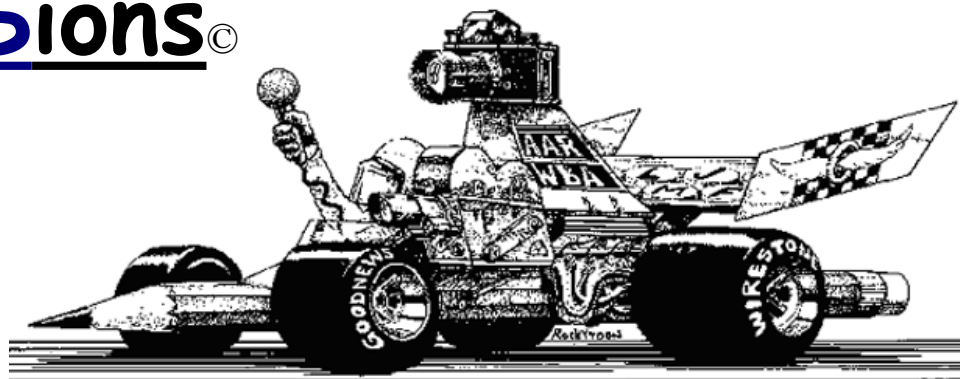


ImpRESSIONs[©]



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

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Vol. 40 No. 1

**2006 Jerry Titus Memorial
Trophy To Tony Schumacher!**

**FORD Contest Deadline
Extended To January 31st
See Page 11**



Photo by Ron McQueeney



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2006 Jerry Titus Memorial Trophy To Tony Schumacher! Top Fuel Titlist 4th Drag Racer to Win Top Award; All-America Team Drivers Honored by Media Group; Grand-Am/ALMS Join to Salute Champion Road Racers

Tony Schumacher, who won his third consecutive NHRA Top Fuel championship on the last pass at the season's last race in one of the greatest comebacks in sports history, was announced as recipient of the Jerry Titus Memorial Trophy for 2006 at the Jan. 13 37th annual AARWBA All-America Team dinner in Indianapolis.



Tony Schumacher gets his Titus plaque from Dusty Brandel

Jack Roush, one of NASCAR's most successful and influential team owners, was the featured speaker. Approximately 250 members, guests and VIPs were in attendance at the Hyatt Regency ballroom for the ceremonies. The Titus is presented to the driver who received the most All-America Team votes and Schumacher accepted from President Dusty Brandel, who said, "Tony's comeback to win the NHRA Top Fuel championship was the stuff of legends, the kind of story that captures the imagination of fans and media alike." "Winning the Jerry Titus Trophy is definitely a big moment in my career," said Schumacher. "I got a chance recently to look at the list of previous winners and the names there were just stunning – Al Unser, A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt were just a few that popped off the page. To become a member of such an elite club is awesome."

Schumacher becomes just the fourth drag racer to earn AARWBA's No. 1 honor, joining Don Prudhomme (1976), Shirley Muldowney (1982), and John Force (1996, 1999, 2000, 2002). Muldowney was the only previous recipient from the Top Fuel class.

"Of course, I'm honored to join Don (The Snake) Prudhomme, Shirley Muldowney and John Force on the list of NHRA Titus winners," continued Schumacher. "What's especially pleasing to me is that my sponsor, the U.S. Army, is getting this award for the second time. They were on Snake's Funny Car when he won in 1976.

"This award is clearly the result of the hard work and determination that my U.S. Army team put in throughout the season. Without their never-say-die attitude, I would not be in the position I am today. This is as much their award as it is mine."

In honor of Schumacher, now a four-time All-America Team member and Top Fuel titlist, the Titus Trophy will go on display at the Wally Parks NHRA Motorsports Museum in Pomona, CA. It will be showcased there beginning with NHRA's annual "Night of Champions" on Friday, Feb. 9.



Western VP Susan Wade interviews Tony Schumacher in front of his Army car

All-America Team Dinner

NHRA Funny Car champion John Force – attending his record 11th AARWBA All-America dinner – claimed his 14th Team “Horsepower” trophy in the drag racing category. Also on-hand were: Indy 500 winner/IRL title-holder Sam Hornish Jr. and triple Champ Car World Series titlist Sebastien Bourdais (open wheel); Rolex sports car Daytona Prototype and ALMS GT2 champion Jorg Bergmeister, ALMS LMP1 co-champ Rinaldo Capello and Grand-Am Rolex runners-up Scott Pruett and Luis Diaz (road racing); eight-time ARCA stock car king Frank Kimmel (touring series); and Formula Ford 2000 champion J.R. Hildebrand (at-large). Other drivers elected to the Team were: Jimmie Johnson and Tony Stewart (stock car); Todd Bodine (touring); Allan McNish (road racing); Josh Wise and Donny Schatz (short track); and Travis Pastrana (at-large).



