



# Team RFC UPDATE

News from the Christian Motorsports International, Inc. Family of Ministries

Vol. 2012, Issue #1

## Johnny Campbell – A True Champion

**Team RFC** – Johnny, when someone writes a headline about Johnny Campbell at this stage in 2012, that headline usually says what?

**Johnny Campbell** – hmmm... if they write a headline about Johnny Campbell, it's usually about my racing team I think. It's JCR/Honda; we're a dominant force in Baja and desert racing.

I raced for American Honda for 17 years. In 2008 we took our off-road racing into a satellite operation for them. The last few years we've been working really hard on that. So I think the headline is "JCR/Honda wins Baja."

**Team RFC** – Often they will talk about your accomplishments and that marquee accomplishment of yours.

**Johnny** – The marquee accomplishment would be Johnny Campbell... the 11 time overall winner of the Baja 1000.

**Team RFC** – Right. That's how you're best known. But motorcycle racing started much earlier for you; at age 9, I believe?

**Johnny** – Yes, my dad rode and raced locally and I always wanted a dirt bike. I had a HUGE passion for it. I was always thrashing bicycles and going to the races with my dad. Finally, and I say finally because I wanted to ride when I was younger than 9, I got a bike. That's when my dad started me. It was a Honda XR75 just like many of us started on. That became my passion, 100%, from that age on.

**Team RFC** – I'm going to skip around a bit. One of the things you're known for right now is being a family man and having a great passion for family. You have a wife and a couple of kids and they're interested in competing as well, is that correct?

**Johnny** – Yes, my whole family is into dirt bikes. My wife and I grew up as kids at dirt bike races. Our dads competed. Our families are friends. She became my girlfriend in high school. We got

married soon after high school.

So she raced and rode as well, so it was a good match there. As we had children, they were interested in it; they were surrounded by it. My son is really competitive right now, that's all he wants to do. My daughter likes it some days, and other days she doesn't care for it so much. It's all in our blood for sure.

**Team RFC** – Johnny, tell us what happened in your life to make family such a priority for you.

**Johnny** – Family is a priority to me because I believe in the moral values of America and the family unit, and how important it is to want to become a father and experiencing the joys, and the ups and downs of being a parent, the challenges, but also investing in them morally and spiritually, and as a heritage, bringing the next generation up educated in God and their faith. I believe it's one of the ways God continues His kingdom is through our children.



**Team RFC** – Getting back to your racing career. You did motocross racing for about 8 or 9 years then you were introduced to Baja, is that correct?

**Johnny** – Yes, motorcycle racing has so many different types of disci-

plines – off-road you have everything from motocross to Grand Prix to desert to woods racing to Baja and enduros.

I grew up more or less in the motocross/Grand Prix arena, where I wasn't pure motocross but I wasn't pure desert racing. The Grand Prix is kind of like an in-between style of race. I grew up doing that. I dabbled in motocross. I fell in love with desert and Baja racing because I just really enjoy being on a bike a long time. The longer the race, the better I did, so I went after that.

**continued on pg 2**



## Johnny Campbell cont. from pg 1

**Team RFC** – So you started in Baja in your late teens. Were you an immediate success right out of the box?

**Johnny** – I think that I had what it took to compete in those races, but I just didn't have the experience. And it's such an experience oriented event because you can go as fast as the bike will go and faster but it'll bite you. You have to learn how fast you can go and keep the bike and your speed within your ability.

Down in Baja we reach speeds over 100 mph in some sections. When you're inexperienced, it looks like it's smooth and flat and you can twist the throttle, but there may be something you can't see or you haven't experienced in order to take the right line or slow down at the right time. There are some areas you race and some areas that you just survive down there.

From the beginning down there, I liked the terrain. I was absorbing it all as a teenager and thought, wow, this is really cool. As a teenager, none of us has any experience. You survive that part and get over the hump then you move on to hopefully getting good experience to start becoming an asset.

**Team RFC** – In what year was your first overall win in the Baja 1000?

**Johnny** – My first overall win in the Baja 1000 was in 1997. I started racing in Baja California in 1990 when I went down to do the San Felipe 250. That was the only race I did that year down there.

