



April 2026 Spring Series #4

Pylon Press

SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA - PHOENIX AZ SOLO REGION



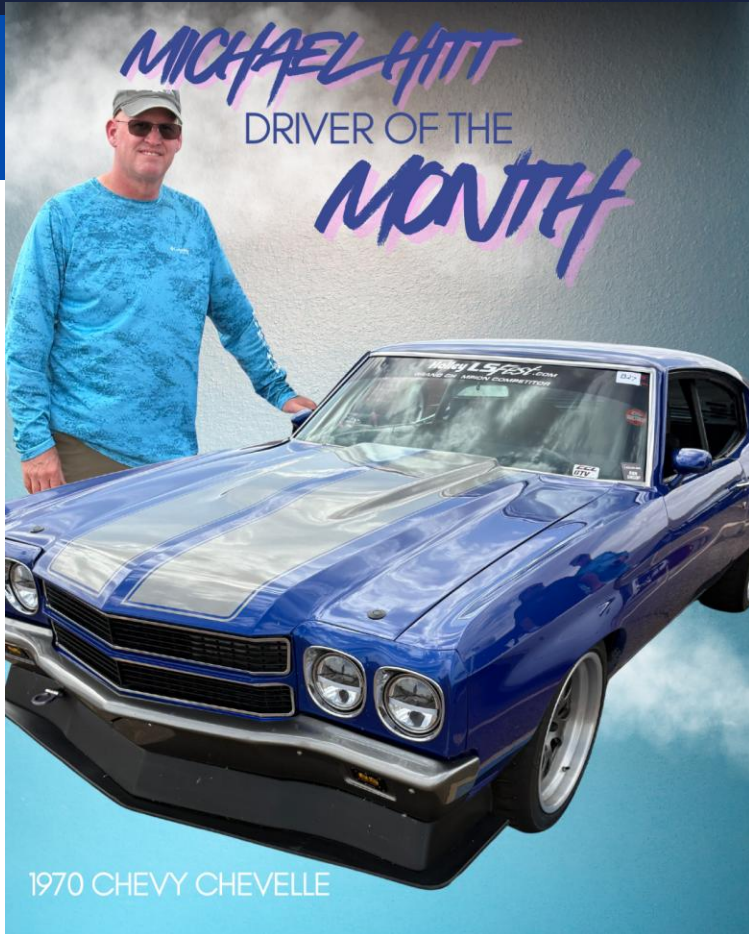
Event Synopsis

BRIAN MILLER
PYLON PRESS EDITOR

A sellout crowd gathered on a warm and sunny Arizona spring day for the final autocross contest of the 2026 spring series, featuring over 158 competitors. Drivers tackled a lengthy, engaging course designed by *Bill Pribil*, utilizing two spacious parking lots at Phoenix Raceway. Lap times varied from the high 40-second to low 60-second range, with several rhythmic sections rewarding smooth lines through turns. The course concluded with a right-angle turn offering ample runoff space if navigated correctly. As the day progressed, lap times improved, yet DNF's increased as drivers pushed cars to their limits. Course workers frequently retrieved cones knocked out of place by racers, totaling over 150 downed cones and more than 30 DNF incidents. Intense competition marked this final event, with drivers across classes vying for podium spots.

Results

In the CAM-T group, **Matt Leon** narrowly defeated **Michael Hitt** by three PAX points, posting times of 54.341 and 54.490, respectively. In the CST class, **Roger Schlogel** edged out **Todd Hare** with respective times of 55.024 to 55.280. The DS class featured a close battle between Ford and Toyota, with **Alex Evrard** besting **Chris Markmann** by just three PAX points. In the fiercely contested FS class, **Dan Hawrylkiw** had a 53.561 in his Ford Mustang Mach One securing first place over **Craig Borger's** 54.374 in his Chevy Camaro SS1LE. It was a thrilling day of racing on a well-designed course.



1970 CHEVY CHEVELLE

Michael Hitt, a dedicated automotive enthusiast, has a rich history in motorsports that began in the late 90s and early 2000s. Seeking a more accessible and enjoyable alternative to full road racing, he shifted gears to motorcycle racing. In 2015, while in the midst of building his beloved Chevelle, Michael attended the Optima Search for the Street Car Invitational in Las Vegas. This event showcased a diverse array of vehicles competing in autocross, Speed Stop, and road course events, reigniting his passion for racing.



