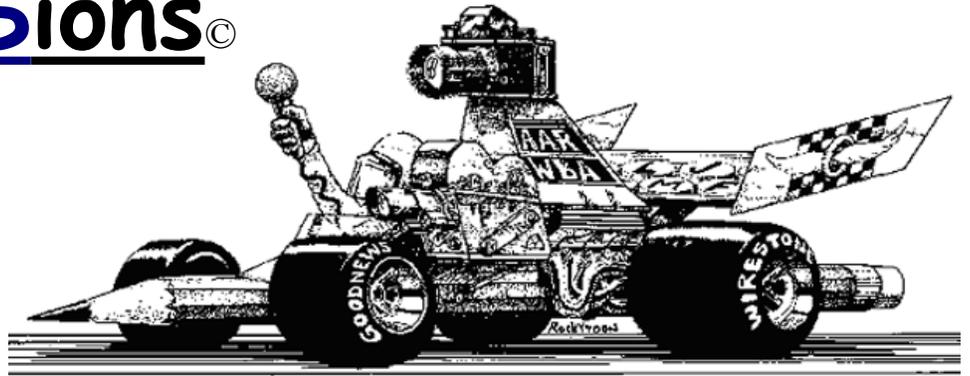


# ImPRESSIONS<sup>©</sup>



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

June 2007



Vol. 40 No. 5

## Chris Economaki Named Bob Russo Award Winner

(Page 2)



Charter member Bill Marvel (left), attending his 63d consecutive Indy 500, presents the Bob Russo Founder's Award to Chris Economaki.

## John Mahoney Wins The Straight Shooter Award

(Page 2)



Ron McQueeney (left) presents the Straight Shooter Award to John Mahoney.

## Inside this issue:

- Welcome Havoline!
- AARWBA Journalism Contest Winners
- Photos From The Indy Breakfast
- Member News & Notes
- Member Updates



Photo courtesy NASCAR.com

All AARWBA members extend sympathy to NASCAR and the France family at the loss of Bill France Jr. The former NASCAR chairman and president was a long-time AARWBA honorary member. The highlight of AARWBA's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2005 was the election of the France family as American racing's "Newsmaker of the Half-Century."

## Awards Aplenty at AARWBA Breakfast

There were plenty of smiling faces at the annual AARWBA breakfast meeting on Saturday, May 26 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway -- and not just because of the good food provided at the event co-hosted by Firestone and Honda.

**Firestone**  
*Racing*

AARWBA members left with numerous awards and prize money to winners in the annual Journalism Contest, sponsored for the third

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The power of dreams.™

consecutive year by the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. IMS Executive Vice President **Fred Nation** passed out the checks as winners were announced by President **Dusty Brandel**.

### Traditional awards went to:

**Bob Russo Founder's Award:** **Chris Economaki** of National Speed Sport News received the honor from AARWBA charter member **Bill Marvel**. (Bill was attending his 63d consecutive Indy 500!) The tribute, for lifetime dedication to auto racing, remembers Russo, who was AARWBA's first president. In addition to accepting his own plaque, Economaki's name was added to the permanent marker in the IMS media center, joining previous honorees **Michael Knight** (2005) and **Wally Parks** (2006).

**Straight Shooter Award**, in memory of **Art Flores** and **Ron Hussey**: Veteran photographer **John Mahoney** accepted from IMS photo chief **Ron McQueeney**, the 2006 honoree. The award came with a \$500 prize, courtesy of Fernandez Racing. **Adrian Fernandez** and **Tom Anderson**, now campaigning the Lowe's Acura in the ALMS, were unable to attend but sent their greetings.

**Angelo Angelopolous Award:** This honor, for sportsmanship, dates back to 1963. Driver **Davey Hamilton**, who competed in the Indy 500 for the first time since serious foot and leg injuries in 2001 at a race in Texas, was the winner. **Dick Mittman** made the presentation.

**Jigger Award:** Another AARWBA tradition, going back to 1969 for tough luck, went to non-qualifier **P.J. Jones**. Jigger Sirois, who inspired the award, joined Dick Mittman for the presentation.

**David Overpeck Memorial Scholarship:** **Ben Corn**, 20, a sophomore journalism major at Indiana State University, was selected for the \$1,000 award offered in memory of the former AARWBA president and Indiana State grad. Ron Lemasters and Karen Overpeck made the presentation.

