

Georgia Racing Hall of Fame Announces 2016 Inductees

On many a Friday or Saturday night back in the 1970s and '80s, Ricky Williams of Fayetteville and Stan Massey of Mableton went door-to-door racing for checkered flags on the dirt tracks in Atlanta suburbs like Douglasville, Senoia and Woodstock. Now the two again will be sharing center stage as members of the 2016 Class of the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame.

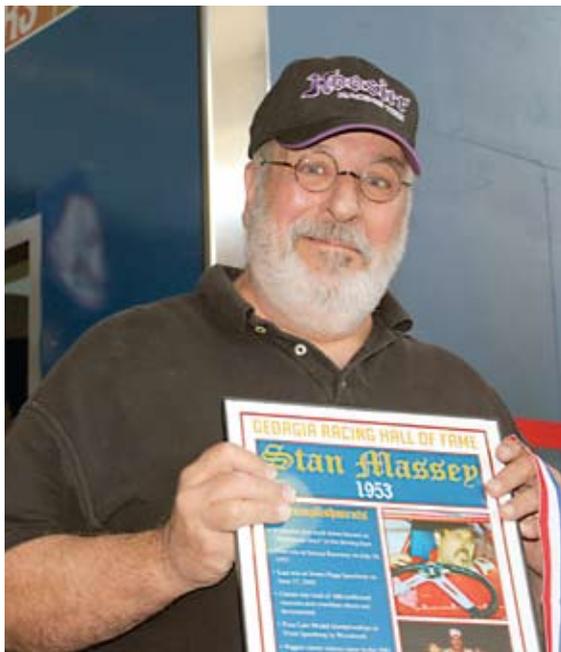
Joining Williams and Massey are drag racing legend Dick Brannan of Dawsonville, longtime short track and NASCAR driver Sam Sommers of Sylvania and the late Jimmy Thomas of Columbus, who was a car owner, car builder, crew chief and founder and operator of East Alabama Motor Speedway in Phenix City.

The five were selected by a 21-member voting panel that made the selection from the Fast 15 semi-finalist list. Williams led the voting with 12 votes, followed by Sommers with 11, Brannan and Thomas with 10 each and Massey with nine.

Just missing the cut were Fast 15 members Mike Love



Full house for the GRHOF induction ceremony



Stan Massey

and Jabez Jones, who had eight votes each.

The five inductees were formally recognized during the 49th annual Mountain Moonshine Festival in Dawsonville the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame in Dawsonville.

Gordon Pirkle, the founder of the Hall of Fame, said he continues to be amazed at the impressive credentials of the inductees. "Of course, I think any member of the Fast 15 is deserving of being inducted into the Hall of Fame, and I think this class is just outstanding," Pirkle said.

Williams, who was voted into the Hall on his first time on the ballot, began racing in 1976 and is now in his 41 year behind the wheel of a dirt-track car.

He has racked up 11 track championships and more than 350 feature victories at tracks across Georgia and

Alabama, but was at his best at the old West Atlanta/Seven Flags Speedway in Douglasville. He also won two track championships and numerous feature wins at Dixie Speedway in Woodstock and Rome Speedway in Rome as well as at Senoia Raceway and other tracks across the Southeast.

Throughout his racing career, he's worked full-time in a body shop, and now is helping his grandson Bailey Williams launch his racing career.

Brannan, who won more than 200 NHRA, IHRA and AHRA sanctioned drag racing events, was directly involved in the development of the Ford 427-cubic-inch race engines, as well as the 428s and 429s.

He already is a member of the Super Stock Magazine Hall of Fame, East Coast Drag Times Hall of Fame, Drag

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