Continued on next page



MICHAEL HITT

DRIVER OF THE

MONTH

Attitude

IS EVERYTHING

in Life & Racing

By 2016, Michael made a return to racing, this time behind the wheel of his Chevelle, participating in various autocross events. Notable appearances include *LS Fest* and *Muscle Cars at the Strip*, where he continuously honed his driving skills and pushed the limits of his vehicle. His journey has involved transforming his Chevelle, a car initially not renowned for its handling, into a respectable performer.

Beyond the racetrack, Michael shares his life with his wife, Amanda, and their two dogs. Originally from the Southeast, he has called Casa Grande home for over two decades. His love for motorcycles persists, with a focus on dirt biking, although he has recently revisited street biking as well. Michael's passion for building cars is evident; he constructed his Chevelle from a shell purchased from a storage unit in Peoria, completing extensive bodywork and upgrades himself. His 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle is now equipped with a 416 c.i. LS3 and a six-speed transmission, supported by a custom-built suspension featuring triple adjustable Ridetech coilovers.

Community plays a vital role in Michael's racing experience. He typically avoids co-driving unless necessary, yet he eagerly participates in the annual end-of-the-year CAM challenge, where drivers swap cars to compete for the best average time. The camaraderie within the Arizona Solo scene is something he cherishes, as he finds it rare to encounter competitors who are willing to help each other, fostering a spirit of collaboration amidst the competition.

With a commitment to continual improvement in both his driving and his Chevelle's performance, Michael Hitt exemplifies the passion and dedication that fuel the automotive community.

When it comes to racing, especially in the exhilarating world of autocross, it's not just the skill behind the wheel that determines success; it's also the mindset. A driver's attitude can significantly impact performance, shaping not only how they handle the car, also how they navigate the challenges of competition.

Why Attitude Matters

1. Resilience in Challenges

Autocross can be unpredictable. A positive attitude helps drivers stay focused and bounce back from setbacks, whether it's a tough course or an unexpected turn of events.

2. Confidence Boost

Believing in oneself is crucial. A confident driver is more likely to take calculated risks, push their limits, and ultimately improve their skills. Confidence is contagious; it inspires not only the driver but also teammates and future racers.

3. Learning from Mistakes

Mistakes are part of growth. A positive mindset enables drivers to view errors as learning opportunities rather than failures, fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

4. Team Spirit

Autocross often involves teamwork, from strategizing with teammates to relying on crew support. A positive attitude encourages collaboration, enhances communication, and builds strong relationships both on and off the track.

