



Fifth Gear

April 2018



www.torontoautosportclub.ca

Toronto Autosport Club

2018 EXECUTIVE

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SOCIAL DIRECTOR	Fred Walker		

2018 COMPETITION COORDINATORS

TIMEATTACK /SOLO-I	Gary Vernon
AUTOSLALOM /SOLO-II	Keith Hui

2018 COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

RALLYSPORT ONTARIO	(position vacant)	
MEMBERSHIP	Paul Moore	registrar@torontoautosportclub.ca
WEBMASTER	Brooke Jacobs	(905) 764-1833 brooke@brooke.net

Club Mailing Address: 18759 Kennedy Road, RR1, Sharon, On, L0G 1V0

The TAC MOTORSPORT CLUB OF TORONTO Incorporated, (known as the "Toronto Autosport Club") is a general interest motorsport club involved in rallying, Solo I, Solo II, ice racing, road racing and social events. Club Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month (**except August & December**) at 8:00 p.m. at LONDON PUB & GRILL, 9724 Yonge St, Richmond Hill (West side, South of Major Mackenzie Drive).

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME !

FIFTH GEAR is the monthly publication of the Toronto Autosport Club. Articles concerning Club members' activities are of special interest and members are encouraged to submit their writings to any member of the Executive or send them to the Editorial Offices. Past issues of FIFTH GEAR are posted for viewing on the club website.

FIFTH GEAR is normally published on the Tuesday preceding the second Wednesday of each month. Certain scheduling changes will be made to accommodate major motorsport events which are of interest to the members.

DISCLAIMER

Opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are for entertainment purposes, are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of the TAC MOTORSPORT CLUB OF TORONTO, its Executive members, or affiliated governing bodies such as CASC-OR, CARS, RSO, or the ASN (Canada) FIA.

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Please contact the Executive member(s) directly or through the Club Address listed above, for matters not pertaining to FIFTH GEAR.

Advertising rates (per year) : \$150/full page; \$75/half page; \$25/business card size

Toronto Autosport Club is proud to be affiliated with the following sanctioning bodies:



From The President's Desk

And so it begins. At least **MY** season.

Fellow TAC members Dan, Graham, Andrew, and I just returned from the Chūamp Car event at Daytona this week.

We finished 44th out of 125 cars. The scale of things was amazing - driver's meeting with 500 drivers, teams with multiple cars, people doing engine swaps, and getting back out on track. The 31' banking was a rush, and the weather was much nicer than that in Toronto. There are photos and a write-up in this issue, and even more at www.facebook.com/torontoautosportclub.

While we were away, the contractors wrapped up the work on our house, and Sue cleaned up their mess just in time for the real-estate photographer to come and get some shots of the place. I'm sorry I was away racing, as she worked her butt off!

The house is now on the market. If you know anyone looking for a place in Burlington, then please let me know.

My life is now condo shopping. We've seen about a dozen places so far. Sue wants to be near her work at Yonge & Bloor, but we can get bigger and better the further away we go.

I can't believe that we can do a straight trade for our Burlington house - on a ravine, with a pool, for an apartment one-third the size.

I hope everyone has signed up for Mitch & Brooke's Fantasy F1 Pool. It looks like it will be a close contest between Mercedes and Ferrari, with the better car changing from track-to-track. You can sign up at any time, but you won't get any points for races that have already been run. However you won't lose any money - because it's free to play!

Time Attack had their open house at JRP in Oakville recently. I had to miss this for the first time in years, as I was in Daytona.

Thanks to TAC Rep Gary Vernon for manning the TAC booth, and signing up a few members.

At the end of April, Time Attack will be holding their Instructor's School, then on May 12, the OTA school will run at CTMP's Driver Development Track. More details can be found at <https://time-attack.ca>. The school on May 12 is a great way to get into track events. You just need to bring a helmet and a car. OTA provides classroom, skidpad, and track sessions with qualified instructors. Once you are signed off, you can run solo at OTA events.

Events include May 26 at the Toronto Motorsport Park in Cayuga, June 9 back at the Driver Development Track, and other events at the CTMP Grand Prix track and Shannonville.

