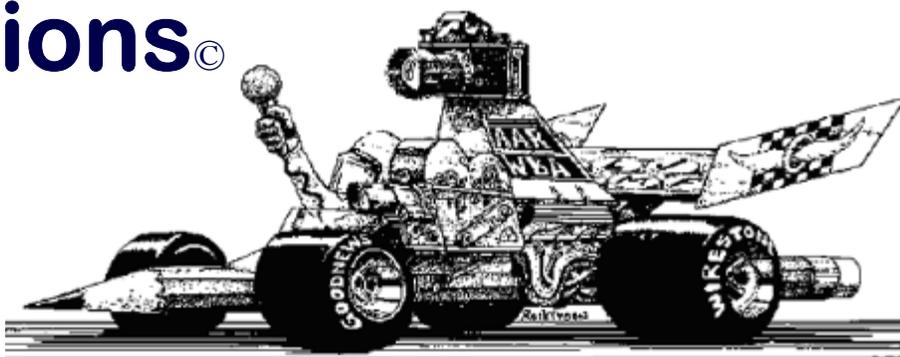


ImPRESSions©



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

October 2007

Vol. 40 No. 8

Wally Parks 1913 - 2007



NHRA Founder Wally Parks (center) toasts John Force (left) and Kenny Bernstein on their nominations as AARWBA's Newsmaker of the Half-Century at the January 2005 All-America Team dinner in Pomona, Calif. This was Wally's last appearance at an AARWBA event. Parks was a long-time AARWBA member and great supporter of our organization. (Photo by Al Wong)

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**All-America Team Dinner
January 12, 2008
Indianapolis Hyatt**

'GOOD GUY' AWARD to SCELZI at POMONA



Members covering the NHRA's Auto Club Finals at Pomona Nov. 1-4 are invited to participate in our presentation of the Rick Mears "Good Guy" Award to Gary Scelzi.

On Saturday, Nov. 3, we will honor Gary in the media center. This ceremony, about 10 minutes, will happen at approximately 1:30 p.m. or ASAP after the day's first nitro qualifying session. Scelzi will be there to accept our recognition for his long-time cooperation with the news media. Afterward, time permitting, we invite all AARWBA members in attendance to join in a group photo with Gary. Then, during pre-race driver introductions on Sunday, Nov. 4 (about 10:45 a.m.), Dusty will briefly "re-present" the plaque to the Funny Car/Top Fuel champion. Scelzi, by the way, recently announced he has put his plans for a "hiatus" on hold and will return for another full-season of Funny Car competition in 2008.

AARWBA thanks NHRA's Jerry Archambeault, Glen Cromwell, Anthony Vestal and Michael Padian plus Judy Stropus of Don Schumacher Racing for their assistance. If you are going to be at Pomona, please attend.

IMS Renews, Increases Journalism Contest Support IndyCar Series To Co-Sponsor Annual AARWBA Competition



The Indianapolis Motor Speedway, which has sponsored the annual AARWBA Journalism Contest since 2005, has renewed and increased its support by 25 percent for 2008. The IndyCar Series will join IMS in backing AARWBA's traditional



competition, which honors the best work of our members in print, online, broadcast and photo journalism.

President Dusty Brandel, in expressing thanks to IMS and ICS, noted that the prize money has helped increase AARWBA membership in the last three years. Total and per-category entries also have gone up.

"The Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the IndyCar Series are pleased to join together in renewing and enlarging our sponsorship of the AARWBA Journalism Contest for 2008," said Fred J. Nation, IMS and ICS executive vice president, communications. "We have great respect for the AARWBA and its members and hope that this contest will encourage, broaden and deepen coverage of motorsports as well as encourage membership in motorsports' preeminent journalism organization."

Nation, a lifetime AARWBA honorary member, worked with Michael Knight in arranging the sponsorship. Contest entry information will be coming soon, with results -- and prize money -- announced and distributed at the annual pre-Indy 500 breakfast meeting next May.

