Dario Franchitti and unveiling of his image on the Borg-Warner Trophy.

Our tribute to Bill France Jr., Wally Parks and Shav Glick was set to the Academy Award-winning theme music from the classic John Wayne movie, *The High and the Mighty*.

A membership form was included in the program book and Mike Geylin, president of Kermish-Geylin PR, submitted applications **during** the ceremony for Fred Hammond and Jimin Yoo. There are now five AARWBA members on the staff. Thank you, Mike! Welcome, Fred and Jimin!

AARWBA thanks the following people for their help in arranging for drivers and other VIPs to be present or helped in other ways:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| * Chris Dirato | * Dean Case |
| * Andy Hall | * Jerry Archambeault |
| * Anthony Vestal | * Sophia Kokonas |
| * Jim Sullivan | * David Higdon |
| * Sharon Zeeck | * Bob Dickinson |
| * Tyra Sitton | * Stacie Shain |
| * Mike Geylin | * Andy Schupack |
| * Adam Saal | * Reece White |

Special thanks to Kelby Krauss, who made an exceptional effort in staying on top of the details and working to help get Dario and Scott there.

Dave Densmore, the Jim Chapman Award winner, kindly brought John Force Racing Ford Mustang drivers Robert Hight and Mike Neff. Bob Carlson, also the Chapman winner, was unable to attend as he continues to recover from cancer surgery. Bob did listen to the ceremony via cell phone.

Standing ovations went to Carl Haas, the Pioneer In Racing Award winner, and Dario Franchitti, Jerry Titus Memorial Trophy winner.

Spotted in the audience: Bob Stallings, owner of the Rolex Series champion Gainsco team; IndyCar driver Ryan Hunter-Reay; Mike Lewis, Don Schumacher Racing senior VP; Ralph Hansen, Carl Haas' ace sponsor relations man; famed open-wheel team manager/chief mechanic Jim McGee; Star Mazda driver Eric McCombs; Clorox Ford development driver (USAC midgets) Stephanie Mockler; father-son driver combo Mark Dismore Sr. and Jr.; O'Reilly Raceway Park GM Ron Anderson and Valvoline's Barry Bronson. And it was great to see former AARWBA President Jim Wilson, who is recovering from cancer surgery and a heart attack.

AARWBA again thanks our evening sponsors: A1GP World Cup of Motorsport, the dinner presenting sponsor. Plus the reception co-hosts: ESPN, MAZDASPEED, Budweiser and Edelman Motorsports. Fiona McLachlan, A1GP Head of Media, flew in from London. Stuart Morrison, media contact for A1 Team Canada, also was there. Both were key in forging the new A1GP-AARWBA relationship. Tim Tuttle, PR for A1 Team USA, introduced driver Jonathan Summerton at the Forum.

- Michael Knight

Dinner Photos

All Photos this page by Steve Snoddy



John Doonan, MAZDASPEED business development manager, reveals details of the automaker's 2008 program at the Shav Glick Newsmakers Forum



Indy Pro Series drivers who will advance to IndyCars: Alex Lloyd (left), Hideki Mutoh (center) and Jay Howard at the Shav Glick Newsmakers Forum



Dario Franchitti gets his Open-Wheel Horsepower Trophy from Midwest VP Ron Lemasters



Dario Franchitti accepts his Indy 500 winner's ring from IMS President Joie Chitwood



MC Bob Jenkins (left) watches as Jack Martin and Army SFC John Adams lead the Pledge of Allegiance

Dinner Photos

All Photos This Page By Steve Snoddy



Bob Jenkins asks Alex Lloyd a question



Mika Salo (left) and Jaime Melo accept from Eastern VP Lewis Franck



Rocky Enriken gets the Dusty Brandel President's Award from Dusty



Scott Hollingsworth, chief commercial officer of dinner presenting sponsor A1GP World Cup of Motorsport, offers his greetings

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www.aarwba.org for details**

News & Notes

Mike Hollander Resting After Hospital Stay

Michael F. Hollander, 61, the motorsports journalist who effectively invented online racing news reporting in 1979, has been diagnosed with a form of colon cancer external to the colon. Hollander is resting at home after a brief stay at Little Company of Mary Hospital in Torrance, Calif.



"I'm going to fight this with the help and support of my family and friends," said Hollander. "I'm amazed at the number of people who have called or written."

In 1979, Hollander worked with the then-fledgling CompuServe Information Service to provide motor sports news on a real-time basis worldwide. By Sept. 1, 1983, that service evolved into the Auto Racing SIG and later into The Motor Sports Forum. The service initially relied on volunteer reporters and phone calls to race tracks to get racing results, later creating a cadre of top professionals and talented amateurs that continues to report the news today. In 1995, Hollander brought the service to the web, as www.motorsportsforum.com The Motor Sports Forum. The service was discontinued on CompuServe not long after that service's purchase by AOL. In addition to The Motor Sports Forum, the newswire contributes to print and online news outlets throughout the world.

He has authored two books, *The Complete Datsun Guide*, and *The New Mazda Guide*, both for the TAB Books division of McGraw-Hill. The Datsun book led him from a career path in aerospace to one in marketing and advertising. He worked as product information manager and later as product information director on the Nissan advertising account at William Esty Co. Inc., Advertising and at Chiat/Day Advertising. He is currently the manager of information resources for PCGCampbell, the 10th largest privately-held marketing communications company in the United States. Current accounts include the Wally Parks NHRA Motorsports Museum, presented by the Auto Club of So. Calif., Yokohama Tire Corporation, the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and Tesla Motors, manufacturer of the high-performance electric sports car.

He was one of two reporter/photographers to cover both the 1975 and 1979 Cannonball Sea to Shining Sea

Memorial Trophy Dash, an outlaw street race later made into several motion pictures. His work appears in the upcoming film, *32 Hours, Seven Minutes*.

