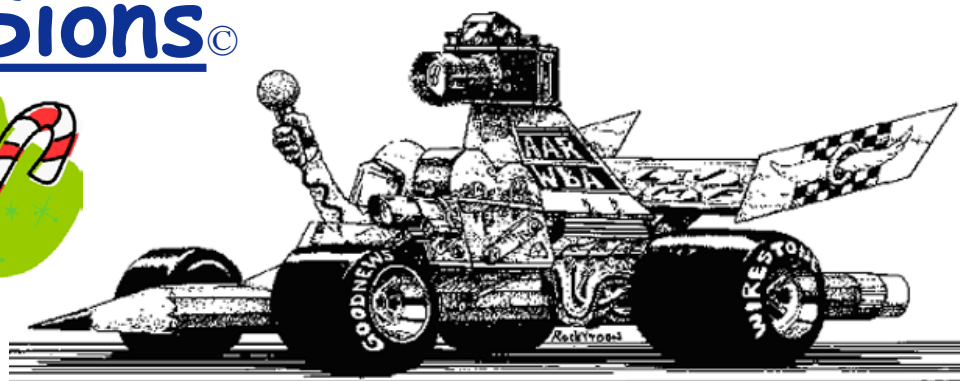


ImpRESSIONs[©]

50th
Anniversary



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

Dec. 2005



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AARWBA Thanks Our Official 50th Anniversary Sponsors:

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

AARWBA All-America Team Dinner

Presented by Sprint Nextel

Titus Trophy Goes to Wheldon

NASCAR President **Mike Helton** was the featured speaker and **Dan Wheldon**, the Indy 500 winner and IRL series champion, was announced as recipient of the **Jerry Titus Memorial Trophy** at the 36th annual All-America Team dinner presented by Sprint Nextel Dec. 3 in Indianapolis. The sold-out event marked the official conclusion of AARWBA's year-long 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Approximately 250 members, guests and VIPs were in attendance at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis for the ceremonies. Members of AARWBA, the country's oldest and largest organization of motorsports media professionals, annually elect drivers to the Team from seven categories: Stock car, open-wheel, drag racing, road racing, short track, touring series and at-large. The Titus is named in honor of the late AARWBA member journalist and professional racer and the unique trophy features his typewriter and helmet. It goes to the driver who receives the most All-America Team votes. Wheldon was not in attendance and AARWBA President **Dusty Brandel** accepted.



The **Jerry Titus** trophy



Overhead view of the atrium in the Indianapolis Hyatt hotel.

On-hand to receive their gold "Horsepower" trophies as Team members were: NHRA Top Fuel champion **Tony Schumacher** and Rookie of the Year **Robert Hight**, attending for his teammate **John Force** (drag racing category); World of Outlaws sprint car titlist and U.S. racing icon **Steve Kinser** and USAC Silver Crown title-holder **Dave Steele** (short track); Rolex sports car Daytona Prototype champs **Wayne Taylor and Max Angelelli** and class runners-up **Scott Pruett and Luis Diaz Jr.** (road racing); ALMS GT-2 class title-holder **Patrick Long** (at-large); and ARCA stock car champion **Frank Kimmel** (touring series). Other drivers elected to the Team were: **Tony Stewart** and **Jimmie Johnson** (stock car); **Martin Truex Jr.** (touring); **Jorg Bergmeister** and **Rob MacCachren** (at-large); and Wheldon and **Sebastien Bourdais** (open-wheel).

Several special awards were presented, including:

Dusty Brandel President's Award: Recently renamed in tribute to the long-time AARWBA president, the honor went to the Hulman-George family for their help to AARWBA. **Tony Hulman**, who purchased the Indianapolis Motor Speedway just over 60 years ago, started the family's tradition of supporting AARWBA and **Tony George** continues that to this day. **Mari Hulman George**, IMS chairman of the board, accepted from Brandel.

Jim Chapman Award: **Susan Arnold**, of Kenny Bernstein Budweiser King Racing, received the honor for outstanding achievement in motorsports public relations. It is named in memory of Chapman, the late legendary PR executive, who was Babe Ruth's PR representative and director of racing for CART series sponsor PPG Industries. Arnold is the first recipient from drag racing. She was chosen by a blue-ribbon committee of journalists, all of whom knew Chapman. The plaque was presented by AARWBA 50th Anniversary Celebration Chairman **Michael Knight** and Associated Press' motorsports writer **Mike Harris**, both close friends of Chapman.

