WANTED: CLASSIC AMERICAN MUSCLE

Good News for Detroit Bred Beast

Does the phrase Classic American Muscle describe your car? If it does, this should be of great interest to you. The Sports Car Club of America wants YOU! In a bold move to attract gear heads, hot rodders and Camaro Comrades to join their ranks, The SCCA has introduced a new classification, Classic America Muscle (CAM). Now there will be a place for all of us who have Detroit pedigreed muscle machines to compete in organized events without having to worry about horsepower, weight or modification restrictions. The CAM classification will allow participation of an unlimited type of American cars in SCCA Regional Solo events, with the classification to be expanded to nationwide in the near future.

Solo, or Auto Cross as it is more commonly known, is a timed event in which drivers negotiate their cars around a course of pylons, usually orange traffic cones. These are held in a host of different venues from parking lots to airport runways. If it’s paved, relatively flat and able to be restricted from traffic and pedestrian hazards, a course can be designed and laid out in such a manner to allow spirited competition between drivers of all types of cars, be they built from the frame up or just off the showroom floor. The new class is open to all street legal American built front engine, rear wheel drive cars. Period. That’s it. You swapped out an engine? Fine. You tweaked your suspension? Come on in. All cars will run on 200 tread wear street tires, and need to be insured and licensed with interiors. The engine and drive train are unrestricted.

After two years of research, the SCCA decided that there are huge numbers of enthusiasts around the country who regularly attend car shows and concourse events hosted by...
A Rite of Spring Still Going Strong

The sighting of the first robin, the return of the swallows to San Juan Capistrano, the Easter Egg Roll on the White House lawn… all signs that spring has once again returned after a bitter, uncompromising winter. Ah, but there are other signs as well. The squealing of tires, the whine of rev limiters and the roar of exhaust can be heard on Sunday mornings rising from hills surrounding North Park, signaling the return of the North Hills Sports Car Club to the swimming pool parking lot for its spring autocross season. Since 1957 the club has called the parking lot home; a rite of spring that has been carried on by fathers, then their sons, and now in more than one case, grandsons. The cars may have changed, Triumphs and Fiats having morphed in to Mazdas and Subarus, but many of the names on the roster of the North Hills Sports Car Club are indeed the same; in a certain symmetry continuing the tradition of Sundays spent testing the limits of both men and machine in a day of fun and competition chasing around a course of orange cones in the pursuit of the bragging rights that go with the coveted Fastest Time of the Day.

On any given Sunday 60 to 150 drivers, some arriving as early as 7 am can be found in the impromptu paddock area, prepping their cars for the day’s event. Club members unload hundreds of cones and begin placing them on the course in accordance with a design prepared in advance by one of the event chairs. White gypsum “chalk” is poured into a machine not unlike those used at major league parks around the country in another rite that heralds spring. Lines are drawn in an effort to help the drivers stay on course as they snake their way through twists and turns, searching for the next gate, trying to shave fractions of seconds off their previous attempt. When the last cone is placed, a car is sent through the course to check for potential safety concerns or design flaws as well as to give the race officials an estimate of what the drivers will put down during the timed runs.

While race officials huddle in the timing trailer, pouring over the registration slips, sorting out the classifications in order to determine how the heats will be configured, cars line up to undergo “Tech” inspection by the safety steward who ensures each entry meets the minimum safety requirements as set by the Sports Car Club of America and adopted by the club. Finally, the course is open for drivers to walk, plotting in their minds just how they will attack the turns and slaloms, boxes and bridges the way a caddy checks the lay of the land prior to a PGA tournament. Most driver walk the course two, three or more times, trying to etch in their minds the line they hope to follow that will enable them to negotiate the circuit faster than the other guy. Lift off the gas here to shift the weight. Brake hard deep in the box to set up for the next turn. Accelerate out of the corner to take advantage of the camber.

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But of course, the best of plans can be spoiled in a flash once you’re strapped behind the wheel, helmet on, your body pouring adrenaline into your bloodstream, waiting for the signal to roll out. Things look quite different from this perspective. This is a race against the clock where deftness and agility account for more than raw power. This is where experience pays off. The experience you can only get from coming out to as many events as you can, heat after heat, getting the feel for how your car responds to a particular curve or camber. Many of the members of the North Hills Sports Car Club have been doing this for twenty years or better, and it show in the times they are able to put down. Watching them perform is a thing of beauty, the way they and their cars work as one. Run after run, heat after heat, these guys are consistent in their approach. This is where 1/100 of a second can mean the difference between a first place finish and an also ran. And I know from what I speak as an also ran.