Tony Schumacher also picked up his Horsepower Trophy. He is shown here with AARWBA Western VP Susan Wade

In a demonstration of respect for their drivers and AARWBA, the Grand-American Road Racing Association and the American Le Mans Series joined to co-host a unified “Road Racing Champions” table, which was positioned directly in front of the podium. “I want to congratulate Grand-Am President Roger Edmondson, ALMS President Scott Atherton, plus public relations directors Adam Saal and Bob Dickinson, for working with me to make this happen,” said Michael Knight, the dinner co-chairman. “It’s an important moment, and sends a powerful message, one that I believe will be recognized and appreciated throughout the motorsports industry. Well done, gentlemen.”

Several special awards were presented, including:

Dusty Brandel President’s Award: Michael F. Hollander, pioneer on-line journalist and current AARWBA national vice president, received the honor from Dusty. Hollander has long played a major role in the organization and served as producer of the All-America Team ceremonies. He is editor of Racing Information Systems and operates The Motor Sports Forum (motorsportsforum.com).



Kevin Kennedy (center) is honored with the Jim Chapman Award from Michael Knight (left) and Mike Harris.

Jim Chapman Award: Kevin Kennedy, executive vice president of PCGCampbell and long-time Ford Racing media representative, 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. Chapman began his PR career at Ford. Kennedy was chosen by a blue-ribbon committee of journalists, all of whom knew Chapman. The plaque was presented by dinner co-chairman Michael Knight and Associated Press’ motorsports writer Mike Harris, both close friends of Chapman.

Pioneer In Racing Award: Dan Partel, managing director of the European Formula Drivers Association, received this traditional AARWBA honor. It was presented by dinner co-chairman Gil Bouffard. EFDA helped launch the careers of drivers such as Ayrton Senna, Gil de Ferran, Tony Kanaan, Buddy Rice, Rubens Barrichello and Jorg Bergmeister.

All-America Team Dinner

Gorsline Scholarship: This annual scholarship, from insurance executive John Gorsline, went to J.R. Hildebrand. The scholarship furthers the careers of young drivers. Hildebrand won 12 of 14 Formula Ford 2000 races in 2006, with 10 poles. Partel presented the scholarship on behalf of Gorsline.

Safety and Humanitarian Service Award: This first-time award went to HANS Device developers Jim Downing and Robert Hubbard of Michigan State University. The HANS has been a great advance in driver safety and is now mandatory in virtually every major racing series. The honor was presented by Gil Bouffard.



J.R. Hildebrand picks up the Gorsline Scholarship from Dan Partel



Dr. Robert Hubbard (left) and Jim Downing (right) receive the Safety and Humanitarian Service Award from Gil Bouffard

In addition to Roush, industry VIPs on hand included: IRL founder Tony

George, USAC Chairman John Capels, Indianapolis Motor Speedway President Joie Chitwood, IRL President Brian Barnhart, Audi Motorsports North America head Rod Bymaster, Fernandez Racing co-owner Tom Anderson, Champ Car World Series Vice President of Sales and Marketing Garret Mudd, Don Schumacher Racing Senior Vice President Mike Lewis, retired Indianapolis and Daytona Speedway President John Cooper, driver Jerry Nadeau, Formula Atlantic managing director Vicki O'Connor, Formula Atlantic driver Simona De Siverstro, famed orthopedic surgeon Dr. Terry Trammell, and Indianapolis 500 Oldtimers Club Executive Director Jack Martin.

Michael Knight and Gil Bouffard were the dinner co-chairs. Popular announcer Bob Jenkins was Master of Ceremonies. Army Staff Sergeant Jacob Lopez of Indianapolis, a combat veteran of military operations in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Schumacher's record-setting championship Army Top Fuel dragster was on display in the Hyatt lobby, courtesy of Don Schumacher Racing, along with A.J. Foyt's 1967 Indy 500 winning Sheraton-Thompson Coyote-Ford, courtesy of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway's Hall of Fame Museum. Members and guests enjoyed complimentary Budweiser and other Anheuser-Busch products.