All-America Team Dinner

Pioneer In Racing Award: Safety innovator **Robert Falcon** received this award for life-long contributions to motorsports. Falcon is the inventor and developer of the “Shoehorn Rapid Extrication” device, used to remove drivers from race cars without aggravating possible spinal injuries. Falcon worked at Halibrand Engineering and served on the USAC safety committee for almost 30 years.

Bob Russo Founder’s Award: The inaugural award, which honors the first AARWBA president, went to AARWBA 50th Anniversary Chairman Michael Knight. The award goes to an AARWBA member who has worked diligently to further the organization and for profound interest, tireless efforts and dedication to auto racing as exemplified by Russo. AARWBA charter member **Bill Marvel**, who established the tribute to Russo with help from **Gary and Collene Campbell**, the brother-in-law and sister of the late **Mickey Thompson** for whom Russo worked, made the presentation.

Gorsline Scholarship: This annual scholarship, from insurance executive **John Gorsline**, went to **Katherine Legge**. She won three Toyota Atlantic series races in 2005 and finished third in points in her rookie season. **Pam Griffith**, Legge’s Polestar Racing team owner, came on stage to speak about the importance of the scholarship in furthering the careers of young drivers.

Lifetime Memberships: Special AARWBA membership cards went to NASCAR Vice President of Corporate Communications **Jim Hunter** and Indianapolis Motor Speedway Corp. Executive Vice President of Communications **Fred Nation** and Knight.

In addition to Helton, industry VIPs on hand included: USAC Chairman **John Capels**, Indianapolis Motor Speedway President **Joie Chitwood**, Fernandez Racing co-owner **Tom Anderson**, former Indy 500 Rookie of the Year **Lyn St. James**, Knoxville Nationals and ARCA race winner **Kraig Kinser**, Toyota Atlantic champion **Charles Zwolsman**, NHRA racers **Tommy Johnson Jr.**, **Melanie Troxel** and **Antron Brown**, Champ Car team owner **Derrick Walker**, Champ Car Executive Vice President of Marketing **Will Wilson**, Don Schumacher Racing Senior Vice President **Mike Lewis**, IRL Vice President of Marketing **Mike Ringham**, Long Beach Grand Prix President **Jim Michaelian**, Indiana sprint car series champion **Justin Marvel**, Valvoline brand manager **Steve Costello**, and USAC Board member **Ken Unger**.

Popular broadcaster **Bob Jenkins**, Speed Channel co-anchor, was Master of Ceremonies. Attendees walked a red carpet past the 1955 Indy 500 winning “Pink Zink” Kurtis-Kraft Offenhauser and a 2005 IRL Fernandez Racing Honda to symbolize AARWBA’s half-century of motorsports heritage. AARWBA’s first organizational meeting was held about one mile from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Long-time AARWBAer **Jack Martin**, a Navy veteran and member of “The Greatest Generation,” led the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a visual tribute to AARWBA’s 50 years, produced and edited by Western Vice President **Mike Hollander**, with contributions from members. The ceremony concluded with Knight banging a gavel to officially close the 50th Anniversary Celebration, followed by a drop of gold balloons, to the music auld lang syne.

**Official AARWBA 50th Anniversary Celebration sponsors include:
Porsche Cars North America, NASCAR, Indianapolis Motor Speedway,
Indy Racing League, Valvoline, Toyota Motorsports, American Honda,
Fernandez Racing, Champ Car World Series, Budweiser, BMW,
NHRA, American Le Mans Series and Ford Racing.**

Notes from the Dinner

* AARWBA received many compliments following the All-America Team dinner, but perhaps none better than what Steve Kinser had to say. Talking with Michael Knight, Kinser said he'd "made a mistake" in missing the ceremony in the past, adding he didn't realize "how important it was" to be there. He called it a "great night." When Knight said he hoped Kinser would come back, Steve replied, "I will." In fact, all the Team drivers on hand said they enjoyed the event.

