



January 2026 Spring Series #1

Pylon Press

SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA - PHOENIX AZ SOLO REGION

Event Synopsis

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On January 10, 2026, the weatherman was most cooperative, providing a cool, clear day for some fun and challenging autocross competition at Phoenix Raceway. The inaugural event of the 2026 Spring Autocross season featured a challenging course and ideal Arizona winter weather. The waiver and registration team moved the long lines of drivers onto the course with commendable efficiency and dispatch. As the setup crew had the Frank Torres-designed course in place the day before, drivers were able to get in multiple course walks before the drivers' meeting and safety briefing.

Drivers had four runs on the course, which challenged them with highly technical sections interspersed with faster segments. These elements, combined with a 360-degree skid pad loop, demanded good focus and a sharp memory for the course. Some close battles for the King of the Class have already developed early in the season. In Cam-S, Clay Turner and Keith Crouse are squaring off in a tight series, with times separated by just half a second.

Another contest to watch is in CS, where Victor Tan, Jack Bamford, Paul Nielander, and Alex Grothusen all posted times in the 58-second range. A similar showdown is shaping up in FS, with John Tindle, Dan Hawrylkiw, Nick Sloan, and Craig Borger all laying down "smokin' times" in the 55-second category. Exciting racing is ahead in these and other closely contested class competitions, so stay tuned!



Pawel Potera bought his **2016 BMW M3** new in Munich, Germany, and after a thrilling ten-day European tour, he shipped it to the US, marking the start of an unforgettable journey.

As his first "fun" car, Pawel recommends it as a reliable daily driver. While he finds it a bit heavy for autocross and track use, he appreciates the M3's performance and comfort. The twin-turbo inline 6 engine produces around 425 HP and 406 lb-ft of torque. Although BMW tends to underrate their engines, Pawel hasn't felt the need for a dyno test, keeping the powertrain stock while making significant handling upgrades like JRZ dampers and racing seats.

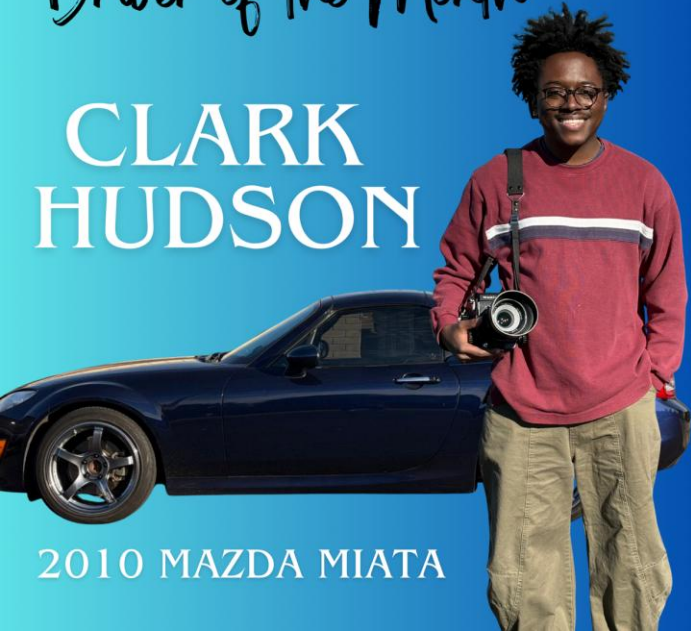
Pawel's interest in racing sparked after attending BMW's M Track Days, leading him to participate in numerous BMW CCA events. Owning an M3 had been a dream of his, and he picked it up after attending his daughter's choir concerts in London and Canterbury, linking those memories forever.

His aim with the M3 is to enjoy autocross socially and improve his driving skills, usually finishing in the top 10-15% of raw times. Recently relocating to Arizona from Dallas, where he honed his performance driving, Pawel cherishes the memories created with his M3, including driving at "Circuit of the Americas" in Austin, TX and exploring Arizona's national parks.

Welcome Pawel to our community! His journey exemplifies the joy and camaraderie of motorsports.

Driver of the Month

CLARK HUDSON



2010 MAZDA MIATA

At nearly 25 years of age, **Clark Hudson** has always dreamed of owning a Miata. Initially, he thought autocross looked boring, yet after recently acquiring his car, he dove into the sport and is now completely hooked! Having attended only three events so far, he's eager to push his driving skills beyond normal street driving.

His primary goal is to become a proficient driver who can handle a car at its limits while also learning to set up and maintain his Miata. He aims to be competitive in his region and is even exploring motorsport photography on the side.

Originally from Houston, TX, he moved to Arizona to attend ASU, where he graduated with a degree in graphic design in 2023. Now residing near downtown Phoenix, he enjoys a variety of hobbies, including analog photography, retro gaming, and collecting old tech.