1963 LOTUS-FORD TO BE SHOWN AT DINNER

One of the most historically important cars ever to run at the Indy 500 will be on display in the lobby of the Indianapolis Hyatt at the 38th All-America Team dinner, Saturday, Jan. 12.

The 1963 Lotus-Ford, a pair of which were driven by Jimmy Clark and Dan Gurney, will be shown. This is courtesy of the IMS Hall of Fame Museum. The Lotus became the most competitive rear-engine car in Indy history and Clark drove one of them to second place. This helped speed-up the "rear-engine revolution" at the 500.



See the last page of this newsletter for information on dinner tickets, tables and program ads.

MAZDASPEED TO CO-HOST PRE-DINNER RECEPTION



MAZDASPEED has joined ESPN as a co-host of the reception prior to the All-America Team dinner. The reception hour will start at 6 p.m., immediately following the new news conference / announcements element at 5:30 p.m. Dinner service will begin at 7

with the awards ceremony in the Hyatt ballroom at 7:45 p.m. AARWBA thanks member Dean Case, MAZDASPEED PR representative (RWB, LLC), for his help.

This month's issue of ImpRESSIONs is sponsored by:



Plan now to cover the first event of the
IMS Centennial Era:

The Inaugural Red Bull Indianapolis GP
Sept. 12-14, 2008

Motorcycles return to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway
for the first time since 1909.

MAKE YOUR HYATT ROOM RESERVATION ONLINE

Members and guests can use the link below to make room reservations at the Indianapolis Hyatt, at our special rate, for the All-America Team dinner:

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=49906

News & Notes

MAZDASPEED Team 'Adopts' New Look To Support Animal Shelter Adoptions



MAZDASPEED drivers Jeff Altenburg and Randy Pobst had new "teammates" in the final two races of the SCCA SPEED World Challenge Touring Car championship. Their Tri-Point Motorsports' MAZDA6s carried special graphics to promote, in association with The Humane Society of the U.S., the adoption of shelter animals. The "MUTTS" comic strip characters, "Earl" and "Mooch," were "adopted" by the team, with "Earl" the dog on Altenburg's MAZDA and "Mooch" the cat on Pobst's. The season ended Oct. 21 at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, where life-sized versions of "Earl" and "Mooch" were in the paddock for photo opportunities.

"With so much of the recent athlete animal-related headlines being bad news, it's a delight for the Humane Society to work with Randy and Jeff, who both understand and believe in helping animals," said Michael Markarian, executive VP of The Humane Society of the U.S.

Both MAZDA hoods and driver uniforms will be auctioned to benefit The Humane Society of the U.S. Details at www.MUTTSCOMICS.com.

For more information, contact AARWBA affiliate member Dean Case of MAZDASPEED Motorsports, dean@RWB-LLC.com.

AARWBA Members:

Your company or organization can sponsor an issue of **ImpRESSIONS!**

For issue sponsorship information contact:

Michael Knight at
spindoctor500@aol.com

or our President, **Dusty Brandel**, at
dusty@aarwba.org

News & Notes

Armijo Leaves Republic

Long-time AARWBA member Mark Armijo has decided to leave the *Arizona Republic* after 27 years with the state's largest newspaper. Mark covered motorsports for most of that time, and he's been a winner in our annual journalism contest. Mark's last day is expected to be Nov. 10. His future plans are undecided, but AARWBA wishes him the best.

Knight A 'Contributor'

Michael Knight is now a contributor to the *Arizona Republic's* racing coverage. He's writing the weekly Friday news/notes story (available at www.AzCentral.com) and recent columns have focused on Rusty Wallace, Adrian Fernandez, Michael McDowell, Donny Schatz, Joey Saldana and others. Knight will do sidebars during the NASCAR weekend at Phoenix International Raceway.

