



Pylon Press

SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA -
PHOENIX AZ SOLO REGION

October 2023 – Fall Series #2

Event Synopsis

By Brian Miller,
Pylon Press Editor

It was hot for a mid-October day in Arizona, with the thermometer reaching the mid-nineties by the time run Group #4 hit the skid pad. That did not, however, dissuade the enthusiasm of 149 solo enthusiasts who turned out for a day of enjoyable Solo racing. The course was a mixture of slaloms, tight 45 degree turns and some fast short sections and rewarded good technical driving applications. Times ranged from the mid fifties down to the mid forty-second range. Drivers got four chances to improve their times and usually did so as their runs progressed. The ever-popular TTD and Top Pax time question was answered early by **Jeff Wong** in his 2019 Chevy Corvette, with a fast time of 44.362 and a Pax score of 1000. Hot on Jeff's heels were drivers **Jason Bucki** and **Jay Balducci**, team driving the always fast blue Porsche GT4 with respective Pax scores of 999 and 989. Some fine driving also took place outside the Sportsman drivers. Among the several drivers eclipsing the lofty 960 Pax Score level was AS driver **Ben Zukowski** with a 961, **David Alter** in DS with a 973, Nick Sloan in EV with a 965, **Scott Urich** in GS with a 960, **Mark Shrivastava** in STR with a blazing 993.



Danielle Simons is the product of a racing family. Racing is in her DNA. Her Grandad raced panel cars in the early 1950s, her dad and uncle raced street stock cars and motorcycles. Danielle's original experience was racing dirt track oval cars. She took a break from dirt track racing to attend college and veterinarian school where she eventually earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. After meeting and marrying her husband, Chris, she got involved in auto cross. Dr. Simons is currently driving a **2022 WRX Subaru** in the D Street Ladies class. With a winning smile and a gleam in her eye, she looks like an up-and-coming competitor in the PASR Ladies' class. Danielle and husband live in the west valley where she has a "Fear Free" veterinarian practice in Laveen, AZ



Car Of The Month

1967 PONTIAC FIREBIRD

The Car of the Month is a 1967 Pontiac Firebird, owned by **Kurt Kulovitz** for about 7 years. When he bought the car, the previous owner built it to resemble a Trans Am race car from the late 60's. It was restored with a nice paint job and a rebuilt Pontiac 400 motor, with no inner fenders, none of the side windows, no interior except for two bucket seats, and no a/c. Kurt had different plans for the car. After having some issues with the motor, he decided to do an LS swap and had a 6.2-liter aluminum LS3 swapped into it with a vintage air setup. The LS3 has a cam and puts out 465 hp to the wheel. The other upgrades include Ultimate headers, a Holley midmount accessory drive system, a Tremec TKO600 5-speed transmission, Wilwood 4-wheel disc brakes, a complete front Ridetech suspension with coil overs and tru-turn, along with a Detroit speed front sway bar. The rear suspension currently has leaf springs with dual adjustable Viking shocks. If that's not enough, in the future, Kurt dreams of a Ridetech 4-link upgrade so he can keep working to get faster and improve his times. Kurt has always been a Firebird guy. His first car was a 69 Firebird and has had Firebird's and Trans Am's for most of his life

Kurt started autocrossing in various places with his Cadillac V-Sport years ago. Making great family memories is what it's all about, and that's what Kurt has started doing – Autocrossing with his daughter **Claire**. He brought her to her first autocross when she only had a learner's permit, and she was hooked! Now, Claire has become Kurt's autocross buddy and drives the Caddy, the car Kurt used when he first began. The father/daughter team have a lot of fun together; Kurt has been such a good coach that Claire has been beating her father lately. Rumor has it, we will see her behind the wheel of the Firebird at one of the upcoming events.



Car Of The Month

1967 PONTIAC FIREBIRD

KURT KILOVOTZ & DAUGHTER CLAIRE

Did You Know?

