

PROFILE | **John Davis**

Creator, Host, and Senior
Managing Director, *MotorWeek*



As Emmy® Award-winning producer, host, and creator of *MotorWeek*, television's original and longest-running automotive series, John Davis is seen throughout the U.S. on public TV stations and the RACER Network cable channel.

Through media appearances, Mr. Davis' automotive industry expertise is tapped by regional and national commercial radio and television programs as key industry developments arise. A sought-after speaker, Mr. Davis frequently addresses automotive executives, consumer groups, automotive enthusiasts, and students interested in the field.

As host of *MotorWeek*, now in its 45th season, Mr. Davis puts new car models through extensive road tests and judges their practicality for buyers. He also acts as the final editor on road test segments and writes many of the test opinions as well as other portions of the program. The series affords him the rare chance to bring the enjoyment of a hobby to his professional life and use his broadcasting, engineering, and analytical expertise to offer insights to those who enjoy cars.

For more than two decades, Mr. Davis and the *MotorWeek* team have worked with the U.S. Department of Energy to promote public awareness of alternative fuels. During 2004-2005, he served as spokesperson for a North Carolina Department of Transportation initiative promoting annual automotive emissions inspections. In 2002, Mr. Davis was the spokesperson for "Smooth Operator," a public awareness campaign on aggressive driving in the tri-state area of Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

He is a founder of the North American Car & Truck of the Year Awards, the only independent journalistic automotive award in North America. He served on its original executive board from 1994-2010 and is currently membership chairman for the organization. He is also one of the organizers and an original member of the Washington Automotive Press Association. In addition, he is a former president of the International Motor Press Association, the oldest and most prestigious organization of automotive journalists in North America.

Mr. Davis has received some of the highest awards in automotive journalism and television, including two Emmy® Awards. In 2007, he earned an Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter and, in 1998, one from the NATAS Chicago-Midwest Chapter.

In 2017, the NATAS National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter inducted Mr. Davis into its prestigious Silver Circle, which honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the industry for 25 years or more. Eight years later, in 2023, the organization inducted Mr. Davis in its exclusive Gold Circle, for 50 years of distinguished service to the TV industry. He became only the 26th broadcast industry professional to receive this honor.

Mr. Davis earned an International Automotive Media Competition Award in 2005 from the International Society for Vehicle Preservation. He was honored with International Wheel Awards in 2003 and 2004 and two Golden Wheel Awards in 1999, including the grand award, from the Detroit Press Foundation, which recognizes the best in automotive journalism. In 2014, Mr. Davis received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the New England Motor Press Association.

An alumnus of North Carolina State University, Mr. Davis earned a degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering and holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of North Carolina. He was the 1969-1970 recipient of the W.D. Cartwright Memorial Engineering Scholarship and a member of the Pi Tau Sigma, an international engineering honor society.

Prior to Maryland Public Television, Mr. Davis worked for the Wall Street brokerage firm of Kidder, Peabody & Co. as a transportation analyst. Upon joining MPT, John served as producer, executive producer, and senior executive producer on the iconic PBS series *Wall Street Week With Louis Rukeyser* for most of the show's 30-year run.

Mr. Davis has owned a variety of high-performance cars, including vintage Ford Mustangs, Chevrolet Corvettes, and a de Tomaso Pantera.