Indy 500 pole-sitter **Helio Castroneves** honored a semi-tradition and stopped by for a quick Q&A with Southern VP **Mike Harris**. (Thanks to our friends at Team Penske, **Chris Schwartz**, **Susan Bradshaw** and **Adam Hoover** for helping to make that happen.) Another two-time Indy winner, **Arie Luyendyk**, attended and showed the Playseats video gaming seat to members and guests.

Firestone Racing executive director **Al Speyer** greeted everyone, as did Honda Racing manager **T.E. McHale**, and president **Dusty**. Michael Knight served as MC, thanked AARWBA's sponsors, and reminded all of the 38th All-America Team dinner, Saturday, January 12, at the Hyatt in downtown Indianapolis.

This month's issue of **ImpRESSIONs** is sponsored by



American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association, Inc. ([www.aarwba.org](http://www.aarwba.org))  
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# 2006 AARWBA Journalism Contest Winners

*Sponsored by the Indianapolis Motor Speedway*

(Presented at AARWBA awards breakfast, May 26, 2007, Indianapolis, Ind.)



## **MOTORSPORTS BOOK**

1. Chris Economaki and Dave Argabright, "Let'Em All Go!," Argabright Books
2. Johnny McDonald, "100 Racing Years," Ramona Home Journal
3. No award

## **NEWSPAPER NEWS WRITING**

1. Scott Walsh, "Victory on the Menu," Scranton Times-Tribune
2. Keith Lair, "Kenseth's Wild Ride," San Gabriel Valley Tribune
3. Bill Sessa, "Stattler Captures Sprint Car Race," Napa Valley Register

## **NEWSPAPER FEATURE WRITING**

1. Ron Hedger, "Sensory Overload," National Speed Sport News
  2. Tim Haddock, "On the Ride of His Life," Los Angeles Daily News
  3. Dave Argabright, "Perfect Plan: Speedy Bill Smith," National Speed Sport News
- Honorable Mention: Scott Walsh, "Serious Crash Inspiration for Event," Scranton Times-Tribune

## **NEWSPAPER COLUMN WRITING**

1. Susan Wade, "Thrill of Victory New for Lagana," National Speed Sport News
  2. Dave Argabright, "Long, Late Shows Hurting Sport," National Speed Sport News
  3. Ron Lemasters (Sr.), "Lester Pursues His Dream," National Speed Sport News
- Honorable Mention: Norm Froscher, "Reasons Abound to Check Out Races," Gainesville Sun

## **NEWSPAPER TECHNICAL WRITING**

1. Mary Bignotti Mendez, "Atlantic Championship," National Speed Sport News
2. Norm Froscher, "Chase for Championship Hits NHRA," Gainesville Sun
3. Scott Walsh, "FanView Gives an Inside Look," Scranton Times-Tribune

## **MAGAZINE EVENT REPORTING**

1. Bill Sessa, "Copper Change," Sprint Car & Midget
  2. Dick Mittman, "Johnson's Brickyard Win," Indianapolis 500 Oldtimers Newsletter
  3. Mary Bignotti Mendez, "It Was That Close," Inside Track Motorsports News
- Honorable Mention: Larry Mason, "2006 Toyota Grand Prix," Cal Club News

## **MAGAZINE FEATURE WRITING**

1. Dave Argabright, "The Story of the Humper," Sprint Car and Midget
  2. Bill Sessa, "NST Opener," Sprint Car and Midget
  3. Karl Frederickson, "Drive," Speedway Illustrated
- Honorable Mention: Susan Wade, "Morgan Lucas Is Pitching His Own Gospel," Drag Racing Action

...continued on next page

## AARWBA Journalism Contest Winners

### MAGAZINE COLUMN WRITING

1. Dave Argabright, "Living A Dream," Sprint Car & Midget
2. Dick Berggren, "The Last Checkered Flag," Speedway Illustrated
3. Dick Mittman, "John Barnes Salutes A Hero," Indianapolis 500 Oldtimers Newsletter

### MAGAZINE TECHNICAL WRITING

1. Ron Hedger, "Black Magic or a Matter of Faith?," Winner's Edge
2. Bruce Bennett, "DIRT Tests Crate Engines," Speedway Illustrated
3. Karl Frederickson, "Fit for a King," Speedway Illustrated

