



Pylon Press

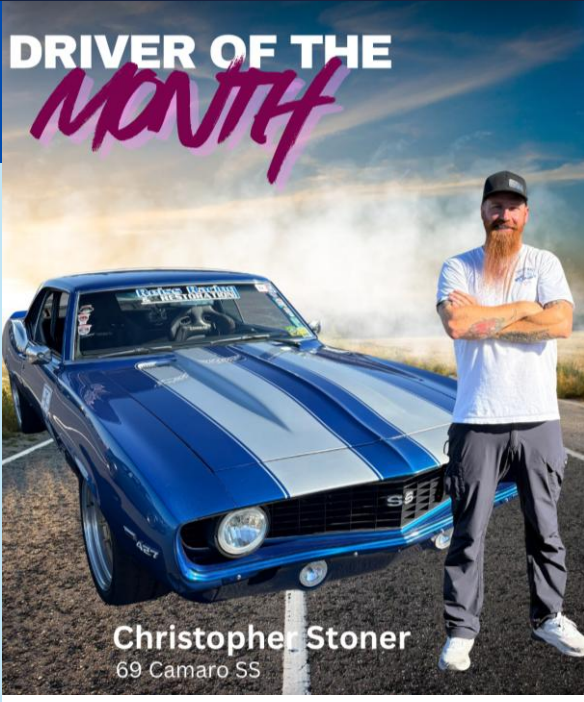
SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA - PHOENIX AZ SOLO REGION

September 2025 Spring Series #1

Event Synopsis

BRIAN MILLER
PYLON PRESS EDITOR

PASR celebrated a new milestone with their inaugural event at Phoenix Raceway, nestled at the base of South Mountain. There were 142 enthusiastic participants where the atmosphere buzzed with excitement and camaraderie. Each driver navigated a well-designed course, testing their skills and passion for racing. Everyone enjoyed four challenging runs, creating memories and igniting a sense of friendly competition among the auto racing enthusiasts. In the Sportsman class the usual battle for top PAX score took place with **Jason Bucki, Brian Peters, Dave Schotz** and **Mark Shrivastava** all recording PAX scores within four tenths of a point from one another. Dave came away with the top PAX score of 34.275 to set the pace for what appears to be a very contested four event series ahead for this group. Over in CAM-C **Stan Johnson's** Ford Mustang held off **Michael Lindsey's** Camaro by a scant 3 tenths of a second for the win. In CSP **Kevin Venisnik** pulled out a win over the always speedy **Tim Bergstrom** for the win with a nice time of 43.153. Even with warm air temperatures and some loose marbles on the course, it was a great day of racing at Phoenix Raceway.



Christopher Stoner began his journey in autocross racing in Las Vegas at an event called "Muscle Cars at the Strip," where he drove a 2016 Dodge SRT Challenger. His impressive third-place finish fueled his longtime passion for the sport. He started driving at just five years old, sitting on his grandfather's lap and steering his grandpa's Trans Am wherever they went.

By seven, he could reach the pedals and was exploring remote areas of Alaska in various vehicles. By age ten, he was confidently operating cars on frozen lakes. After leaving his hometowns of Kodiak and Seward at 22, Christopher and his wife of 27 years settled in the Phoenix area. His racing achievements include kart racing track records in Alaska and Canada, and he has been actively competing in autocross in Phoenix. Currently, he leads the pro class points in the Goodguys Autocross Series, recently bringing home 24 trophies.

Looking ahead, Christopher aspires to compete at the SCCA Solo Nationals while remaining active in local and state SCCA Solo events. His current ride is a **1969 Camaro SS**, affectionately nicknamed "Blue Thunder," owned by Jorge Reese of Reese Engineering and Racing. Christopher feels fortunate to drive this exceptional car and compete in various autocross events across the Southwest. He thoroughly enjoys the Arizona Solo events and has formed strong friendships with many of the participants.

CAR OF THE MONTH



Chris Simons

2022 SUBARU WRX



Chris Simons' 2022 Subaru WRX is the first Subaru he has owned in his 29 years of racing, claiming it to be rewarding and challenging, especially with its AWD and turbo. The car is powered by an FA24 2.4-liter turbo flat-four engine that delivers 271 hp and 258 lb-ft of torque. In terms of modifications, he's followed stock class rules, adding Enkei TS10 wheels and Falken Azenis tires. He also upgraded to a larger Cusco rear sway bar, a Remac after-cat exhaust, and installed "crash bolts" for camber adjustments. Plus, added a Heritage Rally livery!

