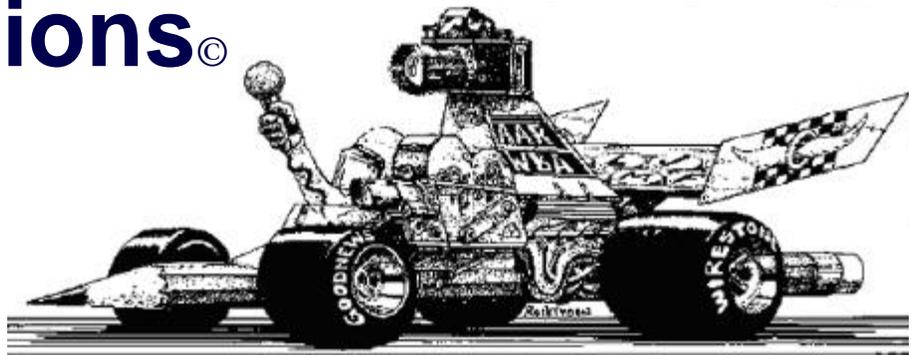


# ImpRESSIONs®



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

July 2012



Vol. 45 No. 6

## More Photos from the 2012 AARWBA Indy Breakfast

Photos by Mark T. Watson



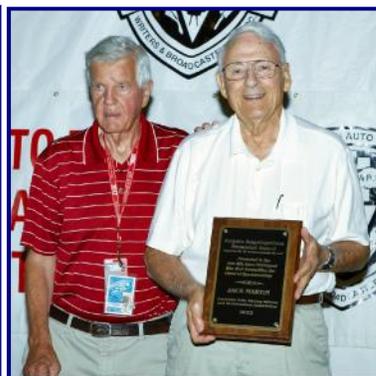
**Bruce Bennett with his First Place Certificate**



**(L-R) Dick Mittman, David Byrd - who accepted the Jigger Award for Driver Jean Alesi - and Jigger Sirosi.**



**Paul Page (L) interviews drag racer Larry Dixon**



**Dick Mittman presented the "Angelo Angelopolous" Award to Jack Martin**



**Charter Member Bill Marvel presented Paul Page with the Bob Russo Founder's Award.  
(Story on Page 6)**

## Jim Wilson - Former President of AARWBA Submitted by Dick Mittman

James A. Wilson, affectionately known as “Big Jim,” held the distinction of being the only person to serve as president of the American Race Writers and Broadcasters Association and the Indianapolis 500 Oldtimers Association during his long career as a television sports director and later as president of his own TV production company.

Big Jim, in ailing health, attended his last 500 Oldtimers meeting in early May. He passed away June 2, 2012, at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Carmel, Ind., at the age of 83.

Born in Lafayette, Ind., he became involved in television sports-casting following graduation from Purdue University and serving as an U.S. Army captain during the Korean War.

Wilson attended his first Indy 500 in 1947 with his family, but did not become involved as a TV sports reporter until 1961. At the time he was sports director for both the radio and TV station WSBT in South Bend, Ind.

“I wasn’t at the race, but I came down (during the month) and did interviews,” he related in an interview.

“I was the No. 2 sports guy. Red Marley had the Drury Spl. and Gene Hartley drove for him. He (Marley) took me around and introduced me to various people like Parnelli (Jones).”

Jim, who was close to 6-foot-8, later came to Indianapolis as the sports director and anchor for WISH-TV in Indianapolis. That’s when he became heavily involved with auto racing not only locally but nationally.

One of his early jobs was as a pit reporter for the closed-circuit telecasts of 500. He laughingly recalled a race review from a television critic in Los Angeles.

“Some one sent it to Sid Collins (once the radio voice of the race), who gave it to me,” Wilson recalled.

“He wrote something like ‘Jim Wilson was a bulldog in the pits.’ Then he wrote, ‘Either he’s very tall or the best headless sportscaster in America.’”



**Jim and Barbara Wilson**

In those early days he also was also involved in the Canadian feed that was shown right after the race ended. In Indianapolis, the race was shown that night.”