### ONLINE NEWS WRITING

1. Norm Froscher, "Gatornationals Champion Tests," Dragracecentral.com
2. Dick Mittman, "Hornish, Andretti Lead New Breed," Indianapolismotorspeedway.com
3. Nancy Knapp Schilke, "Audi R10 TDI Scores Debut Race Win," Motorsport.com

### ONLINE FEATURE WRITING

1. Ron Hedger, "USAC in the East," Openwheelracers.com
  2. Kay Presto, "Kenseth Ready to Duel for '06 Championship," Carsandcompetition.com
  3. Tony Johns, "GAINSCO Blackhawk Revival," RacingPress.com
- Honorable Mention: Barbara Gage, "Ashley Force: In Her Father's Footsteps," Motorsport.com

### ONLINE COLUMN WRITING

1. Michael Knight, "What Must Happen If Merger Happens," Valvoline.com
2. Tony Johns, "The Usurpers," Racingpress.com
3. Norm Froscher, "Froscher's Forum," Dragracecentral.com

### ONLINE TECHNICAL WRITING

1. Anne Proffit, "Time of the Essence," Paddocktalk.com
2. Kay Presto, "Qualifying Trim Vs. Race Trim," Carsandcompetition.com
3. Norm Froscher, "Put Up or Shut Up," Competitionplus.com

### PROFESSIONAL RACING WEB SITE

1. Motorsport.com, Nancy Knapp Schilke, Editor
2. Carsandcompetition.com, Kay Presto, Publisher
3. Fastlinesinternational.com, Gil Bouffard, Publisher

### RADIO FEATURE PROGRAM

1. Bob Roberts, "2006 Indy 500," WBBM Radio
2. Erik Thomas, "NASCAR Buys CASCAR," Raceline Radio Network
3. Dick Sisich, "Labonte's Last Ride," KNTY Radio

### TELEVISION FEATURE PROGRAM

No awards

### PHOTOGRAPHY -- B&W ACTION

1. John Mahoney, "George Snider Rides Out a Rough One," 50 Years of Speed and Glory
  2. Phil Rider, "Duel at the Mile," Midwest Racing News
  3. Bob Mays, "Damien Gardner at Indiana Sprintweek," FlatOut
- Honorable Mention, Harold Hoch, "Throwing the Weight," Berks-Mont Newspapers

...continued on next page

## AARWBA Journalism Contest Winners

### PHOTOGRAPHY - B&W PEOPLE

1. John Mahoney, "Broken and Bloody, Opperman Wins," Sprint Car and Midget
2. Harold Hoch, "I Am the Champ," Westside Weekly
3. Phil Rider, "First Win," Midwest Racing News

### PHOTOGRAPHY - COLOR ACTION

1. Dawn Mazi-Hovsepian, "A Wing and a Prayer," Goodguys Gazette
  2. Al Steinberg, "Nick Flips," National Speed Sport News
  3. Mike Campbell, "Clausen Deep in the High Banks," Speedway Racing News
- Honorable Mention: Phil Rider, "Three Wide," Midwest Racing News

### PHOTOGRAPHY - COLOR PEOPLE

1. Tim Loyd, "Hornish Kisses the Bricks," Reuters
2. Harold Hoch, "Waiting to Run," Berks-Mont Newspapers
3. Phil Rider, "Chili Bowl Victory," Speedway Illustrated

### PHOTOGRAPHY - ONLINE ACTION

1. Michael Johnson, "Stop Cone-ing Around!," Motorsport.com
2. Earl Ma, "Marco Andretti Runs Over Sister's Sunglasses," Motorsport.com
3. Jack Durbin, "R. J. Valentine at Work," Motorsport.com

### PHOTOGRAPHY - ONLINE PEOPLE

1. Linda Rydell, "Let Me Think About That," Motorsport.com
  2. Phil Rider, "Danny Drinan Getting a Good Luck Kiss," Umara.com
  3. Tony Johns, "Danica Wields Tony's Hammer," Racingpress.com
- Honorable Mention: Michael Johnson, "A Reflection of a Lifetime," Motorsport.com

