



Pylon Press

SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA -
PHOENIX AZ SOLO REGION

February 2024 – Spring Series #2

Event Synopsis

BY BRIAN MILLER,
PYLON PRESS EDITOR

The day started out chilly and rainy, so Run Group A faced a damp and slippery driving surface during their session. Some drivers were still able to record fast times despite the damp surface. As the weather cleared, the Autox skid pad slowly dried and gradually the conditions improved throughout the day. Regardless of less-than-ideal conditions, PAX times were close in several classes. Drivers with overall PAX scores of over 960 were **Brian Peters, Bruce Hanson, Matthew Underhill, Ron Bistras, Dave Bahl, and Mark Shrivastave**. Fast time of the day was achieved by **Brian Peters**. Other contests of interest took place in Novice where **Sergey Turin** and **Jason Phung**, with times within half a second of one another. In DS class, Paul Nielander held off Ronald Herrer for Top time in that class by a mere .247 of a second. Congratulations to all the driver's above for fine driving performances.

It will be a close Autox series competition ahead in the final events on March 9th & April 14th.

Driver of the Month



Jason Sudol



Jason Sudol is a very committed Autox enthusiast. His three-hour trip from Lake Havasu City to participate in the monthly PASR auto cross events eight times a year demonstrates that commitment. Jason has been active in Corvette Club and racing events starting as a youngster when his parents took him along to Corvette club races they were attending. His start as an Autox racer was here in Phoenix in 2014 and he has been a regular participant here ever since. Jason grew up around fast Corvettes and has continued the family tradition of supporting that brand as evidenced in his choice of competition cars. He favors C-5 era Corvettes and his first Autox car was a Corvette 2002 Z51 Coupe. He has since upgraded to a **2003 Corvette Z06** which he competes locally in the SSP Class. A memorable motorsports event was at a Tucson Corvette Super Bash Weekend where he was awarded first place in the matching time trials contest. He also recalls as a race highlight a trip to the National Corvette Council Nationals held in Raccoon, Pennsylvania where an exciting and challenging high-speed autocross was held on the NASCAR racetrack. As a driver, Jason shared that his goals in autocross are to have fun and be competitive. Jason's commitment to the PASR program is certainly evidenced by his ten years of attendance involving a most commendable monthly commute from Lake Havasu almost 200 miles away! Wow! That's commitment to fun!

Car of the Month



2016 Porsche GT3 RS



Owner
Kim Kemper

Porsches are no stranger to SCCA autocross events across the country. They are designed for performance and make good racers in a stock configuration right off the dealership floor. A good example of a most capable Porsche participating in Phoenix area events is the **2016 Porsche 911 GT3 RS** owned by PASR's own **Kim Kemper**. Kim bought his car new in August of 2016 from Porsche of Chandler. The car remains stock yet features various factory designed and built-in high-performance features. The 4-liter flat six motor puts out an impressive five hundred hp at 8250 rpm and 339 ft-lbs. at 6250 rpm. A dual clutch, seven speed transmission offers smooth and rapid shifts allowing the car to obtain a 0-60 mph time of 3.2 seconds. The car also features an unusual rear steering component that allows it to reduce the diameter of the car's turning radius in turns. That feature, combined with a curb weight of 3131 lbs. and coil over suspension, makes the car a very capable Autocross or track racer. Improvements have been limited to memory foam seat liners, BBS wheels and Michelin performance Pilot Sport R summer tires. Due to the car's high-performance potential, it is classed by SCCA in the Superstock Prepared Class for autocross racing by the SCCA. This model year Porsche GT3 RS has been recorded in the past on the famous Nurburg Ring in Germany at a lap time of 7 minutes 20 seconds. An impressive lap time for a car powered by a naturally aspirated 4-liter motor. For comparison purposes, the new and extremely fast 2023 670 hp C-8 Corvette Z07 only beats the 2016 model year Porsche's Nurburg time by some 8 seconds. Kim reports he did not buy the car specifically for use in racing events yet has done well with it when entering it in PASR and Porsche Club Autocross contests. One of the favorite memories associated with his Porsche 911 is when his daughter enjoyed driving the car a couple of years ago. His goal for the car is, and always has been, to enjoy and have fun with the car. Being darn good at driving is just a byproduct!

CAR TRIVIA

Which is the famous car that was designed to compete with the Ford Mustang?



CHEVROLET CAMARO
OF COURSE

VOLKSWAGEN

The meaning of the word translates to the 'people's car'.



COLORED FERRARI
WAS ORIGINALLY
AVAILABLE IN?

