



Pylon Press

SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA - PHOENIX AZ SOLO REGION

December 2025 Fall Series #4



Event Synopsis

BRIAN MILLER
PYLON PRESS EDITOR

Drivers and guests were greeted to a chilly temperature of 45 degrees. This did not detour from some fierce competition to close out the trophy search for the Fall series. Times dropped though out the day as the track warmed up and grip increased. The course combined some interesting 90 degree turns that required drivers to stay on the correct line for a strong exit into some fast slalom sections. All in all, it was a great day for auto cross racing – fine weather, a challenging and fast course and lots of close competition across the car classes.

Credit and a shout out go to the many who trophied in the 2025 fall series:

- Ladies:** T1 Leeann Yacuel
- Novice** T1 Travis Berry
- SPM** T1 Jason Bucki
- AS** T1 James Harnish
- BS** T1 Miguel Zepeda
- AST** T1 Aidan Willis
- BST** T1 Ronald Herren
- Cam-C** T1 Stan Johnson
- Cam-S** T1 Keith Crouse
- Cam-T** T1 Christopher Stoner
- CS** T1 Aaron Skolnik
- CSP** T1 Kevin Venisnik
- CST** T1 Jeff Williams
- DS** T1 Scott Urich
- DPS** T1 David Webb

The additional trophy winners listed on Page 4 of Pylon Press. To view the complete results of the 2025 fall series, go to AZsolo.com

Car of the Month

CHEVY 2025 CORVETTE Z06



Ron Barbala

Ron Barbala recently acquired a 2025 Chevy Corvette Z06, and he has customized it with the LZ2 trim package, featuring competition seats, a carbon fiber aero kit, forged wheels, and a front lift. Since taking delivery, he added an Eventuri intake, which reportedly boosts power to 720 hp and 500 lb-ft of torque at the crank, making the car exceptionally fast. Apart from this upgrade, everything else remains stock, including the Michelin Pilot Sport 4S tires.

This car enthusiast, also owns a 2004 C5 Z06 Corvette, which he considers the best purchase of his life. Although he didn't buy it for autocross, he finds both cars enjoyable for recreational racing, participating for fun rather than competition.

Ron's passion began at age three with Hot Wheels; his first car was a 1970 VW Bug. He then owned a 1969 Bug for 19 years and transformed a rough 1969 Camaro into a street racing vehicle. Between 1987 and 1992, he spent countless nights drag racing in the valley's hotspots. After investing significant time and money, he sold the Camaro for \$7,500 before attending college, a decision he still regrets. Ron appreciates being part of the automotive culture and values the high-quality community surrounding it.



November 15th Cross Track event at Firebird Motorsports Park

Putting together a strong "on the track" course design for the newly surfaced West Track at Firebird Raceway involved creative thinking and extensive planning. The names of those who made it all happen are too numerous to list here, yet it's important to acknowledge that everyone—from the admin team to the equipment and setup crews—contributed significantly to the planning and execution of this enjoyable event.

No trophies were awarded, however the smiles on drivers' faces and the excitement in the air spoke volumes about the high "fun factor" of the experience. By creatively staging the cars on the straightaway portion of the track, competitors enjoyed up to seven passes around the twisty West Track, navigating a variety of fast slaloms that led into sweeping curves, followed by short but fast sections.

Overall, with great weather, a tasty hot dog lunch, and a crowd of satisfied drivers, it was indeed a memorable event. The unofficial, fiercely contested TTD went to **Jonathan Betancourt**, who clocked a blazing 58.025-second run in his Porsche GT3 RS. Following closely behind him were **Elliot Speidell** and **Brian Peters**, tied for the top overall event PAX score honors of 1000. The event was a great success for all, and we look forward to the possibility of more events in the future on this fantastic track.

Upcoming Dates

Annual Car Tech & Weigh Day – Jan. 4, 2026 @ Lance Armstrong's garage
Spring Series Event #1 at Phoenix Raceway on Jan. 10, 2026

Annual Awards Event on Jan. 10, 2026 @ Saddle Mountain Brewing Co in Glendale, AZ



"Autocross captures the thrill of the chase, mirroring the fierce agility of lions as they dart through the wild, both embodying the exhilaration of speed and precision."

“
SUCCESS IS A
NOT A JOURNEY
DESTINATION
”



DRIVER

OF THE MONTH

LEEANN YACUEL



2014 Ford Mustang GT

*Autocross...
the fast
lane
to
friendship*



Track Buddies
BFF — GIZELLE SETOVICH
BOYFRIEND — ANDY PEARLMAN

In the summer of 2020, **Leeann Yacuel** discovered a passion for autocross racing, inspired by her boyfriend, Andy Pearlman, and his quirky 1984 Ford LTD station wagon, affectionately dubbed "Benana." By the fall, she took the plunge, co-driving in Andy's wagon while feeling the strain of hot laps on his vehicle. Enthralled by the sport, Leeann quickly purchased a 2002 Porsche Boxster by the season's fourth race.

Leeann's love for cars started at 16 when her brother Scott taught her to drive a manual in his Isuzu I-Mark RS. He took her to drag races, sparking her passion for motorsports. By December 2021, she was drag racing and attending car shows with Andy's wagon, excited to hear stories from fellow enthusiasts.

In late 2023, Leeann purchased a 1983 Ford LTD wagon, nicknamed "Foxy Cleopatra." This powerful wagon, built by Andy and his friends, has a Tremec TKX manual transmission and a supercharger, hitting a fastest drag time of 12.4 seconds at 114 mph. Foxy has since won awards at car shows, spreading joy wherever she goes.

