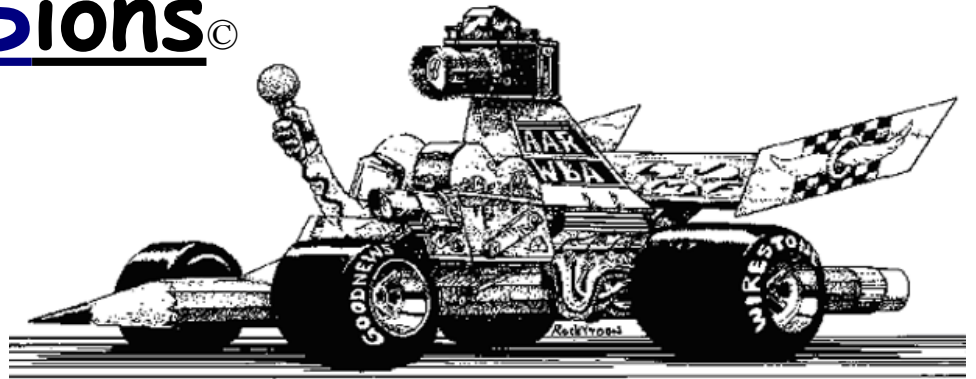


# ImpRESSIONs<sup>©</sup>



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

Aug / Sept 2007

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## SCELZI TO RECEIVE AARWBA's RICK MEARS 'GOOD GUY' AWARD



Gary Scelzi has long been one of NHRA's most media-friendly drivers. AARWBA will show its appreciation to Scelzi, who says he's going on a "sabbatical" after this season, by presenting him with the Rick Mears "Good Guy" Award.

Our "GG" honor is offered on an occasional basis to racers for their long-time cooperation with the media. Some previous recipients have been Mario Andretti, Richard Petty and Mears. The most recent honoree was Rusty Wallace in 2005.

Scelzi and Kenny Bernstein are the only two drivers to win NHRA championships in two classes. Gary was the best in Top Fuel in 1997, '98 and 2000. In 2005, he won the closest Funny Car chase in series history. He drives the Mopar/Oakley Dodge Charger for Don Schumacher Racing.

The presentation, by President Dusty Brandel, is expected to take place the weekend of the Auto Club Finals at Pomona, Nov. 1-4. Check the next newsletter for specific details or ask Dusty at the track.

Congratulations, Gary! And thank you!

## Mark Your Calendar!

38th AARWBA All-America Team dinner, Saturday, January 12, Indianapolis Hyatt

AARWBA extends sympathy to Lesa France Kennedy and the France family on the loss of Lesa's husband, Dr. Bruce Kennedy.

Lesa is president of International Speedway Corp. Lesa, Bruce and their son, Benjamin, attended our 2005 breakfast in Indianapolis as she accepted AARWBA's "Newsmaker of the Half-Century" Award on behalf of the France family.

## Inside this issue:

- Carl Haas - A Pioneer In Racing
- Member News & Notes
- New Book Available At A Discount
- Stokes Joins Banks Power

## Carl Haas - A 'Pioneer In Racing'

Legendary Team Owner to Accept at All-America Team Dinner



Carl A. Haas, one of the most successful team owners and businessmen in motorsports history, has been chosen to receive AARWBA's Pioneer In Racing Award. Haas will accept at the 38th All-America Team dinner, Saturday, January 12, at the Indianapolis Hyatt.

The Pioneer is one of AARWBA's oldest and most prestigious honors. It recognizes long-time dedication and achievement that have made a difference in the sport. Dan Gurney, Parnelli Jones, Andy Granatelli, Kenny Bernstein, the Agajanian family, Les Richter, Hershel McGriff and Robert Falcon are among the previous recipients.

While Haas spent his early years winning races behind the wheel of various sports cars, he attained legendary status as a team owner with 15 major championships. His All-Star roster of drivers has included Mario, Michael and John Andretti, Nigel Mansell, Jackie Stewart, Paul Tracy, Cristiano da Matta, Alan Jones, Brian Redman, Jackie Ickx, Peter Revson, David Hobbs, Patrick Tambay, Masten Gregory, Chuck Parsons and Skip Scott. This season, Sebastien Bourdais and Graham Rahal drive for him in the Champ Car series. Haas entries, co-owned by Paul Newman, have won seven CART/Champ Car titles, including the last three. Haas teams also won three SCCA Formula 5000 championships, four in Can-Am, and another in Super Vee. He's also campaigned cars in Formula One and the NASCAR Nextel Cup and Busch Series. Haas, along with Champ Car partners Newman and Michael Lanigan, recently announced a new partnership with Robert Yates Racing for NASCAR competition.