* Several attendees flew to Indianapolis from the West Coast. Special credit to Luis Diaz, who came up from Mexico City, and to Dave Steele, who traveled back after winning the USAC sprint car race in Orlando the night before. Of course, Mike Helton and Jim Hunter came from New York City, the site of the previous evening's Nextel Cup awards.

* All-but-one Indy TV station came to the Hyatt to cover the dinner. Mike Helton was interviewed by all those channels. AARWBA thanks Josh Laycock of IMS for his help in coordinating this. Vince Welch talked about the dinner on WIBC radio the day before while Dave Wilson interviewed Michael Knight on his WIBC program earlier in the week.

* While AARWBA is an "auto" racing media group, we were honored to have NHRA Pro Stock Motorcycle winner Antron Brown in attendance. Brown, who rides the Army Suzuki, sat at the Don Schumacher Racing table captained by team Senior VP Mike Lewis.

* Attending his first AARWBA event was Steve Costello, the new Valvoline brand manager. Costello took the opportunity to meet the media and said he had a "great time." Among others at the Valvoline table, invited by Barry Bronson, were ARCA champion Frank Kimmel and Champ Car owner Derrick Walker.

* One of the busiest people at the dinner was member Tim Tuttle, who took the chance to interview Mike Helton, Steve Kinser, Scott Pruett and Dave Steele for off-season columns.

* Susan Arnold received loud applause when she came to the stage to accept the Jim Chapman Award. In addition to thanking Kenny Bernstein and Budweiser, Susie – the first Chapman Award winner from the world of drag racing – concluded with "God Bless Jim Chapman" for paving the way for all racing PR people who followed him.

* Sprint Nextel's presenting sponsorship allowed Dusty to arrange an upgraded pre-dinner reception, with servers offering guests a variety of *hors d'oeuvres*. On their way to the reception, guests walked a red carpet past the 1955 Indy 500 winning "Pink Zink" Offy from the IMS Museum, and a current-day IRL Honda provided by Tom Anderson of Fernandez Racing. Everyone enjoyed a selection of Budweiser and Coca-Cola products throughout the evening. The ceremony, which concluded in a crisp two hours under the direction of MC Bob Jenkins, ended with 50th Anniversary Chairman Michael Knight gaveling our 50th to a close, followed by the playing of *auld lang syne* and a drop of hundreds of gold balloons.



Michael Knight raises a bottle of Budweiser in offering a toast to the 50th Anniversary Celebration and all AARWBA members, "past, present and future."

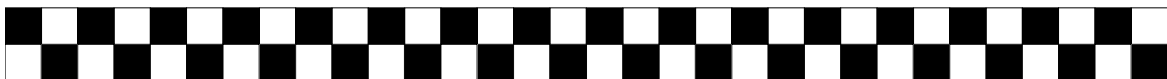
* Western VP Mike Hollander, who produced the show, earned wide praise for his 50th anniversary historical visual presentation and for his idea of placing wide-screen plasma TVs throughout the Hyatt atrium.

* Line of the night: After Michael Knight introduced Hyatt Regency GM David Jacobs, revenue manager Kelly Butz and catering manager Tasha Fletcher and praised their professionalism and great service to AARWBA, one member (who will remain unidentified) said: "You know they must have done a helluva job if he's happy!"

* Members who would like to share their comments on the dinner, or make suggestions on future dinner locations or dates, are encouraged to E-mail Dusty at aarwba@compuserve.com . However, please be specific. Simply saying that "we need to find a date when all the Team drivers can attend," isn't helpful . . . AARWBA has been trying to do that for decades! If anyone knows of such a "perfect" date, we would love to know what it is. By the way, three days after our dinner, a story was published that NASCAR was unhappy that Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jeff Gordon, Kasey Kahne and Elliott Sadler didn't attend the New York ceremonies. AARWBA knows the feeling!



The 2005 All-America Team group photo.



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

50TH Anniversary Celebration Chairman Michael Knight spoke at the All-America Team dinner on several topics of importance to AARWBA members. Here are excerpts from his remarks.

As an AARWBA member for more-than 30 years, I consider it an honor to have had the opportunity to contribute as chairman of the 50th Anniversary Celebration. When I worked at the *Philadelphia Daily News*, I was Eastern vice president for a few years. I also was a member of the Baseball Writers Association. If you have any doubt just how influential the Baseball Writers group is, I suggest you ask Pete Rose, who I covered during part of his historic 44-game hitting streak in 1978. I have always believed that the motorsports industry benefits from effective organizations like AARWBA, which can raise standards, improve relationships, and solve small problems before they mushroom into large ones. I'll talk a little more about this later . . .