Then I came back and rode all the SCORE races from 1991 as a privateer. My mom, my brother, my friends, we figured out how to ride. I think there were 4 or 5 races that year including Parker 400 and Nevada 500. It was all combined with HDRA (High Desert Racing Association) at that time. We went and did them all.

I got enough experience and served enough notice that it started my relationship with America Honda. They started noticing me and I knew a few people within their pit program. That very next year I was drafted onto their team.

**Team RFC** – Tell us a little bit about that streak of consecutive years.

**Johnny** – I had a really great streak for wins in the Baja 1000. We won multiple races over my career, but the one thing that I was known for was the long distance...the Baja 1000.

In 1997 I won my first Baja 1000. Through God's grace, He led me to a streak of nine Baja 1000's in a row. In 2006, when we came out with the new 450X, my team had a couple of crashes and we ended up second. The streak ended in 2006. We came back after

that to win the next two years and take the record for the winningest motorcycle race team in the history of the Baja 1000.

**Team RFC** – Pretty exciting.

**Johnny** – Yeah, it was a goal we set after I had maybe 4-5 consecutive wins. I thought I could go after Larry Roeseler's record of ten. That became my goal. If it happened, great; if it didn't, it really didn't matter. It did happen and it was really fun to accomplish that.

**Team RFC** – Has JCR/Honda basically taken over the American Honda off-road racing in all of America or just Southern California?

**Johnny** – We do the Southwest. JCR became the American Honda satellite in 2008. Our main focus is the Baja 1000. Everything else is secondary to that. But we have to race and practice and tune during the year to get to that race since it's at the end of the year. So we compete in multiple disciplines of racing in order to win the Baja 1000 at the end of the year.

**Team RFC** – Your role now in leading JCR/Honda...it's more about the next generation of riders?

**Johnny** – Yes, my role now is that I own and operate a corporation. I went from an off-road racer to a business owner and running budgets and managing athletes and managing mechanics. That has been the biggest challenge for me is taking

that leadership role and managing people. That's super challenging for me.

Now I'm the master and I mentor the younger athletes coming up just like my predecessor, Bruce



Ogilvie, did for me. He was really good at that. He was so polished and a very smart guy. He had a gift of being a natural leader, being able to decipher wrong from right, and he was so detailed. He is a really good role model for me to follow in my future which is now.

**Team RFC** – Got it. Well, Johnny, to the public the biggest part of your profile is the racer, but you're very much a multi-dimensional person. There's a movie that came out about your life story. The title is "True Champion: The Johnny Campbell Story." Why did that get started? How did that begin? What motivated that?

**Johnny** – When we first started "True Champion" it was going to be "A Decade of Dominance" hoping that I was going to get ten Baja 1000 wins in a row. God had other plans for that. My focus on the movie was more spiritual than it was promoting Johnny Campbell.

**continued on pg 6**





## President's Perspective

by Larry Smiley

**The 2012 race season is well under way! As I write this, we are six races into the 23 race NHRA National event schedule.**

It is so great to be connecting with the racing community.

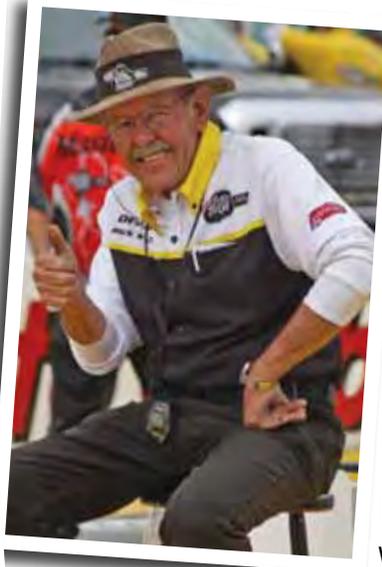
One man is already sorely missed. He was the **NHRA Full Throttle Official Starter, Rick Stewart**, who retired to his home in Dallas, TX at the end of the 2011 season.

Rick is the second Official Starter succeeding Buster Couch when he left the starting line in 1995. How **Rick stood there all day, every day, between the deafening noise of 8,000 hp racecars for 15 years**, I'll never know, but he did; and we dearly love him.

