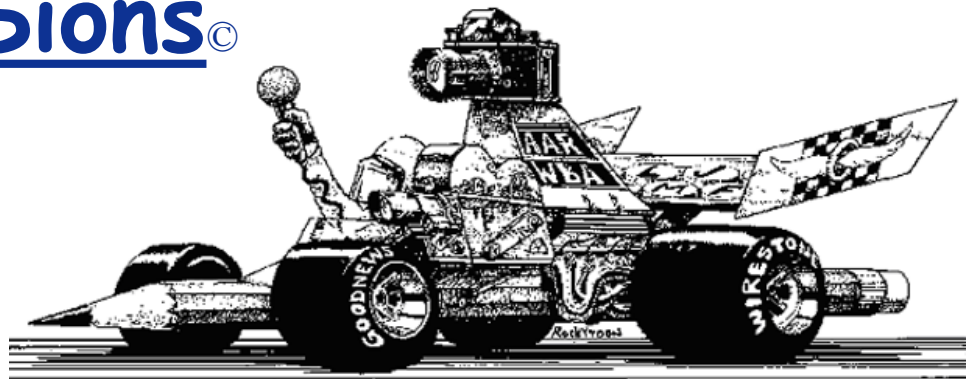


ImPRESSIONS[©]

**50th
Anniversary**



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

Sept. / Oct. 2005



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AARWBA Thanks Our Official 50th Anniversary Sponsors:

(Click on any logo to go to that sponsor's website!)



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INDY RACING LEAGUE



Valvoline.



Together with NEXTEL



36th annual All-America Team Dinner, Presented by Sprint Nextel
Saturday, Dec. 3, Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis

All-America Team Dinner Headlines

Sprint Nextel to Be Presenting Sponsor

Sprint Nextel, sponsor of the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series, will be the Presenting Sponsor of the 36th consecutive AARWBA All-America Team dinner. The banquet, which will mark the official conclusion of AARWBA's 50th Anniversary Celebration, will be Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis.

Sprint Nextel's involvement will allow for an upgraded selection of *hors d'oeuvres* for your enjoyment at the pre-dinner reception, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. (Dinner served at 7:30.) Sprint Nextel also will have a table and an ad in the program book and is sponsoring this issue of the newsletter.

Michael Mooney, Sprint Nextel's director of corporate communications for NASCAR, and Michael Knight, AARWBA 50th anniversary chairman, agreed on details of the the sponsorship Sept. 3 at California Speedway.



Mike Mooney (center), director of corporate communications for Sprint Nextel's NASCAR series sponsorship, receives an AARWBA mug from President Dusty Brandel and 50th Anniversary Chairman Michael Knight at the California Speedway following agreement for the company to be Presenting Sponsor of the All-America Team dinner.

AARWBA photo by Mike Hollander

DISCOUNTED HYATT RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

Rooms at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis are available at a discounted rate for members and guests attending the All-America Team dinner. Use this link: <http://indianapolis.hyatt.com/groupbooking/aarw>
Or go to aarwba.org and click on the "Banquet" link.

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All-America Team Dinner Headlines

Hulman-George Family to Receive Renamed Dusty Brandel President's Award

On rare occasions during our 50 years, our president has presented the President's Award to an individual or group for outstanding long-term support of, and contributions to, AARWBA. As part of our half-century celebration, 50th Anniversary Chairman Michael Knight recommended that this honor be permanently renamed the Dusty Brandel President's Award, and continue to be given at the sole discretion of whoever is the AARWBA president at that time.

The Hulman-George Family will receive the Dusty Brandel President's Award at the All-America Team dinner presented by Sprint Nextel.

"For 50 years, AARWBA has had the respect of the Hulman-George Family," explained Brandel. "Tony Hulman was a member and always attended our breakfast meeting the day before the Indy 500. This cooperation has continued over the decades. Tony George has been fully supportive and both IMS and the IRL are official sponsors of the 50th Anniversary Celebration and, of course, the Speedway became sponsor of our annual journalism contest. Since the All-America Team dinner will be the official end of AARWBA's first half-century, it's appropriate to recognize the Hulman-George Family on that occasion."

A note to AARWBA from Mari Hulman George, Chairman of the Board for the IMS

"AARWBA has been a strong force in reporting and promoting auto racing for 50 years. All of my family, beginning with my father Tony Hulman, have been supporters of AARWBA and we are pleased to have played a role in its growth and influence. On behalf of my family, thank you for the recognition."

Bob Jenkins to Serve as Dinner MC

Long-time AARWBA member and respected broadcaster Bob Jenkins will be Master of Ceremonies at the All-America Team dinner. Jenkins, who has broadcast virtually every major form of motorsports on either TV or radio, currently is a co-anchor of the weekend *Speed News* show on Speed Channel. He also is anchoring Speed's coverage of the CORR series.

