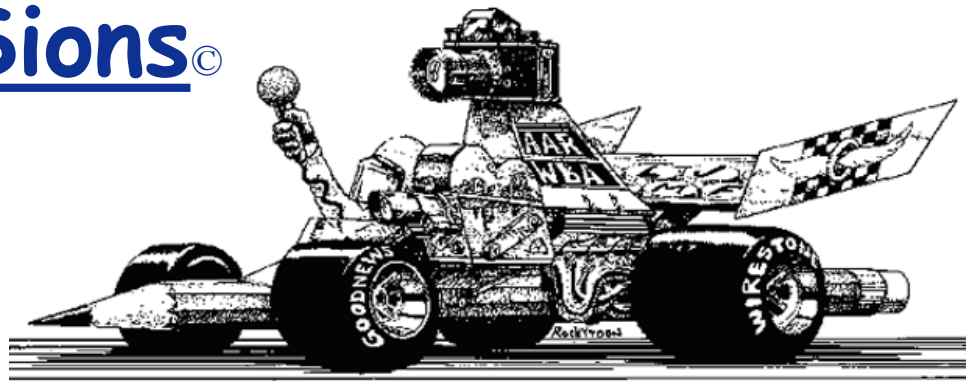


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50th
Anniversary



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News Notes

ALMS, Ford Racing Official 50th Anniversary Sponsors

The American Le Mans Series and Ford Racing have become official sponsors of the AARWBA 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2005.

The ALMS is a series of North American professional sports car races based on the 24 Hours of Le Mans. "We are very pleased to help support the 50th Anniversary celebration of AARWBA," said Scott Atherton, ALMS president and CEO.



Scott Atherton
Photo courtesy of
ALMS

"We have a great deal of respect for AARWBA and what it stands for, and many members are old friends. Media coverage has played a large part in the growth of our series over the last six years and we look forward to many more years of AARWBA leading the way in motorsports media."



Dan Davis, director, Ford Racing Technology, said: "We're pleased to be able to support AARWBA as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. There's a lot of reasons that auto racing has grown to be as popular as it has become, but media coverage is certainly among the most important reasons. Coverage of the sport — print, electronic and the web — has allowed the public to get to know the great stories, the technological development, the incredible passion, and the heroes that make racing what it is."

AARWBA offers its thanks to Scott Atherton and former ALMS media relations director Andy Hall. Our appreciation also to Dan Davis and long-time AARWBA member and friend Kevin Kennedy at Campbell & Co.

Last Reminder! 35th Anniversary All-American Team Banquet January 15, 2005

The 35th Anniversary Auto Racing All-America Banquet will be held on January 15, 2005 at the [Wally Parks NHRA Motorsports Museum](#) in Pomona, California and the [Sheraton Fairplex Suites](#). Members of the racing news media meet to honor the drivers cited for their efforts during the 2004 racing season. It's one of the few banquets in the racing industry that's open to the public.

Tickets are sold only in advance and it's a night that racing enthusiasts won't want to miss.
(Black tie optional - cocktail attire.)

To order tickets, AARWBA members must send \$50.00 in check or money order made out to AARWBA for each desired ticket to the address below. The ticket price includes an event program with stories on each of the drivers.

For more information on the banquet call the
American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association
Telephone (818) 842-7005 Facsimile (818) 842-7020

Long Time Auto Racing Journalist And Former AARWBA Vice President Dick Mittman Retires

By Dick Mittman

The time has come when I must say farewell to a job I've loved – writing about sports and, in particular, auto racing over the last six decades.

The past 6 ½ years have been spent writing about the evolvement of the Indy Racing League, the tremendous growth of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Indy 500, Brickyard 400 and United States Grand Prix as Senior Editor for the p.r. department of the Speedway.

At 72, it was mutually decided it was time for me, as Gen. Douglas MacArthur, my life-long hero, said it so dramatically, to just fade away. I'll still be on call if there is need for a historical feature or such, but mostly you'll find me and my wife Pat attending one of our grandchildren's sporting events.

I'm proud to say I was a journalist from start to end.