We became close friends with Rick many years ago at the **Houston racetrack**, when an **Alcohol Dragster blew up at the starting line sending a 3 inch steel wire that lodged in Rick's neck**. They rushed him by ambulance to a trauma center in South Houston.

Linda went to the hospital to check on Rick, and found him laying on a gurney waiting his turn in a busy emergency room. He was real happy to see her and gave her one of his warm **"Rick Smiles."**

They talked about what had occurred at the track. People were giving them **"looks"** because Linda had to talk so loud for our **"near deaf" friend** to hear her. Years on the starting line had taken a



toll on Rick's hearing. He said there was a **little hook at the end of the wire in his neck**. They had taken some ex-rays to try to determine how severe the trajectory was; **whether it went through an artery or not**. You might say **Rick knew too much**, because he used to be the Director of Radiology at a hospital in Bakersfield, CA. He knew the seriousness of this injury and he was **trying to be patient** as he waited for the prognosis. Linda asked him if he'd like her to **pray for him** and he jumped at the opportunity.

Finally, the doctor came to them with the good news. **The wire had only perforated the fatty tissue in Rick's neck and he had come to take it out**. Rick was overjoyed and they thanked God, but **I'm not sure who squeezed whose hand harder as the doctor pulled it out, Rick or Linda!**

**Rick, Linda and I became fast friends** after this exciting experience. NHRA appreciated our efforts this day.

Rick's loving wife, Ruby, had been praying for her husband to have a relationship with Jesus. God answered her prayers prior to Rick's last season on the starting line. **Rick accepted Jesus Christ into his heart**. Our bond now is more than just friendship. We are brother and sister in Christ!

We have all been called to be **"Ambassadors"** for God. As a Christian,

God has called you to be a friend to the lost. God has an assignment for you. You are to be **"Salt and Light"** in a dark and dying world. You have God's Holy Spirit to guide and equip you to do great and mighty things. **2 Corinthians 5:19b-20** says: *"...And (God) has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."*

## Two Ways to Find Team RFC® on the Web!

Have you seen Team RFC's® website recently? There are more pictures and more regional news available, as well as contact information for RFC staff across the country. Come take a look at [www.teamrfc.org](http://www.teamrfc.org).

On the web site there is a link for devotionals. Each week one of the RFC staff authors a thought for your reflection. Check them out weekly and look through some that have been archived as well.

You can also find Team RFC on **Facebook!** Look us up at <http://www.facebook.com/RacersForChrist>





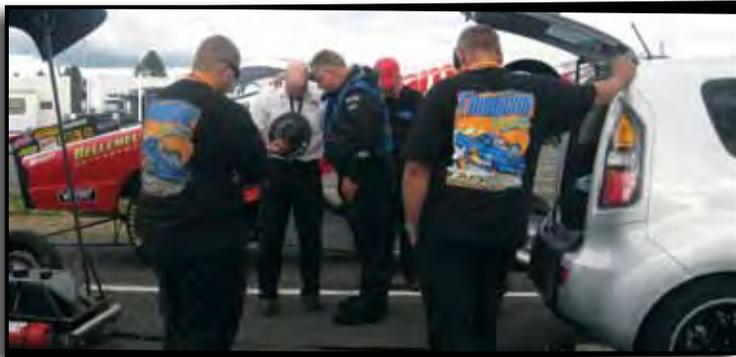
Northwest Region Chaplain Martin Schulz prays with Canadian Top Alcohol Dragster driver Ashley Bart at a Woodburn Raceway (OR) NHRA Division 6 race.



Early December saw the annual Performance Racing Industries Trade Show at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. The huge exhibit hall floor can overwhelmingly dazzle the attendee with virtually every product or service needed for someone in motorsports.



Amid all of the visual stimulus was the stunning Permatex-sponsored Top Alcohol Funny Car. Permatex is a leading manufacturer of automotive adhesives, sealants, cleaners, and much more. Fielded by Jay Blake's Follow A Dream race team ([www.followadream.org](http://www.followadream.org)) and piloted by veteran driver Todd Venev, it was fun upon taking a closer look to see the Team RFC® logo as part of the graphics.



Northwest Region Chaplain Dave Cookman stopped to pray with Top Alcohol Funny Car driver Clint Thompson. After he finished, Clint grabbed his shoulder and prayed in return for Chaplain Dave and Racers For Christ®.



