

Pylon Press

SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA -
PHOENIX AZ SOLO REGION

March 2023 – Spring Series #3

Event Synopsis

Reported by Brian Miller,
Pylon Press Editor

The national SCCA two-day format was a great success with the weather cooperating and attendance maxed out. Competition was tight in several classes and went down to the wire in more than one group for the class win. The courses were fast and allowed up to three cars on course simultaneously both days for quick runs in the forty-second range. Course workers were busy replacing cones on both days of the event as drivers let it all hang out for good lap times. Of all the events we have had to date, this by far drew the highest spectator audience.

As cars entered the Show Boat Sweeper at mid-course, cheers often went up for sliding cars, spinning cars and cone smashing cars. A great time was had by all on both days. For driver's only attending on Sunday, your scores will be calculated in the regular four event series to be concluded on April 15th. The highlight of the weekend was the awards ceremony where the creative prize for a second or third place was a four pack of beer! Thanks to **Morgan Lee** and **Jason Bucki** for organizing a fun, creative and successful event.

Last 2023 Upcoming Solo Event
Saturday, April 15, 2023

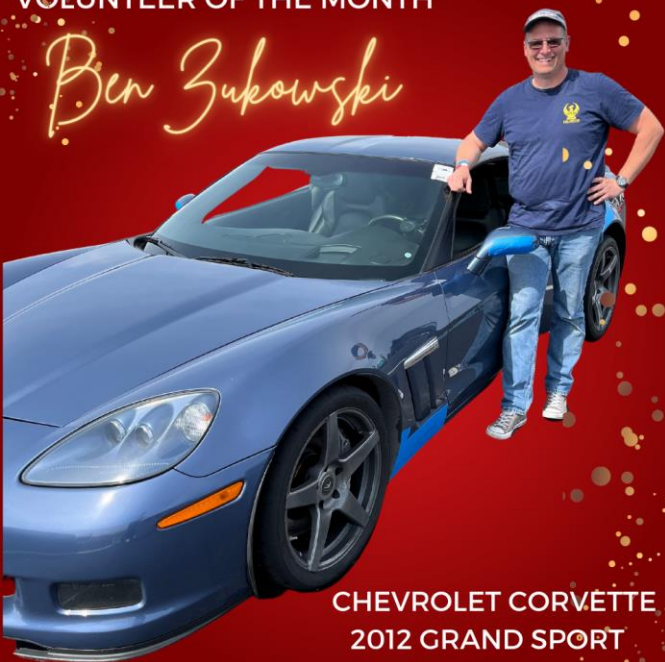


Haley Garcia
1979 Datsun 280 ZX

Haley Garcia is a charming young lady with a bright smile and a lead foot. Her dad got her involved in the motorsport as a passenger and to help her overcome her previous self-described driver anxiety. She now has her own autocross ride – she purchased a 1979 Datsun 280 ZX and proclaims she has fallen in love with the sport. Having had no previous experience in racing of any kind, Haley has been well coached by her Dad, **Brian Garcia**, and is emerging as a competitive Auto-x driver. Haley confides she has learned a lot about driving techniques by riding with better drivers and “learning their style by observation.” She has only positive things to say about her car – her 280 ZX. The 2.8 slant six overhead cam is the original motor. Its only limitation is a lower power output and floating valves above 5000 rpm. Performance upgrades to the car include long tube headers, a coil over suspension system, and an aftermarket electronic fuel injection system. In short, a great low budget ride for a super young upcoming competitor. Bright young drivers like Haley are the future of the PASR group! **Welcome**

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Ben Zukowski



**CHEVROLET CORVETTE
2012 GRAND SPORT**

Ever wonder who orders all the timing equipment, replacement cones, observer chairs and the multitude of communication and support equipment for our Auto-x events? The answer to that question would be **Ben Zukowski**, the Assistant Fire Equipment Manager for the PASR group. Ben was born in Puerto Rico, is a global traveler, having lived in fourteen states, and has been an AZ resident since 2013. A strong family man, Ben and his wife Elizabeth, who he describes as very supportive of his hobby, have two daughters ages 10 and 7. When not autocrossing or spending time with family Ben likes hiking, gardening and fixing broken stuff, 4H, and shooting sports. Ben makes his living as a Fire Protection Risk Consultant for a commercial insurance company that he has been with for 22 years. A SCCA member since 2015, Ben currently drives and races a **2012 Corvette Grand Sport**. He describes this car as a very versatile ride that can be used not only for autocrossing, but also for date nights with his wife, family fun, and cruising. Ben favors the 6-speed manual tranny in the GS and does quite well with this car in local competition. We are fortunate to have this industrious worker doing so much for the PASR group behind the scenes in keeping our most important equipment up to speed and ready for action. **Many thanks to Ben!**

THE TOM BURKE AWARD

given to

Phoenix Az Solo Region
Medium Size Club

*Kevin
Venisnik*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ARIZONA AZ SOLO
REGION**



The **Tom Burke Awards** are presented to Regions for exemplary efforts to activate and grow the SCCA. Formerly named the Chairman's Award prior to 1987, one award is given to the RE of a Region in each of the Region size categories from the preceding year.