I’ve been racing with the North Hills Sports Car club since 2008 and have yet to place at an event. I’m what they call a “cone killer”. I spent more time off the course than on. There are days when I couldn’t find my way around the course with a compass and a road map. I’ve been told that rather than new tires, perhaps my money would be better spent on a AAA membership. One may ask why I do it. Because it’s fun. I would rather spend my Sundays laughing at myself and blowing off steam than trying to hit a little white ball with sand up to my ankles in a bunker while wearing garishly loud pants. Just my opinion. But this year is going to be different. This is the year I finally get that monkey off my back and rid myself of the moniker as the NHSCCs worst avid driver. Why this new found optimism? CAM. Classic American Muscle. The new classification designated by the Sports Car Club of America to try and attract Camaros, Firebirds, and yes, even Mustangs, to come out and give this sport a ride. No longer will we be in the same classification as Mitsubishi and Honda weighing hundreds of pounds less. No longer will we lose out to all-wheel drive cars with minute turning radius. No longer will we be penalized because we added a cold air intake or even did a little more tweaking to add some extra ponies to the rear wheels. Classic American Muscle is open to any front engine rear wheel drive car cranked out by one of the big three, regardless of age or modifications.

**Brunch Buffet Boffo!**

Eighteen PACE members enjoyed a great brunch buffet at the North Park Lounge Cranberry on February 23rd, proving 10 am on a Sunday morning isn’t too early as long as food is involved. Members new and old alike enjoyed made to order omelets, French toast and other breakfast favorites along with chocolate flowing from a fountain that you could drizzle on fresh strawberries, cheese cake, or anything else you’d have a mind to. The open fireplace made for an inviting atmosphere to escape from the February cold and talk about getting our Camaros out and enjoying the warm weather, if it ever gets here. Of course, it goes without saying that Eddie was there, because he ain’t afraid ‘o no snow. Did you miss out on this event? Do you feel like you’re missing something? Well you have a chance to redeem yourself because we have a lunch date. Join PACE at Bonnie and Clyde’s in Wexford right next to the church that hosts the Wexford Starlite Car Cruise on Saturday March 22. We have reservations at 11:30, so let Denise know how many of you will be joining us by either phoning or email. Catch up with old friends, or meet new ones. Either way, it will be great to see you. Oh, did I mention there’ll be food?

**In Case You Missed It**

**A recap of this month’s meeting**

The February meeting was once again held at King’s in Wexford, and was once again attended by Chuck and Janet Cvitkovic via Skype. The upcoming events were announced, so be sure to check that out elsewhere in this publication. The proposed bylaws were discussed, debated, amended and adopted. Planning for our charity cruise at Tom Henry is progressing, and with a promise to John Ballish that no Do Wop music be played, a DJ was secured. New membership cards and dash cards are being designed along with dash plaques for the cruise. We have a new sponsor, Fort Pitt Classic Cars. If you feel as if you’re missing out on some of the details, why not join us next month? We will be meeting at Kings once again, 6:30 is the start time, and we’d love to see you there.

It was said “a picture is worth a thousand words”. Send me your pictures from cruises, club events, or your Camaro. High resolution digital images work best.

If you have an idea for a future article, please send it to me for possible inclusion in a future edition.

Interested in having your car featured? Let me know. Thanks!

Send your ideas to: jazznurse@comcast.net

Jim
It’s All About Us!

PACE
Pittsburgh Area Camaro Enthusiasts
We are a nonprofit club dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of all generations of the Chevrolet Camaro. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 at various venues throughout the suburban Pittsburgh area. Our mail address is:

PACE
P.O.Box 15150
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5421
Our website: www.pacecamaro.net
Like us on Facebook! PACE Camaro Club

Officers for 2014

President: Jeff Bilka
Vice President: Denny Schreiber
Secretary: Jim Crnkovic
Treasurer: AnnaMarie Seifert
Webmasters: John Ballish, Mark Seifert
Newsletter: Jim Crnkovic, Editor-in-chief

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 1

Don’t be a fool this April! Join us at King’s in Wexford, the intersection of I-79 and Route 910, 6:30.

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organizations like Hot Rod Magazine, The Good Guys and, of course, PACE. By creating this new classification SCCA hope to attract a whole new population of participants who have virtually been ignored by the SCCA since the heady days of the ’70s when Barracudas, Camaros, Challengers, Firebirds, Javelins and Mustangs traversed the country on the TransAm circuit. Why not give us a place to play? It will be a great opportunity to not only showcase our cars, but to teach a generation or two who have grown up driving imports, who’s glory was further enhanced by movies such as the Fast and Furious franchise, just what American muscle is all about.

