

Max Jones

Biography

In 1985, Roush Racing held its first "Gong Show". The "Gong Show" is a multi-phase tryout for race drivers seeking a ride with Roush Racing. The tryout was named after the television game show produced by Chuck Barris beginning in 1976. The "gong show" has found successful drivers, such as Robby Gordon and Kurt Busch. The Roush Racing "Gong Show" was the subject of a television documentary titled, "Roush Racing: Driver X". This documentary was shown on the Discovery channel.

One of the purposes of the "Gong Show" is to identify new young racing talent. Despite that, at age 35, Max Jones competed in the 1989 "Gong Show" for a 1990 ride with Roush Racing. Also unusual for the "Gong Show, Max was already successful in racing. Previously, Max had won in both IMSA GT and SCCA Trans Am series.

Through his "Gong Show" tryout, Max earned a ride with Roush in 1990. Jones was assigned to drive a Roush Racing Mustang in the SCCA Trans Am series. In fact, Jones drove the Ford factory sponsored Mustang in 1990 and 1991. The highlight of Jones' driving career with Roush was a victory in the 12 Hours of Sebring in 1991. At Sebring, another "Gong Show" graduate, Robby Gordon co-drove with Jones.

In 1992, Max Jones, at age 38, retired from driving race cars. However, he did not retire from racing. Max continued with Roush Racing as general manager of road racing. In 1996, Jones also took on the management of the NASCAR Craftsman Truck effort at Roush Racing. In 2000, the Roush Racing won the Craftsman Truck Championship.

From June 2005 through November 2006, Jones managed Roush's NASCAR Busch Series teams, as well as the NASCAR Craftsman Truck teams. The Busch and truck operations are based in Mooresville, NC. In November 2006, Jones, then 52, was promoted to General Manager of the NASCAR Cup program at Roush Racing. The shops for Roush's Nextel Cup teams are located in Concord, NC.

When Jones took on the Cup cars at Roush, Roush Racing and Robert Yates Racing had been collaborating on engines for a few years. When Robert Yates retired, in 2007, Max Jones moved to Yates Racing as General Manager, as well as co-owner.