I was introduced to the newspaper world by my mother and stepfather when I was young. He was an itinerant printer and she was a reporter who carried a Speed Graphic on her assignments. This was before women flooded the news rooms. I learned to operate a linotype and shoot pictures and the writing talent came, I guess, from my mother's genes. When I lived with them we moved about like gypsies – six high schools in three years.



Dick stands by while an obviously “enthusiastic” A.J. Foyt makes his point!

I learned from my father, who always lived in Indianapolis, never to give up on your dream. In later life he told me he had always wanted to be florist, but to support the family he delivered donuts at night and later owned three different grocery stores.

At 17, I walked into the editorial room of The Indianapolis Times and was hired as a copyboy at \$30 a week. My father was aghast because I turned down a job of \$70 a week running a linotype. Later, I also declined an invitation to become a printer's apprentice.

But at 18 ½ I was promoted to full-time member of The Times editorial staff as the movie, radio and TV (just budding at the time) critic. I could have written on a grain of salt what I knew about these media outlets, but I persevered and survived.

I moved to the city desk and learned from the veteran newsies how to cover everything from

weather to murders. Returning from the Army in 1955, I rejoined the Times and that summer moved into the sports department. That's where I wanted to be. Eight years later I was sports editor and then the paper folded.

But before that traumatic day of Oct. 11, 1965, I had the oddest thing occur. One May day in 1964 I was driving to the Speedway listening to the radio. The sports announcer came on and reported that the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association had elected its officers. I was appointed vice president, he said. I had never heard of the organization.

Forty years later I'm still a card-holding member. I worked as the executive director for a number of years, publishing the Newsletter, handling the membership, writing contest and other duties. All from our dining room table. When my regular job and our growing family began to demand more time I eventually yielded the work load to Dusty Brandel, who has done a marvelous job of keeping the organization afloat since.

continued on next page

Dick Mittman Retires

I did establish the “Jigger Award” that is presented each year to someone in May who somehow didn’t have things go quite right during the month. It is named for Leon Duray “Jigger” Sirois, a driver who nearly won the pole in 1969 only to have the run called off by his car owner on the fourth and final lap. He never made the race but is one of the nicest and most gracious men ever in the sport. There has never been a moment of bitterness. “Winners” of the Jigger Award range from Roger Penske to Billy Roe.

After The Times folded, I went to the Chicago Daily News for a year and brought auto racing onto its sports pages. In 1967, sports editor Wayne Fuson asked me to join the Indianapolis News and cover auto racing. The paper merged with its sister paper, the Indianapolis Star, to become the Star/News and then The News folded entirely in 1999.

During these years I wrote auto racing for The Sporting News for a couple of summers and contributed to a racing newspaper called the Auto Racing News. A young Michael Knight, currently deeply involved with our AARWBA 50th anniversary planning for 2005, was a fellow contributor.

Two days after I retired from The Star/News on March 14, 1998, I joined the Speedway p.r. staff at the bequest of then p.r. director Mae Lindstrom and department head Fred Nation. I immediately went to Phoenix for an IRL race, returned and got A.J. Foyt to discuss all 35 races in which he drove.



Dick records the words of Indy veteran Johnny Rutherford outside the garage in 1976.

The final story I wrote concerned the retirement of Mike Ahern, a local television anchorman and his involvement with the Speedway through the years.

Over the decades I chronicled the exploits of Foyt from his first race at Indy as a driver in 1958 until last May when at 69 he had tears in his eyes as son Larry and grandson A.J. IV qualified for the same race. I wrote about NASCAR in its budding years and in 1988 my story on Bobby Allison beating son Davey in the Daytona 500 was named the Associated Press’ sports story of the year.

I covered USAC races and NHRA races, even go-kart races. I have seen hundreds of drivers, mechanics and owners come and go. I tried to interview every one, whether he or she was a star or a spear-carrier in the field. I wrote about Janet Guthrie from her attempts to make the 500, Lyn St. James and Sarah Fisher to follow. I watched Jeff Gordon develop in open wheel racing and become a four-time winner of the Brickyard 400 just as I was there when Foyt, Al Unser and Rick Mears won the Indy 500 four times. I also was there as Tony Stewart drove in the IRL and when he was introduced by Joe Gibbs as his NASCAR driver of the future. I’ve been there for three Michael Schumacher USGP victories at Indy and one that he gave away.