Top Alcohol Dragster team owner Steve Federlin and crew of the Ray Martin driven race car pause for prayer with Chaplain Martin Schulz.



Chaplain Martin Schulz prays with NHRA Top Alcohol Driver driver Joey Severance at Woodburn Raceway (OR).



Northwest Region Chaplain David Cookman spends a moment in prayer with driver John Lombardo, Jr. John won the 2011 NHRA Division VII Top Alcohol Funny Car title in his NAPA "Good to Go" machine.





Jason Hamstra won the 2011 American Drag Racing League (ADRL) Pro Extreme championship.

His patriotic themed "God Bless America" 1970 Plymouth Duster was on display at the Performance Racing Industry Trade Show in Orlando, FL. Hamstra was the wire-to-wire leader during the calendar year, claiming his first world championship in the ADRL's quickest and fastest class.



Team RFC® provided chaplains across the country for the Super Chevy Shows in 2011. The events are made up



of differing combinations of events such as drag racing, car shows, swap meets, gymkhana, and (of course) a chapel service.

These photos were from the SCS held at Firebird International Raceway (Chandler, AZ) and show the chapel service, South-west Region Chaplain Rich Trimmer speaking, and one of the special interest cars on display...a 1960 ambulance!



Long time West Coast drag racer, Lynn Welfringer launches off the line in his Mondello Performance Products Super Comp roadster at Infineon Raceway during the NHRA Fram Autolite Nationals in July 2011, while wife Judy watches attentively.



Racers For Christ® became the 92nd inductee into the Arizona Motorsports Hall of Fame last October as part of the 2011 class of five elected to receive this honor. Also inducted posthumously was Arizonan Mark Niver of NHRA Top Alcohol Dragster renown.



## Heeding the Call

Team RFC® often receives requests for staff to cover local tracks, races, and car shows. Sometimes we don't have staff available to meet these requests. If you, or someone you know, would like to explore a possible call to be **volunteer field staff** for Team RFC®, please contact a regional director, or call **Jim Jack** at work, **480-507-5323**, or cell, **602-524-4691**, or send us an e-mail at **TeamRFC@TeamRFC.org**.

*One of the joys as a chaplain with Team RFC® is praying with the many great people we meet in racing. West Central Region Director Stan Roche prays with Trey Osburn who is sitting in his race boat, "Po Dawg." Trey is the 2011 River Racer Class Champion with the St. Louis Drag Boat Association.*



### Johnny Campbell cont. from pg 2

Basically, God has blessed me with a lot in my racing career and my life and I just want to share that with people. That was the real root of that movie.

I had a dynamic story that I wanted out there. I felt that God doesn't want me to hold that in. He wants us to tell people our experiences. That was the beginning of "True Champion."

When I didn't get the tenth win, someone else used that title "Decade of Dominance" so we stayed away from it. The title they came up with was "True Champion" which was a definition of a champion on the bike and off the bike as well.

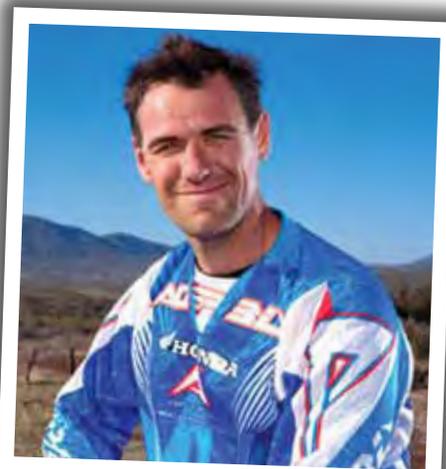
I have a little bit of a hard time with the "True Champion" title myself because I really don't like to beat my own chest because I answer to somebody higher than me. For me to say, yeah, I'm a true champion...I would never say that. But the perception of people is that I am, so that's how that title came about. I went with it. Now that the movie has been out, it also holds me accountable in my personal life when I'm making decisions because I remember that I have to be a true champion.