Guests, including Tom Anderson, Jack Roush and Sebastien Bourdais, chat in front of the Army Top Fuel car.

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Photos From The 37th All-America Team Dinner
All Photos By Ron McQueeney



Army Staff Sgt. Jacob Lopez leads the Pledge of Allegiance



Frank Kimmel receives his Horsepower Trophy from Ron Lemasters



Dan Partel gets the Pioneer in Racing award from Gil Bouffard



National VP Mike Hollander accepts the Dusty Brandel President's Award from Dusty



J.R. Hildebrand stands with Dick Mittman and the Horsepower hardware



John Force receives his 14th Horsepower Trophy from Susan Wade

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Photos From The 37th All-America Team Dinner All Photos By Ron McQueeney



John Force answers a question from MC Bob Jenkins



Jorg Bergmeister enjoys his Trophy presentation from Mike Hollander



Sebastien Bourdais collects his award from Eastern VP Lewis Franck



Sam Hornish takes his trophy from Lewis Franck



Dr. George Peters accepted for Short Track honorees Josh Wise and Donny Schatz



Luis Diaz (left) and Scott Pruett (right) are honored by Mike Hollander

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Seen And Heard At The Dinner

* AARWBA extends a sincere thank you to the drivers, Jack Roush, and industry executives who attended the All-America Team dinner. Special recognition to Jorg Bergmeister, who traveled from his home in Germany, Rinaldo Capello, from his in Italy, and Luis Diaz, from his in Mexico City. Thanks also to Porsche, Audi and Lowe's for going the extra mile for AARWBA to get Bergmeister, Capello and Diaz to Indianapolis.

* In a post-dinner E-mail to Michael Knight, Capello said, "Thanks again for everything and (it) was really great to meet you and all the guys from AARWBA." It was fun watching Capello check out the Army Top Fuel dragster (as did Jack Roush, Sebastien Bourdais, Tom Anderson and others) and A.J. Foyt's 1967 Indy 500 winning car in the Hyatt lobby. Luis Diaz also chatted-up Tony Schumacher while looking at the car and said he watched drag racing on TV in Mexico. Bergmeister also E-mailed to say, "I really enjoyed the evening and it was great . . . Again thank you for everything."

* The ceremony featured some of the best acceptance speeches in All-America Team history. Especially from Tony Schumacher on what went into his NHRA championship pass at Pomona, John Force on "why I come" to the AARWBA dinner, Scott Pruett on "I still love to race" and Luis Diaz, who said getting invited to our dinner to receive his Horsepower Trophy "gives me motivation" to win. Great stuff!

* Many attendees said they saw a side of Jack Roush never before revealed in his comments near the end of his featured speaker role. Jack also addressed NASCAR's Car of Tomorrow, team ownership restrictions, and gave a team-by-team run-down of his plans for 2007.



Jack Roush, the featured speaker, shares his insights



Dinner co-chairman Michael Knight thanks AARWBA's sponsors

* John Force revealed to the audience that, yes, there will be a second season of his A&E Network reality show, *Driving Force*. MC Bob Jenkins will host this season's Indy Pro Series telecasts on ESPN2 as well as be a part of the IMS Radio Network.

* Reaction to the combined Road Racing Champions table, made possible by the cooperation of ALMS and Grand-Am, was very positive. All the road racing drivers said they appreciated the gesture and even Jack Roush said he thought it was "great" and a "good idea."

* Dinner co-chair Michael Knight made it a special point to thank the PR reps who helped arrange for the drivers to be present, or assisted in other ways: Mike Lewis, Chris Dirato, Dave Densmore, Jerry Archambeault, Anthony Vestal, Chris Schwartz, Steve Shunch (no longer with Champ Car), Kathi Lauterbach, Ron Green, Kevin Kennedy, Torrey Galida, Bob Dickinson, Adam Saal, Bob Carlson, Drew Brown, Tamy Valkosky, Kelby Krauss (moving to North Carolina from Indy to work on the Ganassi NASCAR team PR), Nate Siebens, Tom O'Connor, Barry Bronson, Dan Layton, Jeremy Riffle and Stacie Shain.

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Seen And Heard At The Dinner



Rinaldo Capello takes his trophy from Mike Hollander

* All-America Team voting chairman Rocky Entriken missed the dinner due to lingering flu-like symptoms. Dick Mittman subbed for Rocky as presenter in the At-Large category.