It’s been a passion of love. I think race drivers are a special breed of athlete. I’ve covered every sport imaginable, but no other athlete in my mind can climb into a car and drive 500 miles or whatever at incredible speeds with the knowledge that one slip-up could be the last one.

In my farewell, I salute them all.

A photo scrapbook of Dick’s career follows on the next few pages.

REMINDER!

**Writing, Broadcasting, Photography & Online Media Contest Sponsored by the Indianapolis Motor Speedway
\$10,000 In Prizes To Be Awarded! Deadline is the end of January!**

**Complete details and an entry form are available on the AARWBA website: www.aarwba.org
(Or cut and paste this url into your browser: <http://beta.motorsportsforum.com/ris01/acontest.htm>)**

Memories Of A Long Career - An Album Of Photographs Celebrating Dick Mittman's Lifetime Of Journalistic Achievement



Dick with Mario Andretti, who is holding a copy of The Indianapolis News the day after he won the Indy 500 in 1969.

Dick with Nigel Mansell at Driver-of-the-Year luncheon in New York's 21 Club in December, 1993.



Dick with actor, racer, pace car driver and former team owner James Garner trackside at Indy in 1985.



Dick helped in the groundbreaking at Indianapolis Raceway Park 20 some years ago. Also participating were Dave Overpeck (left), the late AARWBA president, Bob Daniels (to Dick's left), IRP president, and NHRA founder Wally Parks (to Dick's right).



Dick interviews Dale Earnhardt in 1991.

AARWBA Vintage 1964...



Indy and Speedway members displaying their new sports jackets with the AARWBA emblem in 1964. People in the picture (left to right): Bill Marvel, Speedway; Bob Laycock, Speedway; Bob Renner, Indianapolis News; Dick Mittman, Indianapolis Times; Wayne Fuson, Indianapolis News; Sid Collins, "Voice of the 500"; Jim Smith, USAC; George Moore, Indianapolis Times; Dale Burgess, Associated Press, and Kurt Freudenthal, United Press International

...And Senior Members Today



Bill Eggert (left) and Bill Marvel in front of what was Mate's White Front Tavern where the AARWBA was organized 50 years ago next August. Eggert will be 86 on Dec. 7 and Marvel is 74.

Dick Mittman took the picture on November 5th.

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

Voting Is Under Way For 2004 Auto Racing All-America Team

Voting has begun among almost 300 members of the motorsports press to select the 2004 Auto Racing All-America team. Among those on the ballot are former Jerry Titus Award winners John Force (1996, 1999, 2000, 2002), Jeff Gordon (1995, 1998, 2001), and Tommy Kendall (1997) — that is every one from 1995 to 2002 — as well as the driver who has been All-American more than any other, Steve Kinser, who seeks his 22nd All-America selection. Also on the ballot seeking selection in one of seven categories — Open Wheel, Stock Car, Road Racing, Drag Racing, Short Track, Touring Series and At Large -- are 16 drivers who could be making their first-ever All-American appearance.

Members of the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association, will vote from among six drivers named in each category. This year a change in the voting method puts 44 drivers on the ballot instead of 42 — in road racing co-drivers who were teammates with virtually identical records are voted as one.

Two from each category will be named to the first team, to be honored at the annual AARWBA banquet Jan. 15 in Pomona, Calif. The winner of the Jerry Titus Award will also be announced at the banquet. The Titus Award honors the team's top driver - the one earning the most votes in the balloting regardless of category.

The balloting will also determine a second team of the drivers placing third and fourth in each category, and honorable mentions to all other drivers receiving at least 5 percent of the vote. AARWBA members have annually chosen an All-America Auto Racing Team since 1970.

The banquet, which also kicks off AARWBA's 50th anniversary, is open to the public. Ticket information is available from AARWBA, 922 N. Pass Ave., Burbank, Calif. 91505, or call (818) 842-7005.

The drivers listed below are on the 2003 All-America ballot. Numbers in parentheses indicate previous times elected to first team/second team/honorable mention; *** indicates first time on ballot.