His 2010 Mazda Miata has some early modifications, including an aluminum coolant expansion tank, a Goodwin Racing Helmholtz Race exhaust, and Advan TC-4 wheels. He chose this car as his first enthusiast vehicle, eager for a fun driving experience.

What's impressed him most about the PASR autocross community is the supportive and friendly atmosphere. Despite being introverted, he's found it easy to connect with others and make friends in the club.

You must do the things you think you cannot do.

Eleanor Roosevelt



YOU GAIN
STRENGTH
COURAGE

and

CONFIDENCE
BY EVERY
EXPERIENCE IN
WHICH YOU
REALLY STOP TO
LOOK FEAR
IN THE FACE.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



RAY LEON



Ray Leon has been actively involved in SCCA autocross since 2017, relishing the opportunity to ride in his son's 1978 Monte Carlo, which they collaboratively built into a competition car designed for both autocross and track events.

Ray is currently working on building a '74 Blazer and has a dream of owning a 1968 big block Corvette, a model that has always captivated him. He admires notable drivers such as Dale Earnhardt for his achievements and Tony Stewart for his versatility across different racing disciplines, including his recent success in NHRA Top Fuel drag racing.

At SCCA events, Ray values the sense of community he's found and is always eager to assist wherever he can, even though he doesn't have an official role within the organization. His willingness to help and enthusiasm for motorsports fosters connections with fellow enthusiasts.

His interests extend beyond autocross to various motorsports, with a particular passion for drag racing. He has held trackside RV spots at Firebird for 30 years and enjoys attending major events like the US Nationals.

Pylon Quiz

Of the over 140 cars entered in the first spring series race for 2026.

1. How many total brands were represented at the autocross? 29, 19, 33, or 22
2. Which automaker had the most cars entered in the event? Ford, Toyota, Chevy, Mazda or Porsche
3. Which brand posted the fastest time of the day and the top pax score? Chevy, Porsche, Lotus, Factory Five Cobra, BMW or Tesla
4. Which foreign car manufacturer has the highest car count at the autocross? Mazda, BMW, Subaru, Toyota or Honda
5. Which of these classics had a single entry at the event? Oldsmobile, Pontiac, Fiat, Cobra

Trivia

... is not just a collection of facts; it's a celebration of curiosity and the endless pursuit of knowledge."



Answers

1. 22 manufacturers were represented
2. Chevrolet 33 entries
3. A Porsche 911 GT3 took the honors
4. It was Mazda with 17
5. All had one entry



Electronic enhancements have transformed how drivers maximize power and efficiency. Here are key upgrades to consider for improving acceleration and handling:

- 1. ECU Remapping** – Reprogramming the Engine Control Unit for optimized fuel delivery and ignition timing. Cost: Moderate **Benefits**: Increases horsepower and torque, improves throttle response, and enhances fuel efficiency. A great all-around upgrade for performance.
- 2. Performance Tuning Modules** – Plug-and-play devices that adjust ECU signals for better performance. Cost: Low to Moderate **Benefits**: Easy to install and boosts power without major modifications. Ideal for those seeking a quick performance boost.
- 3. Turbocharger and Supercharger Kits** – Forced induction systems that increase air intake for more power. Cost: High **Benefits**: Significant horsepower increase but requires substantial investment. Best for serious performance enthusiasts.
- 4. Cold Air Intakes** – Replaces the factory intake to allow cooler, denser air into the engine. Cost: Low **Benefits**: Affordable upgrade that improves airflow and combustion efficiency, translating to better performance.
- 5. High-Performance Exhaust Systems** – Upgrades that reduce back pressure and enhance exhaust flow. Cost: Moderate **Benefits**: Enhances horsepower and gives a more aggressive sound. A solid investment for performance and aesthetics.
- 6. Electronic Differential Lock** – Enhances power distribution between wheels for better traction. Cost: Moderate to High **Benefits**: traction and handling, especially in cornering, making it a valuable upgrade for performance driving
- 7. Control Systems** -- Controls engine RPM for optimal acceleration from a standstill. Cost: High **Benefits**: Offers improved handling and comfort but at a higher price point. Suitable for those prioritizing driving experience
- 8. Launch Control Systems** -- Technology that optimizes engine RPM and traction for maximum acceleration from a standstill. Cost: Moderate **Benefits**: Maximizes acceleration and minimizes wheel spin, enhancing performance during starts.
- 9. Performance Brake Systems** -- Upgraded braking components designed to improve stopping power and safety during aggressive driving. Cost: Moderate to High **Benefits**: Improves stopping power and safety, making it a worthwhile investment for performance driving.
- 10. Telemetry Systems** -- Real-time monitoring tools that track performance metrics like speed and G-forces to enhance driving techniques and performance analysis. Cost: Moderate to High **Benefits**: Provides real-time data for performance analysis, beneficial for competitive drivers.