Many ISC-owned tracks were the site of a NASCAR Foundation / American Red Cross donation event on Sept. 11. At PIR, 101 people participated, with 83 units of blood collected. Knight was what the Red Cross calls a "Double Red Donor."

Margolis Undergoes Treatment

Bob Margolis of Yahoo! Sports was scheduled to begin an intensive six-week radiation / chemotherapy treatment Oct. 1 at a Philadelphia hospital. That is scheduled to be followed by a six-week recovery period. You can drop Bob a note at Bob.Margolis@yahoo.com

Bronson On Leno

AARWBA affiliate member Barry Bronson, of Ashland/Valvoline communications, recently guested for a segment on "Jay Leno's Garage." You can check it out at this url:
<http://www.jaylenosgarage.com/video/index.shtml?vidID=156639>

You Are Welcome, Chris!

The following comments appear in a Chris Economaki column on the Speed Sport News web site:

"Our thanks to AARWBA and Dusty Brandel for the kind words about this newspaper's new Web site in ImPRESSions, the organization's newsletter. The club's annual All-America Team Dinner is Jan. 12 in Indianapolis, at which long-time team owner Carl Haas will receive the AARWBA 'Pioneer in Racing' award. Plan now to attend."

AARWBA Sends Condolences



The 19-year old daughter of AARWBA member Tony Karis, was killed in a motorcycle accident Sunday, September 9, 2007 in Dover, Massachusetts. Rachel Karis had just finished her first week at Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering. She is survived by her parents Tony and Gail Karis.

In death Rachel is helping others to live. Through the New England Organ Bank, several of her organs (including heart, both lungs, pancreas, both kidneys and liver) have gone to other people who now have a chance to live longer lives.

Tony writes a weekly column for the Watsonville (CA) Register Pajaronian, and announces races at Ocean Speedway and Infineon Raceway. He also co-hosts a weekly Motorsports show with Dave Coffin in Monterey CA.

Rachel's family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to:

Memorial Trust for Rachel Karis
US Bank, 783 Rio Del Mar Blvd.
Aptos, CA 95003
(831) 688-7111 to benefit the Kimberly Hardin Art Foundation and future projects at Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering.

Rachel spent many hours developing her artistic skills at the Hardin studio. She began at the age of 6. The studio specializes in introducing young children to the world of art in its various forms

For those who would like to send a card or letter to Rachel's family, you may send them to the following address:

Parents of Rachel Karis
c440 Sand Dollar Drive,
La Selva Beach, CA 95076

All of us at AARWBA send our deepest condolences to the Karis family.



News & Notes

Mahoney Says Thank You

Dusty Brandel recently received this note:

"I'm ridiculously overdue in thanking AARWBA for the "Straight Shooter Award" I received at the Indy breakfast in May. I could blame an almost non-stop short track schedule since then, but procrastination is closest to the truth. It'd been several years since I had attended the festivities as Friday night's Silver Crown show at the Indy fairgrounds mile and Saturday's ORP midgets usually have me scrambling.

Throw in the Indy Collector's show and things begin to blur fast! I'm glad I heeded Ron McQueeney's and Jim Haines' not-so-subtle suggestions that I attend this year's event! Again, it's an award I will treasure and thanks to all who had anything to do with it!

Cheers! - John Mahoney

Tim Loyd Passes

Timothy A. Loyd 51, died September 27, 2007 at Community Hospital East. He was a resident of Indianapolis. He was born August 9, 1956 in Columbus, IN. His father was Jack Loyd. His mother is Joanne (Trotter) Loyd of Columbus, IN. Survivors include companion of 29 years, Becky Lindsey; sister, Sherry Abernathy of Louisville, KY; niece, Lindsey Hartman; nephews, Jason Abernathy, Quentin Garcia,



Derrick Hartman. He was preceded in death by a brother, Roger Loyd. He was employed 10 years by the State of Indiana in the Department of Workforce Development.