### BLOYS BRITT AWARD

- Ron Hedger, "Sensory Overload," National Speed Sport News, July 26, 2006

### The Contest Judges

**Newspaper Feature Writing, Online Feature Writing** - Ken de la Bastide, Kokomo (Ind.) Tribune, Ball State University

**Magazine Feature Writing** - Brian Smith, Senior Editor, Indy Men's Magazine

**Photography (all)** - Prof. Emeritus Susan Fleck, Pulliam School of Journalism, Franklin (Ind.) College

**Broadcast (all)** - Prof. Joel Cramer, Pulliam School of Journalism, Franklin (Ind.) College

**Newspaper News Writing, Newspaper Column Writing, Magazine Event Reporting, Magazine Column Writing, Online News Writing, Online Column, Professional Racing Web Site, Bloys Britt Award** - Jerry Miller, Journalism Professor Emeritus, Franklin (Ind.) College, & AARWBA Contest Chairman

**Magazine Technical Writing, Newspaper Technical Writing, Online Technical Writing** - Ron Lemasters (Sr.), AARWBA Midwest Vice President

**Motorsports Book** -- Jerry Miller, AARWBA Contest Chairman; Ron Lemasters (Sr.), AARWBA Midwest Vice President

*(All judging was essentially "blind," except, of course, in the Book, Radio, and Television categories.)*

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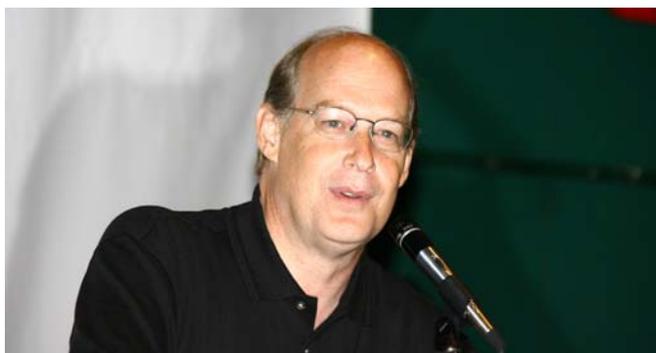
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## Photos From The Indy Breakfast

Photo Credits: Ron McQueeney, Kay Nichols and Jim Haines



Southern VP Mike Harris (left) does a quick Q&A with pole winner Helio Castroneves.



American Honda racing manager — and breakfast co-host — T.E. McHale welcomes AARWBA members.



Firestone Racing executive director — and breakfast co-host — AI Speyer greets AARWBA members.



Tim Lloyd accepts contest prize from Fred Nation



Midwest VP Ron Lemasters picks up prize from Fred Nation.



Fred Nation with breakfast MC Michael Knight.



Fred Nation hands prize money check to Anne Proffit.

## More Photos On Page 10

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# News & Notes



**Discounted Subscription Rate  
Available For AARWBA Members**

**Dick Berggren**, publisher of Speedway Illustrated - "America's favorite motorsports monthly" - has passed along a special discounted one year subscription offer to all active members of the AARWBA. The normal one year rate is \$14.97 but members can take advantage of a 33% savings and pay just \$10!

Berggren told us that, "All members have to do is send their credit card information and AARWBA membership number to my email address [dberggren@speedwayillustrated.com](mailto:dberggren@speedwayillustrated.com) or mail the information to my office: Dick Berggren, Speedway Illustrated, 107 Elm S., Salisbury, MA 01952, and I'll personally take care of processing their subscription."

If you are not already familiar with the magazine that covers NASCAR in-depth, you are invited to visit the Speedway Illustrated website at [www.speedwayillustrated.com](http://www.speedwayillustrated.com) and learn more.

Thanks, Dick, for the member discount!

## Tami Departs Phoenix

AARWBA member **Tami Nealy** has left her position as Phoenix International Raceway's communications manager to take a job outside the racing and sports field. She can be reached at [taminealy@yahoo.com](mailto:taminealy@yahoo.com).

## Earl And Gil On The Mend

Two respected members of the AARWBA are on the mend following extended hospital stays. **Earl Ma** and **Gil Bouffard** are both in the recuperative stage and looking forward to getting back up to full speed in the race that is life. Ma is an accomplished writer and photographer. He was able to make the Indy 500. Bouffard is the chair of the Humanitarian Award presentation. Everyone at AARWBA wishes them a speedy recovery and hopes to have them both 'back on track' real soon.