**Team RFC** – Very cool.

**Johnny** – It's pretty amazing how God has worked in that.

**Team RFC** – Well, I enjoyed viewing the movie because it does show you in that multi-dimensional role as a committed competitor, as a leader, as a family man, as a man of character, as well as a man of faith and how that integrates into everything that you do. Briefly, tell me about your faith walk.

**Johnny** – I grew up in a Christian home. My mom was a believer.



My dad grew to be a believer. Thank goodness because his life was cut short at 39 years old. I'm looking forward to the day to be reunited with him in heaven.

I was a young kid, eight or nine years old, I went to summer camp. I accepted Christ there. Through junior high I went to youth group. I had a lot of good things ingrained in me. God gave me clarity of right and wrong and who He was. I was totally sold out.

I can understand how God works in our lives, and I've seen God work in many people's lives. I've seen people be healed, relationships repaired, amazing things that can't be coincidence. His Word always comes back full; it's not void. As I studied the Bible, God gave me clarity on understanding that.

I have a very big passion for Jesus, His mission, and furthering God's kingdom because we're only here for a very short period of time. I'm a racer, competitor, and athlete. Yeah, I'm an old one now but, God says don't store up your treasures here on earth but store them in heaven. The way I take that is when we get to heaven, we'll have to give an account of what we've done down here. I want him to be proud of me down here.

**Team RFC** – Johnny, you were recently asked to be a guest speaker at one of the Racers For Christ® chapels, share with me a little bit about that experience.

**Johnny** – Steve Hanson [RFC Southwest Region Director] is a good friend and chaplain in our facet of motorsports. He had asked if I would share at one of the Lucas Oil short course races. For one thing, I was interested in going out to see one of those races because I hadn't gotten to see one. Also, I have a few friends that compete there, like Cameron Steele.

I told him, "Yeah, no problem," because this is one of the ways I feel that God can use me. We have this whole big industry and there aren't many people going out and stepping out in faith. I feel like this is one part of ministry where I can step out.

I know when you feel nervous or uneasy about doing some

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# The Team You Are On Does Matter

By Jim Jack, Field Ministry Director

Abraham Lincoln wrote "I do not boast that God is on my side, I humbly pray that I am on God's side." As most of us know, honest Abe was a God-fearing man who put his trust in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, and one of many US Presidents professing to be a believer.

If I was going to drive any type of racing machine, or if I know someone who drives one, I would surely want the driver to have a personal relationship with Christ. Just living in this world means that something can happen to you on any given day, to end your stay, with no more time to play, and then it will be time to say, my era on this puny planet has finally gone away.

Racing (in any vehicle at any speed) cuts down the odds of a long and fruitful life. Do the math. Anything that puts you in harm's way can be your downfall in the "twinkling of an eye." Even if you drive the best vehicle on the planet, stuff happens, and the best laid plans of mice and men don't always work out the way they are planned.

It's an exciting life in the twenty-first century to be involved with any team in motorsports. In Abraham Lincoln's day, the only racing was one horsepower racing, or maybe a team of one horse power horses. Still, the racing may have been exciting to them then, but it was clear that you could only go as fast as your best horse or team of horses and buggy could take you.

I played on Little League baseball teams, High School football and golf teams, then on to adult softball. These teams were fun, good for learning teamwork, and for getting into good physical condition. One of my lifelong highlights was when our son turned sixteen and we were able to play on the same slow pitch softball team. It is great fun competing with your children.

I personally joined another team on February 5, 1988. It was God's team of believers. I signed on the bottom line of God's contract through the power of the cross of Jesus Christ. This team got me in good spiritual condition, in which I'm still working-out today on a daily basis. Being drafted by God is all that is needed to make it to

the eternal big league in Paradise.

God choose me to be on His team. Instead of jumping into a situation with the presumption that God is on our side, we need to be certain that we are on His side, on His team (as Abe said).

There are a lot of racing vehicles that are adorned with the Team RFC® fish logo prominently on the sides of their hot rods, and that (to me) is one of the coolest things in motorsports. But, *having God's logo in your heart is what it's all about*, as anyone can have it only on the outside.

God gets real enjoyment by picking those who have no skills or talent (remember the ones who were always chosen last on the school P.E. teams). So, "Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of the brightest and the best' among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families," (1 Corinthians 1:26 The Message).