As a racing entrepreneur, Haas has also set a standard. His major sponsors have included blue-chip companies such as Budweiser, Kmart, Havoline, Beatrice, Citicorp and McDonald's. He's excelled as a racing car and parts importer and distributor. On an executive level, he is a former SCCA chairman, CART and Road America director, and promoter at Milwaukee and Houston. Haas has been inducted into the SCCA Hall of Fame.

"I'm honored to be recognized by AARWBA as a Pioneer In Racing," said Haas. "They have had the opportunity to cover the sport and have come to know many people who have made an impact on auto racing both on track and off. I am proud that they feel I have made a contribution. My enthusiasm for racing grew from the first time I was exposed to it as a driver and I have enjoyed being involved as a competitor, team owner, advisor, promoter, and racing car and parts importer and distributor. It was never a job; it has always been a passion."

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



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# News & Notes

## Bill Sessa Says Thanks

Hi Dusty:

I just wanted to thank AARWBA for coordinating the journalism competition and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway sponsorship for supporting it. I came home from a big weekend of racing to find the award certificates and the prize money in the mailbox and it was a big exclamation point for the weekend.

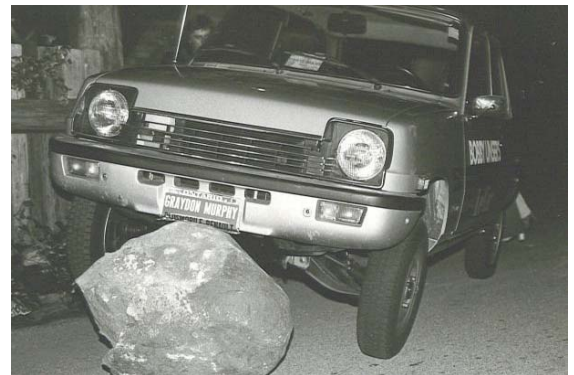
Beyond that, I think everyone who writes about racing is motivated more by their love of the sport than any financial reward. So, I especially appreciate that AARWBA continues the competition that allows us to showcase the artistry of our work.

Bill Sessa

## Dusty Digs Up Two Unser Photos From The 1970s

President Dusty Brandel recently came across these two old photos of brothers Bobby and Al Unser. The one on the left is Bobby. He and Al are having a 'strategy argument' at the IROC race in Riverside in 1976. Dusty offers the following explanation of the photo on the right:

*"Al and Bobby have always played tricks on each other in friendly, and sometimes not so friendly competition. On an Ontario Motor Speedway Race weekend in the 70's, they both had separate groups at the Cast 'n Clever restaurant. Al was there earlier, and then Bobby's group arrived. Al and his buddies left and saw that Bobby had parked on the entrance driveway...so they lifted the small Renault car up and placed it on the huge boulder they had moved near the entrance. I took the picture on my way out. I'm not sure how Bobby got it off the boulder!"*



## Champ Car Launches Safe Driving Campaign



Take the pledge @  
[www.handsonthewheel.org](http://www.handsonthewheel.org)

The Champ Car World Series recently announced a global cause campaign called "Hands on the Wheel" to encourage safe driving, with particular focus on the danger caused by people who send E-mails or text messages while driving. According to Champ Car's announcement, studies show that 80 percent of crashes and 65 percent of near-crashes, involve some form of driver distraction. Two recent studies estimate that a third of young drivers text message from behind the wheel, while another study released last year found that typing on a cell phone or hand-held device triples the risk of a crash.

A PSA will air during Champ Car telecasts, and it will be distributed to cable providers nationally. A website, [www.HandsOnTheWheel.org](http://www.HandsOnTheWheel.org), will encourage people to make a Hands on the Wheel pledge and learn more about safe driving. The campaign will continue to grow by working in conjunction with national and international government entities, law enforcement, sponsors and others to promote safe driving.