In September 2024, Leeann's Boxster blew a head gasket during an autocross event, leading her to donate it to the Arizona Humane Society. Back in Andy's wagon for racing, she transitioned to her new ride, a 2014 Mustang GT California Special, in December 2024. Initially focused on fun, her competitive spirit soon emerged, culminating in a first-place finish in the ladies' category during the 2025 fall series.

A Native Arizonan, Leeann lives with Andy, his son Seth, and their three dogs. She owns five vehicles, each with a specific purpose, and dreams of adding a 90s Acura NSX and an R33 or R34 Skyline GT-R to her collection. The PASR Solo scene has become a vibrant community for her, and she enthusiastically recommends autocross to anyone looking for an exhilarating car hobby, especially anyone seeking an adrenaline rush.

Volunteers of the Month

The unsung heroes of any club are those whose work goes largely unseen and who are rarely recognized for their steadfast behind the scenes efforts. Such are those PASR members who make up the "course tear down crew". These members put in a long day at the track as their duties do not begin until the event is completed.

We appreciate the effort they put into disassembling the course, storing the cones and other equipment into the storage pod and inspecting the area to make sure it is left in tip top shape. Pictured are the current members of this hard-working group. Thank you for all you do!

THANK YOU



From left to right, Michael Terrey, Matt McNulty, Stan Johnson, Tim Bergstrom, Ben Zukowski, and Todd Hare.

There is A lot to Do!

Setting up and tearing down an autocross course involves several detailed steps that ensure both safety and efficiency. Here's an overview of what's required for just the teardown processes:

1. Timing Equipment Removal: Carefully disconnect and pack up timing lights and transponders.
2. Cone Collection: Gather all cones and markers, ensuring none are left behind.
3. Barrier Removal: Disassemble any barriers or safety equipment set up during the event.
4. Cleanup of Trash and Debris: Ensure the area is cleaned up, collecting any trash or debris left by participants.
5. Restore the venue to its original condition, making sure no damage has been left behind.
6. Equipment Check and Storage: Check all equipment for damage and clean as needed.
7. Return all materials to storage for future use.

More who trophied in the 2025 fall series:

ES T1 John Prieve
ESP T1 Dennis Riehle
EST T1 Brent McCune
EVX T1 James Frink
FS T1 Nick Sloan
GS Frank Torres
GST T1 Sid Elorde
HS T1 Nicole Mohr

SM Dustin Schertz
SS T1 Chris Groppi
SSC T1 TJ Triolo
SSM Jason Siebels
SSP T1 Kim Kemper
SST T1 Austin Brown
XU Clifton Ragland

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Tech Tip



Written by Brian Miller
Pylon Press Editor

As technology advances and cars become more sophisticated and faster, the dynamics of autocross remain unchanged. The principles of physics, particularly regarding "objects in motion," such as race cars, are constant over time. Don Roberts*, a consummate local and national SCCA autocross champion in Arizona who passed away several years ago once shared an insightful perspective with me. When I asked him what kind of brake pads he used in his competition Cobra, he replied, **"I don't recall, because I don't use my brakes much when autocrossing."**

The following autocross tip is taken from a handbook that Don published, titled "Autocross Basics." This essential guide covers the fundamentals of autocross and was a complimentary publication for customers through his *Mini Sports Speed Shop Inc.*

The excerpt from this handbook is credited to Al French**, who discusses the ideal tire slip angle and the importance of taking the shortest path through a 180- to 360-degree turn. French recommends that the path through not only S-bend turns, but also slaloms should also be the shortest line. Today we adhere to what Don and Al taught; we just say it a little differently. When driving through the slalom, it is advised to leave the cones off the rear tires to facilitate that short path.

Don's handbook is a concise summary of the main principles of autocross, which remain relevant today, just as they were two decades ago. I particularly appreciated his suggestion that when entering a corner too fast, one should avoid touching the brakes and instead ease off the throttle just enough to scrub off speed. Abrupt motions should be avoided, as they can upset the car. Instead, use a "sawing motion" on the steering wheel to maintain control. This approach helps "keep one end of the car from passing the other end."

Upon reviewing this venerable handbook, it becomes clear that while many aspects of autocross may evolve, yet some principles remain timeless.

* *Legendary SCCA champion Don Roberts, best known for his many victories in what became known as "the winningest Cobra," died at the age of 82. He was a leading figure in the Shelby Cobra community, both for his driving skills and for his uncanny mechanical ability to perfectly set up a race car.*

** *Al French was a notable figure in the world of autocross, recognized for his contributions to the sport as an instructor and author. He is best known for his insights on driving techniques, particularly regarding tire slip angles and optimal racing lines through turns.*

Pylon Press Quiz

TAKEN FROM "AUTOCROSS BASICS" BY DON ROBERTS

1. What is the primary focus of Don Roberts' handbook, "Autocross Basics"?
 - A) Car maintenance
 - B) Driving techniques and principles of autocross
 - C) History of racing
 - D) Engine tuning
2. Which driving technique did Don Roberts emphasize for entering corners too fast?
 - A) Slamming on the brakes
 - B) Easing off the throttle
 - C) Accelerating
 - D) Turning sharply
3. What does Al French recommend regarding the path through turns in autocross?
 - A) The longest route for better control
 - B) The shortest line for efficiency
 - C) Avoiding turns altogether
 - D) Only focusing on straightaways
4. According to the handbook, what is a recommended practice when navigating slalom courses?
 - A) Hitting the cones for better grip
 - B) Leaving slalom cones off the rear tires
 - C) Taking wide turns for stability
 - D) Slowing down significantly
5. What kind of competition did Don Roberts predominantly participate in?
 - A) Drag racing
 - B) Road racing
 - C) Autocross
 - D) Formula racing

Answers

1. B) Driving techniques and principles of autocross
2. B) Easing off the throttle
3. B) The shortest line for efficiency
4. B) Leaving slalom cones off the rear tires
5. C) Autocross