Red
Red
Red

LOGO OF LAMBORGHINI

The animal features in the logo of the Lamborghini is a bull!
AND THAT AIN'T NO BULL



BEST SELLING
CAR OF ALL TIMES

Between 1985 and now,
over 200,000
Toyota Corollas
have been sold



**MERCEDES BENZ THE OLDEST CAR
COMPANY STILL IN BUSINESS TODAY —
ORIGINALLY FOUNDED IN 1883.**

When I traded in my beloved 2015 Porsche Caman S for a **2016 911 GT3 RS** I did not fully realize that this model was such a rock star among many autocross racers. Among those who have been drawn to have a look at the newly acquired 911 were three national level drivers: **Brian Peters, Doug Rowse and Jay Balducci**. Out of curiosity I asked each of these talented drivers individually if they would like to drive the car on course at speed in a time only session.

TechTip
Written by Brian Miller
Pylon Press Editor



2016 911 GT3 RS

My reasoning was simple – to see what the car's true speed potential was on course when driven by top tier drivers, and to ride along to see what I could learn by observing their driving technique. My hope is sharing these observations will be of some help others as well.

1. It comes as no surprise they all take a technically correct and **short line** around the course covering only the essential distance needed to complete the course and **coming remarkably close to cones**, rarely touching one.
2. They maintain a **constant speed** throughout the course. In the slower sections they slow the car less than I do and use a more constant momentum style contrasted with my slow then back to fast paced style when turning.
3. When applying the brakes and gas these drivers use **fuller throttle and more aggressive braking** methods. Also, their braking frequency was observed to be less often on certain portions of the course.
4. They all look well ahead into the course and **anticipated exactly what is coming up next** on the course even before it was in their line of sight. This allows them to maintain a correct line entering the next element and to be **off the brakes and back on the gas early at corner exits**.
5. The car was driven at its full potential at a 10/10 level and appeared to be **right on the edge of slipping**, pushing or spinning, yet never did!
6. They **use the gas pedal** as much as the brakes to control the car when turning.
7. At the completion of the run each of these national level drivers could usually recall **exactly where they had left time on the course** and felt they could have gone just a bit quicker in that section.

It was enlightening to see how much faster my 911 GT3 RS was on the autocross course at the hands of skilled Autox drivers. All three of these fine fellows seemed to have enjoyed driving the Porsche and I, in turn, very much appreciated their accepting my invitation to drive the car so that I could observe their driving styles and techniques. Riding along with these highly skilled drivers gave me volumes of useful information to work on to improve my Autox lap times.

My thanks to each Doug, Jay, and Brian for the most informative ride along.



**When you decide to compete with no one,
no one can compete with you**

Tire Rack SCCA National Solo Tour

CAM Drivers



Pictured from left to right are James Wolter, Terry Brown, Tom Kamman, Matt Leon, Mike Carroll, Thomas Amavisca



154 drivers from Arizona and several nearby states posted final times on Sunday after enjoying two days of Test & Tune and autocross racing at the AMP facility on Feb 23-25. The competition was fierce with winning times often coming down to less than a tenth of a second. The weather was perfect with mostly clear skies and temperatures in the 70s by midday.

The event included three program offerings: A starting line orientation program for drivers new to a national event; a most informative EVO one day drivers' school; and a two days of Autocross racing. A driver's best times from the two days were added together to determine their standing. With several national level competitors present at the event, only the best of the best were rewarded with a trophy.

There were several noticeable differences in this national event compared with our local AZ solo events. At this level of competition, there was an impound session after each heat, strict enforcement of the rules concerning car modifications, with a protest committee present to review and rule on any protests. Overall, it was a very well-organized and well received event put on by a friendly and patient SCCA Nationals Team. Hats off to all those who pitched in to assist the visiting national officials. There was great support from PASR and AZ Border Arizona auto crossers. We thank SCCA National for including the Phoenix Area Solo Region in the Tire Rack Nationals Tour Schedule this year and we hope to see them back next year for a repeat Autocross experience.

Porsche Club drivers Jonathan Betancourt and Ealing Jahn were 4th and 5th in their class competing with national level racers.



Local Az Autocross enthusiasts Dan Hawrylkiw and Ted Lewis, co-drove Ted's Lotus at the recent Phoenix Tire Rack Nationals



Pylon Quiz

At the **Tire Rack SCCA National Event** held February 23-25 at AMP there were 154 cars on the results sheet, with a wide variety of performance brand tires mounted on the cars entered. Use your best estimate to rank order the top five tire brands used during this national event in order of the most to least popular tire on the cars at the event.

Avon	_____	Hoosier	_____
Bridgestone	_____	Kumho	_____
Continental	_____	Michelin	_____
Falken	_____	Nankang	_____
Goodyear	_____	Pirelli	_____
Hankook	_____	Yokohama	_____

Quiz answers: Bridgestone is #1 with 45 tire entries using their brand, Falken and Yokohama tied for second with 23 cars each, Hoosier tires ranks #3 with 18, Kumho tire #4 with 3 cars, and the last two brands at #5 are Michelin and Nankang – tied with tires on two cars each. The remaining tire companies listed in the quiz had one car each using their brands at this event.

BE
BOLD ENOUGH
TO DREAM
AND
BRAVE ENOUGH
TO TRY.



“
Be the person who
decided to
Go for it ...
even if you spin out a couple times!

