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January 2020 / Issue 2001



"The Streets" Was Blowin' in the Wind
2020 Awards Banquet
POC Autocross Gains Momentum



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January 2020 / Issue 2001

Letter from the Editor:

You should notice something different about this issue of Velocity. We've changed our look (thank you Matt Hollander). We hope that you enjoy the new format and also the articles and photos that continue to capture the spirit of the POC every month of the year...DM

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"The Streets"

Cold and Blow'n in the Wind

Don Matz

One of my responsibilities as Director for the Performance Driving Series is to place cones around the track prior to the first run session. The cones are supposed to indicate brake zones, commitment points, the apex and track-out points. Sometimes we actually get them in the right spots. But Saturday morning at 6:00 am in the early light, Joe Wiederholt and I squinted and leaned against the wind as my 8' high van inched around the track at a snails pace. I've experienced wind at Willow in the past, but this was more like "geez loueez". At least it was cold!

As Mariah (who remembers that song?) continued to blow, the door of my van busted loose. In my mind I saw a red and yellow striped flag waving as my door lays in pieces across the track at the entrance to the bowl. But the hinges held and we finished the task, a bit wind-blown but ready to greet our PDS'ers and TT'ers at the drivers meeting.

The group wasn't very large for our first event of the season, I figured a few folks might have blown off the freeway on the way up, probably on the phone with AAA, and concluding, "Let's just cash it in". But those who made it, all had a great first day, in spite of the winds. No one seemed to be bothered once the green flag went down. I only received a couple negative comments about the cones.

My greatest reward in running PDS is undoubtedly seeing the look on the faces of our newbies and hearing their comments after they've been on the track for the first time. The Streets didn't disappoint. And it's amazing how far a cheapy trophy

goes when we award them to the winners at the end of the day.

Sunday was better...sunny sky, scattered clouds and no flippin' wind. And in the end, volunteers stepped forward to help us clean up...thanks, guys!

At the writing of this article, I notice that we already have a good number of entrants signed for Big Willow in February. Looking forward to seeing all of you there!

Happy Motoring (Who remembers that slogan?)





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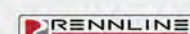
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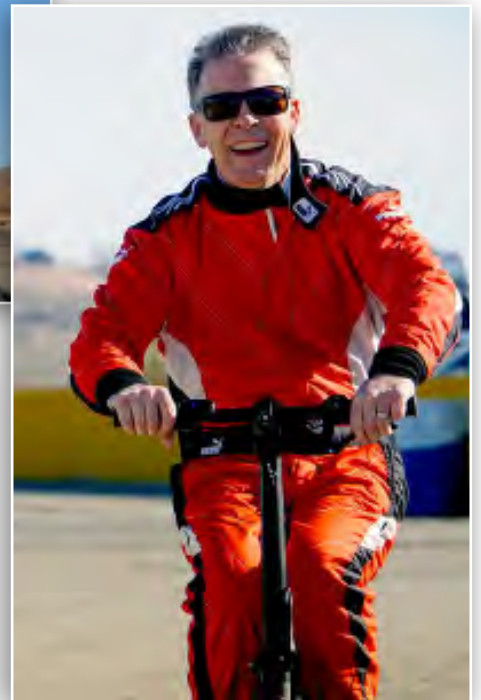


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A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Don Matz



Drew

The 64th Porsche Owners Club Annual Banquet...

was once again held at the Porsche Experience Center in Carson, California. It was our third time at this venue and, as usual, the evening was filled with excitement. After welcoming the crowd of 250, President Ron Palmer introduced the master-of-ceremonies, Drew Waterhouse, whose energy and infectious personality continues to be uhhh...well, shall we say infectious.