After 11 years with WISH-TV, he started his own television production company and later worked independently as a producer/director. He was highly involved in the “History-Makers” program of the 500 Oldtimers doing both interviews and camera work.

During his career, Wilson was named Sportscaster of the Year five times by the National Sportscasters & Broadcasters Association as well as serving on its governing board for 10 years.

He belonged to the 500 Oldtimers for 27 years and just retired as president of the organization.

Wilson also belonged to several other organizations: Lord of Life Lutheran Church in his hometown of Westfield, Ind.; John Purdue Club; Purdue Alumni Association; Phi Gamma Delta; American Legion; Veterans’ of Foreign Wars, and Indiana Broadcast Pioneers.

Survivors include Barbara, his wife of 61 years, sons Jim, Doug and Joe, daughter Kathy Collins, four grandchildren and one great grandchild. Burial was in Hamilton Memorial Park in Westfield, Ind.

Memorial donations may be made to the International Association of Indianapolis 500 Oldtimers, Inc., P.O. Box 24404, Speedway, Ind. 45224-0404, or to the church.

## Four Winners Selected in Inaugural American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association Race Track Public Relations Awards Competition

Four different tracks have been honored for excellence in their public relations efforts to promote auto racing as part of the inaugural American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association (AARWBA) Race Track Public Relations Awards competition.

Making the announcement was Dusty Brandel, President of AARWBA, the oldest, largest and most diverse collection of motorsports media representatives in the United States, Canada and Europe.

“Since AARWBA was founded more than half a century ago,” said Brandel, a long-time motorsports journalist, “our members have worked hand in hand with public relations personnel at motorsports venues around the world. A strong public relations staff is a huge asset when it comes to helping us tell the many stories that develop during a race weekend. AARWBA believes it is long overdue to honor the facilities that do the best job in helping us by providing ‘news you can use’. Constructive dialogue between tracks and the media helps everyone involved and it lets tracks know which of their efforts was most helpful.

“It was very satisfying to see that we received submissions from all major forms of American motorsports and the honorees represented facilities that host stock car, drag racing, Indy car, and sportscar racing events. Media coverage of that diversity of venues and forms of competition is one of the hallmarks of AARWBA. On behalf of the entire AARWBA membership, I am pleased to offer congratulations to the inaugural winners of the AARWBA Race Track Public Relations Awards. I look forward to seeing who will be chosen as the ‘best of the best’ for 2012.”

The inaugural AARWBA Public Relations Awards featured winners in four categories:

Best News Release – Bristol Dragway  
 (“Tasca Ready to Launch ‘Rocketship’ During Thunder Valley Nationals”)

Best Photograph – Mazda Raceway at Laguna Seca (ALMS Red Sky Twilight)

Best Sponsor Promotion – Watkins Glen International (Continental Tire Ride Along)

Best Track Notes – Charlotte Motor Speedway (2011 Coca-Cola 600)

John Chuhran, Chairman of the AARWBA Public Relations Awards Committee, was pleased to see the numerous entries in the first year of the competition.

“Selecting the winners was not an easy task,” said Chuhran, a veteran motorsports writer, editor and public relations professional. “There were multiple entries in each of the four categories and there were some very analytical discussions about the merits of each submission. I thank the members of the committee for their time and sincere hard work in selecting the best representative in each category. We are looking forward to expanding the number of categories as we prepare for the 2012 competition. Since each of the winners cannot submit a 2012 entry in the category in which they triumphed, it will be interesting to see which new entries will be judged best of the year.”

With more than 400 current members, the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association (AARWBA) was founded in 1955 and is the oldest, largest and most diverse collection of motorsports media representatives in the United States, Canada and Europe. Through the years, the organization membership has included virtually every major racing reporter and commentator in the country.



In addition to providing an opportunity for race venues, sanctioning bodies, sponsors, teams and manufacturers to reach the niche representatives of the media, the organization also presents various annual awards including the AARWBA All American Team honoring two drivers from six categories with a Gold “Horsepower” Award. The driver who garners the most votes, receives the Jerry Titus Memorial Award.