I know the usual criticism of ceremonies like this is it becomes a recitation of 'thank you.' Respectfully, I could NOT disagree more. In my opinion, those are the two most under-utilized words in our society. I'm pleased to offer a number of most sincere THANK YOU'S.



50th Anniversary Chairman Michael Knight

Let me start with the racers and executives who made time in their busy schedules to be here to help AARWBA conclude our 50th Anniversary. I especially welcome the Team drivers: Steve, Tony, Scott, Dave, Wayne, Max, Patrick, Luis, Frank and Robert. As someone who deals with PR and image issues, let me assure you, your presence is duly noted not only by those in this room, but also will be reported to all of our members. We thank you for respecting AARWBA.

As chairman, I've had the pleasure of working with those who stepped-up to help AARWBA as official 50th Anniversary sponsors . . . Porsche Cars North America (Bob Carlson); NASCAR (Jim Hunter); Indianapolis Motor Speedway (Tony George, the Hulman-George family, Joie Chitwood, Fred Nation, Ron Green, Ron McQueeney); Indy Racing League (John Griffin, Tom Savage); Toyota Motorsports (Les Unger, John Procida); Valvoline (Barry Bronson); American Honda (Kurt Antonius, T.E. McHale, Dan Layton); Fernandez Racing (Adrian Fernandez, Tom Anderson, Tamy Valkosky); Champ Car World Series (Steve Shunck, Eric Mauk); Budweiser (Karen Holschlag, Susan Arnold of Kenny Bernstein Bud King Racing); BMW (Roy Oliemuller); NHRA (Jerry Archambeault, Anthony Vestal); American Le Mans Series (Scott Atherton, Bob Dickinson); Ford Racing (Kevin Kennedy); and Sprint Nextel, tonight's presenting sponsor (Mike Mooney).

Fellow members, let me be clear: Without our official sponsors, there WOULD be a 50th anniversary. There would NOT be a 50th Anniversary Celebration. I know you join me in saying these companies will always have our gratitude.

...continued on next page

Chairman's Comments Continued

Also, let me thank our product sponsors – Budweiser and Coca-Cola – and newsletter sponsors: Marlboro Team Penske; Speedteq-Ti; Rolex and Grand-Am sports car series; Meijer stores and Coca-Cola; Newman/Haas Racing; and Lowe's . . .

Chevrolet and Firestone, co-sponsors of our annual pre-Indy 500 breakfast. Also, Dennis Bickmeier of California Speedway who has helped us in many ways. And to the PR reps who have helped coordinate driver appearances tonight: Adam Saal, Chris Dirato, Dave Densmore, Tom Moore, Barbara Burns, Kelby Krauss and Judy Stropus.

We've tried to provide our sponsors with good customer service by returning every phone call and promptly responding to every E-mail. Every commitment has been fulfilled. That is a basic courtesy, but unfortunately, these days, not everyone does business that way. I admit not everything we've tried to do turned out the way I had hoped. There have been disappointments. Any shortcomings by AARWBA have been my responsibility. I do hope every sponsor feels their participation in the 50th Anniversary has been worthwhile.

Our goals for the 50th anniversary have been to increase recognition for AARWBA within the motorsports industry; and to increase the benefits of membership for current and potential new members. I leave it to the judgment of our members if we have been successful. AARWBA also wanted to use this special occasion to visibly demonstrate our commitment to this great sport. This can be described in one word: RESPECT.

During the past year, AARWBA has respected the sport's history by voting the France Family as Newsmaker of the Half-Century, and thanks again to Lesa France Kennedy who attended our breakfast in May to accept the award. We've shown respect for cooperation with the media by presenting the Rick Mears 'Good Guy' Award to Rusty Wallace. Tonight, we offer our respect with more tributes, especially to drivers with our top honor, membership on the All-America Team. With respect, I would remind some that respect is a two-way street.