I think what is most exciting about this is we will be competing against each other; Chevy versus Ford, or even Camaro versus Camaro. No need to worry that we are in the same class as a Subaru or Mazda which weigh hundreds of pounds less. So, what are you waiting for? Grab your helmet, jump in your baby and head out to an autocross event near you. I’ll see you there. Oh, I guess spring weather would help.

Lunch With PACE!

Join us on Saturday, March 22 at Bonnie & Clyde’s, 12087 Perry Highway, right next to Northway Christian Church, home of the Wexford Starlite Car Cruise. We’ll meet at 11:30 and imagine we’re sitting in our lawn chairs beside our Camaros enjoying a perfect summer evening. Please respond to Denise at deneff805@verizon.net. Don’t miss it!
Consider it equal opportunity for domestic cars.

Although it is not affiliated with the SCCA, the NHSCC, for the most part, follows the rules and regulations enacted by the SCCA governing autocross events and eligible participants. The North Hills Sports Car Club has decided to not only allow the CAM at their events, but to welcome us with open arms. They have extended an open invitation to all classic American muscle cars to join them in spirited competition at North Park this spring. If your car is street legal, it is eligible to race.

Some of you may have reservations about bringing your baby out, fearing it may not be able to handle the rigors of racing without inflicting damage on a car that came out of Detroit before some of the other drivers were born. Let me try and put your mind at ease. In my six years of running with the club, I have yet to see anything more serious than a loose fender liner or an air dam that ate a cone. Autocross is meant to be a low budget, low pressure sport in which anyone can participate in the same car you drive to work. Last season, we had two 1964 Corvette Stingrays come out and enjoy proving that a forty-nine year old classic can still get it on.

Autocross is meant to be a safe, fun way to experience competitive driving. If you don’t believe me, ask JD Dauer or Jeff Sable. They came out with me last season and had a great time. I didn’t even get mad at Jeff when he stole second place from me at the Autumn Leaf. So, come on out. The camaraderie is as much fun as at a cruise, and you don’t have to worry about a ticket for burning a little rubber.

North Hills Sports Car Club Spring Autocross Schedule

March 30 Opening Day!

April 13 Autocross Event #2

April 27 Autocross Event #3

May 24 HDSA Charity Event

All events at North Park Swimming Pool Parking lot, Rain or Shine. Registration 8:30 to 9:30, Tech inspection closes at 10:00, timed runs begin after mandatory drivers meeting. $20.00 for members, $25.00 non-members. Fee extra for HDSA charity event.

A Great Way To Spend A Saturday!

Join PACE & sister club NEOCC (North East Ohio Camaro Club) on Saturday, May 3 as we tour Stainless Works. Stainless Works is an industry-leader in stainless steel performance headers and exhaust systems. In addition to designing a wide range of after-market headers and exhausts, they manufacture them on-site, right here in the United States. Join us for a tour of Stainless Works in Chagrin Falls, OH on at 11:00 a.m. You will have an opportunity to tour their warehouse & factory in full production. Lunch will be provided courtesy of Stainless Works. Please RSVP to Morgan Iorio at camarograsshopper@yahoo.com or phone (330) 730-3348 by May 1. Bring a friend, the more the merrier.

The author and Eddie at a NHSCC event.
Eligible Vehicles

- Vehicle must be considered a “street legal” (lights, wipers, etc.).
- US domestic automobile of front-engine/RWD configuration or a “pick-up” truck. Must be licensed and insured.
- Vehicle must pass the mandatory safety inspection (tech) and be in compliance with Section 3, Vehicles, of the 2014 SCCA® National Solo® Rules.
- Vehicles must weigh at least 3000 pounds.

Body

- All body panels must be present in the original standard locations and may be modified or replaced.
- EXCEPTION: High-Boys (1954 and earlier), Roadsters (1954 and earlier), and Trucks (1940 and earlier) are not required to have fenders or hood sides.
- All glass must be present. Glass components may be replaced by Lexan®.
- Interior must be finished and have minimum seating for two adults.
- The fuel tank/cell must be separated from the driver/passenger compartment by a metal panel/bulkhead. The fuel tank/cell must not vent into the driver/passenger compartment.

Wheels and Tires

- Any metallic wheels are allowed. Non-metallic wheels must be certified from an appropriate, recognized standards organization (e.g., SAE, SFI, FIA, TUV, etc.).
- Only DOT-approved tires with a UTQG Treadwear Grade of 200 or higher are permitted.

Body Electrical System

- Electrical components and wiring are unrestricted.

Brake System

- Brake system and components are unrestricted.