This car was an impulse buy. A test drive left him smiling ear to ear because he always wanted a turbo car ever since the 2002 WRX was launched. As soon as he purchased it, he quickly put it through its break-in period, racing it in autocross, track days, and SCCA Rallycross. His proudest moment was winning an award for *Best AWD* from the Block family at the Petersen Automotive Museum during the Ken Block tribute event.

While the WRX is a great car, Chris confessed his favorite car has been a 1992 Mazda Miata, which he recently got back. He plans to rebuild it for CSP or modified class racing. His goal for the WRX is to become a fully modified AWD competitor in the SCCA Rallycross program once the Miata is ready for autocross and track events.

Originally from Ozark, Missouri, Chris raced with the Ozark Mountain Region SCCA from age 15 until 2013. After moving to Evansville, Indiana, and taking a break, he relocated to Phoenix, where his wife, Danielle, who also races, encouraged him to get back into autocross. Now they live in Flagstaff.

DREAM BIG

WORK HARD

DRIVE FAST



"AUTOCROSS RACING IS NOT JUST ABOUT SPEED; IT'S ABOUT PRECISION, CONFIDENCE, AND THE THRILL OF MASTERING EVERY TURN."



IT'S HARD TO BEAT A PERSON WHO NEVER GIVES UP.





TIPS FOR NAVIGATING Slalom in Autocross

Navigating a slalom course in autocross presents a unique challenge, requiring precision, timing, and control. Here are some tips specifically for drivers to enhance their performance during slalom sections:

- 1. Maintain a Steady Speed:** Consistent speed is crucial when navigating slalom cones. Too much speed can lead to losing control, while too little can affect your overall time. Aim for a balance that allows you to maneuver smoothly while still being aggressive.
- 2. Look Ahead:** Always keep your eyes on the next cone or gate rather than the one you're currently passing. This forward-looking perspective helps you anticipate your next move and adjust your steering and speed accordingly.
- 3. Use Smooth Steering Inputs:** Quick, jerky movements can unsettle the car and lead to oversteer or understeer. Instead, focus on making smooth, deliberate steering inputs to maintain control and keep your momentum.
- 4. Weight Transfer:** Understand how to shift your weight effectively during slalom. As you transition from one cone to the next, use your body and the car's dynamics to help guide it through turns, ensuring the weight shifts smoothly to maintain grip.
- 5. Throttle Control:** Modulate the throttle as you approach each cone. Too much throttle can lead to loss of traction, while not enough can slow you down. Learn to apply throttle progressively as you exit each cone to maximize speed without compromising control.
- 6. Know Your Car:** Familiarize yourself with your vehicle's handling characteristics. Understanding how it responds to inputs will help you make better decisions during the slalom. Whether your car has a tendency to understeer or oversteer, being aware of these traits can improve your response.
- 7. Visualize Success:** Before your run, visualize yourself successfully navigating the slalom. Mental preparation can boost confidence and help you focus on executing your plan during the actual run.
- 8. Learn from Each Run:** After each attempt, analyze what worked and what didn't. Take notes on your performance and adjust your approach in subsequent runs. Continuous improvement is key in autocross.

Tips from an AI search

The Importance of Back Tire Positioning in the Slalom



One critical aspect of navigating slalom effectively is ensuring that your back tires are positioned appropriately as you approach each cone.

Stay Close to the Cone: Positioning your back tire closer to the cone rather than the front tire allows for a tighter turning radius. This technique helps you maintain speed while navigating through the slalom, reducing the distance you need to travel between cones.

Enhance Control: By keeping the back tire nearer to the cone, you help maintain better control of the rear end of the car. This positioning minimizes the likelihood of the rear swinging out, which can lead to oversteering and losing valuable time.

Improved Traction: When the back tires are positioned correctly, it allows for better weight distribution during turns. This can enhance traction, enabling you to accelerate quicker out of the slalom section without losing grip.

Focus on the Exit: As you approach each cone, concentrate on where you want to exit the maneuver. By keeping the back tire close to the cone, you can set yourself up for a smoother exit, allowing for a more fluid transition to the next section of the course.

