



Dylon Press



Arizona Sportcar Club of America – Solo Division

Solo Spring Event #1, 2021

January Event Synopsis



The new year greeted us with very favorable weather with temperatures in the low 40's at 6:30 am and 70 degrees by closing at 4 pm. Attendance was strong with a dozen or more first-time participants in the morning group. The course was a challenging one, with several 90 degree turns and some technical features requiring a correct driving line to obtain a good time.

The set up and waiver crews got us off to an early start so five runs were possible in both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Great job at the annual tech station – these guys were very organized and efficient and got a ton of cars certified with annual tech cards. The tech crew was there setting up in the dark to get all 60 cars inspected and ready for sound checks and staging. Hats off to the tech crew for a job well done! Times in the low 40 second range became common place though out the day. **Brian Peters** set the bar low in an electric drive **Tesla sedan**. The Phoenix SCCA Sportsman Class has some of the better national level drivers participating right here in AZ. It is fun to watch these folks compete and learn from them.

Car of the Month



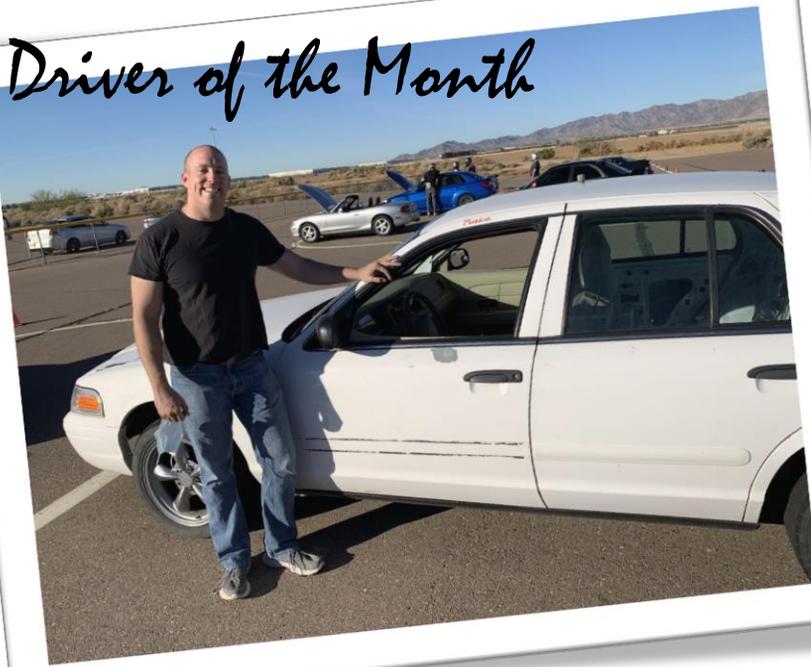
A beautiful **2005 Lotus Elise** driven by **Billy Downham** graced our January event. Great to see such a fine example of a world-renowned sports car in such fine condition.

Nice ride Billy, please come out and race again!

You're safer in the race car than you are in cars going to and from the track.

Mario Andretti

Driver of the Month



Jared Loesing is a crafty fellow having a great time auto crossing a **2008 Ford Crown Victoria**., with 4.6 two valve motor w/ fuel injection intake and headers. This unlikely solo ride has a fascinating history! Jared purchased it for a mere \$2000 bucks at a police car auction, stripped it down of all its nonessential interior trim and is having a blast auto crossing it. For a full-on passenger sedan, the car is surprisingly nimble on the course. Talk about budget racing – this car cost him 1/20 the money most of us pay. As a driver, Jared is no stranger to motorsports with a driving history in off road racing and carts. It is a great example of grassroots American racing and how one can get into the sport of auto crossing without breaking the budget. *Way to go Jared! Cool ride indeed!*

Fun Facts

How Fast Do Police Cars Go?

The **Ford Crown Victoria** is a fairly representative type for police cars. It is electronically limited (yes, even the **police** version) to top speeds of 110–140 mph. The drive train components can only turn so fast, so bigger engines aren't useful.



THE WINNER AIN'T THE ONE WITH THE FASTEST CAR, IT'S THE ONE WHO REFUSES TO LOSE.



