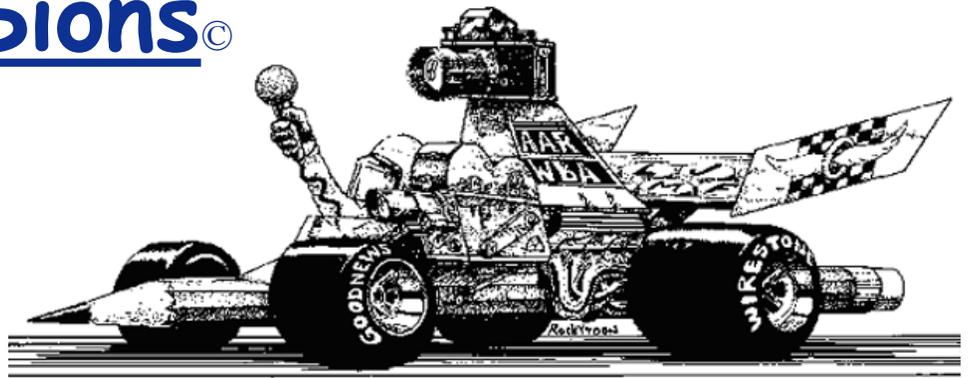


ImpRESSIONs[©]

**50th
Anniversary**



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

May 2005

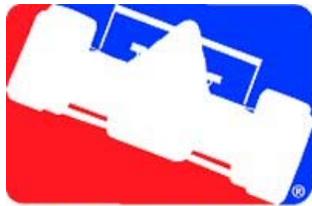


Vol. 38 No. 4

AARWBA Thanks Our Official 50th Anniversary Sponsors:
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"Dedicated To Increasing Media Coverage of Motor Sports"

AARWBA Reveals Top 5 Newsmakers

**Andretti, Earnhardt, France, Hulman-George, Penske
Get Most Votes for Top 50th Anniversary Honor;
Winner to Be Announced This Month AT IMS**

The top-five vote-getters for AARWBA's Newsmaker of the Half-Century Award, the most important event of our 50th Anniversary Celebration, are (in alphabetical order): **Mario Andretti, Dale Earnhardt, the France family, the Hulman-George family and Roger Penske.**

AARWBA President Dusty Brandel also said the Newsmaker of the Half-Century will be announced at a public ceremony at a to-be-determined date this month at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The winner will receive a specially commissioned painting, by member and artist Hector Cademartori, and AARWBA will make a donation to the recipient's favorite charity.



A record number of AARWBA members voted, choosing from 12 nominees selected by the group's Board of Directors from an original list of 50 newsmakers. Also nominated were: Kenny Bernstein, John Force, A.J. Foyt, Jeff Gordon, Dan Gurney, Wally Parks and Richard Petty.

"I have been told by many members how difficult it was to choose just one of the 12 legendary names for Newsmaker of the Half-Century," said Brandel. "That's part of the fun of this award and what we believe will make it extremely prestigious for the winner. AARWBA members have written about, broadcast and photographed the most memorable racing people and events since 1955, and are the best qualified to make this decision."

Michael Knight, 50th Anniversary chairman, added, "The high-level of participation by our members in the voting process reinforces the fact that the Newsmaker of the Half-Century Award is the most important event of AARWBA's 50th Anniversary Celebration. The presentation to the winner later this month certainly will be one of the highlights of the entire motorsports season, and there is no better place to do this than the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, where so much news and history has been made." To read detailed bios of the Newsmaker nominees, please go to the 50th Anniversary page at AARWBA.org.

Members should check in the IMS media center, or on the aarwba.org site, for specific details about the time and place of the Newsmaker ceremony. All AARWBA members are encouraged to attend. The Newsmaker award winner will be available for interviews in the IMS conference room immediately after the presentation. See Dusty or Michael Knight if you have questions.

The news release announcing the winner will be posted on aarwba.org at the time of the ceremony. Be sure to click on the 50th Anniversary page and find out who you selected as Newsmaker of the Half-Century!

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

Last Call For 50th Anniversary Breakfast



If you haven't already done so, please RSVP immediately for the traditional breakfast meeting, especially important this year because of the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

RSVP to:

Jack Peck — jpeck40651@aol.com

or

Andy Peck — drewmont@mac.com .

Or see Dusty in the media center at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for a ticket.