“

More women speak fluent racing than ever before!



”

Volunteer of the Month



Bill Pribil

Retired from Coconino
County Sheriff's Office

PASR
Autocross
Course
Designer



Bill cut his teeth on course design working on the course setup crew while solo racing with the local Porsche Club of Az. It was there that he received some initial tutoring in course design from Kim Kemper. He credits Nick Sloan, our former PASR course designer, with giving him a considerable amount of initial support in learning the key elements of good Autocross course design. A quiet and unassuming guy, Bill enjoys traveling abroad, cooking and is a big Indy Race Car fan. Among his favorite and most respected race car drivers are AJ Foyt, and of course, Mario Andretti. The car of his dreams is a Ford Mustang GT or perhaps a newer model Porsche. When asked if he had any suggestions as to how he thought the PASR events could be improved he had nothing other than praise for the way things are currently run. He did make a tongue-in-cheek suggestion that all Miata's be moved out of run Group C, over to B or D so he would have a chance to occasionally score a win in C class. A big thanks goes to this volunteer for his ongoing efforts to give us a variety of challenging and fun Autocross course designs.



**Better to be a racer for a moment,
than a spectator for a lifetime.**

Unknown

A key element in successful solo racing is having a safe course design that provides a good balance of types of turns, has some rhythm and logic to it and does not overly favor a particular type of car. Our current course designer, **Bill Pribil**, does all that well and provides a nice variety of course designs throughout a four solo events season.

Growing up in Rolling Hills, California, Bill came to AZ as a young man to attend NAU and has resided here since. He is retired from the Coconino County Sheriff's Office where he worked for 42 years, 12 of which he served as the Sheriff.

Tech Tip

edited and paraphrased from



Want to go faster? Here are some tips edited and paraphrased from a blog published by Kangamotorsports.com a few years back:

1. LOOK WHERE YOU WANT TO GO

It is not just looking where you want to go, which helps with target fixation, its also looking far enough ahead down the track that you get where you want to go faster, without hesitation. After awhile you will not be so worried about the line, rather you can focus on the driving the car to its limits.

2. IGNORE THOSE CONES (ESPECIALLY IN THE CORNERS)

Most people start out by walking the course, which can feel like a 'sea of cones', and get a bit visually overwhelmed, especially in the corners. Segment the corner into those 3 elements: Where you want to enter, apex and exit. Choose those 3 spots and imagine them as dots. Mentally connect the dots, creating a nice sweeping arc at the limit of the car. The cones show you the theoretical path; they guide you, however plan to drive the tightest, most efficient line, connecting the dots, while focusing on driving the car all out, ignoring the cones.

3. KNOW YOUR CAR – LET IT DO WHAT IT DOES

If you are waiting on the car to do something and then react, you will be too slow! If you go into a corner not knowing if the car is going to oversteer or understeer, you are waiting to react to the car – this tenses you up and makes it hard to predict what your car will do. Know your car and what it does. If you go into the corner expecting to get a little oversteer or understeer, trust that you already know what the car is going to do and what your reactions need to be. With extra practice, your car becomes a little more predictable, which helps your reaction time and overall car control. At first you will be doing this consciously, yet later it will become subconscious, and you can focus on relaxing and driving smoothly.

4. MAKE MISTAKES

Most drivers when they first start out are afraid of making mistakes due to fear of damaging something, looking silly, or not being comfortable at speed. These are all valid reasons, however being overly concerned can cause you to tense up. Not saying be reckless, rather calculated the risks you are willing to make. Don't over do it, yet don't play it too safe. Push yourself with each run. Use every mistake as a learning opportunity.

5. FEELING THE CAR

Rather than pushing the car as hard as you can, focus on feeling fast. When possible, ride with a faster driver so you can FEEL what it feels like to go fast. Duplicate that feeling in your own car! You'll likely be surprised how smooth fast feels.