The awards are given in honor of SCCA member Tom Burke. His love of SCCA and passion for what we do not only ignited in others a desire to become SCCA members, but also served as a call to engage in SCCA activities. Mr. Burke's ambassadorial approach to prospective and current members served as a model for the spirit of the SCCA.

Winners

Jumbo: Central Florida Region - RE Stephen Mullen (2022)

Large: St. Louis Region - RE Mike Kenney (2022)

Medium: **Phoenix AZ Solo Region - RE Kevin Venisnik**

Small: River Cities Region - RE Brandon Shea Hulett

**WINNING IS A STATE OF MIND THAT
EMBRACES EVERYTHING YOU DO!**

— BRYCE COURTENAY

Self Assessment

A wise man once said, "It's important to know when you have had a good day" With that thought in mind, how do we know when we have had a good Auto-x day? Drivers come to autocross events for different reasons. We all want to do well regarding our lap times, yet what else is important to you to take away from your day at an autocross event?

Check the following reasons why you come Auto-x events! Note all that apply to you to see if you are meeting your Auto-x event attendance goals.

___ To Socialize: To see my friends and fellow drivers and enjoy their company.

___ To enjoy driving my car fast and safely without the threat of getting a ticket.

___ Winning! Simply to place as high as possible or to win my car class for the day and the current PAX points series.

___ To sharpen my reaction times and brain speed.

___ To improve my driving skills and to learn to handle my car better.

___ Doing something fun with cars that involves a family member or a close friend.

___ To practice for upcoming SCCA regional and National auto cross events.

___ To have bragging rights, and the possibility of being featured in the *Pylon Press!*

Pause,
Take a deep
breath and
appreciate your
surroundings.



DON'T QUIT!



Fun Fact



Only in the United States is racing around a parking lot called Solo® – a term “registered” by the Sports Car Club of America. Technically when using the term Solo a® mark should accompany it!



In other parts of the world the sport is call
Autocross, Auto-x or
Autoslalom

Electric Vehicles Go the Distance!



Whether you're a fan of electric cars or not, there is one indisputable fact all of us must come to grips with. Electric cars aren't figments of science fiction anymore. They're not even novelties any longer. Electric cars are real, and they're going to take the auto industry over. In the years to come, more electric cars will hit the streets, and compete in Solo events! The good news is that, as the industry shifts to electrification, there are some electric cars worthy of the hype being bestowed on them. Electric Vehicles (EV) could shape the future of the industry as we know it.

Pylon Quiz

The top ten EV cars based on their respective maximum range of travel are listed below. **Which two are overstated and incorrect?**

1 st Lucid Air	672 miles
2 nd Tesla Model S	405 miles
3 rd Mercedes EQS	350 miles
4 th GMC Hummer	329 miles
5 th BMW iX	324 miles
6 th Ford F-150 Lightning	320 miles
7 th Chevy Bolt	259 miles
8 th Audi Q4 e-tron	241 miles
9 th Nissan Leaf	226 miles
10 th Mini Cooper	211 miles

(Answers to the right)



Did you know?

- Although interest in the environmental benefits of electric cars has increased in recent years, electric vehicles have actually been around longer than internal combustion engine cars. In 2012, over a billion cars were in use, of which 113,000 were electric.
- The first mass-produced hybrid car successfully sold in America was the Toyota Prius, first made in 1997.
- The United States government offers a tax credit of up to \$7,500 for the purchase of certain models and types of electric vehicles
- Celebrities who drive electric vehicles include Leonardo DiCaprio, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jaden Smith, Matt Damon, Pierce Brosnan, Justin Bieber, Dustin Hoffman, and both Prince Charles and Prince Harry.

SOLO EAT SLEEP REPEAT



Pylon Quiz Answers

The two overstated ranges of travel are:
The Lucid Air 520 can travel miles without a recharge, while the Mini Cooper can only last a little over 114 miles