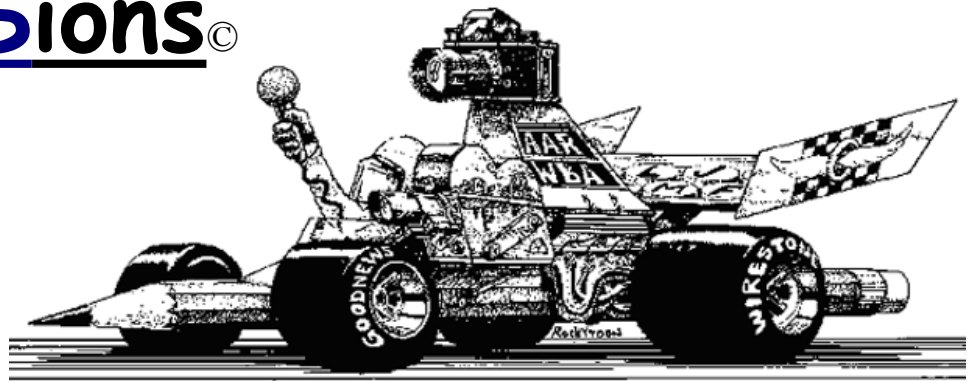


ImPRESSIONS[©]



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

Aug / Sept. 2006



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Pioneer In Racing Award Winner Announced



The 2007 AARWBA Pioneer in Racing award will be presented to **Dan Partel**, the Managing Director of the European Formula Drivers Association (EFDA). An American, Partel, was the guiding force behind the European Formula Drivers Association from its inception in 1979 until the suspension of that racing organization in 1999.

EFDA, under the guidance of Mr. Partel, organized, managed, and promoted Pan-European Formula Ford 1600 and 2000 open wheel racing series from 1979 to 1987. In 1988 EFDA was responsible for the creation of one-make Formula racing with the inception of the Opel/Vauxhall Lotus racing series. That series flourished from 1988 to 1999 as a start-up series for serious young racers. And the EFDA model is the basis for most of the successful one-make Formula racing series in the world today.

In the 20 years of EFDA, the organization produced Formula One World Champions, Indy 500 winners, Champ Car (CART) and IRL Indy Car Champions. "EFDA was also the launch pad for race car builder Adrian Reynard, who. In 1979, was EFDA's first Formula Ford 2000 Champion, driving a car of his own design. It also paved the way for multiple Le Mans and ALMS winners. Some of the many of the drivers who have gained fame and fortune through their initial involvement with the European Formula Drivers Association include: Buddy Rice, Dario Franchitti, Justin Wilson, Kenny Brack, Juan Pablo Montoya, Michael Schumacher, Tony Kanaan, Two-time CART Champion and Indy 500 winner Gil de Ferran, Ayrton Senna, Damon Hill, Mika Hakkinen and NASCAR racer Jerry Nadeau.

Inside this issue:

- Past President's New Book
- Economaki, Knight, EFR, Jenkins
- New AARWBA JOBS BOARD
- Member News & Notes

SAVE THE DATE!

January 13, 2007

Indianapolis, Indiana

AARWBA - All America Team Dinner

Auto Racing Safety and Humanitarian Service Award More on this new award from Gil Bouffard

Nomination Procedures

The guidelines (below) are to be adhered to when nominating a person or organization for The Auto Racing Safety and Humanitarian Service Award Presented by The American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association.

The award honors a person or an organization that performs acts of kindness, charity and/or deeds of heroic proportion without regard of the consequences, or a person or organization that, recognizing a need, identifies and develops a process or product to fill that need.

AARWBA members are encouraged to submit likely candidates for The Auto Racing Safety and Humanitarian Service Award and email them to the committee chair **not later than 31 October**.

The submission shall contain:

1. That the nominator shall submit an email nomination to the Committee Chair Gil Bouffard (gbouffard@jps.net).
2. The nomination shall include the following:
 - a. Name of the Nominee and Company or Organization.
 - b. Rationale for award of The Auto Racing Safety and Humanitarian Service Award.
 - c. Information to appear on the citation presented to the award recipient.
 - d. Contact information for the nominator.
 - e. Contact information for the nominee.