OPEN WHEEL RACING

Sebastien Bourdais (0/0/1) – Champ Car champion, seven victories

Bruno Junqueira (***) – Second in Champ Car, two victories

Tony Kanaan (***) – IRL IndyCar champion, three victories

Buddy Rice (1/0/0) – Indianapolis 500 pole and winner, Third in IndyCars, two other victories

Paul Tracy (3/1/3) – Fourth in Champ Car, two victories

Dan Wheldon (0/1/0) – Second in IndyCar, three victories STOCK CAR Kurt Busch (0/1/0) – Nextel Cup champion, three victories

Dale Earnhardt Jr. (2/1/1) – Fifth in Nextel Cup, 6 victories include Daytona 500, two Busch series victories

Jeff Gordon (8/1/1) – Third in Nextel Cup, just 16 points behind, five victories including fourth Brickyard 400

Jimmie Johnson (0/1/1) – Second in Nextel Cup just 8 points behind, eight victories

Kasey Kahne (0/1/0) – Nextel Cup Rookie of the Year, two Craftsman Truck victories

Mark Martin (4/4/4) – Fourth in Nextel Cup, one victory

Continued on next page

Voting For 2004 Auto Racing All-America Team, continued

ROAD RACING

Ron Fellows (2/2/2) - American LeMans GTS champion, five victories

Paul Gentilozzi (3/1/0) – SCCA Trans-Am Champion, five victories

Ian James (***) – American LeMans Series P2 champion, three victories; one Sport Touring victory in Grand-Am Cup

Tommy Kendall (6/3/0) – SCCA Trans-Am runner-up, two victories, tied Gentilozzi on points.

JJ Lehto/Marco Werner (***) - 0/0/1) – American Le Mans P1 champions, six victories

Max Papis/Scott Pruett (***) - 5/1/1) – Grand-Am Daytona Prototype champions, four victories

DRAG RACING

Greg Anderson (0/1/0) – NHRA Pro Stock champion, 15 wins in 19 finals (both all-time NHRA records) John

Force (11/1/0) – NHRA Funny Car Champion, five victories, his 13th championship

Jason Line (***) Second in NHRA Pro Stock, four victories, rookie of the year

Clay Millican (0/1/1) – IHRA Top Fuel champ (fourth straight), seven victories

Gary Scelzi (3/1/0) – Third in NHRA Funny Cars, three victories Tony Schumacher (1/0/0) – NHRA Top Fuel champion, 10 victories (Top Fuel record) SHORT TRACK Jay Drake (0/0/1) – USAC Sprint Car Champion, four victories; also three Silver Crown victories

Bobby East (***) – USAC Midget Champion, seven victories; also won in Sprints (5), Silver Crown (1), three other USAC series

Chad Kemenah (0/0/1) – All-Star Sprints champion, six victories

Steve Kinser (16/1/4) – World of Outlaws champion, 17 feature wins, 19th championship

Danny Lasoski (1/0/0) – Second in World of Outlaws, nine victories

Dave Steele (***) – USAC Silver Crown champion, two victories; also won in USAC Sprints (2) and Midgets (3), plus TBARA (3)

TOURING SERIES

Kyle Busch (***) – Second in NASCAR Busch Series, five victories, rookie of the year

Benny Gordon (***) – Leader in USAR Hooters Cup, 2 victories; USAR Northern champion, four victories

Bobby Hamilton (***) – NASCAR Craftsman Truck champion, four victories

Frank Kimmel (1/0/4) – Won sixth ARCA championship, six victories

Andy Santerre (0/1/0) – NASCAR Busch North champion, five victories

Martin Truex Jr (***) – NASCAR Busch Series champion, six victories

AT LARGE

Bill Auberlen (0/2/0) – Grand-Am GT champion, eight victories; SCCA World Challenge Touring Car champion, three victories

Jon Fogarty (***) – Formula Atlantic Champion, six victories

Rob MacCachren (1/0/0) – SNORE champion, five victories; won four in BitD, four in SCORE including Baja 1000

Thiago Medeiros (***) – IRL Infiniti Pro Series champion, six victories

Patrick Richard (***) – SCCA Pro Rally champion, three outright victories in a Group N car (not the top class).