At the Indy AARWBA breakfast in May the awards include the Angelo Angelopoulos Sportsmanship Award, the Jigger Award, the AARWBA Writing, Broadcasting, Photography, Online Media and Book Contests and now the AARWBA Motorsports Public Relations Awards.



## School Project: "Women and Youth in Motorsports"

Female AARWBA members asked to participate in an On-Line Survey

A Doctoral student, Cecilia A. Brantley, is asking 'ONLY' female members of AARWBA to volunteer to participate in an upcoming survey. In addition, selected females / mothers may also be interviewed and results will be made available upon request. The confidentiality and privacy of all information will be maintained.

The purpose of the survey is to examine the re-search question: Can women who participate in male-dominated sports transfer leadership skills to young people?

Women who are 18 and older and engaged in motorsports in some fashion, be it as competitors, crew members, race team staff, and/or as mothers with children who race, are all cordially invited to participate in a research study. Your experiences in the sport will provide this survey with a 'real-life' sample population.

To participate, please answer the following questions by sending your responses directly to Brantley at [cbrantl1@stu.argsy.edu](mailto:cbrantl1@stu.argsy.edu)

- 1) Your name
- 2) Your email address
- 3) Gender:
- 4) Age:
- 5) Webpage:
- 6) Phone / Area Code:
- 7) How did you learn about signing up?
- 8) Identify your motorsport(s), level of participation, and number of years involved
- 9) Could you refer another candidate to participate? If so, please provide their Name, Phone, Webpage & E-Mail address

Upon receipt of your answers, someone will reply to your email with a confirmation yes/no answer about your eligibility to participate. If you are eligible, a link will be provided so that you may then access the survey in the upcoming fall 2012. A reminder will be emailed regarding when the survey is available to accept your responses.

If you have questions about this request, you can also call **Brantley at 312/437-7044.**

## Paul Page Receives Bob Russo Award

Submitted by Bill Marvel



Paul Page, who has broadcast the Indianapolis 500 and just about every form of auto racing and currently anchors the NHRA drag racing series on ESPN2, was honored with the Bob Russo Founders Award for dedication to auto racing.

The award was presented to Page by Russo Award Chairman Bill Marvel during the annual American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association breakfast meeting at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, site of Sunday's Indy 500.

Russo, the late racing journalist/publicist/historian, founded AARWBA in 1955. He died in 1999 at age 71. The Russo Award is presented for "profound interest, tireless efforts and undying dedication to auto racing as exemplified by Russo throughout his lifelong career."

Page began at WIBC Radio in Indianapolis in 1968. In 1977, while on assignment, he was almost killed in a helicopter crash near the Speedway. That same year he took over as anchor of the worldwide Indy 500 Network on short notice when the legendary Sid Collins died in May' in fact, he was Sid's hand-picked successor. Page was the race's "voice" for 15 years and also called the action on NBC's early CART's telecasts.

He helped pioneer motorsports on ESPN as its first racing producer, of Midwest Sprint-car shows. Page joined ABC in 1987, working on the 500, inaugural Brickyard 400, and countless other events. In 2007, he brought his more than 30 years of experience to the NHRA Full Throttle series.

Previous Russo Award winners include: 2005 – Michael Knight; 2006 – Wally Parks; 2007- Chris Economacki; 2008 – Bob Jenkins' 2009 – Shav Glick; 2010 – Bill York; 2011 – Bill Marvel. A permanent plaque with all winners' names is on display in the Speedway Media Center. The Award is sponsored by Collene and Gary Campbell, the sister and brother-in-law of the late Mickey Thompson.