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# News & Notes

## Australian 'Outback Andy' Is Now A Permanent Resident

New AARWBA member **Andrew Foster**, who goes by the name 'Outback Andy', recently sent us an update on his career. Foster will once again be announcing races at Altamont Motor Sports Park in California, this season – his fourth. He will be working alongside Steven Blakesley most of the time but “there will be six nights where I will be in the booth by myself when Steven is on tour with the Westcar Late Model Series.”

Foster, a native Australian, was recently granted permanent residency by the U.S. Immigration Agency, after an application process that dragged on for three years. This clears the way for him and his partner, Robbyn Foster, to “move forward with the planned opening of American Discount Auto Glass in Modesto, California within the next three months. For the last 15 months, I have been managing a windshield repair store for a national company in Stockton California.”

Foster told us he is also planning to do some work with a local TV station in 2007. “I feel very lucky to have announced many races for touring divisions including NASCAR, USAC, CASA, BCRA, NCMA, WESTCAR, SRL, WSSRA, Super Moto USA, and the NORTHERN BIG RIGS ASSN in the last four years at Altamont Motorsport Park. It's a long way from Perth in western Australia, but the ride has been far beyond my dreams back in 2002.”

## AI Pearce Teams With Tony Stewart For Charity

Member **AI Pearce** recently sent us this note about his effort to raise money for charity:

“**Tony Stewart** recently made two \$5,000 donations to charity when I gave him a full-face racing helmet signed by all living (obviously) Indy 500 winners. Yes, every one of them, all 26. From '60 winner Jim Rathmann to '07 winner Dario Franchetti.

“It took me almost exactly a year to get them, starting at the '06 IRL race in Richmond and finishing up at this year's IRL race. AJ was the first and Dario the last. I also want to thank my media colleagues **Curt Cavin** (Indy Star) and **Chuck Givler** (Easton, Pa. Express) for helping me to get some of the names.

“The most “creative” get was **Emerson Fittipaldi**. He was flying through Miami last November, from New York to Brazil. I arranged to meet him between flights at Miami International Airport, and he was delighted to sign the helmet. I was in the area because he happened to be passing through during the Homestead Cup weekend.



“Tony agreed to donate to charity during Speed Week '07 in Daytona Beach. I planned to get the signatures and auction the helmet, but decided that a \$10,000 promise from him was better than hoping to get that much or more via on-line auction. His organization wrote a \$5,000 check to the Victory Junction Gang Camp and a \$5,000 check to the Kyle Petty Charity Ride.

“This is the third time I've used signed helmets to raise money for Petty-related charities. The '05 helmet included all living (obviously) NASCAR champions and the '06 helmet included all living (obviously) Daytona 500 winners. My '08 charity project will be autographs on a helmet signed by every driver (17 as of now)

who's ever made a Nextel Cup Chase for the Cup. And just for the fun of it, I recently did the whole Bar Harbor-to-Hollywood (Fla) Kyle Petty Charity Ride.”

# News & Notes

## New Web Site Keeps NSSN on the Fast Track

America's Oldest Auto-Racing Publication Expands Its Internet Presence

As a way of serving the growing interest in auto racing in the early 1930s, the creation of National Speed Sport News was an instant success with fans across the United States. Since 1934, NSSN has maintained one long-standing formula: "supply broad-based, comprehensive motorsports coverage that will remain unmatched against competitors." Now NSSN is taking that idea to the World Wide Web with the July 25 launch of the new [www.nationalspeedsportnews.com](http://www.nationalspeedsportnews.com).



"We are very proud of our long history of presenting objective and comprehensive coverage of the motorsports industry," said Corinne Economaki, president/publisher of NSSN. "However, it is also very important to the future of National Speed Sport News that we continue to change with the times. We need to attract the new generation of race fans and hope that our revamped Web site will do just that."

NSSN has been a pinnacle in the history of auto racing and has produced the most exclusive and trustworthy coverage of any motorsports publication. While the print version is well-received and respected throughout the industry, NSSN chose to redesign its Web site so that it would provide more to those who get their news online. The previous site was updated each week with the content printed in the paper version of NSSN, whereas the new site will be updated on a daily basis, delivering the most current happenings in the motorsports world.

"We need to be able to offer daily news to our readers and potential readers, and our new site will fill that need," said Mike Kerchner, NSSN's senior editor. "It gives us a venue to try new things, including blogs by some of our main columnists. We think it is a big step forward for National Speed Sport News, and we hope our customers and other racing fans will agree."

