



**THE**  
*Winter Place*  
**To Be!**

April 9, 2013

Panama City, Florida USA

### **2013 DAN WHELDON/FWT KARTING AMBASSADOR AWARD RECIPIENT IS ALAN RUDOLPH**

Formula Kart Productions, exclusive owner and promoter of the Florida Winter Tour kart racing program, is proud to announce Alan Rudolph as the 2013 recipient of the Dan Wheldon / FWT Karting Ambassador Award. The 42 year old from Gilbert, Arizona is a father of three who has a long and successful history of racing and working in the karting industry dating back to 1979 when he competed in his first kart race.

As the 2013 recipient Rudolph was provided a framed certificate designating him as the 2013 award recipient and a copy of the Michael Voorhees photo book created by Voorhees and Dan Wheldon for Wheldons family, friends and fans. Rudolph will also have his name inscribed on a plaque that will be attached to the perpetual DW/FWT Karting Ambassador Trophy, to be displayed at future FWT events.

The award is given annually to the Florida Winter Tour participant who best represents karting with a fiercely competitive spirit, a helpful and positive attitude, and a professional image.

The purpose of the award is twofold. First, to honor the memory of Dan Wheldon. Second, to inspire others to be aware of and adopt the personal attributes that made Dan Wheldon an outstanding driver, father, friend and a strong and positive image for the karting community.

FWT's Bill Wright: "You will note that eligibility for the award requires the recipient to be an FWT *participant*. Motorsport is a Team Sport. I've said since day one that FWT is only as good as the *people* racing with us. Although drivers are the most visible part of the winning equation, success in karting requires all of us; Drivers, Parents, Tuners, Mechanics, Coaches, Team Managers, Business Owners, Importers, Track owners and yes, even event promoters." As was the case with the 2012 recipient, with the exception of track owner, this year's award recipient is all of those.

Alan Rudolph is an eminently qualified recipient of the 2013 Dan Wheldon / FWT Karting Ambassador Award.

Dan Wheldon was a fiercely competitive, Championship winning racing driver. Alan Rudolph has won races and Championships, and stood on podiums in four disciplines of kart sport, including sprint, road racing, oval and endurance. And he has done so on race tracks the world over. He is a reigning FWT Class Champion with a competition record at the FWT that currently includes 9 race wins and 12 podium finishes. Here is a short list of some of his racing accomplishments:

- Former WKA National & Grand National Champion
- Former SKUSA Pro Shifter Kart Champion & multi time race winner

- Five Time Rock Island Grand Prix “King of the Streets” Winner
- Winner of multiple WKA Road Racing Championships at Daytona International Speedway
- All time lap record holder for 250cc SuperKart @ Road America circuit
- He has raced LMP 2 @ the famed Petite LeMans
- He is a former Star Mazda Rookie of the year and race winner
- He is a former Skip Barber Scholarship Winner
- He is a former SCCA Sports 2000 Champion
- He is a former ASA Speed Truck Driver

## RECENT KARTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2012 Florida Winter Tour Rotax DD2 Masters Champion
- 2012 Rotax Max United States Rotax DD2 Masters National Champion
- 2012 Rotax Team USA member, and Team Captain
- 2013 Challenge of the America Rotax DD2 Masters Champion
- 2013 FWT DD2 Masters Race winner

Dan Wheldon had a helpful and positive attitude. He was quick with a shake of your hand, a humorous anecdote and a flash of that famous smile. He took the time to listen, and when asked, was just as quick to offer assistance, support and advise. This year’s award recipient is the same. Alan shares his wisdom and love of kart sport both professionally and personally. In addition to his racing activities, for the past 14 years he has been the General Manager and Chief Instructor at the Bob Bondurant SuperKart School. In 2008 he chose to reduce his racing commitments so he could focus his efforts on giving back to the sport he says has given him so much. In 2009 Alan took on the role of President of the Stars of Karting series. Currently, in addition to his duties at the Bondurant School, he is the Director or Competition for Superkarts USA. And he recently started a local Rotax Max Challenge series to help grow karting in his home market. But his real love is personal one-on-one driver coaching. In the interview for this award Alan stated: “Coaching is where I get true satisfaction, while giving back to karting.” Add it up, and this year’s recipient, just like Dan Wheldon, and just like 2012 recipient Jim Russell Jr, has proven himself to be a selfless and hard working advocate of kart sport in every facet of his personal and professional life.

Dan Wheldon was almost fanatical about this image. He was famously zealous about his appearance. Those who know him will agree that Alan is Dan’s equal in the karting community. Wherever he goes, whatever he does, Alan is conscious that his personal image makes a difference, and presents himself in a professional manner.

He is a fiercely competitive, Championship winning racing driver. He is a helpful and positive Parent, Businessman, Racing Administrator, Tuner, Mechanic, Team Manager and Coach. He is aware that image doesn’t make the man, but it does make a difference. He is the 2013 Dan Wheldon/FWT Karting Ambassador Award recipient, Alan Rudolph.

**The Florida Winter Tour is one of the world’s largest, longest running and most geographically diverse kart racing programs. In 2013 the FWT featured 345 drivers from 32 countries and all six karting continents, and for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year was the world’s largest official Rotax Max Challenge series.**

For more detailed information log on to the official FWT web site at [www.floridawintertour.com](http://www.floridawintertour.com)

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Contact FKP President Bill Wright at [info@formulakart.com](mailto:info@formulakart.com)