Tim was a member of the Old Timers Club at the Indy 500 and AARWBA. He was an award winning photographer and a stringer photographer for Reuters News Service at the Indy 500. He was also the official photographer of the 500 Gordon Pipers.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of Indianapolis or the F.A.C.E. Clinic. (Website: <http://www.facespayneuter.org/maps.html>)

San Francisco Declares Betty Packard Day

AARWBA Member Betty Packard recently received this award in San Francisco.

PROCLAMATION City and County of San Francisco

WHEREAS, The National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) named Betty J. Packard its 2006 Communicator of Achievement, NFPW's highest honor, awarded for professional achievement in communications, contributions to NFPW and its affiliates, and community service; and

WHEREAS, Betty J. Packard was the first woman to edit a national financial magazine, having had experience as editor of several financial publications, teacher of high school journalism, newspaper reporter, and office manager for a racing team at the famed INDY 500; and

WHEREAS, Betty has been a creative force behind specially designed training and personnel development programs as a management consultant; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Betty represented the United States at the World Conference of Women Journalists held in Seoul, Korea; and

WHEREAS, for the past eleven years, Betty served San Francisco as a member of the Ballot Simplification Committee; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Gavin Newsom, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, do hereby proclaim
October 1, 2007 as:
BETTY J. PACKARD DAY
in San Francisco

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed.

Gavin Newsom
Mayor

AARWBA Remembers Wally Parks

NHRA founder, 94, Leaves Motorsports Legacy

**A Tribute To Wally Parks
By Susan Wade**

Wally Parks knew the truth:

Hot rods always have gone fast, disturbed the peace, inspired song, and sparked sexual chemistry. For decades, prudes have balked at the Prudhommes, tsk-tsking that young, car-crazy punks super-charged with felony grade chips on their shoulders are no Boy Scouts.

Well, want in on Parks' secret?

He founded the National Hot Rod Association and patterned it after the Boy Scouts of America. On my honor, Parks would have said. Parks, who died at age 94 at Providence St. Joseph's Medical Center in Burbank, California, from complications of pneumonia, was a business-savvy, tough negotiator when he had to be. He was a bold thinker who had the strength and patience to handle detours and speed bumps in his path. But he was Jimmy Stewart-striking not just in his physical stature but also in his demeanor. Like a Boy Scout, he proved he was trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

He had helped form the SCTA -- the Southern California Timing Association, which was preoccupied with land-speed-record events -- in 1937. He also had helped publishing partners Bob Petersen and Bob Lindsay get Hot Rod Magazine off the ground. He put his stamp on the classic magazine as editor. His resume also included being a road-test driver and process engineer for General Motors. So he knew how to gather likeminded people to focus on a common cause.

Perhaps that's why he so enjoyed the accomplishments of the American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association and his membership in the organization. (In 1994, AARWBA enshrined Parks in our Legends in Motorsports Hall of Fame and honored him last May as recipient of the Bob Russo Founders Award.)

But back in the post-war years, he heard the Southern California car-club and street-racing culture crescendo and wanted to consolidate these scattered efforts and give racers a safe place to pursue their passions. But he was a bit puzzled about just how to go about it . . . until he spoke with his buddy, Wally Curtis, a Mobil Oil executive.

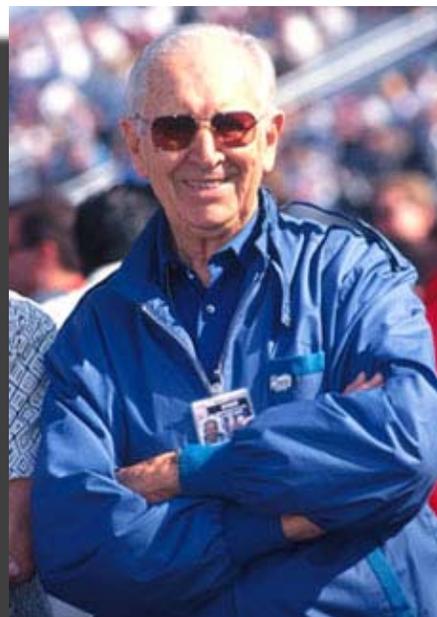
Parks said he knew it would be a major undertaking and said, "We're not really patterned after anything." He confessed that he didn't know quite where to start. Curtis gave Parks a Boy Scouts of America handbook and said, "Here -- read this. It might help you."