Suspension and Steering

- Suspension and steering components are unrestricted. Method of attachment is unrestricted.

Engine and Drive Train

- Engine, drive train, and associated components (internal and external) are unrestricted.

Safety Inspection (Tech) Summary

Complete details in Section 3.3.3.B of the 2014 SCCA® National Solo® Rules (page 37)

- Loose items removed
- Hub caps (snap-on), trim rings, fender skirts removed
- Seats secured
- Cameras secured
- Battery secured
- Throttle return in good condition
- Brakes in good condition
- Tires in good condition
- Wheel bearings, steering and suspension in good condition
- Wheels and lug nuts/bolts secured and in good condition
- Seat belts/harnesses secured and in good condition
- Exhaust exit behind driver or to the side
- Fluids no leaks
- Roll bar (if equipped) compliant and at proper height
- Helmet compliant and in good condition
- K2005, K98
- SFI 31.1, 41.1, 31.1A, 31.2A, 41.1A, 41.2A
- BS6658-85 type A/FR
- Flex fans not permitted
- Alcohol or alcohol/water injection not permitted
- Steering wheel “spinner knobs” not permitted
- Nitrous bottles at the event (Section 1.3.2.M) not permitted

The winter of 2013-2014 will be remembered for many things, most of which cannot be printed here. But, once again proving necessity is the mother of invention, the winter weather provided PACE members with a valuable solution to winter woes brought on while transporting cars to shows over snow covered salt-strewn roads.

While Denny Schreiber and Mark Seifert worked furiously to remove a solid white coating from their entries at the World of Wheels in January, they noticed that Chris Dancers ’69 Camaro arrived spotless. They wrongly assumed that Chris had an angel of mercy deliver his car to the convention center floor, like JD Dauer (Thanks again, Ron!). Not so. The miracle of plastic film was the reason Chris could relax and enjoy the arriving crowds while others toiled on relentlessly. After loading the car on a trailer, Chris used a roll of plastic film, commonly referred to as shrink-wrap, to enclose it in a protective sheath. Call it a car condom, if you will. Care has to be taken to place cardboard and towels at points of contact, but once this is done, you just walk around the vehicle with the roll until it’s completely covered. Then Mother Nature can do her worst, but she won’t prevail.

Mark and club president Jeff Bilka had a chance to try this out in February En Route to the Canton Hot Rod and Custom Bike Show. Other than one stop to secure a loose end, apparently Mark didn’t pass the Tenderfoot knot course, it worked flawlessly. The plastic film is available at a giant home improvement and garden center near you (insert Lowe’s here per Mark). It’s a cheap and easy solution to spending hours cleaning something you spent hours cleaning.
PACE BREWERY TOUR
SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014, 2 p.m.
AT

5578 Old William Penn Highway
Export, PA 15632

Ever wonder what a brewery is like and how it operates. Well then, come join PACE as we take a tour of the Rivertowne Brewery and learn about their brewing process. The cost is $8 per person and includes: A sampling of their beers, a tour of the brewery, a pint of beer, and a Keepsake can to take with you. Their tap room also serves food to help wash down that beer. The menu is limited but includes chili, soup, meatball subs, and pizza. There is plenty of parking if you want to take your Camaro out for the afternoon. If you are interested, please let Jeff Bilka know either by phone at 412-487-6835 or via email at eneff805@verizon.net by April 12, 2014, as the brewery needs a count.

Calendar of Events

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<td>Cleveland Powered Piston Autorama</td>
<td>IX Center, Cleveland, OH</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Lunch with PACE at Bonnie &amp; Clyde’s</td>
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<td>Autocross #1 NHSCC</td>
<td>North Park Swimming Pool Lot</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>PACE meeting, King’s</td>
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<td>Tour Stainless Works</td>
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<td>July 4</td>
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<td>July 18</td>
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<td>July 19</td>
<td>10th Annual PACE Cruise to Mars</td>
<td>Tom Henry Chevrolet, RT. 8 Bakerstown</td>
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In conjunction with

TOM HENRY CHEVROLET
RT. 8, BAKERSTOWN, PA
SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2014
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- All Chevy cruise
- Dash plaques to the first 100 cars
- All proceeds to benefit the Pittsburgh Fisher House
- DJ John F. Ropper - (724-544-4653)
- Chinese Auction
  - Food
  - Rain or shine

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Thanks to Our SPONSORS

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Don’t forget our website!

[www.pacecamaro.net](http://www.pacecamaro.net)

Next Month: A look back at PACE with Roy and Barb Huntington’s Disease Society’s FastTrack to a Cure