

The Finalists Are...

2009 Person of the Year



Adrian Murray has been active in the automotive industry for 25 years, starting as a salesman for Federal-Mogul in 1978, first in Los Angeles and later in Dallas, Texas. In January of 1988 he went to work for Edelbrock Corporation as its National Sales Manager and eventually became its Vice President of Sales, a position he held until October of 1998. A desire to move back to Texas put him in touch with Painless Wiring in Fort Worth. Painless Wiring, soon to be known as Painless Performance, was looking to broaden its market niche and in the past four years Adrian has overseen the company's emergence as a key player in the performance aftermarket.



Chris Thomson A native of Phoenix, my automotive aftermarket experience includes tenure with such notable companies as Mr. Gasket, Flowtech and Holley Performance. Now I am the National Sales Manager for AIRAID Filter Company. I have taken great pride in helping AIRAID grow from fledgling manufacturer to winning back-to-back titles of MRC Sales Team of the year in 2004 and 2005. AIRAID is a progressive, energetic company that encourages me to participate in our industry's leadership. My dedication to the industry has led me to serve SEMA as a member of the MPMC Select, Diesel Marketing Task Force, Rep of the Year, and WD of the Year committees. I have worked all sides of the industry, from warehousing to retail and wholesale sales, to manufacturing. I understand the common goals and challenges we all share. It is an honor to be nominated for the PWA Person of the Year Award.



Rick Sparks A life long car guy, Rick has been fortunate enough to have spent his entire career in the automotive performance industry. As a small boy when his friends wanted to be firemen and policemen Rick dreamed of racing cars and working in a speed shop. He began fulfilling his dream while in college when he landed a part-time job in a small speed shop. Shortly thereafter began what is best described as a crash prone racing career that lasted over a decade. In late 1987, Scooter Brothers of COMP Cams convinced Rick that his talents lie on the business side of the industry and agreed to give him a job provided he became an ex-racecar driver. The rest is history as Rick worked in various positions with RHS and COMP Cams until 1997 when he was appointed sales manager for COMP Cams. Today, along with his duties at COMP Cams Rick is the VP of Sales for the COMP Performance Group. Rick is also a proud member of the MPMC Select Committee where he serves on the Motorsports Awareness task force.

2009 Manufacturer of the Year



Since 1997 **AIRAID Filter Company** has been manufacturing and distributing a complete line of cool air intake systems, premium air filters, modular intake tubes and throttle body spacers for pickups and SUVs. Every AIRAID premium filter features AIRAID's SynthaFlow technology, which provides maximum filtration and superior air flow. All AIRAID products are made in the USA and feature our "No Hassle" Warranty.



K & N Engineering "Manufacturer of the world's best air filters", began building washable / reusable air filters in the early 60's in a small facility in Riverside, CA. Long before recycling manufactured products became environmentally necessary, K & N developed their air filter specifically for the racing market. Today, K & N equips about 80% of all off-road racing vehicles with wins in every major off-road event in the world including Pikes Peak, the Baja 500 and 1000 and the grueling Paris to Decker race. K & N now employs over 300 people in their Riverside locations and in their Warrington, England plant, employs an additional 100+ people that manufacturer for European and overseas markets.



Founded in 1990, **Painless Performance** has grown over the years from a manufacturer of a single street rod wiring harness to become the recognized leader in performance automotive electrical systems. Today its diverse and still growing product offering of over 500 products provides electrical solutions for street rodders, hot rodders, off roaders, drag racers and automotive enthusiasts everywhere. One of the most respected companies in the industry, Painless has received three Best New Product awards from SEMA, seven runner-ups and was recognized as the 2002 PWA

Manufacturer of the Year. In 2006 Painless was named the "Shining Star" Small Business of the Year in Fort Worth. With a strong commitment to engineering and new product development Painless is making pioneering contributions to the development of performance enhancing electrical products for fuel injected engines and has entered the diesel market with its new Striker brand of performance modules.