A father and son team really touches the heart of a man who loves his son and enjoys the fact that simply playing on a team with your son makes you a winner. Keep in mind that God's Father and Son team has the best winning record in history. But remember, winning in anything but salvation doesn't necessarily make you an MVP in God's eyes.

The only bona fide MVP was introduced over two thousand years ago. He started out on a farm team in Bethlehem, then drafted to play for the temple team in Jerusalem, then was cut by his family team in Nazareth, but eventually became the MVP, the Messiah Vindicating People through His Majestic Vicarious Propitiation that defeated the opposing team—the Devils, who decided to dodge the draft demonstrating deceptive deliverance desiring to destroy the Divine team of God's disciples.

The real MVP didn't hoist up a trophy; He was hoisted up on a cross, but still won the championship for all who wear His Team colors...**blood red** I believe?



## Third Annual Team RFC® Golf Tournament

On one of those "Chamber of Commerce" Southern California days last November, the third annual Team RFC® golf tournament was held attracting a record number of participants. With a shotgun start at 11 AM, everyone finished in time to enjoy burgers-to-order from IN-N-OUT's Cookout Truck, the awards presentation, and the silent auction.

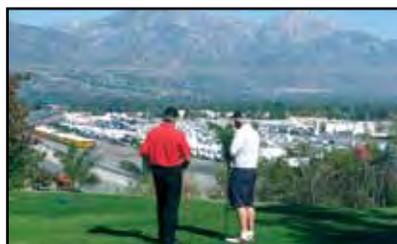
The 2012 tournament will be held at the same location on Wednesday, November 7. For more information contact Jim Jack: [revjimjck@aol.com](mailto:revjimjck@aol.com), 480-507-5323, or 602-524-4691.



Even the "occasional" golfers were thrilled to have a setting such as this.



Brian Corradi, Mark Oswald, Rob Wendland, and Chad Elliott (L - R) enjoyed their round of golf.



Mountain Meadows Golf Course overlooks the pits at Auto Club Raceway at Pomona and the dragstrip at the upper left.



The IN-N-OUT® crew took great care of all the participants.



**Johnny Campbell cont. from pg 6**

thing, that God is nagging you to do something, because He's not interested in our comfort. So I went to Glen Helen Raceway and gave my testimony about what God has done in my life, how He's changed my life, and how life is so much more fulfilling when He's in your life. The things that you do are meaningful and not just void. I'm an eleven time Baja 1000 champion, but where does that get me at the end of life? I think people admire that, and kids will pursue dreams because they want to do that; that's a big impact. But I want to do it because God wants to use that to reach people. That was the message I shared and it was awesome. I was totally stoked to be able to be used that way.

**Team RFC** – What's your perspective about Team RFC® being at motorsports events across North America?



**Johnny** – I think Team RFC® is a very important program because in motorsports there are so many people who need to be reminded of Christ and what He's done for us and to have someone to support us. In motorsports, it's dangerous; there's going to be tragedy and injury. The comfort of having counsel there is very important. I'm a big believer in that.

**Team RFC** – I want to get back to the "True Champion" movie because it really is compelling. It's well done and it really communicates this multi-faceted Johnny Campbell that not everyone knows about. How can somebody get a hold of that?

**Johnny** – The DVDs are available at our website at TrueChampion.org so you can go on-line and order it there.

**Team RFC** – Any other thoughts as we close?

**Johnny** – I want to thank Team RFC® for being out there and taking a stand and pursuing God in the lives of all these racers.

**Gifts-In-Kind Update**

Team RFC® continues to be the recipient of Gifts-In-Kind from many wonderful supporters. Gifts-in-kind can include vehicles, computers, office equipment, frequent flier miles and buddy passes, and prizes for raffles and drawings. More examples are printing, securities, real estate, antiques, and collectibles. Recent gift-in-kind donors are:

- |                              |   |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
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**RACERS FOR CHRIST® MISSION STATEMENT**  
 "To serve people in the world of motorsports in the name of Jesus Christ through providing fellowship, pastoral care, evangelism, and service."



**RACERS FOR CHRIST® VISION STATEMENT**  
 "To see the world of motorsports impacted for Jesus Christ by individuals entering into a personal relationship with Him & growing in those relationships."