The Auto Racing Safety and Humanitarian Service Award Presented by The American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association will be awarded at our annual banquet.

AARWBA Office Candidate Nominations

Those members who wish to be considered a candidate for the any of the AARWBA offices shown below should contact Nominations Chairperson **Gil Bouffard** at gbouffard@jps.net or call him at **209-470-7873**.

Offices open for election include:

- President
- National Vice President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Area vice president: West / South / Midwest / Eastern



Nominations deadline is September 25, 2006

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News & Notes

“Cards For A Coz” RACE Charity Event

Greg “Coz” Cozzo, producer and on air talent of Race Radio recently announced that he will host the “Cards For A Coz” charity blackjack tournament to be held August 31st and September 1st at the Pala Casino Spa and Resort in San Bernardino. The event begins with a VIP reception, and pairings party, on Thursday evening, August 31st, from 6 to pm. The Blackjack tournament kicks off the following Friday morning, the 1st, at 11am. Overnight accommodations for participants are available.

The money raised from this special event will benefit RACE: Racers Against Cancer Endeavor. The organization was recently formed by drivers and racing supporters throughout the southern California area. The group is governed by a board of directors comprised of representatives from local tracks throughout the area.

The RACE mission is to help fellow drivers, their families and fans of racing in an effort to provide needed and immediate support to battle cancer in all its forms.

“Coz” is the host of the very popular program “Race Radio” which airs on 1350 am, “The TOAD”, in San Bernardino. The program, featuring special guests from the world of racing as well as a call in feature, can be heard every NASCAR weekend following 1350 AM’s live Nextel Cup coverage. “Coz” is also the very popular track announcer at the Orange Show Speedway in San Bernardino.

When he first heard about RACE, “Coz” was very eager to sign on and join their cause. “I’m looking forward to assisting the local drivers involved with RACE. Their tireless efforts to the sport of racing and the passion they have makes the RACE effort so special. I hope everyone can join us and help make a difference,” he said.

For more information about the RACE benefit contact “Race Radio” at 909-319-1535

SPEED Promotes Arneson To VP of Media Relations

SPEED Executive Vice President & General Manager Hunter Nickell RECENTLY announced Erik Arneson has been promoted to the position of Vice President of Media Relations for the Charlotte-based motor sports and automotive lifestyle network.



Tenth Anniversary

“Erik has terrific relationships throughout the motor sports and media worlds,” Nickell said. “He has us focused on a communications strategy that will be most effective in our frenetic businesses. We have ambitious goals; he is an important part of the team that will lead us toward those goals.”

Arneson has been with SPEED as Director of Public Relations since July of 2002, having served the network since 2000 as public relations account manager for the former Cotter Group.

Prior to his work at Cotter Group, where he also managed accounts for NASCAR and Clear Channel Motorsports, Arneson was a Design Editor and motor sports reporter at *USA Today* in Virginia. He was awarded the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Media Award in 1998.

Arneson, the author of two motor sports books – *Darrell Gwynn: Triumphs and Tragedies from a Life Lived at Speed* and *John Force: The Straight Story of Drag Racing’s 300-mph Superstar*, lives in Charlotte with his wife, Sandy, and their children.

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AARWBA Member Bob Jenkins Appears in Will Ferrell Movie 'Talladega Nights'

"Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" is a fictional movie with a NASCAR setting, but race fans will recognize a few real racing personalities in it. The film opened Aug. 4 in theaters everywhere.

Noted racing broadcaster Bob Jenkins, who has appeared on countless television racing broadcasts, has a speaking role in the Sony Pictures film starring Will Ferrell. Jenkins has done audio parts in two previous films, but this is the first time he's been on camera in a feature film.