Perhaps most importantly, AARWBA showed its respect for the fans, by quickly donating to the Red Cross Hurricane Katrina relief fund. We also encouraged our members to help publicize this cause. On behalf of AARWBA, I say thank you to the fans, who make this great sport possible. Drivers usually thank the fans for supporting their sponsors. But let us, as a media organization, also acknowledge that the fans read our stories, watch our telecasts, listen to our radio reports, and look at our photographs. The public keeps the media in business every bit as much as they do the sponsors and teams. We should never forget that simple fact . . .

AARWBA's 50th Anniversary Celebration ends tonight, but when I agreed to serve as chairman, I promised Dusty and the Board I would continue to work at it until 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31. Then, after 20 intensive months of planning and executing the 50th anniversary, it will be appropriate for me to step back. I call upon other members to step forward. Dusty has largely done it herself for years and that cannot continue. We have clearly shown the entire motorsports industry this year what AARWBA can do – and with your active participation – AARWBA can do more. A look at our membership roster reveals a lineup even George Steinbrenner would envy. AARWBA can, should, and MUST continue to grow and get stronger and strive to match the Baseball Writers. I pledge to do all I can to help achieve that worthy goal. But I remind members of this basic fact: AARWBA is YOUR organization and it will be what YOU make of it.



Photos From Our All America Team Dinner

Photos courtesy of Ron McQueeney and Michael Knight



Mari Hulman George (right) receives the Dusty Brandel President's Award from Dusty.



Adam Saal (center), Grand-Am director of communications, came through for AARWBA by having all four of his Rolex Series drivers who made the All-America Team at the dinner. From left: **Luis Diaz**, **Scott Pruett**, **Saal**, **Max Angelelli** and **Wayne Taylor**.



NHRA Rookie of the Year **Robert Hight** at the podium appearing for John Force.



NASCAR President **Mike Helton** was the featured speaker



Pioneer In Racing **Bob Falcon** (right) receives award from MC **Bob Jenkins**.



Sprint car legend **Steve Kinser** talks about his All-America Team award.



Polestar team owner **Pam Griffith** talks about the Gorsline Scholarship earned by her driver, **Katherine Legge**.



At-large category winner **Patrick Long** (left) with Western VP **Mike Hollander**.

Kelly Butz (left) and **Tasha Fletcher** of the Indianapolis Hyatt provided outstanding service for the All-America Team dinner. (You know it was good because even Michael Knight was happy!)



AARWBA charter member **Bill Marvel**, who was key in arranging for Steve Kinser and Dave Steele to attend the dinner, announces the Bob Russo Founder's Award.



Road racing recipients **Luis Diaz** (left) and **Scott Pruett** (right) with **Lewis Franck**.



Susan Arnold received the Jim Chapman Award from **Michael Knight** (left) and **Mike Harris**.



USAC Silver Crown champ **Dave Steele** thanks the media for his award.



Midwest VP **Ron Lemasters** (left) hands over the hardware to ARCA champ **Frank Kimmel**.



Rolex Series champions **Wayne Taylor** (left) and **Max Angelelli** with **Lewis Franck**.



Top Fuel titlist **Tony Schumacher** (left) with **Big Jim Wilson**.

Jack Martin leads the "Pledge" as **Bob Jenkins** watches.



“Sweepstakes” Motorsports Journalism Award of Excellence Contest

**ENTRY DEADLINE EXTENDED UNTIL DEC. 31, 2005.
WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED EARLY IN THE 2006 SEASON.**

- 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.



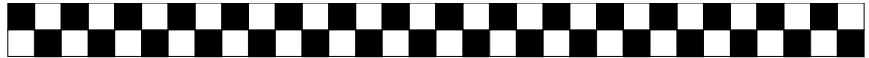
SHAV GLICK TO RETIRE IN JANUARY

Motorsports journalism icon Shav Glick will officially retire from the *Los Angeles Times* on Jan. 16, 2006. The widely respected and honored Glick, who is a member of the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, says his only immediate plans are to travel and play golf.

AARWBA will honor Shav in our first 2006 newsletter. There will be a selection of photos and we are inviting members to submit brief stories and tributes. If you have a favorite Shav story, or just want to wish him well, please share your message with us. E-mail ASAP to newsletter editor Andy Hartwell at ashartwell@att.net.



Hundreds of gold balloons float down on guests at the end of the ceremonies to the music of auld lang syne, signaling the end of the AARWBA All America Team Dinner.



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