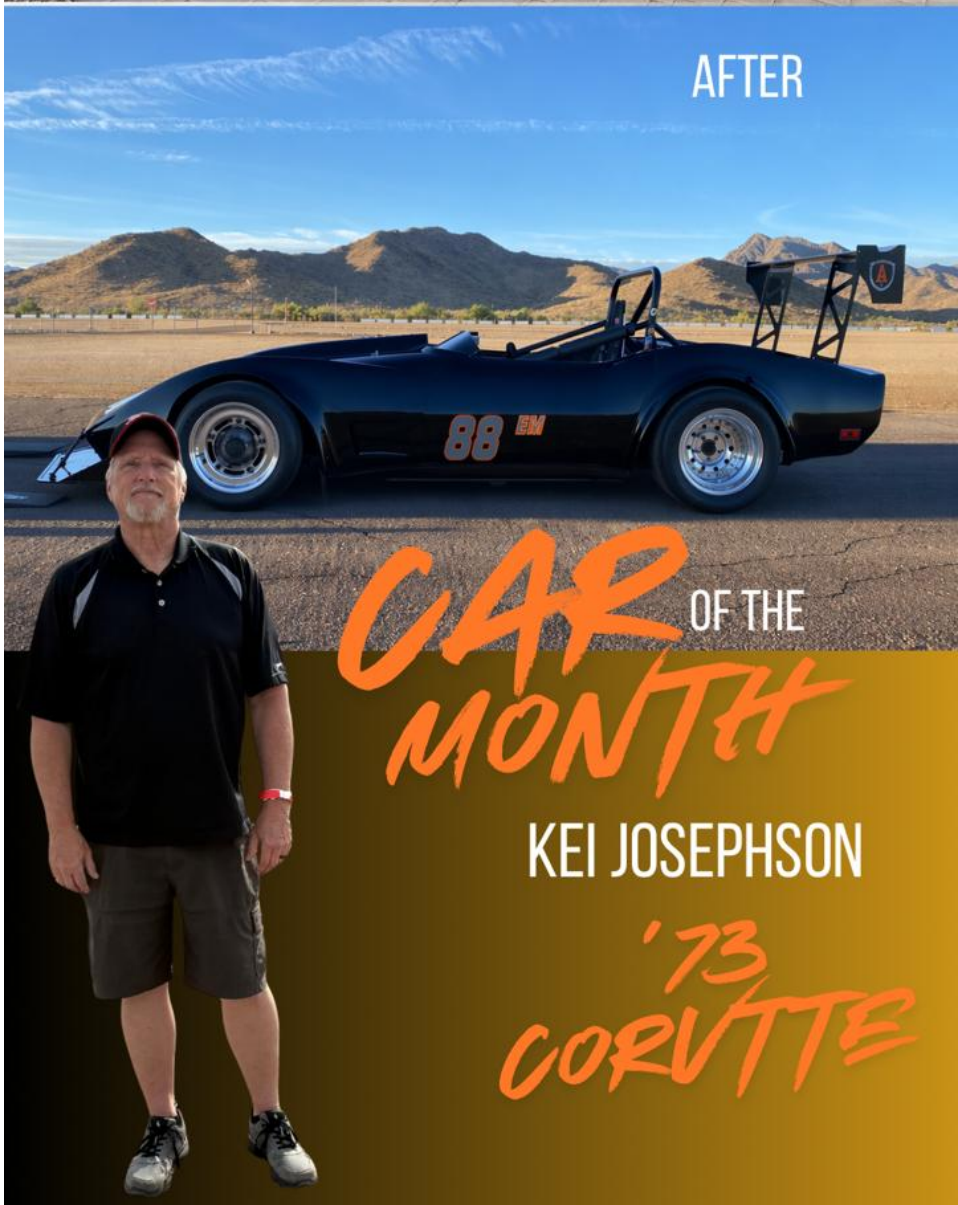
Car of the Month is owned by **Kei Josephson**. The 1973 E-Mod Corvette is named 'Lazarus' named due to bringing the car back from the dead to autocross again.

This car was originally built by Sam Platt in St Louis, MO. It has won a few National Championships in the BP class. When the BP class was eliminated, it raced in E-Mod. Sam sold the car to a fellow racer in St Louis when Sam completed his C5 Corvette E-Mod car.

The next owner raced it twice and then parked it in his barn for 8 1/2 years. Why did the next owner park it? According to Sam, it was too fast for him and couldn't catch up to it.

Four years ago, Kei was talking to Sam on the phone and asked him what happened to his '73 Corvette. He told Kei the story and challenged him to buy it and put it back to racing condition. Kei contacted the owner and made an offer he didn't refuse. A day later the then owner agreed to sell it to Kei who drove to St Louis in the dead of winter and brought it back to Phoenix to put it back into racing condition.

Another 4 years later, here we are. What has been done to it? All rubber has been replaced, all zip ties have been replaced, car wrapped, new radial instead of big ply slicks, new bellhousing, new aerodynamics, installation of fuel injection and so much more....



Now, Kei needs to test it and have learn to drive it full out! His goal is to take it to Nationals in 2027. He offers up a BIG thank you to **Sam Platt, Ted Lewis** and **Mark** at Speed Sport AZ, as well as to family, friends, fellow racers and especially to Traci (TJ).

Connecting with Passion: Kim Kemper's Journey in SCCA

Kim Kemper has dedicated over three decades to the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), a commitment that reflects both his passion for motorsports and his desire to give back to the community he loves. Living in Cave Creek, Kim's mornings often start early, with decisions about whether to take his **Porsche GT4** or **GT3RS** out for a spin. This choice often hinges on how much energy he has at 5 AM, especially when maneuvering the curbs in his driveway to avoid scraping the front of his car.

Originally from Cincinnati and raised in Dayton, Ohio, Kim has transitioned from a successful career as an attorney to focus on his family and hobbies. He is a proud father of three—one son and boy/girl twins—and a grandfather to four, with another grandchild on the way. This family life adds a layer of fulfillment that complements his love for racing.

