



James Francis Wick

August 6, 1942 - January 12, 2009

James Francis Wick, 66, of Fond du Lac, Wis., died Monday, Jan. 12, 2009, after a battle with prostate cancer. He was born Aug. 6, 1942, the son of Edwin F. and Marie M. (Bednarek) Wick of Princeton, Wis. He attended Princeton schools, graduating from Princeton High School in 1960. He began work through a machinist apprentice program at Giddings & Lewis Co. in Fond du Lac, Wis., and worked there for many years. Jim was an all-around handyman who could fix most anything. As a young man, he enjoyed spending time with his father working at the farm and airplane hangar, and raced a boat on the Fox River in the Princeton area. But his passion was muscle cars and drag racing. Jim built a winning record at Wisconsin International Raceway in Kaukauna, Wis., and Great Lakes Dragaway in Union Grove, Wis., and garnered sponsorships from Chrysler, Road America and Packer City Plymouth of Green Bay, Wis. He followed national competitive racing circuits including the NHRA (National Hot Rod Association) and UDRA (United Drag Racer Association). Among his many trophies are awards for SS/A class winner at the 1970 NHRA U.S. Nationals and SS/A class winner at the 1971 NHRA Winter Nationals. In 1972, Jim won five UDRA Pro Stock events, was first or second qualifier at 25 out of 49 events and was Pro Stock points champion. His racing team won best appearing car and crew several years in a row, and was recognized as Hot Rod Magazine's best appearing car and crew in 1971. Many fellow racers sought advice from Jim, and in 1966, he started Jim's Car Shop, providing technical assistance and high performance

parts to the racing industry. The shop, now operated by his son Jeff, continues to grow its business today. In 1973, Jim was critically injured at an NHRA race in Columbus, Ohio. A spinal cord injury left him a quadriplegic. After the accident, his fellow racers held a benefit for him at Great Lakes Dragaway, and the communities in Ohio and Fond du Lac stepped up to help the family. Through all of this, his passion for racing carried on. Over the years, he partnered with (the late) Jim Jezewski and Tim Mayhew, and for the last 25 years his son Jeff, to drive his race cars. He relished in seeing his cars compete and masterminding the fine-tuning to make them faster and better. Jim is preceded in death by his father, Edwin, and his brother, Gary. He is survived by his children Jeff (Carmen) Wick, of Fond du Lac, Wis., Alan Wick of Richfield, Wis., and Joy Wick of Appleton, Wis.; grandchildren Jordan and Bryce Wick of Fond du Lac, Wis.; his mother, Marie Wick, of Princeton, Wis.; his brother Doug (Michelle) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; nephews Dan (Kim) Wick, of Washington, D.C., and Josh and Noah Wick of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; his former wife, Lois Wick of Fond du Lac, Wis.; a special nephew Paul Hoppman of Fond du Lac, Wis., and extensive family and friends. The family will greet friends and relatives from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, 2009, at Sacred Heart Church, 232 S. Peters Ave., Fond du Lac. The Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 7 p.m. with Rev. Victor Capriolo officiating. A Mass of Christian Burial also will be held Monday, Jan. 26, 2009, at 11 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Church in Princeton, Wis., with the Rev. Dale Grubba officiating. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to the time of the Mass. Burial will take place at a later date at St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Princeton, Wis. Mach Funeral Chapel & Crematory is assisting the family. A memorial fund has been established at Options for Independent Living, C/O Jim Wick Memorial, P.O. Box 11967, Green Bay, WI 54307. Additional information and tribute to Jim can be found at www.jimscarshop.com.

Tribute Wall

DO

“ *James Francis Wick*

Dan and Debbie Oskar - January 21, 2009 at 03:19 PM

MH

“ *Al and family:
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Mark & Kris Harmsen - January 20, 2009 at 08:44 PM

ML

“ *Al and family:Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Mark & Kris Harmsen of Fond du Lac - January 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Jeff, Carmen & Family,
You have our deepest sympathies. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Jim was a great man. We have lots of great memories of him.*

Craig Ziegler Family - January 19, 2009 at 04:24 PM

BP

“ *Jim was truly a pioneer in the pro stock class in professional drag racing. A Chrysler stalwart, Jim was a lone Mopar guy during a long, dry period of GM dominance in the class, especially in match racing. Jim was a racer you could always see up close and personal at the UDRA or MPSA events and he always had time for a chat with the fans. RIP, Jim, and thanks for the memories. My condolences to his family and many, many friends.*

Bill Pratt - January 19, 2009 at 01:47 PM

SA

“ *I am sorry to hear of Jims illness and passing. You are in my prayers. Sheryl Sobralske Atkinson*

Sheryl Sobralske Atkinson - January 19, 2009 at 10:57 AM

SW

“ *I am sorry to hear of Jims illness and passing. You are in my prayers. Sheryl Sobralske Atkinson*

Sheryl Sobralske Atkinson of Kaukauna, Wisconsin - January 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ *Jeff, Carmen & Family, You have our deepest sympathies. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Jim was a great man. We have lots of great memories of him.*

Craig Ziegler Family of Fond du Lac - January 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *Our heartfelt condolences go out to the entire Wick family, Jeff, Carmen, Aunt Marie, and Doug. May God's love and our prayers provide comfort in this time of great need.*

Michael and Janet Bednarek - January 18, 2009 at 07:17 PM

EA

“ *Jeff,
My condolences to you, and your family.*

Eric Amend - January 18, 2009 at 04:42 PM

WF

“ Sorry to hear about Jim are thoughts and prayers are with you and your family it was lots of fun coming over and talking with him were going to miss the grumpy old fart ha ha i know Don liked talking to him about racing and cars. It's sure going to be different coming over and not seeing him and specially in the summer him hitting the garage door when he wanted to come in if you need anything just let me know.

Winke Family - January 18, 2009 at 02:52 PM

JZ

“ Alan, I am sorry for the loss of your father. May God be with you in this time. Take care. Julie Ziegler

Juile Ziegler - January 18, 2009 at 01:41 PM

BV

“ Jim was my cousin,my father Wilbur Wick older brother Eddies first child. He was born when I was almost one years old. He was the cousin that LOVED cars. We would see him at KK race track over the years. I remember the day of his accident. Jim Jezwinski was a classmate of mine.Prayers go out to family and friends. Remember those we love don't go away they walk beside us every day. Betty Wick Van Sistine Berlin, WI

Betty Wick VanSistine - January 18, 2009 at 01:14 PM

BJ

“ jim and i went to school together for 11 years. my sons mike and mark james also race at wir and union grove,also mark's wife lisa races a cobra. mike a ford lightning and mark a mustang, so I have often taked about jim. so sorry for your loss. barb james

barbara.george james - January 18, 2009 at 10:09 AM

MO

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Michael and Janet Bednarek of Centerville, Ohio - January 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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barbara.george james of neenah,wi. - January 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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Juile Ziegler of fond du lac, wi - January 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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Eric Amend of Fond du Lac - January 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ Heartfelt sympathy to Jeff, Carmen and family. Our prayers are with you all. Gob bless. Jim is in racing heaven.

Rick and Deb Johnson - January 15, 2009 at 06:26 PM

RL

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Rick and Deb Johnson of Fond du Lac - January 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM