



# Pylon Press

March 2022 – Event #3 and Test&Tune

SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA - PHOENIX AZ SOLO REGION



**EAT**  
**SLEEP FAST**  
**DRIVE**  
 Phoenix AZ Solo Region

Both the **Test & Tune** event and the regular series event on Sunday were blessed with good AZ spring like weather the first weekend of March. The **Test & Tune** event allowed for a three-run group format with a rest period between your work and run group to tune your car. Entrants got multiple runs and were able to fine tune driving lines and techniques as well as make multiple adjustments to cars as needed. At lunch we were treated to a nice barbeque sandwich and a drink before hitting the course for a second round of tuning our cars. Event officials opened the course a bit for the afternoon session allowing for a free flowing line and higher speeds though the course. Around the parking lot and grid, you could see drivers changing suspension settings, trying various tire pressures and brands, and even reprogramming their cars computers on potable laptops.

*Good Night*

Rest tonight and wake up tomorrow morning to chase your dreams again.  
 PASR Inspiration

On Sunday, 69 drivers participated and ran the same general course that had been used for the **Test & Tune** event, only backwards. As the day progressed lap times improved as increasing surface temperatures allowed for better traction. The course rewarded a constant motion driving style with few, if any, fast straight sections and was unforgiving if you chose an incorrect line. Overall, it was a great weekend with lots of seat time for drivers who entered on both days.

*Pictured here is Morgan Lee working under his car.*



# Driver of the Month

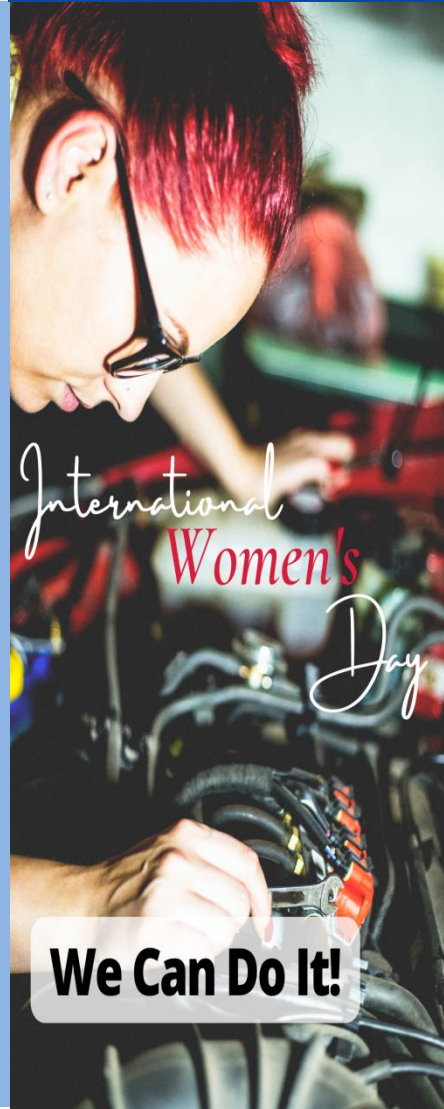


**Amanda Hitt**



*Never underestimate a woman behind the wheel of a fast car!*

With this March 8th being **International Woman's Day**, it seemed only fitting to feature one of the club's fine woman drivers as Driver of the Month. **Amanda Hitt** is a regular at PASR events driving her most cool **CAM-T Ford** pickup. She and her husband Mike are both AZ Border Security officers; they drive separate vehicles at Phoenix events with Mike driving a very sharp Chevy Chevelle. Amanda sports a classic **Ford F-100** pickup. She likes the look of the original paint which was at one time a USAF vehicle. It is a wolf in sheep's clothing with many mods including an LS1 motor, T56 tranny, Crown Vic front clip and custom chassis. Growing up in NJ, Amanda's dad took her to car shows and muscle car events which converted to her love for cars as an adult. She and her husband built both of their cars and have several other projects presently in progress including a '78 International Scout. Amanda also enjoys spending time off roading in a jeep and on a Husqvarna 701 motorcycle. Amanda gives high marks to the club organization – she likes the ½ day format which makes the trip from her home in Casa Grande easier; she is particularly fond of the CAM-T gang's support and *esprit de corps*.