Subscribers to the newspaper or Web site can access the site by logging in with their usernames and passwords. The majority of the content will be password protected; however, updated news stories not featured in the paper will be available to all Internet users. Those interested in subscribing to the print version of NSSN or for an Internet-only subscription can do so on the site.

In addition, blogs written by NSSN columnists and contributors will also be a part of the free content available on the site. A new blog will be posted every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday by NSSN's main columnists - Kerchner, Dave Argabright, Sheena Baker and John Clayton. Various NSSN contributors will begin posting blogs as well. Visitors to the site can currently view writers' columns that appear weekly in NSSN.

Added features on the site include the online store, which will sell official NSSN merchandise, and links to other motorsports sites. Weekly results and major series statistics will also be posted after every event.



## Overpeck Scholarship Winner Corn Sends Note Of Thanks

"Thank you for the Overpeck Scholarship. I was very honored to receive the award. My parents and I enjoyed the breakfast very much. Other than regretting eating too much food, we were all happy. I found it very interesting to see the people involved with the organization. The first thing I'm going to put the money towards is my books in the fall. Thank you." - **Ben Corn**

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# News & Notes

## Franck Receives Driver of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award



"Lewis Franck was honored during the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard for his lifetime achievement in motorsports with the Driver of the Year Award.

Franck, a former attorney from New York City, has covered auto racing for newspapers, magazines and websites from around the world for 30 years, as well as making numerous television and radio appearances. He has been a member of the elite Driver of the Year panel for the past 10 years and has been a major contributor to promoting the prestigious award.

Driver of the Year principal Barry Schmoyer presented Franck with a Tissot watch in the media center at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, saying, "This award usually goes to someone who has been on the panel for 30 years, but Lewis has done a tremendous amount for the award during his tenure and truly deserves this honor."

Franck said, "It's a real honor to be thought of in this way by this elite panel and the people who oversee the award."

Photo: Barry Schmoyer (L) and Lewis Franck  
Photo Credit To: Steve Snoddy

## Member Medical Updates

Former President **Chris Economaki** broke a couple of ribs as a result of a fall several weeks ago. Chris has been recovering at home.

**Bob Margolis** of Yahoo Sports has been recovering at home after three cancer surgeries in a one-month span. Michael Knight recently spoke with Bob, who said he is "very tired, but that's to be expected." Bob said he's been reading a lot of newspapers and magazines and is especially thankful for the motorsports publications he receives. Bob is full of praise for the care he's gotten at the University of Pennsylvania hospital. You can send Bob a note at [Bob.Margolis@yahoo.com](mailto:Bob.Margolis@yahoo.com).

## Gil Has A Request For Photographers

While going through the photo contest winners for the 2008 AARWBA Calendar, I ran into a slight problem.

I realize that you guys are photographers and believe that a picture is worth a thousand words... but, some words would help when you are entering the AARWBA photo contest.

We 'print wienies' are constantly driven by the following guidelines: Who-What-When-Where-and sometimes Why. The captions, "Joe Blow Hits The Wall." or "Fire Escape!" aren't much help for us poor doofus caption writers.

Your friendly calendar guy, Gil Bouffard



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## David Bull Publishing Announces New Peter Bryant Can-Am Book AARWBA Members Bull and Bryant Offer 25% Off Member Pricing!

With Humor and an Eye for Detail, "Can-Am Challenger" Recounts a Unique Career in Racing

The Canadian-American Challenge Cup (1966 - 1974) holds a special place in the hearts of motor racing enthusiasts. By offering big prizes along with minimal technical restrictions, the Can-Am quickly attracted the world's best drivers, teams and engineers. One of them was Peter Bryant, a London-born mechanic who had already worked with some of the top names in sports cars, Formula One and Indy Car racing.

Now, more than three decades later, Bryant offers a unique insider's view of this legendary era and a unique career in motorsports. In *Can-Am Challenger: The Cockney F1 Mechanic who Designed and Built America's Best Can-Am Cars*, Bryant describes how he fell in love with racing as a teenager. From there he found a job as a fabricator at the original Lotus factory and eventually became a full-time Formula 1 mechanic, traveling all over the world with such great drivers as John Surtees, Jo Bonnier, and Graham Hill.