* A special moment occurred during the reception when Jack Martin, AARWBA's member of the "Greatest Generation," met Army Staff Sgt. Jacob Lopez. Sgt. Lopez, a veteran of military operations in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Jack and Sgt. Lopez thanked each other for their service to America and Sgt. Lopez told Jack, "You guys (World War II vets) are the ones we have to thank for getting us here." Army public affairs official Stacie Shain gave Jack a copy of her book, *Duty, Honor, Applause: America's Entertainers in World War II* (2004, The Lyons Press).



The evening's honorees pose for a group photo

* Check out Western VP Susan Wade's interview with Jack Roush, on his drag racing background, and with Tony Schumacher, in the "Programming/Featured Videos" section at 1320tv.com . Susan taped the talks in the Hyatt lobby in front of the Army Top Fuel car. Here's one of Roush's many interesting quotes: "If the hospitals, with all their medical science, could find a way to put somebody in a tube and blow them out to a drag strip whenever a Top Fuel or Funny Car is getting ready to make a pass, it would have a more rejuvenating effect than the electric shockers they put on your chest when your heart stops . . . I believe that if there's life someplace else in the universe and could look down, I think they would find a unique energy source at what goes on at our drag strips."

* Midwest VP Ron Lemasters greeted friends at the dinner following the death of his mother the previous week. Despite his family issues, Ron still pitched-in and helped with preparations for the ceremony.

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Seen And Heard At The Dinner

* Member Bob Margolis of Yahoo! Sports had surgery the day after Christmas to remove an enlarged lymph node and has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Bob was unable to attend the dinner but told Michael Knight in an E-mail (and said it was OK to share), "At this point, the doctors believe that we have a head start on the disease . . . The specific lymphoma I have is called diffuse B cell and it is very aggressive, so I expect that I will be treated accordingly. The prognosis for recovery is 100 percent. I expect the next 4-6 months of my life won't be the most fun I've ever experienced, but then again, I'm up for the battle. I will beat this disease." Members can write Bob at Bob.Margolis@Yahoo.com .

* Members and guests enjoyed complimentary Budweiser and other Anheuser-Busch products again this year. Our thanks to Karen Holschlag of A-B sports marketing in St. Louis and Indy distributor John Zink Jr.

News & Notes

Vehicle Aerodynamics Seminar In Tacoma

Aerodynamicist, Paul T. Glessner, will be holding a half day seminar on Vehicle Aerodynamics in conjunction with the 12th Annual High Performance Racing Seminar put on by Armidillo Racing. It will take place in Tacoma, Washington on February 10th, 2007. All details for the event and Paul's site can be seen via <http://aeroseminars.com/schedule.html> .

Kevin Kennedy Says Thanks

Dusty, Mike, Lewis and Mike:

I wanted to offer a special thanks to all of you, and other members of the selection panel, for honoring me with the Jim Chapman Award Saturday evening at the AARWBA banquet in Indianapolis. Needless to say, I am humbled.

I remember a little of what I said that evening, but, as is often the case in these things, there's always more you would have wanted to say had you been fully prepared.

First off, to be mentioned with Jim Chapman is an honor in itself, since he was a true gentleman, a man who knew how to get things done behind the scenes, and was someone never "too big" to give advice and counsel (and a smile) to budding PR people like myself.

Mike Harris' speech mentioning that I have mentored many PR people in the motorsport and auto industry touched me, and that is truly one of the things I feel most proud of in looking back over my career. In fact, three of my "boys" - now involved with Dodge and Chrysler work - invited me just before Christmas to join them at a local watering hole to discuss the business, and laugh about old times as we learned the craft together. It's situations like that, and the time I mentioned when I realized the Big 3 motorsport PR programs were all being run by people I had hired at one time, that make me most proud.

I have been truly blessed to work with great people in this industry - drivers, owners, media, executives, team and sanctioning body marketing and PR folks - but also with a great group of people here at PCGCampbell who have been very willing to buy into the concept that media relations is not about how to say no to media, but how to always look for a way to say yes, no matter who the media person is and who they work for. It's certainly what Mr. Chapman always tried to do.

Thank you again for this great honor.