Details: Saturday, May 28, 8 a.m., at the Pavilion next to the lobby entrance of the Brickyard Crossing hotel. Breakfast is again co-hosted by Chevrolet and Firestone.

Since we will have several special presentations and speakers, in honor of the 50th anniversary, the program will start as soon as everyone has a plate of food — so please be on time, or even a little early!

Both the City of Indianapolis, and the State of Indiana, will honor AARWBA and our members on this special occasion. We have invited a few special guest speakers and expect a number of VIPs. Everyone will receive a two-liter bottle of Coca-Cola or Diet Coke. Lots of door prizes. Most importantly, the winners in the annual journalism contest will be announced, and will receive their share of the \$10,000 in prize money provided by the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Also, a member photographer will be named winner of the "Straight Shooter" Award, in memory of Art Flores and Ron Hussey, with a \$250 prize from Fernandez Racing.

(AARWBA is donating four breakfast tickets for auction at the annual Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation fundraiser, May 16, in Indy. For more information on that event, go to www.SamSchmidt.org)

Even if you haven't attended the breakfast in recent years, THIS is the year to be there!



AARWBA Newsletters Are Now On-line!

AARWBA members can now access our newsletters on-line just by visiting the AARWBA website! A page with all the available issues listed now appears there. Simply click on this link:

<http://beta.motorsportsforum.com/aarwb/newsletter.htm>

Each month you will receive an email with a direct link to the AARWBA site. You will also get your user name and password. Simply click on the link in the email (or copy the link and paste it in your web browser) and you will be taken directly to the web site. You will be asked to type in your user name and password (remember: it is in the email we sent you!) and then click on "OK". The next page that opens up has a list of newsletters on it. Just click on the date / issue you want to see!

All newsletters are in Acrobat .pdf format. You need the Acrobat Reader to open the files. Your PC probably already has the reader right on it, but don't fret. You can download the reader - ABSOLUTELY FREE!. There is a link right on the newsletter page!

We are pleased to bring this new and technologically advanced feature to you, and we hope you take advantage of it by visiting the site at least once a month. If you experience any difficulty please contact Andy Hartwell at ashartwell@att.net and I will be happy to walk you through the steps! It is so easy even I can do it!

AARWBA Members! Tell Us Your Story!

We think AARWBA members would enjoy hearing about the events and activities their peers are involved with. That is why we are encouraging every member to always feel free to send a "News Note" to AARWBA President **Dusty Brandel** at AARWBA@compuserve.com or to your Newsletter Editor **Andy Hartwell** at ashartwell@att.net

AARWBA - Where The Professionals Are (But not all of them!)

***Talk up the AARWBA with your peers, who should be
AARWBA members but aren't - yet.***

"Subscribe A Scribe" / "Bring In A Broadcaster"

***Let your peers know they should become a member of the only
national organization that speaks for the working press.***

PR Rep?

Local reporter covering a local track event?

Photographer working for a magazine?

Writer or editor posting stories and photos to a racing web site?

They all should be part of the AARWBA membership roster!

***Next time you are at a race event, ask your peers to visit the AARWBA web site.
Show them an on-line newsletter! Tell them about the organization! Help us grow!***

News Notes

Patricia Parsons-Vigants Receives NATAS Recognition

AARWBA member **Patricia Parsons-Vigants** recently received recognition from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for her contribution to the Emmy award winning daily studio show “SportsCenter”. Ms. Parsons-Vigants is a photographer, and an independent makeup artist who works on the show for ESPN in Bristol, Connecticut. Her business, The Parsons Group, is based in Manchester, Connecticut.

Followers of auto racing will recognize the Parsons in her name as she is the daughter of Indy 500 winner Johnnie Parsons.

Mark Armijo Leaves The Racing Beat

Mark Armijo, long-time AARWBA member and writer for the *Arizona Republic*, says the April NASCAR weekend at Phoenix was his last on the motorsports beat. Mark says he’s moving on to the Chandler edition of the *Republic* to cover local events. All who have worked with Mark over the years will miss him at the tracks. AARWBA sends a big “thank you” and “good luck” to Mark.