*International Women's Day*

**We Can Do It!**

Car of the Month  
Mark Shaw



LIVING  
*my best*  
LIFE

Sports Car Club Of America  
Phoenix AZ Solo Region

**Mark Shaw** is no stranger to AZ autocross. He was showing a lot of us at past AZ solo events saw his taillights in solo competitions as far back as the early nineties. Mark is now back on course with a very interesting and somewhat historic **1985 VW Scirocco, Wolfsburg Edition**. Mark purchased the car from **Ross Meyer** two years ago and is in the process of sorting it out for solo competition. The VW has some upgrades that include a 10:1 compression ratio, performance cam, port matching performance exhaust and lighter flywheel. Mark estimates the original factory motor of 90 hp to now be a whopping 120 hp. Do not be mislead however by a low power engine -- this little tiger has teeth! At 2000 lbs, super wide Hoosier competition tires and very responsive handling that more than makes up for its smaller motor. Not so visible are other mods to include: 4-wheel disk brakes off a Scirocco 16v, coil over suspension, and sway bars at both ends of the car, and AC delete.

Mark is an interesting guy. He grew up in Indianapolis and went to college at the **General Motors Institute** in Flint, Michigan. He has a long resume as an auto cross buff dating back 55 years when he was first involved in the sport. He has held about every office and position in the AZ Region autox program including Director, Registrar, and Pylon Press Editor. Mark is a true car guy owning nine cars, mostly VW and Audis with one exception -- a 1949 Ford Tudor. Look for Mark to bring out other cool rides he owns in the future which will certainly enrich our solo events.

**Fun Fact:** The 1949 Ford Tudor Sedan was introduced just after the Second World War. Sleek and slab-sided with the trademark circle in the front grille, it broke from previous ideas of auto design and engineering.

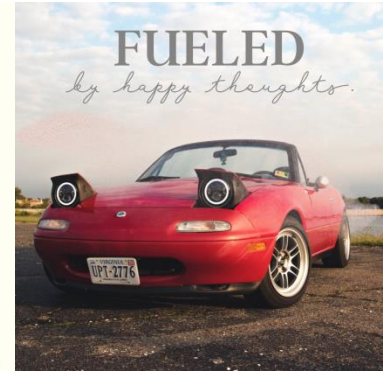
# Tech Tip

By Brian Miller



With gas prices at an all-time high a few ideas on how to conserve on fuel seemed to be an appropriate topic, particularly for those who must gas up both an event car and a tow vehicle.

1. Tune up your engine with a clean air filter and run a good fuel injection cleaner through your engines.
2. Air up the tires on your vehicle to max pressures to reduce friction resistance.
3. Avoid jack rabbit starts at traffic lights and use your cruise control on freeways.
4. Drive the speed limit vs. 10 mph over. (e.g., My ½ ton PU gets 2 to 3 mpg better mileage at 65 vs. 75 mph on the highway)
5. Take extra weight out of the vehicle such as an extra or unused toolboxes, etc.
6. Use a credit card that gives you cash back on gas purchases.
7. Buy your gas at a discount store like Sam's Club or Costco, or use the Safeway, Fry's, or a similar discount program.
8. If your car does not require premium gas do not use it as it may just be money wasted out the tail pipe.
9. Get your suspension aligned – poor alignment promotes rapid tire wear and lowers gas mileage.
10. Ride share or use the bus or train; If all else fails buy a good bicycle or small scooter and ride it on short trips.