-DALE EARNHARDT

WHAT'S BEHIND YOU DOESN'T MATTER

-Enzo Ferrari



Volunteer of the Month

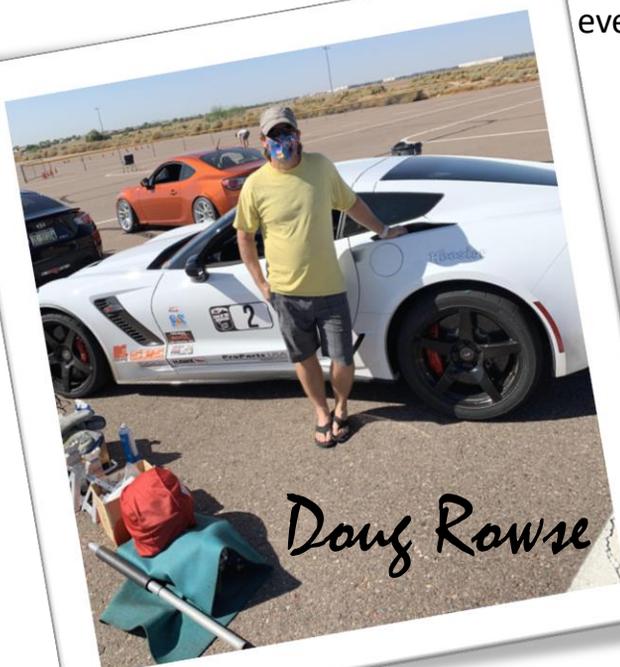


Lance Hamilton

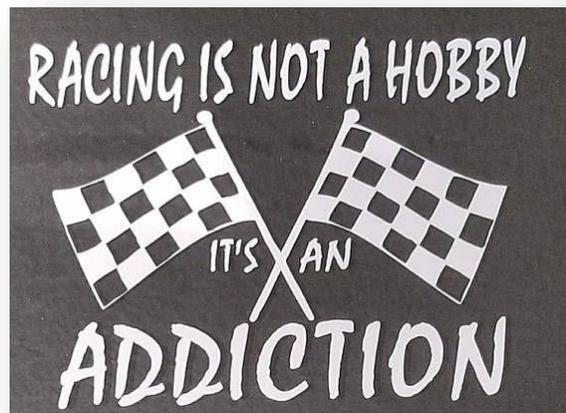
Lance Hamilton is no stranger to the AZ auto cross scene. He very competitive in his **CAM Chevy vintage Monte Carlo** and can often be seen at tech lending a hand getting cars checked into run. Of late Lance has taken on a new responsibility as the Assistant Registrar of the Online Preregistration process.

He has made the site much more user friendly, clean and more accurate.

Getting your run group, car number and other pre-event data established in a timely manner is now easier thanks to Lance. Good job with pre-registration Lance and thanks from all of us.



Doug Rowse



Doug Rowse relaxing between runs in his blazingly fast **Corvette Z06**

Driver Tip of the Month

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ROAD LINES

*Submitted by Brian Miller,
Editor, Pylon Press*

There is a good YouTube video on the web featuring auto cross tips under the title of **“Auto Cross Talk.”** The following is a tip inspired from the YouTube tutorial:

It has been said that taking a longer line on an autocross course to gain time is a mistake! If you buy into the *“short line around the course theory”*, then here is a practice technique you can use in your daily drives. Some drivers have a knack for coming very close to the turning cones on the solo course. This generally computes to a shorter distance around the course and a lower elapse time.

The following is an exercise to check on how close you are passing by autocross cones. Simply tilt your rear-view mirror down on the passenger side of the car, then carefully and gradually drift to the white boundary line with your vehicle. Glance in the mirror looking back to see how close to the line you are. It goes without saying that this little test method should be done only when separated from traffic and in a safe matter. I personally tried this simple exercise and was surprised to see how much room was left between my truck and the white boundary line on the highway when I thought I was very close to it. And as always, be safe out there!

Lines on the Road are Longer Than You Think

Most people believe that the dashed lines painted down the middle of a road are about 24 inches in length. And they’re off by about 8 feet. US federal guidelines dictate that the dashed lines separating traffic lanes or indicating where passing is allowed run 10 feet in length. A recent study showed that people grossly underestimate the length of those lines, and thus could be misjudging distances as they drive, which usually means they could be driving too fast.



I Will **Wear My Mask**
Here or There...

I Will **Social Distance**
Everywhere!



**MY MASK PROTECTS YOU, AND
YOUR MASK PROTECTS ME.**

Pylon Press Quiz

Corona Virus-19 and Auto cross events issue questions. True or False

1. If you are under the age of 35 years and acquire the Corona Virus your symptoms will only be like those of a common cold. **T or F**
2. Wearing a mask at a solo event is not necessary because it is an out of doors event. **T or F**
3. The social distancing space of 6 ft. is not necessarily needed at an Autocross because those in attendance are strong and athletic. **T or F**
4. The 2 new strains of the Corona Virus now present in Arizona are reported to be more contagious than the original virus requiring even more rigorous safety precautions. **T or F**
5. Tragically over 5,000 people have died in Maricopa County alone since the introduction of the C-19 virus into Arizona. **T or F**
6. The incubation period for COVID-19 is thought to extend up to 14 days, with a median time of 4-5 days from exposure until the onset of symptoms. **T or F**

Let's keep our Autocross events safe! Mask up and keep safe social distances from others! *"This too shall come to pass!"*

(Answers to above quiz questions, 1, 2, and 3 are False, 4, 5 and 6 True.)

A big thanks to all the drivers, course workers, the Steering Committee members and Area Chiefs who are making a morning and separate afternoon split autocross event run smoothly and safely.

Better days lie ahead; keep up the good work all!