After moving to California to work for Carroll Shelby, Bryant set his sights on Can-Am. There he created several of the most distinctive cars in a series where experimentation and technical innovation were always the rule. The first was the famous Autocoast Ti22, which featured the first-ever titanium monocoque and other titanium components. In 1970 the Ti22 became the first American-made car to lead a Can-Am race in two years. Bryant continued to fight the McLarens and Porsches that dominated the series with his UOP Shadow cars in 1971 and 1972, which made pioneering use of ground-effect aerodynamics and ran on unleaded gasoline.



*Photo by Andy Hartwell*

Available now from David Bull Publishing, *Can-Am Challenger* is packed with technical details and insights on what goes into building a successful racecar. But Bryant also includes a wealth of colorful characters and hilarious stories from a life spent behind the scenes in racing. From dodging the police at the French Grand Prix to chasing sponsors across the U.S. and Canada, Bryant never lost his boundless enthusiasm or energy. The 384-page book is illustrated with 143 black-and-white and color photographs, as well as technical diagrams and memorabilia from Bryant's career in racing. It also includes a foreword by Jackie Oliver, who drove all of Bryant's Can-Am cars.

*Can-Am Challenger* is available through bookstores, specialty motoring booksellers, and directly from the publisher for a retail price of \$49.95. Orders can be made by calling 602-852-9500 or by visiting the Web site at [www.bullpublishing.com](http://www.bullpublishing.com).

**AARWBA members can order a copy for \$37.50 by calling the number above.**

### Book Details

Title: *Can-Am Challenger*

Subtitle: *The Cockney F1 Mechanic who Designed and Built America's Best Can-Am Cars*

Author: Peter Bryant Foreword By Jackie Oliver

Format: Hardcover 8 3/8" By 9", 384 Pages, 126 Black-And-White and 17 Color Photos

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## Veteran Publicist Doug Stokes Joins Banks Power

Gale Banks has announced that long time AARWBA member - and Jim Chapman Award winner - Doug Stokes has joined the staff at Banks Power in Azusa in the position of Corporate Publicist.

"We're very pleased to have Doug coming on board with us. I've known him for many years now and have always admired his work with the press and public," said company President Gale Banks. "We're very much looking forward to his being on staff here. Stokes' wide background in motoring and motorsports is a great plus, and his enthusiasm is contagious."



Stokes at the podium at the AARWBA dinner.

"Gale Banks, both as a person and as a 'brand', is another word for class in my book," Stokes commented, "The products that he designs and manufactures are not just good, not just OK ... but the very best. And Gale the person is the same. I'm excited about my new task of getting the word out about the products, but even more so because I'll be working with the great team of top people that he's assembled."

Stokes will interface with all forms of the media in his new post as well as providing content for a number of websites that deal with the different services offered by Banks' company. "One of my main objectives will be to present and promote Gale himself as an on-air and in-print authority on a number of automotive subjects, foremost among them the intense interest in clean, renewable, diesel power, and other high-performance disciplines that are environmentally friendly," Stokes explained.

"I want news organizations across the country to know that we have a 'GEARHEAD' president who lives hot cars and trucks, but who lives in the real world too. Gale Banks is an outstanding spokesperson for the new high performance movement that can be fun, and earth-friendly at the same time!"

Stokes' own resume includes some 30 years as a professional in the PR/Marketing field working with organizations such as the International Kart Federation, the Mickey Thompson Entertainment Group, Perris Auto Speedway, the Chevy-Geo Outdoors Program, the Suzuki Racing, and, most recently, Irwindale Speedway.

Doug Stokes can be reached at: Doug Stokes (626) 969-9600 x 6200 [www.bankspower.com](http://www.bankspower.com)

## Member Spotlight?

We don't have a "Member Spotlight" feature in this issue, and that's a shame. But you can fix the problem by volunteering to be the next member in the spotlight! Simply send **Andy Hartwell** a quick email saying you are interested and he will contact you. A telephone conversation will follow at a mutually acceptable date and time. And you will have an opportunity to review the final write up before it goes to print. Easy, right? And what a great addition to your resume! "I was interviewed for the AARWBA newsletter!"

**You can reach Andy at [ashartwell@att.net](mailto:ashartwell@att.net)**

Why not be in the spotlight? Don't you deserve some recognition for what you do?

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