Joseph F. Dowdall 1924-2005

Award-Winning Detroit Reporter Covered Racers and Sports of All Sorts

Over a forty-year career at the Detroit Times, the Detroit Free Press, and the Detroit News, journalist Joe Dowdall reported on anything (cars, boats, motorcycles, snowmobiles) and anybody (drivers, mechanics, owners) that raced. The native Detroiter also occasionally covered the Lions, Tigers, Red Wings, and Pistons, and once said “luck and fate gave me a 50-yard-line seat on life”.

Dowdall passed away on April 24, in Michigan, from pancreatic cancer. He was 80.

Born and raised in Detroit’s Corktown neighborhood, Dowdall attended Holy Redeemer High School and the University of Detroit before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force during WWII. Between missions as a radio operator on B24 Liberators in Italy, Dowdall got his start as a reporter by publishing a makeshift sports page of stateside baseball and football scores for his bomber squadron.

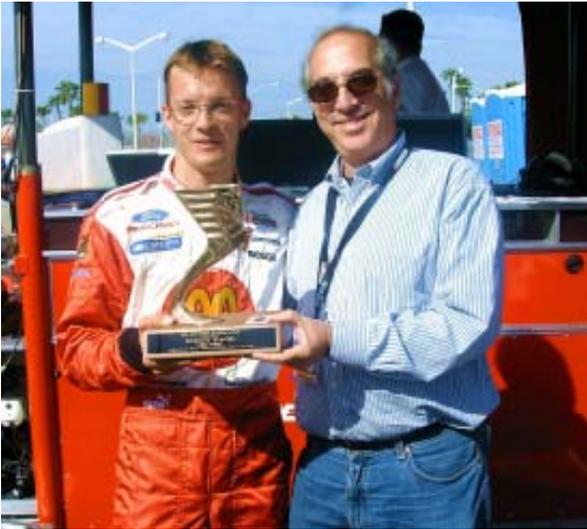
He joined the Detroit Free Press in 1948 as a copy boy, and over time worked as a police-beat reporter, Sunday features editor, and sportswriter. He joined the Detroit News in 1968 as its motorsports editor, and covered a wide range of racing events. His efforts were recognized with several honors, including two Page One Awards, multiple national and state Motorsports Writer of the Year awards, and he received the inaugural Ray Marquette Award for Auto Racing Journalism in 1978.

Since his retirement from the Detroit News in 1987, Dowdall lived in Traverse City (MI), North Hutchinson Island (FL), and Grand Rapids (MI), and pursued his interests in travel, Lionel trains, boating, crossword puzzles, and family.

Dowdall is survived by his wife of fifty-four years, Shirley, by his five children, Debbie (Deacon), David, Michael, Daniel, and Kathy (Forrester), and by sixteen grandchildren.

A memorial service for Joe Dowdall was scheduled for 10am on Thursday, May 5, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms (MI). Donations in his honor to St. Jude’s Children Hospital are appreciated in lieu of flowers.

AARWBA Presentations

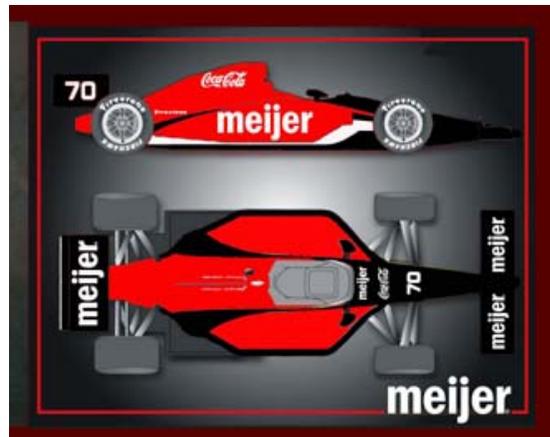


Champ Car World Series titlist **Sebastien Bourdais** (left) receives his 2004 All-America Team trophy from Eastern Vice President **Lewis Franck** at Long Beach



Eastern VP **Lewis Franck** (left) hands over AARWBA's 50th anniversary official sponsor appreciation award to Champ Car's **Eric Mauk** at Long Beach

This month's issue of ImPRESSions is presented by



Meijer stores and Coca-Cola extend congratulations, and thank you, to all AARWBA members for 50 years of excellence in motorsports journalism. Watch for the No. 70 Meijer/Coca-Cola Special, with driver Richie Hearn and owner Sam Schmidt, at the Indianapolis 500. For media information on the Meijer/Coca-Cola team, please contact Michael Knight at SpinDoctor500@aol.com.