

# New to the Crew

## Crew Chief Club adds four new names to its ranks

After two successful years, the Crew Chief Club has doubled its membership. Tommy Baldwin, crew chief on the Caterpillar Pontiac, Jimmy Elledge, crew chief on the Square D Chevrolet, Ryan Pemberton, crew chief on the Jasper Engines Ford, and Greg Zipadelli, crew chief on The Home Depot Pontiac, represent the younger generation of NASCAR Winston Cup Series crew chiefs in the garage area and the future of motorsports.

Together with founding members Jimmy Makar, Larry McReynolds, Todd Parrott and Robin Pemberton, these new members will continue to build on the foundation set forth in the Crew Chief Club principles: performance, reliability, leadership, teamwork and vision.

"I'm honored to be associated with these guys," says Robin. "I've been participating in some Crew Chief Club programs the past couple of years, and I'm looking forward to building this organization with the other new guys."



Zipadelli, crew chief for 1999 Rookie of the Year Tony Stewart, shares Pemberton's enthusiasm. "This is a great group of guys to be affiliated with, not only for the knowledge they possess, but also for the goals they have for this organization and its role in heightening the awareness of all members of a NASCAR Winston Cup Series team."


"Of all the crew chiefs in the garage, I'm honored to have been considered to become a member of this organization," says Elledge. "This is a great group of people to be involved with, and I'm looking forward to growing with the Crew Chief Club."

Baldwin adds, "By becoming part of this group, I'm hoping that we'll be able to give something back to all the guys in racing who deserve a little more recognition."

In addition to the announcement of these four new members, the Crew Chief Club is also part of the Chase Racing All-Stars program that was announced earlier this year. This program will recognize outstanding crew members based on input from a panel of racing personalities, media members and fans. Top performers will be named members of the Chase Racing All-Star Team at an annual awards ceremony. Criteria for this new program will look at speed, performance, leadership and teamwork.

While it seems that the focus for the 2000 season is on the youth movement in the Crew Chief Club and the NASCAR garage area, don't put the old members out to pasture yet.

"I wouldn't call the four founding members crusty, old veterans," says Larry McReynolds, "but the four of us combined have a lot of years under our belts. We felt that the company has grown to where we could look at adding new members, and what better group to look at than the young guys. We've added a great group of individuals who are doing a great job. By no means are any of them young to motorsports, but they are relatively new to the position of crew chief in NASCAR Winston Cup Series racing. We're proud of what they've accomplished with their respective teams and are looking forward to working with each of them."

Makar, McReynolds, Parrott and Pemberton founded the Crew Chief Club in 1998, with the goal of providing fans with an insider's look behind shop walls and into the confines of the NASCAR garage area. Crew Chief Club members are accessible to fans at races and special events, in the media and on the Internet at [www.crewchiefclub.com](http://www.crewchiefclub.com). 

### TOMMY BALDWIN

- Started his racing career with his dad in New York
- Began his NASCAR Winston Cup Series career with Junie Donlavey
- Became crew chief for Bill Davis Racing and driver Ward Burton near the end of the 1998 season and led the team to a career best season in 1999



### JIMMY ELLEDGE

- Raced quarter-midget go-karts in 1984 before moving into Street Stocks and then Late Model Stocks near his Redding, Calif., home
- Worked as a mechanic at Richard Childress Racing between 1992 and 1997
- After a brief stint as crew chief for Jeff Krogh on the NASCAR Busch Series, Grand National Division, he became shop foreman at Roush Racing
- Hired by Andy Petree in 1999 to lead his second NASCAR Winston Cup Series team piloted by Kenny Wallace



### RYAN PEMBERTON

- Began his NASCAR Winston Cup Series career at Roush Racing in 1988 after graduating from high school in New York
- Left Roush in 1991 to move to Robert Yates Racing before taking a position at Team SABCO, where he worked with brothers Robin and Roman
- Led the team of former NASCAR Busch Series champion Larry Pearson in 1995 and 1996
- Named crew chief in 1997 for MB2 Motorsports and driver Ernie Ivan in the NASCAR Winston Cup Series
- 2000 marks his first season with Jasper Motorsports and driver Robert Pressley



### GREG ZIPADELLI

- First exposed to racing through a family-owned Modified where he was able to work with several successful New England drivers
- Won the Featherlite Modified Series championship with driver Mike McLaughlin in 1988
- Won the Busch North Series championship with driver Mike Stefanik in 1996
- Served as chassis specialist for Jeff Burton's NASCAR Winston Cup Series team before joining Joe Gibbs Racing in 1998
- Led Tony Stewart's rookie campaign in the NASCAR Winston Cup Series in 1999