## Chris Economaki Conference Room At Indy

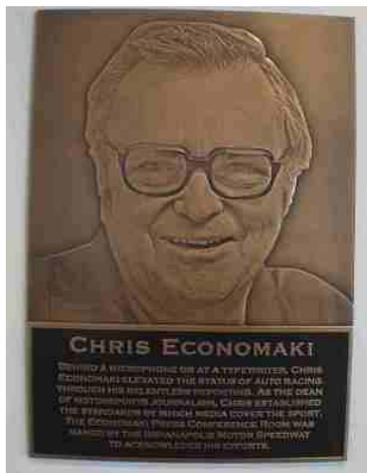


Photo by Dusty Brandel

The press conference room at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway was renamed in honor of pioneer auto racing writer and announcer - and past AARWBA President - Chris Economaki. Depicted here is the plaque that now hangs at Indy. Below we have reprinted the text that appears on it.

*"Behind a microphone or at a typewriter, Chris Economaki elevated the status of auto racing through his relentless reporting. As the Dean of Motorsports journalism, Chris established the standards by which media cover the sport. The Economaki Press Conference Room was named by the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to acknowledge his efforts."*

Our congratulations again go out to Chris Economaki on this incredible honor.

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## Ben Corn Wins Overpeck Scholarship



David Overpeck Memorial Scholarship recipient Ben Corn with Karen Overpeck.

It gives us great pleasure to announce that the 2007 recipient of the **AARWBA Dave Overpeck Memorial Scholarship** is 20 year old **Ben Corn**, a sophomore journalism major from Indiana State University.

The \$1,000 award is presented by the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association for an ISU student with an interest in sports writing and motorsports. It is given in memory of AARWBA past President David Overpeck, an Indiana State graduate.

Corn is a graduate of Cascade High School, near Indianapolis, and lives in Amo. For his last four semesters at Indiana State, he has been on the staff of the campus daily paper, the Indiana Statesman. His goal is to be a sportswriter for a daily newspaper. He is the son of Randall and Cindie Corn, and he was born in Indianapolis.

A 1964 ISU graduate, Dave Overpeck spent 20 years as a sportswriter at the Indianapolis star. He covered motor-

sports and the Indiana Pacers in addition to a wide range of other sports. Overpeck was instrumental in effecting changes in the media facilities at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. His Race Track Report Card of other race tracks pushed for better cooperation between media and the tracks. The Report Card pointed out what the media needed to do the best job covering a race. Since then the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association's White Paper gives tracks and media the guidelines for improved relations.

Overpeck left the newspaper in 1984 to work in the motorsports public relations field for Fleischman-Hilliard and the Machinists Union. He passed away in 1988, a victim of cancer.

### Correction

In the membership update section of our last newsletter we listed an incorrect phone number for Travis Mason. The correct number is (510) 260-6224. Sorry about the typo Travis!

### Norm Froscher Writes About Winning His Contest Award

President Dusty Brandel received this note from past President Norm Froscher after he received his contest award materials.

"The wonderful, wonderful packet just arrived and when I opened it, thinking it was maybe a roster update, my eyes opened wide and my mouth fell open. I think, for any single year, that was probably my best, which goes to show the editor, who read me while he was still in college, who said you haven't missed a beat.

"Thanks to Indianapolis Motor Speedway, to you, and especially to Jerry Miller for all his work and believe me, although I will be out with our Marine Corps League placing flags on Vets graves and later at a Late Model race tomorrow morning, my thoughts are of you all up there in Indy. Have a great breakfast, a fine and safe race and a safe, quick trip home. Thanks again for making one Stormin' Norman a very happy old writer."

***The members of the AARWBA wish to again thank  
all of our sponsors for their support!***

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## Photos From The Indy Breakfast

Photo Credits: Ron McQueeney, Kay Nichols and Jim Haines



Former President Jim Wilson with Jigger Sirois.



Guests line up to enjoy the breakfast buffet.



Dusty leads cheers for the winners.



Dick Mittman (left) with Angelo Angelopoulos winner Davey Hamilton



Eastern VP Lewis Franck tries out the Indy 500 edition video game Playseat with help of double Indy winner Arie Luyendyk



Dick Mittman (left) with Jigger Award recipient P.J. Jones



Phil Rider gets his contest prize from Fred Nation



Fred Nation hands over contest prize check to Western VP Susan Wade

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