Fernandez Racing IRL Car on Display

Tom Anderson, co-owner of Fernandez Racing, will provide one of the team's Honda-powered IRL cars for display in the atrium of the Hyatt at the All-America Team dinner. Fernandez Racing driver **Scott Sharp** won at Kentucky Speedway earlier this season. The team is an official sponsor of the AARWBA 50th anniversary and also supports the **Straight Shooter Award**, in memory of **Art Flores** and **Ron Hussey**, for photographers. An invitation has been extended to display another high-prestige car and we are awaiting an answer on its availability.

Also at the Dinner

- **Mike Helton**, NASCAR president, will be the featured speaker.
- Announcement of the **Jerry Titus Memorial Trophy** winner, earned by the driver receiving the most All-America Team votes.

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More All-America Team Dinner Headlines

- Presentation of the “**Horsepower**” Trophy to Team drivers.
- Presentation of the **Jim Chapman Award**, for outstanding achievement in motorsports public relations.
- Presentation of the inaugural **Bob Russo Founder’s Award**.
- Announcement of **Ford’s “Sweepstakes” journalism contest** winner.
- Presentation of the **Pioneer In Racing** award.
- **AARWBA 50th anniversary audio-visual tribute.**

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLANS YET TO ATTEND?

More work and planning are going into this dinner than any previous event in AARWBA history. The Board of Directors encourages members to make every effort to attend. Teams, sponsors, tracks and others in the industry – especially those based in the Indianapolis area – are urged to participate by joining the media to celebrate this special occasion. Please don’t wait until the last minute – ACT NOW!

For information on tickets and tables, go to AARWBA.org, click on the “Banquet” link. You’ll also find there a link to make Hyatt room reservations at a special discounted rate.

AARWBA Helps Hurricane Relief

In the aftermath of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, President Dusty Brandel and the Board of Directors unanimously agreed that AARWBA should contribute to the relief effort. AARWBA donated \$500 to the American Red Cross and is offering assistance in publicizing ways the public can help.

Vice President (and webmaster) Mike Hollander established a link on the AARWBA.org home page, which connects to the special web page at NASCAR.com for donations to the American Red Cross. The AARWBA Board is encouraging all members to help publicize the relief efforts to their readers and listeners. Virtually every major sanctioning organization, and many tracks, drivers, teams and sponsors, are active in promoting ways their fans can help by making donations. A number of competitors, such as three-time NHRA Pro Stock Motorcycle champion Angelle Sampey, are from the storm devastated region.



The Board reminds all members that this will be a long-term, on-going story. There will be many opportunities to follow-up with your readers and listeners in the months ahead from a motorsports angle.

“AARWBA members, like all Americans, want to find ways to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina,” said Brandel. “NASCAR has announced its effort to rally the support of those within the racing community and AARWBA and our members want to do what we can, especially by helping to raise awareness among racing fans.”

“As a media organization, AARWBA recognizes its obligation to the public,” said AARWBA 50th Anniversary Chairman Michael Knight. “The public reads our members’ stories, watch our telecasts, listen to our radio reports, and enjoy our photographs. In that way, they keep the media in business every bit as much as they do the teams, tracks and sponsors. AARWBA acknowledges this simple fact by joining in the NASCAR-led effort to support the American Red Cross as they work to help the Hurricane Katrina victims.”

For more information, please visit AARWBA.org.

VOTING FOR THE 2005 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Another Reminder From Rocky!

Rocky Entriken, All-America Chairman

As mentioned earlier in these pages, the process by which we vote for the AARWBA All-America team is changing this year. The changes are forced by the move of the banquet from mid-January in L.A. to Dec. 3 in Indy. Everything gets compressed to pull that off and those of us in charge of various aspects will be hustling to make it happen.

On my end and on yours, we will take processes that took two weeks and compress them to about one.

If all goes according to schedule, Expect ballots in your e-mail Oct. 30 or 31. The deadline to get your votes back to me will be Nov. 8. That's a solid deadline. On Nov. 9 I send in the result of the vote and we start contacting the winners. Late ballots just cannot be accepted.

I'm going to send e-mailed ballots, and the information booklet, to all Professional and Affiliate members, as a Word attachment. I'll send it to every address in the Membership Directory as of Oct. 30, so if you list more than one e-mail address I will send it to all in hopes you'll get it at whichever you have access to at that time.

If your e-mail cannot accept attachments let me know and I'll send a special plain-text version to you (it won't be pretty, but it'll have the information). So far I have heard back from only one member, Norm Froscher, who needs a plain-text ballot.

If the ballot sent to you bounces, that's it. I will not be able to chase down bounced e-mails to determine your correct address, to re-send to full mailboxes, or to re-send to addresses that automatically reject attachments or read the attachment as spam. And I am not going to jump through hoops to be an "acceptable" sender — if you have one of those e-mail deals that accept only from known sources, then YOU put my address in your list (rocky@tri.net).