Said Parks, grinning at how simple -- and inspirational -- the idea was, "He was right. It had an awful lot of good ideas. So we used the Boy Scouts to get started."

His vision turned into the industry that boasts more than 80,000 members and 140 member tracks nationwide and will pay each of its nitro-class champions \$500,000 this year.

Funny Car's John Force, easily the sport's most popular and recognizable ambassador, and four-time AAWBA Horsepower/Titus Trophy winner said, "Wally Parks started the concept, and we all went with him. Drag racing was something a kid could do with his mom's car and a helmet."

For Force, it turned out to be salvation. He fell in love with fast cars, he said, because it eased what he called "the pain of growing up in poverty."



AARWBA Remembers Wally Parks

Force's struggle to break into drag racing and to survive in the process is legendary itself, how he lived like a pauper to give to his car but entered nearly 70 NHRA races before he wound up in the winners circle. And it was all because of what Wally Parks had established and promoted.

When Force won the Pep Boys 50th Anniversary Nationals -- the special night race July 7, 2001, at Pomona, California -- he dedicated his victory to Parks.

Parks' beloved wife, Barbara, died of cancer January 25, 2006, and though hers had been a quiet presence, she nevertheless was a creative and dynamic force who helped Parks execute his business plan. They were a team, Wally and Barbara, even when Wally was editor of Hot Rod Magazine and she was his secretary there.

Every fan, participant, and supporting manufacturer of the sport of drag racing is going to feel the loss of Wally Parks for years to come.



Mike Hollander Remembers Wally Parks

"I consider it an honor and a privilege - and I know I'm not the only one - to have worked for Wally Parks and the museum he loved so much. His legacy will cast a long shadow on motorsports and the movement to save young kids from the dangers of street racing for centuries to come. "

Michael F. Hollander

National Vice-President, AARWBA
Editor, Racing Information Systems

Dusty Brandel Remembers Wally Parks

I've known Wally for over 50 years. Wally was always a gentleman and friend who encouraged a young female journalist to keep writing and shooting pictures as a motorsports journalist for the Hollywood Citizen-News. He said that all motorsports sanctioning bodies would one day know that women could do the job as well as the men. And NHRA has always been a family -friendly association.



Wally Parks, founder of the National Hot Rod Association, was a true racing pioneer, and in 1975 the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association honored him with No. 9 honorary membership. In 1984, Wally was elected into AARWBA's "Legends in Racing" Hall of Fame, the first On-Line Hall Of Fame since 1979.

At the AARWBA 50th Anniversary kickoff dinner, Wally was named one of 12 nominees of the Newsmaker of the Half-Century. Wally has always been a great supporter of AARWBA, and we will all miss him. What a wonderful legacy Wally has left behind for the leaders of NHRA and the Wally Parks Motorsports Museum.

Member Spotlight

Hal and David Higdon

David Higdon is a new AARWBA affiliate member, but he isn't new to auto racing.

Earlier this year, David joined Champ Car as Executive Vice President of Strategic Development and Communications. Long-time AARWBA members, though, remember his father Hal. A former AARWBA member and winner in our annual journalism contest, Hal authored books in the 1970's and 1980 including *The Indy 500: Thirty Days in May*; *Finding the Groove*; *Six Seconds to Glory: Don Prudhomme's Greatest Drag Race*; *Showdown at Daytona*; *Summer of Triumph: The Life of Jimmy Caruthers* and *Johnny Rutherford, Indy Champion*.