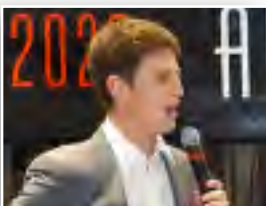


Daniel

The guest speakers included Daniel Armbruster, CEO, Porsche Motorsports who brought us up-to-date on what's happening in the world of Porsche...Martina Kwan, who spoke of her rise in motorsports from PDS student to becoming a GT4 champion...and Dion Von Moltke, a professional racer, who eloquently related the importance of "staying focused". New in attendance this year was our newly acquired Autocross group. Nearly 25 awards, in the form of a custom POC jacket, were handed out to winners in various car classifications. Next, the Special Trophy Awards were presented. An emotional moment occurred when Ron Palmer memorialized Chick Richardson. Chick was a much-loved member of the club for many years and had the distinction of winning our coveted **John Deere Award** on more than one occasion. The award was renamed in his honor, that evening, and the new recipient was uncontested...Quarter Mile Charlie Persico, as he is now known, took home the prize. The poster awarded to Charlie (see photo) left no doubt to his off-road accomplishments.



Martina



Dion



Cameron Pemstein



Charlie



Anders and Alex

Other highlights of the evening occurred when Alex Hainer received the **Most Improved Cup Driver of the Year** award and following up on stage, right behind her, came her father, Anders, who was named **Driver of the Year. Service Points Champion** went to Nigel Maidment...**Rookie of the Year** to Eben Benabe...**Most Improved Time Trialer** to Ryan Moore...and finally, **Member of the Year** went to our president, Ron Palmer, who has worked tirelessly into making the POC the number one Porsche club racing organization on the west coast.

Of course the evening wouldn't have been complete without awarding all of the drivers who were locked in a battle for first, second and third positions and ultimately won their class championships.

Our thanks go out to all who helped make the evening a great success and we wish you all a great season of racing in 2020!



Ron



Nigel



Ryan



Eben

**GT3
Winners
Duane
Nathan
& Eben**



**BSR
Winners
Anders
Gene
& Matt**



2020 POC Competition Committee





Last month we lost one of our finest. Chick Richardson was a much-loved member of the club. He was a human dynamo...always busy changing his own tires, adjusting sway bars and doing, for himself, whatever it took to keep his car on the track. Then after he took care of his own car, he'd ask what help I needed to take care of mine. Being an ex-marine, Chick never shied away from a battle. He was a fierce competitor on the track and was awarded the club's coveted John Deere award, more than once, which was a testament to his aggressiveness.

"We'll miss you, my friend." DM

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I WANT TO GO FAST



Brian Cooner

I've been an Autocross Driving Instructor for over two years and I've met many different kinds of people. Each experience has been unique and rewarding. As an instructor, a typical day at AX is about introducing new students to performance driving and spending quality time at the track with these awesome folks! No doubt Southern California is "the place to be" for year 'round driving and competing in championship racing especially in the Porsche Owners Club.

Autocross drivers vary in age. Some are more experienced than others with high performance driving. A few might have recently bought their first sports car as a retirement gift. Some will be driving older cars. However, despite the endless combination of cars and people everyone at AX wants the same thing: Ricky Bobby said it best "I want to go fast!" !!

Oscar Wilde said it best: "Life imitates art...the aim of life is to find expression, and art offers a way to find personal expression and gain energy." The Porsche car is the art form where one expresses themselves while driving AX and gains exhilarating energy! The connection you feel to your car on track is difficult to describe but it puts a big smile on your face 99.9% of the time, even as a beginner, in the context of driver education and public safety, of course.

How fast am I going now?

Well, we time everyone's laps, so the student and instructor can gauge progress throughout the day. That's the scorecard and it's brutally honest. Most people find that they are not as fast as they want to be, or thought they would be. Now it's time to go to work developing and improving driving skills to reduce lap times. Most students want to improve their speed and accuracy and learn how to better control their car. The instructor describes and demonstrates what the student will be soon be practicing. The instructor will use phrases like "Keep your eyes up and look through the corner, Look two corners ahead, You are understeering, oversteering, You need to lift, Get the rear of the car to rotate, Find the line, Drive the line, Enter here, Exit there...eventually the student will learn.