# News & Notes

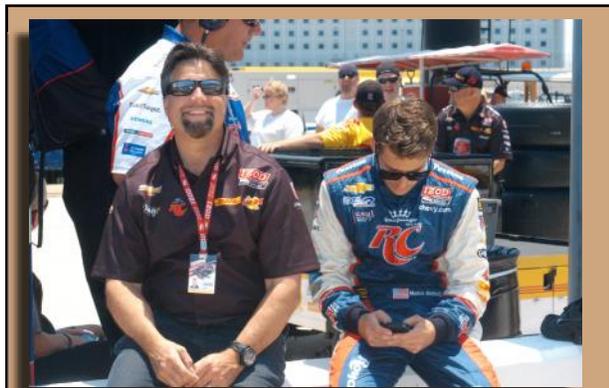
## Justice Brothers In The Hall

On Thursday night, June 21st, the West Coast Stock Car Hall of Fame inducted the Justice Brothers, pioneers in the Motorsports contingency sponsor area since NASCAR began.

The Justice Brothers have had a strong presence at local Southern California stock car races for the last 45 + years. Ed Justice Jr., who is the President and CEO of Justice Brothers, continues this same dedication to racing.



In the photo above, Ed Justice, Jr., receives the Award from Dusty Brandel and Christine Walker

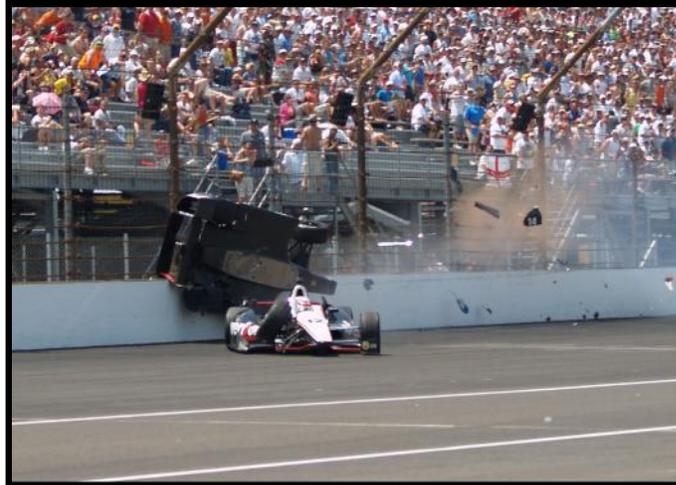


### Bruce A. Bennett sent us this photo and note:

"Remember my award-winning photo from last year's AARWBA newsletter, "Hey Look, Gramps Got An iPhone"? Well , I think I got the follow-up at this year's Firestone 550 at Texas Motor Speedway. While pops Michael waited out a practice delay by chatting with well-wishers, media members, and other pit prowlers, son Marco checked emails, texted friends, and played with his iPhone. How many times has this scene played out at dinner tables across America?"

## Indy 500 Conway-Power Accident Photos

Taken By Ken Truitt



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# News & Notes



## Linda Vaughn To Be Roasted Roast Panelists Announced

The Quarter Mile Foundation has announced the "Roaster Panel" to headline the upcoming Linda Vaughn Celebrity Roast to be held on August 29, at the "Sports Barn" at the fashionable Lucas Family estate in Carmel, Indiana. The roast will precede the NHRA's Mac Tools U.S. Nationals at the Lucas Oil Raceway/Indianapolis (August 29-September 3, 2012).

The "First Lady of Motorsports" will be roasted by some of the most respected names in the North American motorsports and performance aftermarket community chronicling the life and adventures of the timeless buxom blonde from Dalton, Georgia.

### The lineup of "roasters" consists of:

<b>Joe Amato</b>	<b>Paul Candies</b>
<b>Corky Coker</b>	<b>Jeg Coughlin, Sr.</b>
<b>John Force</b>	<b>Chip Ganassi</b>
<b>Don Garlits</b>	<b>Bob Glidden</b>
<b>Lynn St. James</b>	<b>Jack "Doc" Watson</b>

Bob Frey, NHRA event announcer, will preside as the Master of Ceremonies over what promises to be a very memorable evening. The evening's schedule will be: Cocktails at 6:00 P.M., Dinner at 7:00 P.M., followed by the evening's festivities beginning at 8:00 P.M.