Kim's commitment to the SCCA isn't just about personal enjoyment; he aims to contribute positively to the activity that has enriched his life. His roles as Assistant Regional Executive and Safety Chief keep him engaged and on his toes, ensuring that safety remains a priority in all events. Most recently Kim negotiated with the Phoenix Raceway facility to give us more track space with no additional cost!

In addition to racing, Kim enjoys photography and tennis, hobbies that allow him to express creativity and maintain balance in his life. He admires racing legends like A.J. Foyt and Mario Andretti for their versatility and success across various series, drawing inspiration from their journeys.

Kim's approach to autocross is one of continuous improvement, always tweaking processes to enhance the experience for everyone involved. His commitment to both the sport and the community exemplifies a deep-rooted passion that drives him to keep the spirit of racing alive. Through his work and involvement with the SCCA, Kim Kemper continues to inspire those around him, proving that dedication and a love for motorsports can create lasting connections.



GT-3RS



GT4

VOLUNTEER
OF THE
MONTH
KIM KEMPER

The best way
to find your
best self
is to be in
service of
others



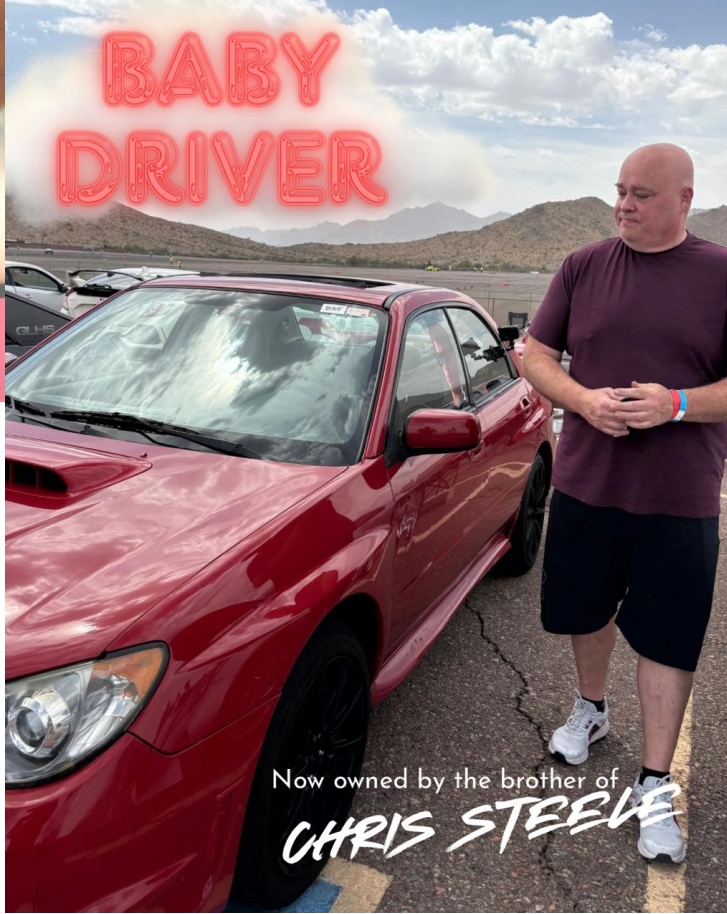
BABY DRIVER



as seen in the Movie

The car used in 2017 movie entitled "Baby Driver" is now owned locally by **Chris Steele's** brother. Chris borrowed the car to bring it to the track to share with others. Chris currently serves as the Phoenix Area Solo Region Tech Chief.

In the movie, released in 2017, the 2006 Subaru WRX serves as a key stunt car during the thrilling opening bank robbery scene. Known for its rally heritage, the WRX features a turbocharged 2.5-liter flat-four engine, delivering exceptional power and responsiveness. Its all-wheel-drive system enhances traction, allowing for quick acceleration and nimble handling, essential for the high-speed chase sequences. The car's sporty design, characterized by aggressive lines and a distinctive rear spoiler, made it visually striking on screen.



Key Features of the 2006 Subaru WRX

More than \$20,000 in receipts document what was invested to ready the car of the movie.

Drivertrain swap performed by Allpro Subaru in Alpharetta, Georgia

All-Wheel Drive: Provides superior traction and stability, crucial for high-speed pursuits.

Performance: Accelerates from 0 to 60 mph in approximately 5 seconds, CNC hydraulic handbrake, OS Giken front differential, Cusco rear LSD, Forged CP pistons & Exedy Stage I clutch

Aerodynamic body with aggressive styling, including a prominent rear spoiler and wide stance.