Visit the official movie website at:

<http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/talladeganights/>

"It's quite a big deal for me," said Jenkins. "They called me while I was doing SPEED News earlier this year and asked me if I wanted to help them out. It was a half-a-day thing with me and an actor and comedian named Rob Riggle. He plays a character named Jack Telmont. They filmed it on the SPEED News set in Charlotte," he continued. "We're doing an introduction and a reaction to one of the drivers in the film. He's a French Formula One driver, and he has a different lifestyle, shall we say. It's our reaction to that person, and it's kind of fun."

Jenkins' famous voice was heard in the Tom Cruise movie "Days of Thunder" and another racing film that was done in Canada called "Kart Racer."

"Kart Racer won an award at the Heartland Film Festival here in Indianapolis, but I don't think it was distributed widely," Jenkins noted. "But Talladega Nights is getting a lot of play. I'm even in one of the trailers, so I don't think I ended up on the cutting-room floor when it was being edited."

Despite his appearance on the silver screen, Jenkins isn't letting Hollywood go to his head. "I have no idea why they asked me to be in it," he said. "But the story line appears to be very interesting, and I hope it's a big success. It looks like NASCAR is very much behind the film, and it was neat being part of it."

"Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" is a comedy/action/adventure film that is rated PG-13. Written by Ferrell and director Adam McKay, it is the story of fictional NASCAR racing sensation Ricky Bobby, whose "win at all costs" approach has made him a national hero. He and his loyal partner, childhood friend Cal Naughton Jr. (John C. Reilly) are called "Shake" and "Bake" by fans for their ability to finish so many races in first and second, with Naughton always second.

When a flamboyant French Formula One driver named Jean Girard (Sacha Baron Cohen) becomes Bobby's teammate and challenges him for the supremacy of NASCAR, Bobby must face his own demons and fight Girard for the right to be known as NASCAR's top driver. To do so he partners with his buddy (Reilly) to form Thunder and Lightning, the most feared duo in the game, with very funny results.

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More News & Notes

Economaki In the House

Submitted by AARWBA Member Doug Stokes

Autobooks was very honored on Saturday, July 29, by the visit of Chris Economaki and Jim Savas the dynamic duo (editor emeritus and publisher) from National Speed Sport News. Octogenarian Economaki made the cross-country trip to Burbank to visit with legions of his West Coast fans and to personally sign copies of his long-awaited bio: "Let 'Em All Go!" the spell-binding story of his eight decades in motorsports.

Up close and personal, Economaki was his usual charming and gregarious self, chatting with each person, and happily posing for what seemed like endless photos all while spinning fascinating tales of racing derring-do at top revs. His four hour visit to Autobooks was far too short for many, with late-arriving fans following him right out to his car and begging for last minute autographs even as he was about to drive off.

Chris told us later that he really enjoyed his stint at Autobooks and wished that he had had more time to look around and shop (maybe next time!). As it was, he had very few moments to himself during his stay at the store. "We try to treat every customer, every visitor, as an honored guest, but having Mister Economaki on site was really something very special! He's racing royalty, and he's earned everyone's ultimate respect," said store manager Doug Stokes.

"It was a true privilege for all of us here at the shop to have had Chris here today," said store owner Chet Knox. "He's surely earned the title 'legend'. In fact, he may well be the single most influential figure in all of American motorsports history. He's unique and irreplaceable; what an honor it was for us to have him at our shop!"

WESTERN RACING ASSOCIATION: Many thanks must go to the WRA members who brought a nice variety of vintage open wheel rolling stock out to celebrate the visit by Economaki. Chris toured each car and told a story that related to the year or style of each car, even showing how he worked on one powered by a converted outboard motor as a young 'stooge' (the vintage name for race mechanic) in 1938. - Doug Stokes



Member Bobbie Colgrove at the Autobooks store in Burbank for another book signing for Chris Economaki. Bobbie had Chris autograph one for her and one for her friend in Seattle.

PIR Credentials Deadline October 6th

Phoenix International Raceway is currently accepting media credential applications forms for the **Checker Auto Parts 500** NASCAR event weekend, November 9-12, 2006. Media seeking credentials are asked to visit <http://www.phoenixraceway.com/track%5Finfo/media%5Fcenter/> to print out the application.

