

### **Michael Buchanan Fairbanks Memorial Award Competitor of the Year**

The first award the Indianapolis Region ever presented was the High Point Award, which went to the driver scoring the most points in all of the Indy Region's events. It was first presented in 1952 to Bob Magenheimer, driving a 1948 MG TC that is now owned by Indy Region member and National SCCA Club Historian Peter Hylton. Bob repeated the feat and won the award again in 1953. Then in 1954, Mrs. Joseph Daniels donated a large silver plate to the region as the Michael Buchanan Fairbanks Award. It was named after her son, who had died in a car crash while attending Depauw University. As a matter of interest, Michael happened to be the grandson of Charles W. Fairbanks, Vice President of the United States under Teddy Roosevelt from 1905 to 1909. The new Fairbanks Award replaced the High Point Award, and continued to be given to the top competitor across all forms of competition in the Indy Region. As the club evolved into having more and more events, this interpretation evolved such that the award was given to the top competitor who competed in all forms of competition. This is a subtle distinction, but an important one. Originally it did not matter what events one competed in, a member scored points in any event they ran, and the points counted toward the award. In the later interpretation, one HAD to compete in all forms of competition. This is the reason that in the seventies the Fairbanks Award was not always presented. Unless someone scored points in all three disciplines of Racing, Rally, and Solo, they were not eligible to win the award. In 1982, after the Fairbanks Award had sat in a closet for 4 of the 6 previous years, the Indy Region Board of Directors created a new Competitor of the Year Award, using essentially the rules we have today. However, a number of long time members objected to eliminating the Fairbanks Award, so the original plate was brought back, mounted on the base we have today, and the name of the award was officially changed to the Michael Buchanan Fairbanks Memorial Competitor of the Year Award.

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|      |                            |      |                |           |                |
|------|----------------------------|------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1954 | Bob Magenheimer            | 1977 | Jud Jaqua      | 2000      | Dave Hart      |
| 1955 | Bob Magenheimer            | 1978 | Not Awarded    | 2001      | Matt Curry     |
| 1956 | Luke Stear                 | 1979 | Chuck Hanson   | 2002      | Shane Benson   |
| 1957 | Chuck Rickert              | 1980 | Not Awarded    | 2003      | Chad Stringer  |
| 1958 | Bob Clifford               | 1981 | Not Awarded    | 2004      | Bill Partridge |
| 1959 | Mike Norris & Phil Vickery | 1982 | Pete Hylton    | 2005      | Steve Linn     |
| 1960 | Mert Jaggar                | 1983 | Cindy Hylton   | 2006      | Steve Linn     |
| 1961 | A.J. Werner                | 1984 | Cindy Hylton   | 2007      | Riley Dill     |
| 1962 | Gerry Mason                | 1985 | John Scherer   | 2008      | Ted Drummond   |
| 1963 | Mike Robbins               | 1986 | Glenn Davis Jr | 2009      | Ted Drummond   |
| 1964 | Dave Causey                | 1987 | Roger Baker    | 2010      | Ted Drummond   |
| 1965 | Harvey Hess                | 1988 | Frank Pope     | 2011      | Ted Drummond   |
| 1966 | Jack Hurt and Mike Robbins | 1989 | Pete Hylton    | 2012      | Ted Drummond   |
| 1967 | Harvey Hess                | 1990 | Pete Hylton    | 2013      | Ted Drummond   |
| 1968 | Mike Robbins               | 1991 | Mark Badgley   | 2014      | Ted Drummond   |
| 1969 | Mike Robbins               | 1992 | Pete Hylton    | 2015      | Ted Drummond   |
| 1970 | Mike Robbins               | 1993 | Cindy Hylton   | 2016-2023 | Not Awarded    |
| 1971 | Mike Robbins               | 1994 | Mark Badgley   | 2024      | Vincent Taibi  |
| 1972 | Will Zobbe                 | 1995 | Not Awarded    | 2025      | Josh Cobb      |
| 1973 | Vic Drummond               | 1996 | Sam Crites     |           |                |
| 1974 | Keith Hess                 | 1997 | Dave Hart      |           |                |
| 1975 | Keith Hess                 | 1998 | Dave Daughtery |           |                |
| 1976 | Not Awarded                | 1999 | Matt Curry     |           |                |