Painted red; Texas street-legal; Black leather interior.

This combination of high-performance changes made "Baby Driver" a standout in the film's heist scene.



TECH TIP

AUTOMOTIVE FUEL ADDITIVES



DIFFERENT TYPES OF FUEL ADDITIVES, THEIR FUNCTIONS, AND THEIR BENEFITS

- 1. Fuel Injector Cleaners:** Removes carbon deposits from fuel injectors.
Benefits: Improves fuel atomization, enhances engine performance, and reduces emissions.
- 2. Octane Boosters:** Increases the octane rating of gasoline.
Benefits: Prevents knocking in high-compression engines, allowing for smoother operation and improved power output.
- 3. Cetane Boosters:** Raises the cetane number in diesel fuel.
Benefits: Improves cold starting, reduces engine noise, and enhances overall combustion efficiency.
- 4. Fuel Stabilizers:** Prevents fuel degradation during storage.
Benefits: Keeps fuel fresh and prevents varnish buildup, essential for seasonal vehicles or long-term storage.
- 5. Anti-Gel Additives:** Prevents diesel fuel from gelling in cold weather.
Benefits: Ensures fuel remains fluid and usable, reducing the risk of engine starting issues in low temperatures.
- 6. Corrosion Inhibitors:** Protects against rust and corrosion in fuel systems.
Benefits: Prolongs the life of fuel tanks and fuel lines, especially in humid conditions or with ethanol-blended fuels.
- 7. Detergents:** Cleans the entire fuel system, including combustion chambers and valves.
Benefits: Reduces deposits, enhances fuel efficiency, and lowers emissions.
- 8. Emulsion Agents:** Enhances the blending of water and fuel.
Benefits: Helps to prevent water accumulation, which can cause engine damage and inefficiency.
- 9. Lubricity Additives:** Improves the lubricating properties of diesel fuels.
Benefits: Protects fuel pumps and injectors, especially in ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD), which can be less lubricating.
- 10. Ethanol Treatment Additives:** Stabilizes fuel containing ethanol.
Benefits: Reduces phase separation and prevents corrosion in fuel systems.

** Information from AI search*



Pylon Quiz

WHAT WAS NEVER PRODUCED?

Which 1969 model year supercar never raced on the NASCAR circuit in the late 1960s and early 1970s era due to NASCAR rule changes?

Was it the:

1. Plymouth Super Bird
2. AMC Dominator
3. Ford Talladega
4. Ford King Cobra
5. Dodge Challenger Daytona?

Answer:

It was the performance version of the Ford Mustang II model named the “**King Cobra**” (pictured in the banner) with an arrow type nose piece which contributed to its aggressive styling. The car had distinctive graphics and a rear spoiler. Initially the King Cobra was intended for NASCAR, however FORD decided to withdraw it.

The withdrawal of this car was due to a new NASCAR rule that restricted motor size to 305 cubic in.³ ; This rule change eliminated the 428 cu. in.³ 375 hp motor that had been installed in the King Cobra by FORD.

(It should be additionally noted the AMC Dominator listed in this quiz is a fictitious automobile that never existed)

**SOME IDEAS NEVER
MAKE IT TO THE
FINISH LINE**



Interesting Fact

CHOOSING THE “RIGHT” GAS

Choosing the right gasoline can significantly affect your vehicle's performance and engine longevity. Consider this research:

1. Shell V-Power NiTRO – Contains a unique formulation designed to clean and protect critical engine parts. Offers improved octane rating, which helps prevent knocking.

Benefits: Enhances fuel efficiency and engine performance while reducing deposits.

2. Chevron with Techron – A proprietary additive that cleans fuel injectors and combustion chambers. Good octane levels help with engine performance.

Benefits: Reduces emissions and improves overall engine life.

3. Mobil 1 Advanced Fuel Economy – Engineered to provide better fuel economy and engine cleanliness. Good for both gasoline and diesel engines.

Benefits: Helps extend engine life and improve performance.

4. ExxonMobil Synergy – Contains a variety of additives designed to clean and protect engines. Offers enhanced octane ratings. **Benefits:** Aids in improving fuel economy and engine responsiveness.

5. Texaco with Techron – Similar to Chevron, features Techron for engine cleaning. Good octane ratings for high-performance needs.

Benefits: Reduces deposits and helps maintain engine health.

** Information from AI search*