An auction of donated items from friends in the aftermarket, drag racing, IndyCar and NASCAR will also be held as a part of the evening. The auction will be split into two formats. A silent auction will occur during the cocktail hour, and live bidding on select items between the presentations of the roasters.

There will be seating for 350 individuals. Tickets are available on-line at the Quarter Mile Foundation website ([www.PROJECT1320.com](http://www.PROJECT1320.com)) until August 19th, 2012. Tickets will NOT be available for sale at the event.

The VIP/Sponsor tables will be available for \$2000/table (seats 8). Non-VIP tables can be sponsored for \$1500 per table. Individual seats can be purchased for \$100 each.

As with the Don Garlits "Rat Roast" held in Pomona, Calif., the event will be filmed and the DVD will be made available for purchase to the public.

The roast sponsors will receive several marketing bonuses including signage placement in the room, program name/logo acknowledgement and logo/name placement in the opening and closing DVD credits.



Linda Vaughn and Bobby Labone  
at the Brickyard 400.  
Photo by Kathy Seymour.

Proceeds will benefit Linda Vaughn, plus the Quarter Mile Foundation in its quest to capture the first person stories of drag racing's pioneers beginning in the late 40's through the 80's; plus the motorsports aftermarket which was spawned from their efforts.

A portion of the purchase for tickets/sponsorship and support will be tax deductible (US only).

The Quarter Mile Foundation is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit foundation, which is producing PROJECT 1320, a documentary film series about the history of drag racing and the parallel growth of the performance automotive aftermarket.





American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association Inc.

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Phone: 818-842-7005 FAX: 818-842-7020

"Dedicated To Increasing Media Coverage of Motor Sports"

The AARWBA is the oldest and largest professional organization of its kind. Founded in 1955 in Indianapolis, it has grown to more than 400 members throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. Each year the AARWBA members select a 14-driver All America Team from Open Wheel, Stock Car, Sports Car, Drag Racing, Short Track, Touring Series and At Large championship categories. An annual banquet is held to honor these drivers each January. AARWBA also sponsors several contests for its members and established the "Legends in Racing" auto racing hall of fame.

## AARWBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Name:		Date:
Company:		
Title:		
Business Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone:	E-mail:	FAX:

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Home address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone:	E-Mail:	FAX:
Preferred Mailing Address: HOME OFFICE (Please note that our newsletter, "ImpRESSIONs", is sent via e-mail)		
Preferred E-Mail Address For Newsletter:		

### MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

Media Professional (\$45.00)	Affiliate Member (\$65.00)	Associate / Corporate (\$300.00)
Signature of applicant:		Date:

#### Active Media Member

Applicants for active media membership status must submit the following materials to the membership committee for consideration. Materials must be submitted with your check.

- ✓ A fully executed membership application. (This information will appear in the membership directory unless you specify otherwise. Attach a note to this application if necessary.)
- ✓ Two 1" x 1.5" head shot pictures for use in the directory and for an I.D. badge.
- ✓ Tear sheets or samples of work as follows:
  - Two published articles on the subject of auto racing in a publication of general circulation within the past year.
  - Photographs on auto racing appearing in two publications of general circulation or two separate times in one publication, within the past year.
  - One video or audio tape of any race broadcast where spectators attended and exhibited the applicant's work within the past year.
  - One book on the subject of auto racing within the past year or three books on the subject of auto racing, or one book contracted from any trade publisher for a book on auto racing

Your  
Photo  
Should  
Be This  
Size

#### Affiliate Member

Open to public relations, team representatives, motorsports advertising personnel. Full voting rights and privileges except to hold office.

#### Associate/Corporate Membership

Open to any person, regardless of affiliation or professional orientation, who is interested in furthering the aims of the American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association and/or motorsports in general. Corporate membership is limited to three (3) non-voting memberships for the \$300 fee.

**Mail completed application, photos, and your check to the address shown above.**

The American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association 922 North Pass Avenue Burbank, CA 91505-2703 (818) 842-7005