Credential applications are due back to the PIR Communications Office by Friday, October 6.

For additional information or questions regarding PIR, please contact Tami Nealy at 623-463-5613 or via email at tnealy@phoenixinternationalraceway.com

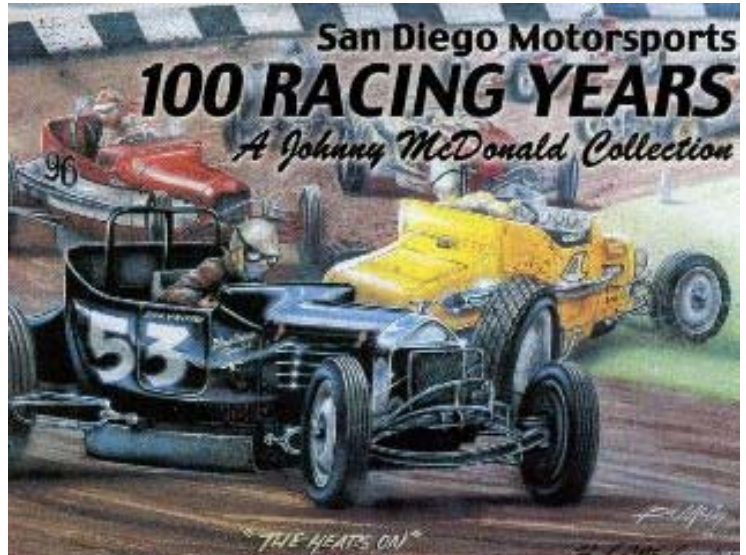
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100 Racing Years By Johnny McDonald

Just off the presses is my most recent book titled: **San Diego Motorsports: 100 Racing Years**. A subtitle should be land of the fossils of racing because so many of the arenas of acceleration have disappeared into the dirt and sands of time.

It covers racing from the barnstorming of Barney Oldfield in 1907 around Lakeside's Lindo Lake, the dirt streets of Point Loma, through the glorious midget races at old Balboa Stadium to the accomplishments of El Cajon native Jimmie Johnson at Daytona and Indianapolis.

From my personal collection and friends there are over 450 photos and illustrations with enough text to bridge a few gaps. It's great to look back at college kids Phil Hill (USC) and Jim Hall (Caltech) and a guy who raced in coveralls, Carroll Shelby, who performed at Torrey Pines.



An internationally famous golf course, Sea World, aircraft hangars and housing projects hide what might still be an old spark plug or oil can. Passing through for Balboa races were such drivers as Billy Vukovich, Johnnie Parsons, Troy Ruttman, Jim Rathmann, Rodger Ward, Parnelli Jones and Jimmy Bryan, all of whom would win at Indy.

We crowded everything into 144 pages for a price tag of \$24.95. Any questions, I can be reached at 619-583-0432 or Johnny23@Cox.Net.

About Johnny McDonald:

Johnny McDonald was a motor sports writer for the *San Diego Union* for over 25 years and was once described by *Car and Driver* Magazine as one of the nation's most influential. During those years, he covered races at Indianapolis, Daytona, Toronto, Phoenix, Laguna Seca, Sebring, Riverside, Baja and Ontario. He served three years as president of the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association and founded the All-American drivers team, now in its 36th year. He received a national award for his 1977 book titled *Under the Green: A Guide to Auto Racing*.

McDonald has been a co-promoter of motor sports events at four Southern California fairs and served on the public relations staffs at Del Mar and Qualcomm Stadium. He is a former marketing director at the San Diego Automotive Museum and served as a consultant at the Hall of Champions, where he established a permanent display on motor sports.

Writing on a variety of subjects for San Diego County weeklies and monthlies since retiring from the Union, he has received six San Diego Press Club awards. He has been married 52 years to Maxine and has two sons, two daughters and eight grand children. A veteran of five years in the Navy, he collaborated on a book about World War II called: *The Green Dragons*. His collections include over 800 auto and motorcycle racing photographs and countless programs, press kits and other memorabilia.