Hollander is the national vice-president of the AARWBA and the secretary of the Motor Press Guild (MPG), respectively the largest organizations of motor sports and automotive journalists. He has been honored with numerous awards for his work, including special recognition in 1995 to the *Car Craft* magazine Drag Racing All Star Awards; the AARWBA Dusty Brandel President's Award in 2007; the International Automotive Media Association Awards; and the AARWBA writing, photography and broadcasting contest sponsored by the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and IndyCar Racing. He is the past chairman of the Datsun Owners Clubs Association (DOCA) and the former editor of its magazine, *Datsunews*. He is the editor at large for *MotoRacing* and also writes for *Automotive Performance News*. He's been quoted in *The New York Times*, *USA Today* and *AutoWeek*. Early in his career, he provided racing reports on both NBC and ABC radio networks and on other radio outlets.

He is a veteran of the United States Navy, where he earned a Combat Action Ribbon, the Navy Unit Commendation with one bronze star, the Good Conduct Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with four bronze stars, the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal from the Republic of Vietnam. After tours to Vietnam on the USS Coral Sea, the USS Oriskany and the USS Prime, he attended the Data Systems Technician school in Vallejo, Calif. and then taught at the school for four years.

Hollander is married to Dr. Sandra Horwitz, Optometrist. They have one daughter, Sharon, who is a student in the South Bay Academy. The family belongs to Temple Menorah in Redondo Beach.



Figler Wins Honorable Mention

AARWBA member Don Figler was recently honored with an Honorable Mention in the Photographic Society of America Photojournalism Inter-Club Competition results for November, 2007. His winning photo - a dynamic action shot of a speedboat flipping over - appears above. As Don noted, "This award was a nice way to end the year!"

News & Notes

Norm Froscher Enters NHRA Hall Of Fame

Veteran motorsports writer and free lance contributor Norm Froscher of Gainesville FL, has been voted into NHRA's Southeast Division 2 Hall of Fame.

Froscher, 77, joins competitors Billy Jacobs of Enterprise, Ala. (Pro) and Roy Johnson of Greenville, Tenn. (Sportsman) in the Hall, which is celebrating its Silver or 25th anniversary this season. Johnson is the father of NHRA POWERade Pro Stock competitor Allen Johnson.

The Hall is one of the two oldest in NHRA.

The trio will be inducted at a ceremony at Orlando's Florida Hotel and Conference Center Jan. 5 and then their names will be placed on an obelisk of honor at Don Garlits Drag Racing Museum in Ocala, FL. Oh, yeah, Garlits was an early inductee to the Hall.



The honor is the latest for Froscher, who began his writing career in 1953 after graduation from the University of Florida and posts which included assistant sports editor of the Jacksonville Journal and executive sports editor of the Gainesville Sun.

Froscher received NHRA's Media Award in 1976, had the Gainesville Raceway pressroom named in his honor, then is recipient of the Driver of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award and a recognition salute from Bristol Dragway. Along the way, he received the Ray Marquette Memorial Award, Bloys Britt Memorial Writing Award and served as president of both the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association and the Florida Sports Writers and Broadcasters.

Froscher will be presented at the banquet by long-time friend, Rockingham Dragway President Steve Earwood.

Further information is available from NHRA Div. 2 Director Bill Holt at (352) 374--9922.

The web site is <http://www.NHRADiv.2.com>

Outback Andy Recovering From Heart Attack

Robbyn Foster sent us this note:

"To the Speedway World please keep Aussie Track Announcer Outback Andy [Andrew Foster] in your prayers as last week he had a heart attack landing him in hospital for 3 days, and further tests show he has a mass on his left lung, tests in the next 2 weeks will give us a better idea if it is cancer or not.

"Anyone knowing Andrew would know having him in hospital is equal to putting a lion in a cage, He could not wait to get home and start planning for the 2008 season at Altamont Motor Sports Park Tracy California as a Track Announcer for the 5th year.

"The good news is Andy and Robbyn have just purchased a new 34 ft motor home which will serve as a mobile office on race days and a place for Robbyn to hang out during the long days at the race track .Our next road trip planned subject to Andy's health will be a round of the World Of Outlaws at Tulare in late February. Once again please keep Outback Andy in your prayers."

Robbyn and Andrew Foster.
Outback Promotions
1949 Don Pedro Road
Ceres California 95307
1 650 766 2159

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New Categories! Bigger Prizes!

www.aarwba.org for details

Don Radbruch Passes

Donald Walter Radbruch passed away on 01/01/2008 after a long illness. In 1948 Don began racing, winning the American Racing Association's Sprint Car Championship in 1951. Don continued to race with the Bay Cities Racing Association Midget Cars until 1967.

After retiring as a Soil Engineer in the mid 1980's, Don wrote three books preserving the early history of auto racing, Roaring Roadsters, Roaring Roadsters II and Dirt Track Racing.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made the National Sprint Car Museum Foundation for the development of an automobile racing history research library. You may contact the Foundation at 1-800-874-4488.

Dinner Photos

All Photos This Page By Steve Snoddy



Featured Speaker Emerson Fittipaldi wows the audience



Vicki O'Connor gives The Gorsline Scholarship to Dane Cameron



Jon Fogarty (left) receives his Horsepower Trophy from Southern VP Mike Harris



Frank Kimmel (left) takes his Touring Series award from Dick Mittman

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Dinner Photos

All Photos This Page By Steve Snoddy



Scott Pruett (left) gets his Road Racing category award from Mike Harris



Top Fuel champ Tony Schumacher entertains the audience from the podium



Dusty hands over the Titus plaque to Dario Franchitti



NHRA Funny Car champion Tony Pedregon accepts from Western VP Susan Wade