If your e-mail address has changed, TELL DUSTY!

You can send your vote back to me by e-mail or fax. The fax line will be open 7 a.m. to noon (CST). You can try anytime, but afternoons and evenings I may be on the Internet (same phone line) downloading all those ballots.

We are also going to expand the ballots to eight nominees per category. The reason for this is to accommodate series that are not yet complete by possibly listing more than one candidate if the points are close. If all works well, this could be the best All-America ever. In the end it will be up to you, the voter, to make that happen.

Another 2004 AARWBA award winning photo as recognized at our 2005 event.



Honorable Mention, Online Action: Photo by Earl Ma

“Bill Lester T-Boned,” motorsport.com - Part of a sequence showing Bill getting clobbered by Joe Aramendia at the inaugural Mansfield CTS race.

Wallace Receives Rick Mears “Good Guy” Award



Rusty Wallace (second from left) accepts AARWBA’s Rick Mears “Good Guy” Award, for long-time cooperation with the news media, at California Speedway Sept. 4. President **Dusty Brandel** (left), Wallace, and Vice Presidents **Lewis Franck** and **Mike Hollander** enjoy the moment.

Helping AARWBA (or not): A Tale of 2 Tracks

Dennis Bickmeier of California Speedway and **Anthony Vestal** of NHRA have been standouts in cooperating with AARWBA in providing access at their events so we can work to promote and build 50th anniversary business relationships. When a personal matter took 50th Anniversary Celebration Chairman **Michael Knight** to California on the weekend of the Sony HD 500, he realized he would have four free hours on Saturday, Sept. 3, in which he could go to the track and work on All-America Team dinner details. Bickmeier promptly responded to a credential request E-mail. During that four-hour visit, Knight concluded arrangements for Sprint Nextel to be the dinner’s Presenting Sponsor and had important planning meetings with President **Dusty Brandel**, VP **Mike Hollander**, and important conversations on other AARWBA issues with VPs **Mike Harris** and **Lewis Franck** and members like **Shav Glick**.

The following weekend, Phoenix International Raceway hosted the Rolex and Grand-Am sports car series, and Knight planned to spend a few hours at PIR to pursue a newsletter sponsor prospect and promote the All-America Team dinner to Grand-Am drivers, teams, sponsors and officials. Unfortunately, Knight did not receive **any** reply to his credential request, first made to former track communications manager Mike Prusinski, and later submitted again to new hire Jon Newman. As an introduction, Newman was even sent an AARWBA newsletter, plus a copy of Lesa France Kennedy’s “thank you” letter (addressed to Knight) for the Newsmaker of the Half-Century award.

The bottom line is, this turned out to be a lost opportunity for AARWBA.

AARWBA recognizes that tracks may choose to grant or deny credential requests. AARWBA does, however, believe that professionalism and common courtesy requires a reply be sent to anyone making a legitimate request. The AARWBA Board of Directors expresses its concern – and displeasure — at how what should have been a routine matter was handled by the Phoenix Raceway PR department.

“Sweepstakes” Motorsports Journalism Award of Excellence Contest

- Ford Racing will host a new contest open to all journalists who cover auto racing and are members in good standing of the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association (AARWBA). The contest will take place in 2005, in honor of AARWBA's 50th anniversary, and additional contests will take place in 2006 and 2007.
- 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, 2005 and November 22, 2005 (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 will be sent to Andrew Casselberry of Campbell & Co., 15010 Commerce Dr. South, Suite 507, Dearborn, MI 48120. Entries must be received by November 29, 2005, to be eligible for competition. (*MEMBERS: Please remember to take into consideration the Thanksgiving holiday when submitting late entries.*)

Winners

- Entries will be judged and a winner will be announced at the AARWBA All-American Banquet in Indianapolis on December 3, 2005. The 2006 and 2007 winners will be named at the banquet in the following two years.
- The “Sweepstakes” Motorsports Journalism Award of Excellence winner will receive a cash prize of \$1,000.00, 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.

Another 2004 AARWBA award winning photo as recognized at our 2005 event.

2nd Place, Online People: Photo by Earl Ma

“Chris McDonald with Winner's Spoils,” motorsport.com.

Shot after Chris finished 2nd overall and 1st in class at the '04 Long Beach GP Pro /Celeb Race - here he is showing off in the direction of his kids on the opposite side of the stage.



Last Call!

AARWBA 50 Years Tribute - Be A Part Of History



A visual recap and tribute to AARWBA's 50 years is planned for the Dec. 3 All-America Team dinner in Indianapolis — and your help is needed. Vice President **Mike Hollander** is starting to collect historical images of the people and events of AARWBA's half-century.

Any member who would like to contribute, and this can be pics of members, racing personalities, AARWBA awards presentations, etc., is asked to send the photos directly to Mike at racing@motorsportsforum.com

The preferred picture format is 800 x 600 x 72dpi JPEGs.

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