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New JOBS BOARD Feature For AARWBA Members!

AARWBA members available for freelance work as reporters or photographers can now post their availability on the brand new “**AARWBA JOBS BOARD**”! The board appears on the official AARWBA website.

We are always encouraging parties involved in motorsports to become Associate Members of the AARWBA. We all have a vested interest in the success of motorsports and as Associate Members, they too can use the Jobs Board to post open positions they may have available. Our Professional Members will have access to employment opportunities, and our Associate Members will have access to an audience of qualified candidates, without the expense of advertising.

To add your availability listing to the new Jobs Board, send an email to [AARWBA Jobs Board \(racing@motorsportsforum.com\)](mailto:racing@motorsportsforum.com) Include your name and contact information, as well as what type of position you are seeking and what experience and qualifications you have for that position.



Knight On KPNX TV

After writing about the proposed Phoenix Champ Car race in the *Arizona Republic* and on his August 15th blog, Michael Knight was interviewed “live” in-studio on KPNX TV (Phoenix NBC affiliate) on the Sunday, July 23 morning news program.

If you haven't done so yet, check out Knight's motorsports industry blog at SpinDoctor500blog.blogspot.com.

Be sure to read his words on the AARWBA!



Congratulations EFR!

Elliott Forbes-Robinson was recently inducted into the **Motor-sports Hall of Fame of America**. “EFR” has been active on the motorsports scene for well over 30 years and has enjoyed success in several forms of racing, with his most recent exploits and successes coming in the Howard-Boss Motorsports Crawford Daytona Prototype, and with Dyson Racing in the Riley & Scott MKIII racers that won time and again in the ALMS, Grand Am, and the former Professional Sports Car World Sports Car series.

He was elected to the AARWBA All America Team in 1999. We salute him in his time of honor and say thank you for all the years of professional commitment he has given to motorsports. For more on his induction, visit the hall website at Motorsports Hall Of Fame of America

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Fernandez Racing And Acura In The ALMS In 2007

Lowe's Fernandez Racing recently announced it will race an Acura-powered Lola in the 2007 American Le Mans Series in Acura's factory LMP2 class competition program.

The Lowe's Fernandez Racing Acura Lola will make its competition debut at the 12 Hours of Sebring in March, 2007, along with two other Acura-powered LMP2 prototype teams, racing against full factory and manufacturer-supported efforts from Audi, Porsche and Mazda, and a variety of well-equipped independent teams.



"This is a fantastic opportunity for Lowe's Fernandez Racing," said owner-driver Adrian Fernandez. "I have a long association with the Honda family. When Robert Clarke [president of Honda Performance Development] asked if we wanted to be part of this opportunity, Lowe's Fernandez Racing jumped at the chance. My first major open-wheel win was with Honda power back in 1996. To be able to join them in this new endeavor a decade later means a lot to me personally. Honda has been tremendously successful in their open-wheel programs, and everyone at Lowe's Fernandez Racing is looking forward to helping them reach that level of achievement with Acura in ALMS."

"This was a natural extension of our great affiliation with Honda and everyone at HPD [Honda Performance Development]," added owner and managing director Tom Anderson, whose 10-year relationship with the manufacturer includes four series championships. "As a result of Honda's determination to be successful, they recently celebrated their 100th open-wheel race victory and Adrian and I are proud to be a part of that remarkable number. Sports car racing was a new challenge for us this year, and we proved our competitiveness on more than one occasion. We look forward to building on our experience and continuing as part of the Acura program as we make our debut in the American Le Mans Series."

Media Contacts: Drew Brown, Team Lowe's Racing 704.650.0428 dbrown@gmrlivepr.com
Tamy Valkosky, Fernández Racing 949.459.9172 pr@fernandezracing.com

This month's issue of ImPRESSions is sponsored by



For transcripts, pictures and information regarding Team Lowe's Racing please go to media.lowesracing.com.

Lowe's Racing is proud to support AARWBA!

The members of the AARWBA wish to again thank all of our sponsors for their support!

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