# What's up with the Pro Solo these days?

Submitted by **Jay Balduci**



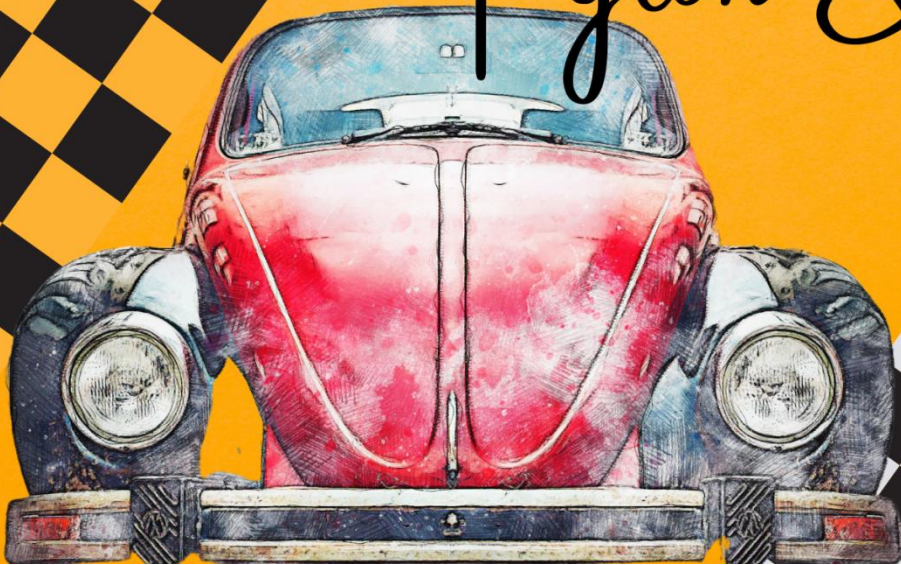
Pro Solo is a form of autocross that adds in the element of drag racing with two cars lined up against each other. After staging at the drag tree, the shot clock counts down and soon you're off racing on a course that is mirrored (mostly) for the other competitor. The start is often adrenaline fueled, yet immediately requires the same controlled, precise timing and driving as required in a normal autocross. The reaction time (*time from when you start moving to triggering a timing light 1 foot ahead*) from the start is key as it adds to your total lap time, however you can trigger the start timer before you're allowed to and you 'red light'— which is basically a DNF's for the entire run.

Cars are grouped into classes with some classes using their class ProSolo Index (PAX for ProSolo) to compare times. Four runs in morning (two on each course, one right after another – with no down time). Four more runs in the afternoon and four more the next morning. Add your fastest left and right side times – that's your total time.

After completing the ProSolo on Day 2, the top cars are gathered and a bracketed shoot out competition kicks off to determine a single champion. But wait – for those who aren't in the top of their class you can toss your name in a hat and possibly be drawn for an equally challenging and exciting Bonus Challenge shoot out in the same format.

The 2022 SCCA ProSolo series kicked off in February in Florida, however there are two in California (Southern - Fontana 4/8-10/2022 and Northern - Crow's landing 4/29-5/1/2022). Consider joining a ProSolo and see how a fast paced drag race start and autocross can add an exciting element, and advance your autocross portfolio.

# Pylon Quiz



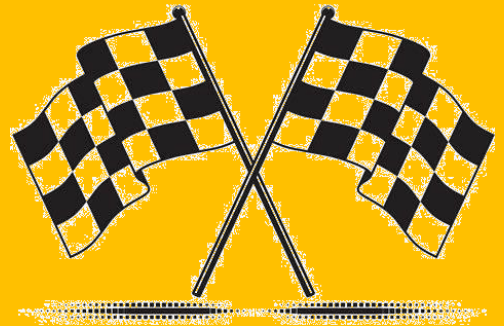
Match the first time autox cars below with the correct owners.

Dave Hitt  
Kim Kemper  
Greg Klick  
Scott Myers  
Cameron Schotz  
Dave Young

1958 Bug Eye Sprint  
1961 Carman Gia  
1969 Corvette  
1970 Chevy Chevelle  
1985 Corvette  
2002 Ford Mustang GT

## Correct Answers

Scott Myers = 1958 Bug Eyed Sprint  
Dave Young = 1961 Carman Gia  
Greg Klick = 1969 Corvette  
Dave Hitt = 1970 Chevy Chevelle  
Kim Kemper = 1985 Corvette  
Cameron Schotz = 2002 Ford Mustang



*What's the point of racing if you aren't having fun?*