



Pylon Press

SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA - PHOENIX AZ SOLO REGION

January 2024 – Spring Series #1



BY BRIAN MILLER, PYLON PRESS EDITOR

Once again, the weather did not disappoint. At 7 am there were racers in winter jackets and by 2 pm we had temperatures in the 60-degree range. The Nick Sloan designed-course offered a nice variety of elements including some interesting corners that provided considerable rhythm, and a couple of straights where you could hit the gas between well-spaced gates. Lap times were quick, so drivers were treated to five runs each creating faster lap times and more cone hits as runs progressed. Top time of the day in the ever competitive and fast Sportsman class was set by **Dave Schotz**, with an impressive 42.981. That time also earned Dave a best PAX score of 1000. Honorable mention goes to the following who scored PAX scores above the lofty 960 mark. These folks were **Mark Shrivastava, Camero Schotz, Jeff Wong, Ron Bistras, Jay Balducci Bruce Hanson, and Jason Bucki**. Nice going guys – terrific driving by all.



REGION OF THE YEAR

Medium Size Region

Phoenix AZ Solo Region was awarded Medium Size Region winner by the SCCA National Office. Chris Robbins, Director of Region Development, announced that PASR also won the Top Performing Region for 2023 with 203 new members, which now moves us to the category of Large. He highlighted that PASR had the largest growth in new member percentage over 2022 at 54.1% and weekend members to full members at 29%, leading all regions in those two metrics.

Overall Region Winners included:
 Jumbo: Houston Region – Zachary Fox, Regional Executive
 Large: St. Louis Region – Matt Pirrello, Regional Executive
 Medium: Phoenix AZ Solo Region – Kevin Venisnik, Regional Executive
 Small: Eastern Idaho Region – Seth Feuerborn, Regional Executive

Car OF THE Month



Joel Schotz

2024 PORSCHE CARRERA GTS

Joel Schotz has owned numerous performance cars over the years, including a 1967 Corvette Coupe and 1969 Ford GT 350. He notes that his latest acquisition will likely rank among his favorites – a beautiful 2024 Porsche 911 Carrera GTS, built to order in Germany in November of 2023 and delivered to Arizona in January of 2024. The Porsche features rear steering, and a 3-liter twin turbo motor that puts out 474 hp and 420 lbs. of torque. The list of options on this super looking Porsche includes Aventurine Green Metallic paint, the Aero Package, which means bigger brakes and a lowered suspension. Joel also added several nice comfort features for touring including six-way two tone leather power seats, and a larger fuel tank that allows a cruising range of 650 miles. Fast, comfortable, and very sharp describe this beauty of a Porsche. *Great package Joel, and good luck in the upcoming Autox season.*

Interesting Facts

FROM @FINDTHEBESTCARPRICE.COM

1. U.S. car sales reached an estimated 15.5 million units in 2023, an 11.6% jump from 13.9 million vehicles sold in 2022.
2. Used car prices are expected to stabilize in 2024 after two years of decreases from record highs during the pandemic.
3. New car prices are down 1.4% since October 2022 and 3.5% since their peak in December 2022.
4. The average price for a new car in October was \$44,331, an increase of less than 1% from one year prior.
5. The top-selling trucks and SUVs for 2023 were the Ford F-Series, the Chevy Silverado, and the Ram Pickup.
6. The top-selling cars were the Tesla Model Y, the Toyota Camry, the Tesla Model 3 and the Toyota Corolla.
7. Total used-vehicle sales in December finished near 2.6 million units, up 2.1%, around 54,000 units, from December 2022.
8. The average price of a used EV is down to \$37,000 in 2024.

If you don't look back at your car after you park it, you own the wrong car.

Tech Tip

BY BRIAN MILLER

Autocross as a sport can be enjoyed as an older driver, although unlike in golf and tennis where there is a Masters Divisions provided, we senior drivers must compete against younger, often faster drivers. The best tip is come with a good attitude, give thanks for your health and hit the gas! . Here are some points to consider to make Autox a continued rewarding experience . . . at any age:

Set realistic goals. Even if you don't ace your class, aim for a higher PAX score or besting a buddy in lap times.

Maximize your potential physically.

- a) Schedule eye and physical exams annually.
- b) Eat sensibly and go to the gym to keep your weight at a healthy level.
- c) Read the side effects of your prescription medications for cautionary warnings such as "not advisable to operate machinery while taking this medication."
- d) Pace yourself and respect the energy level of an older driver. Perhaps that means not entering time only events during super-hot months, making sure you get a good night's sleep the night before events, or not entering back-to-back two-day events during extremely hot weather.
- e) Keep alcohol consumption at a sensible level. Stay hydrated.

Racers don't age,
they become classics!



Maximize your potential mentally.

- a) Keep learning, on and off the course. Read, research, and really become curious about a variety of topics totally unrelated to racing. Research has shown the more inquisitive you are about the world, the sharper your brain stays.
- b) Use all of your senses. The more senses you use in learning something, the more your brain will retain it. As your read or put a puzzle together consider having ambient music in the background. Highlight words or sentences you want to remember.
- c) Stay positive and monitor your self-talk. Clint Eastwood is quoted as saying, "Don't the old guy creep in!"

Stay connected spiritually. To put things into perspective, consider the Serenity Prayer: "Grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change (like my age), the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Pylon Quiz

Information source from Tire Agent



What's your Treadwear rating IQ ? Let's check it out! **True or False**

1. Treadwear ratings as displayed on the tire as UTQG ratings are tightly controlled and assigned by the US Department of Transportation.
2. Tire ratings data is gathered by the amount of wear shown after a 7200-mile test run on a West Texas test track.
3. Traction ratings traction coefficients are determined by pulling the test tire on a skid trailer at 40 mph on a wet surface.
4. A 200 rated tread wear tire would be expected to last twice as long as a 100-tread wear tire.
5. Conditions that can change the formula given in #4 are road conditions, driver habits, weather conditions such air temperature.
6. Temperature ratings indicate how well a tire dissipates heat. A rating of "A" means that a tire will dissipates heat above 115 mph, a "B" rating for heat up to 100-115mph and a "C" rating for heat up to 85-100 mph.
7. How fast a tire can be driven at speed safely is indicated by a Capitol letter rating.
8. Speed ratings are as follows: T=118 mph, H=130 mph, V=149 mph, ZR 149 mph, W 168 mph, Y=186 mph
9. UTQG stand for United Treadwear Quality Gradient

#1 is False; the US government gives tire manufacturers baseline data on the 7200-mile wear tire test results and then each manufacturer assigns their own UTQG rating to that tire.

Answers

#2-8 are all true statements

#9 is false. UTQG is the acronym for Uniform Tire Quality Grade



MLK Track Event

HELD AT ARIZONA MOTORSPORT PARK

The MLK Track Event held on 1/15/24 was an enormous success. 70 drivers enjoyed 7 runs apiece on a safe, well-designed Nick Sloan Autox track course that offered a good variety of fast straights and challenging curves. As the track warmed throughout the day lap times continued to drop. With four cars on the course at one time the time between driver outings was brief. It doesn't get much better than having a great lunch provided, nice weather and permission able to drop the hammer! It was a fun and memorable day. Lots of stunning vehicles, with fast times graced the day! Look for more of these track days to come as those who attended have asked for more of the same in the season ahead.



A big shout out to Ken Mitchell, the MLK Track Day Director, for organizing a fun and smooth running event. It was obviously lots of work and appreciated by all!