"He (Hal) took me to plenty of races, too many to remember," says David, born in 1961. "I do remember drag racing at what I believe was the 'U.S. 30 Drag Strip' somewhere nearby in northern Indiana. I thought the 'Snake' (Prudhomme)



David Higdon

and the 'Mongoose' (Tom McEwen) were the coolest dudes on the planet! And, of course, I attended the Indy 500 and Daytona 500 . . . I recall one Indy 500 when they held an 'Indy 5' bike race, where a driver and a partner drove a bike one lap around each. My father did it with Peter Revson, I believe."

Before arriving at Champ Car, David was Senior Vice President, Communications, for the ATP men's tennis circuit. He says, however, he was "destined to follow in the footsteps of both my father and his father, who was a magazine editor in Chicago." Following college graduation in 1983, David was awarded a prestigious Pulliam Fellowship and worked that summer at the *Indianapolis Star*. Then, it was on to the City News Bureau of Chicago, the famed reporters "boot camp" that was home to such journalism legends as Mike Royko and Kurt Vonnegut. "Running around Chicago in minus-10 degree weather, chasing cops and firemen and Mayor



Hal Higdon

Harold Washington and Jesse Jackson, for any crumb of a story that the editors could trash and turn you into a bumbling idiot in the process," David remembers of that experience. "In other words, great training for real life!" He moved on to New York City as an editor at *The Runner*, *American Health* and *Tennis* magazines. Next was freelancing, using Portland, Oregon, as his base. He was published in the *New York Times* among other outlets. "I actually was the only journalist at Barry Bonds' wedding, covering it for *InStyle!*" David went to the ATP in 1998. He wrote a piece on Roger Federer last June for *ESPN The Magazine* before the new Champ Car position was created. That role has him overseeing all communications and PR activities and working with owners, staff, teams and drivers to develop and implement the overall strategic business plan.

By the way, Hal is now 76, and spends his time in Long Beach, Indiana, on Lake Michigan, where David grew up. "My mother's family is Italian, so of course, we were HUGE Mario Andretti fans, and considered him 'one of us,'" David said. "It was nice to meet him 'again,' as an adult, at Edmonton this year."





American Auto Racing Writers, Broadcasters Association
922 N. Pass Ave. Burbank, CA 91505-2703
818/ 842-7005 and Fax: 818/ 842-7020

Annual Dinner Tribute Souvenir Program
January 12, 2008
Hyatt Regency - Indianapolis

To order your advertising space for the 2008 Dinner Tribute Souvenir Program, please fill out the form below and send your check to AARWBA at the address above.

*** All Advertising Materials should be sent to Doug Caruso of Speedway Press.

<u>NHRA</u>	Back Cover, 4-color	\$3,000	* Includes table of ten (10) with logo sign
<u>IRL</u>	Inside Front Cover, 4 color	\$2,700	* Includes table of ten (10) with logo sign
<u>CCWS</u>	Inside Back Cover, 4 color	\$2,700	* Includes table of ten (10) with logo sign
_____	Center two-page spread, 4 color	\$4,950	* Includes table of ten (10) with logo sign
_____	Full Page 4 color (inside)	\$2,500	* Includes table of ten (10) with logo sign
_____	Full Page, black/white	\$2,000	* Includes table of ten (10) with logo sign
_____	Full Page, black/white	\$1,700	* No table

(All ads above VERTICAL format only)

_____ Half Page, black/white \$950 * No table
(Horizontal Format Only)

Table of 10 without advertisement with signage \$850

*** Speedway Press is handling the printing: contact Doug Caruso 315/ 342-1363

His email is: rspeedw1@twcny.rr.com Deadline is December 14, 2007

Company _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Agency Name _____ Phone _____
(no agency commission)

Date: _____ Signature _____