

2009 PWA Pioneer Award

The Finalists Are...



Don Tognotti From a youth with a fascination of cars, especially customizing, Don Tognotti started a business in his parent's garage involving specialty auto parts. Soon ousted because he was taking over the garage, he began the rapid steps from a storefront location in 1964 through numerous moves to ever-increased sized locations. Don built the company reputation on quality, personal attention to the customer needs and always knowing his customers got the best deal on quality products. Tognotti's has attained an extremely loyal community image...it's THE place to get your complete auto needs. Don will be remembered as a true pioneer and standard of measure in the industry.



Jim Parks I would like to thank the nominating committee for considering me once again for this most prestigious award. The PWA Pioneer Award would be my honor for my 42 years of participation and continuing support of this industry for which is still my livelihood. My involvement with PWA consisted of 2 elected terms as Area Director and 2 terms as National Treasurer. While in the position of National Treasurer I developed a more modern and streamlined form of accounting, which added some "checks & balances." The practice is still in use. My thanks to the Pioneers before me who have paved the way for me to participate in an association and industry I so much enjoy.



Van Woodell My automotive career began in 1974 when I went to work for an AMC/Jeep dealership in Durham, NC. Prior to that I was actively involved in one of the first four-wheel drive clubs on the east coast. In 1980 I had the good fortune to meet Dudley Weathers of Tupelo, MS and together we opened a new Weathers Auto Supply in Petersburg, VA. In 1989 Mr. Weathers sold the Virginia operation to me. I have had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors of PWA for many years and have served as past president of the association. I have also served on the SEMA board for three consecutive terms and have been re-elected for another two year term. I continue to try to make our industry more professional and help it earn the respect it deserves.



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