For more info and tech tips from these pros, sign up for their newsletter at:

www.kangamotorsports.com



Pylon Quiz

1. Name the one car model listed below that had the highest car count at the recent October 15th PASR Autox event held at Arizona Motorsports Park:

- Corvette
- Ferrari
- Miata
- Oldsmobile
- Plymouth
- Subaru (any model)
- Toyota (any model)

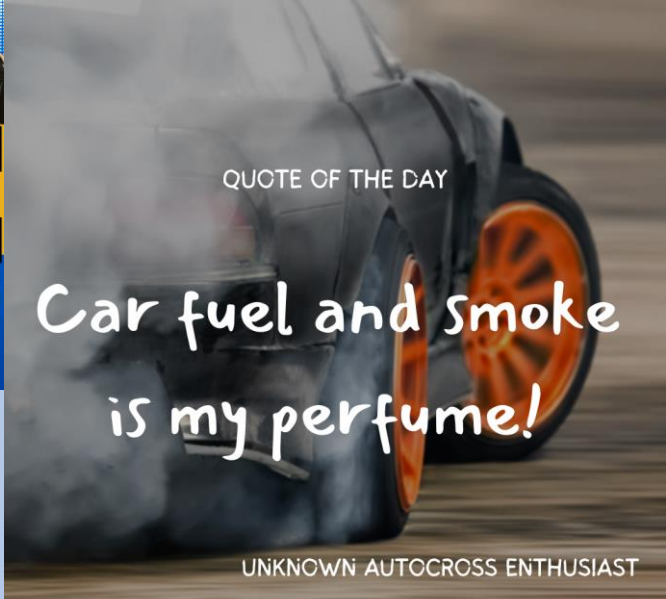
2. Which car model that had the fewest models represented?

See Answers Below

Upcoming Autox Events

- November 4th -- Driver's School
- November 5th -- PASR Series Event #3
- November 10th -- Track Autox at AMP
- December 17th -- PASR Series Event # 4

Quiz Answers: The most car models present there were 17 Corvettes, with 13 Miata's in second place. As to fewest car brands or models present, that would be 1 Ferrari, 1 Plymouth, and 1 Oldsmobile.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

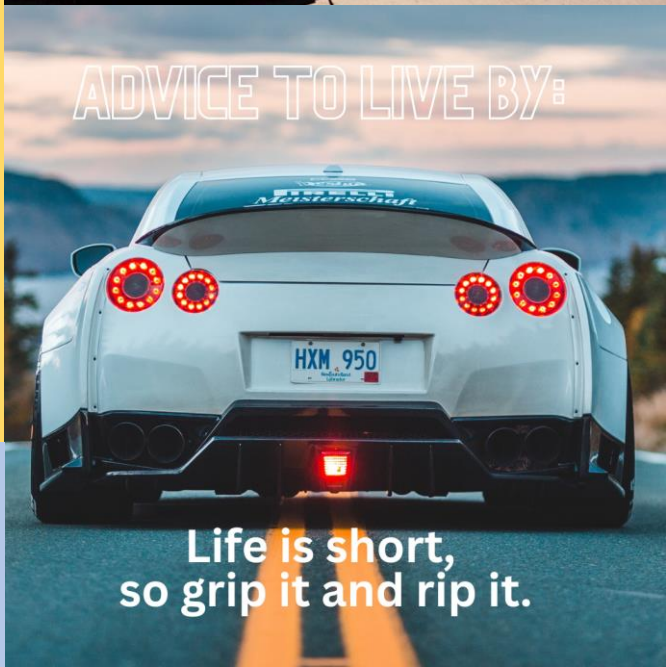
Car fuel and smoke
is my perfume!

UNKNOWN AUTOCROSS ENTHUSIAST



GOOD CARS GET
YOU FROM POINT
A TO POINT B.
GREAT CARS...
WELL THEY JUST
GET YOU IN TO
TROUBLE.

Lamborghini owner



ADVICE TO LIVE BY:

Life is short,
so grip it and rip it.