Kevin Kennedy, Executive Vice President, PCGCampbell, Dearborn, MI

(To read more about the Jim Chapman Award, see Michael Knight's Jan. 16 posting at SpinDoctor500blog.blogspot.com)

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More News & Notes

After leading Sprint Nextel's communications efforts in NASCAR for nearly three years as its marketing communications director, Mike Mooney recently joined Millsport Motorsports in Concord, N.C. Mike was an important supporter of AARWBA's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Serving as vice president/account director, Mooney will be overseeing the marketing activation for clients such as Tylenol and XM Satellite Radio. He will also build a communications discipline for the agency and its clients, which include Elizabeth Arden, Wal-Mart and Sunoco. Millsport Motorsports is part of The Marketing Arm, which was named the No. 1 marketing agency in the country by Promo Magazine.

His new contact information is:

Mike Mooney, Vice President/Account Director
Millsport Motorsports, 7575-A West Winds Blvd., Concord, NC 28027
704.361.9499 (cell phone) mike.mooney@millsport.com

BOB RUSSO FOUNDERS AWARD

In 2004 President Brandel assigned Bill Marvel, the founding Secretary, to chair a committee of Deke Houlgate, Dick Mittman and Norm Froscher to establish the award, the rules governing the annual selection of the recipient and awarding the honor. In 2005 the Bob Russo Founders Award was inaugurated.

Nominees must meet the requirement that they: "Have demonstrated profound interest, tireless efforts and undying dedication to auto racing, as exemplified by Founder Bob Russo, throughout his lifelong career."

The following rules apply to the award:

- Only Professional Members of AARWBA, who have held membership for at least five years, may make a nomination.
- Nominees from the auto racing community must have been involved for at least five years.
- A nominee from the Professional Media Membership of AARWBA must be a member for five previous years.
- The award can be made posthumously.
- Each recipient will be added to the Award's Committee.
- No member of the committee may receive the award while serving on the Committee.
- As the original committee members leave for one reason or another, the committee will select a chairman by vote.
- The majority will rule on the final award recipient selection by vote.
- Nominations must be submitted in written form of 150 words, email or regular mail, to the Chairman of the Founder's Award Committee.
Nominations must contain the signature and year of initial membership of the one making the nomination. Nominations must be received by March first of each year.

The award is an individual plaque with a likeness of Bob Russo, the AARWBA logo and the following wording thereon, "*Presented Annually by AARWBA to an individual who has demonstrated profound interest, tireless efforts and undying dedication to auto racing, as exemplified by our founder Bob Russo throughout his career*".

A permanent plaque, with the same information as the individual one, with individual nameplate spaces is displayed in the Media Center at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Gary and Collene Campbell, to celebrate the lives of Mickey and Trudy Thompson, Collene's brother and sister-in-law, sponsor the award.

Send nominations to Chairman Bill Marvel at marvel@kih.net
or mail to him at 4866 KY 49, Liberty, KY 42539

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DEADLINE EXTENDED
TO JAN 31

“Sweepstakes” Motorsports Journalism Award of Excellence Contest

- For the second year in a row, Ford Racing will host the “Sweepstakes” Motorsports Journalism Award of Excellence contest for all journalists who cover auto racing and are members in good standing of the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association (AARWBA).
- **The contest** – the “Sweepstakes” Motorsports Journalism Award of Excellence – will honor the best feature, commentary or news story about a Ford driver, team owner, crew person, team or the Ford Racing program, that best captures the spirit and passion of auto racing that Henry Ford portrayed when he climbed behind the wheel of his race car “Sweepstakes,” in October, 1901 for his first and only race as a driver. Ford’s victory over Alexander Winton on that day marked the beginning of the Ford Racing program.



Entries:

- Entries with publish/air dates between January 1, 2006 and November 21, 2006 (two days after the NASCAR, season-ending Ford 400) will be accepted.
- Entries can be from print, radio, television or internet news sites.
- Each AARWBA member in good standing may submit up to three (3) entries per calendar year.
- Original copies of the entries should be sent to Alexis Kinch of PCGCampbell, 3200 Greenfield, Suite 280, Dearborn, MI 48120. Entries must be post-marked by January 31, 2007, to be eligible for competition.

Winners:

- **Entries will be judged and the winner will be announced in February**
- The “Sweepstakes” Motorsports Journalism Award of Excellence winner will receive a cash prize of \$1,000 along with a framed artwork of Henry Ford’s “Sweepstakes” race car.
- Second and third-place winners will receive a gift package from Ford Racing.

This month’s issue of ImpRESSions is sponsored by



Six-time NHRA world champion Kenny Bernstein comes out of retirement for the 2007 NHRA series at the wheel of the Monster Energy Funny Car. Check out the full story at <http://www.monsterenergy.com/thelab/newsDetail.php?id=581>

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