By applying these tips and focusing on the importance of back tire positioning, drivers can improve their slalom navigation skills in autocross, leading to better times and a more enjoyable racing experience. Happy driving!

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



2009 CORVETTE Z06

Ken Martens moved to Phoenix two years ago with his wife and two cats, leaving his native Alaska behind. A lifelong car enthusiast, he has over 35 years of experience in autocross and road racing. Ken notes that motorsports in Arizona are quite different from those in Alaska, where races often took place on airparks and city streets, carved through tall snowbanks.

His current autocross car is a **2009 Corvette Z06**, which he appreciates for its roomy interior that comfortably accommodates his 6'3" frame. Ken has quickly become an active volunteer with the PASR team, serving as a Safety Steward and taking on the role of announcer at autocross events. Recently, he has also joined the equipment crew, ensuring that clean and sanitized porta-potties are scheduled and delivered for each event.

When he's not working or racing, Ken enjoys golfing and dabbling in photography. He admires innovative professional race car drivers like Dan Gurney and Mark Donahue, who play an active role in the design and modification of their vehicles.

When asked how he would improve the autocross events, Ken suggested implementing more series-focused timed run groups while reducing the number of Time Only runs. He also proposed the idea of having more cars from specific run groups racing simultaneously to balance track conditions across classes.

PYLON PRESS QUIZ



As alternative-fueled vehicles gain popularity, let's compare two of the frontrunners: Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Hydrogen Cars. How do they stack up against each other?

1. Which has the best range? EVs or Hydrogen?
2. Which has the lowest purchase price? Toyota Mirao or Tesla Model 3
3. Which has the shortest refuel time? EVs or Hydrogen?
4. Which is the cheapest to operate? EVs or Hydrogen?

DAD JOKE

What's an electric car's favorite music?"
Current hits, of course!

Why did the hydrogen car go to therapy?
it had too many unresolved pressure issues!

Why did the electric car break up with the gas car?
It found someone more current!"

Pylon Press Quiz Answers

1. Hydrogen
2. Tesla Model 3 @ \$46k vs. Toyota Maria \$50K
3. Hydrogen
4. EVs



Autocross, a thrilling motorsport that tests both driver skill and vehicle handling, offers an exhilarating challenge as participants navigate through a series of cones on a timed course. One of the key elements to excelling in autocross is the ability to get out of your head and find that elusive "zone" where instinct and focus align.

When you step into your car, the myriad of thoughts about speed, technique, and competition can create a mental fog. Overthinking can lead to hesitation, which is detrimental in a sport where split-second decisions make the difference between a clean run and a costly mistake. To perform at your best, it's essential to shift your mindset from analytical to instinctual.

Techniques to Get in the Zone

- 1. Pre-Run Visualization:** Before hitting the course, take a moment to visualize the route. Imagine yourself smoothly navigating the turns, hitting the apexes, and driving with confidence. This mental rehearsal can help solidify the course in your mind, allowing you to react naturally when it's time to race.
- 2. Focus on Breathing:** Deep, controlled breathing can ground you in the present moment. Before your run, take a few deep breaths to calm your mind and reduce anxiety. This simple practice helps clear mental clutter and allows you to focus on the task at hand.
- 3. Practice Mindfulness:** Engaging in mindfulness exercises can train your brain to stay present. Whether it's through meditation, yoga, or simply being aware of your surroundings, mindfulness can enhance your ability to concentrate during runs. When you're fully present, you're more likely to pick up on cues from the car and the track.
- 4. Trust Your Training:** Remember that hours of practice have prepared you for this moment. Trust in your skills and instincts rather than overthinking your moves. Allow your body to respond to the course naturally, relying on muscle memory developed through practice.
- 5. Embrace the Experience:** Autocross is not just about competition; it's an opportunity to connect with your car and the driving experience. Enjoy the adrenaline rush, the sound of the engine, and the thrill of driving. This enjoyment can help you stay relaxed and focused.

Finding the zone in autocross requires a blend of mental clarity, trust in your abilities, and a genuine enjoyment of the sport. By employing techniques such as visualization, mindfulness, and controlled breathing, you can break free from overthinking and embrace the excitement of the race.

The next time you step onto the course, remember, it's not just about the finish line; it's about the journey and the joy of driving. Embrace it, and you'll find yourself performing at your best.