Scott Speed (***) – won two European Formula Renault championships, four German Series victories, eight Eurocup victories



AARWBA to Present Jim Chapman PR Award

The Jim Chapman Award, for excellence in motorsports public relations, will be presented by AARWBA as part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

The honor is named in memory of Chapman, the legendary Detroit-area PR executive, who was a confidant of Babe Ruth and best remembered by many as director of racing for CART series sponsor PPG Industries from 1981 through his retirement in 1992. Chapman, who also orchestrated the annual Driver of the Year ceremony, died in 1996 at age 80. The Chapman Award was presented throughout the 1990s for PR achievement in the CART series but has been on hiatus in recent years. With the approval of the Chapman family, AARWBA is resuming the award, and expanding eligibility to PR representatives from all forms of motorsports. The winner will be chosen by an AARWBA blue-ribbon committee and announced at the 35th annual All-America Team dinner on January 15.

“Presenting the Jim Chapman Award is one of the best things AARWBA can do as part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration,” said AARWBA President Dusty Brandel. “Jim was a great friend and supporter of AARWBA and is lovingly remembered by many of our members. We are very grateful the Chapman family has given us permission to resume the award, to honor Jim’s memory, since he set the highest standards of professionalism in working with the news media.”

Budweiser at All-America Team Dinner

Budweiser, the exclusive beer category sponsor of AARWBA’s 50th Anniversary Celebration, will provide its products for members and guests at the January 15 All-America Team dinner at the Sheraton Hotel in Pomona. You’ll also be able to enjoy a complimentary Bud during the pre-dinner reception at the Wally Parks NHRA Museum.

AARWBA 50th Chairman Is Guest Speaker At Turf Publicists



AARWBA 50th Anniversary Celebration Chairman Michael Knight was a guest speaker at the annual Turf Publicists of America seminar Dec. 8 in Tucson, Ariz., part of the University of Arizona’s Race Track Industry Program’s symposium on racing.

Knight spoke to the topic, “How Do We Keep the Ball Rolling?,” as the Turf Publicists try to keep their sport in the news following the Triple Crown races.

Also discussed was the new-trend of jockeys wearing commercial identities on their silks and how this compares to what is done in motorsports.

Former AARWBA President Johnny McDonald On The Roots Of The AARWBA All-America Team

The first auto racing All-America in 1970 was composed with some logic, favoritism and sentiment. Nevertheless, motor sports needed a platform each year to honor the top drivers from various competitions. Football shouldn't maintain a priority on the title of All-America so the AARWBA devised one.

The awards in 1971 had to be made at three racing venues: Pomona's Winternationals, Indianapolis and Daytona 500s. Still, there were some glitches. Bloys Britt, AP motor sports editor and AARWBA vice president, prepared a wire story and took off for a vacation. Someone else sent out the story but it missed most of the a.m. and p.m. dailies' deadlines. In desperation, All-America chairman Jep Cadou asked members to "slip the All-America into your columns or stories, it would be appreciated."

Cadou had been assigned a basketball game outside of town and his publication was changing locations. In the office shuffle, his ballot was lost and, apologetically, he said he failed to vote. Indy 500 winner Al Unser pulled the most votes (100) and received the newly designed Jerry Titus Trophy, named for the late driver-magazine writer.

The All-America was divided into four categories then: oval, road, drags and at large. Joining Unser in the oval group were NASCAR sensation Richard Petty and versatile Mario Andretti. However, Mario's better year was '69 when he won the Indy 500.

Parnelli Jones, who found a new "hobby" with off-road racing, talented sports car driver Mark Donohue, and Dan Gurney were named to the road class. Gurney, with a long list of achievements over two decades, made the team although he retired after the Ontario 500.

Drag racing listed two future Hall of Famers, Don Prudhomme and Don Garlits while land-speed record holder Gary Gabelich and dominant drag racer Ronnie Sox were at large winners. Garlits was recognized for past exploits since he seriously injured his foot in a '70 Lion's drag strip accident.

It was a start and now the team size has been expanded to encompass more deserving drivers.



Al Unser and Mrs. Jerry Titus

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