As instructors, it's our job to be encouraging and to teach our students how to improve by helping them develop their driving skills. An Autocross course is circuitous...there a lot of corners. At speed these corners come up fast and it's sometimes difficult for a new student to maintain control. But, every corner can be broken down into 4 parts: brake, commit, apex and track out. Late braking is ok as long as the student hits the apex correctly and tracks his or her car out to the optimum track-out point. Most students, however, go too-fast-too-soon, and wind up "off-line". Once the student first learns the "line" by driving slowly, they generally gain confidence, their speed eventually increases, and their times come down.

You gotta learn how to drive with the fear

Many of us have experienced moments of fear in a sport that allows us to go fast, e.g. horseback riding, skateboarding, mountain biking, skiing or surfing. Somehow we've managed to survive. There may have been moments, though, where we'd lost control and there wasn't enough time to recover...we were only a passenger. Autocross is like that! Accuracy and car control are central to being safe and having fun. Again, to quote Ricky Bobby "the fear is always present"...you simply have to manage it.

Some examples of fear or anxiousness would be: you're competing for the fastest time of the day, wanting to win your class, fear hitting a cone, fear making a bad start, fear getting into a corner too hot and losing a tenth of a second. If you are a student driver you may be fearful of all of the cones, making lots of mistakes, not going very fast, and one of the worst...fear of not improving.

To help eliminate the fear of not learning the course, here's something I've begun doing with my students: I video record a hot lap, put it on my iPad and ask my student to memorize the course by watching repeatedly for 20 minutes. This helps the student to visualize and find the rhythm and flow of the track before they even get into the drivers seat.

In conclusion, come out and Autocross with us, it's competitive, fun, energizing and social. We're all about helping you get you faster. And, if you want to drive tracks like Spring Mountain, Chuckwalla, Willow Springs and Laguna Seca, consider that AX has about twice as many turns in half the lap time! AX will absolutely teach you the skills you need to get on the bigger tracks.

POC AUTOCROSS 2019 CLASS WINNERS

1. CC03 - Cameron Pemstein
2. CC04 - Jeremy Cottrell
3. CC05 - Steve Wong
4. CC05L - Tiffani Lewis
5. CC06 - Tracy Rutkowski
6. CC07 - Roger Ang
7. CC08 - Brian Cooner
8. CC10 - Eric Budai
9. CC11 - Dennis Wolfe
10. CC12 - Scott Parker
11. CC12L - Karen Guthorn
12. CC13 - Steve Eguina
13. CC14 - Bruce Powers
14. CC15 - Tristan Zafra
15. CC16 - Allen Ward
16. Novice - Jason Whitlow
17. SS02 - Chris Richardson
18. SS03 - Dave Bent
19. SS04 - Art Haynie
20. SS06 - Quynh Nguyen
21. SS06L - Natalie Nguyen
22. SS07 - William Noble
23. X-Class - Jacob Abrams



And a Special thank you to our departing CDI - Greg Noss



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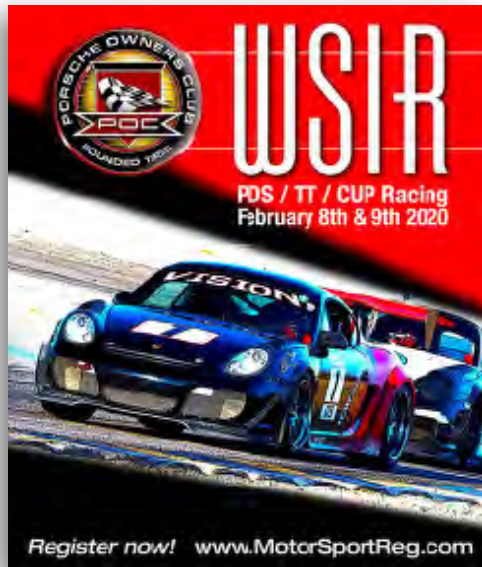
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