There is good information at the Time Attack web site, and at the CASC Forums: www.casc.on.ca/formums

TAC's Discover Ontario rally will run on June 16. This is always a great rally to see the best of Ontario countryside on the longest Saturday of the year.

Then, a month later, we will have our traditional CTMP picnic. Barbecue wizard Dan will whip up some great burgers and other treats. We'll watch the IMSA prototypes and touring car support races, and enjoy some great company. Tickets are discounted, and friends are welcome. Plan to join us July 5-8!

Enjoy your track season!

Rob McAuley
TAC President

TAC 2018 EVENTS CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Event Description</u>	<u>Club</u>
April 2018			
18	Meeting	TAC Monthly Club Meeting, London Pub, Richmond Hill	TAC
21	TimeAttack	Ontario Time Attack Lapping/Test/Instructor School TMP	
22	INDY	Alabama, Barber Motorsports Park (Birmingham)	
28	Rally-ORRC	ORRC - Spring Run-Off Rally	PMSC
May 2018			
4-5	Rally-OPRC	OPRC - Lanark Highlands Forest Rally, McDonalds Corners	MCO
11-13	Regional Race	Spring Trophy Races CTMP (Mosport)	BEMC
12	Rally-ORRC	ORRC - Blossom Rally, (Kitchener)	KWRC
12	INDY	Grand Prix of Indianapolis	
12	School	Ontario Time Attack School #1 CTMP-DDT	
16	Meeting	TAC Monthly Club Meeting, London Pub, Richmond Hill	TAC
25-27	Rally-CRC	Rocky Mountain Rally, Invermere BC	CSCC
26	TimeAttack	Ontario Time Attack Event #1 , TMP	
27	INDY	Indianapolis 500	
June 2018			
2	INDY	Race #1 / Belle Isle (Detroit)	
3	INDY	Race #2 / Belle Isle (Detroit)	
9	INDY	Texas Motor Speedway, Ft Worth	
9	TimeAttack	Ontario Time Attack School #2, CTMP/Mosport DDT +Kink	
10	TimeAttack	Ontario Time Attack Event #3, CTMP/Mosport DDT	
14-17	Vintage	Canadian Vintage Grand Prix, CTMP (Mosport)	VARAC
20	Meeting	TAC Monthly Club Meeting, London Pub, Richmond Hill	TAC
23	Rally-OPRC	OPRC - Black Bear Rally, Bancroft area	MLRC
24	INDY	Road America (Elkhart Lake WI)	
29-01	Rally-CRC	International Rallye Baie des Chaleurs, New Richmond, Quebec	CRAB

More events to appear as 2018 Schedules are released.

For more information on any event, please contact the organizing club or sanctioning body directly.

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TAC Goes to Daytona

I am blown away that your TAC Secretary, Graham, is able to put together an amazing Chump Car and team, and run well internationally. In addition to Graham, member Dan, Dan's cousin Earl, Graham's son Andrew, and myself headed down to Daytona Beach the first week in April to run a 14 hour race from 9am to 11pm, all in one day.

This endurance series is called Chump Car in Canada, but Champ Car in the USA.

While the original goal was to run junky \$500 cars, the focus has changed a bit, and there are now classes that are virtually unlimited.

Still, most of the cars running were hold-overs from the Chump era, and looked like they were worth almost every bit of their \$500 value.



Unloading the car at the International Speedway

Dan had been working on the 1995 BMW 325 through the winter, pulling the frame straight from a shunt last year, dropping in a reliable engine that was mostly stock, and tweaking the suspension ever so slightly.

We even ran the stock exhaust. Andrew had helped Dan put the car together, and hadn't planned on driving. He was just there to help out.

Graham and Andrew packed everything into their Diesel pickup truck and Diesel Jetta wagon, and the four of us headed south.

The plan was to drive down on Wednesday & Thursday, set up and register on Friday, race Saturday, enjoy Florida on Sunday,

then drive home on Monday and Tuesday.

Lots of time together to get to know everyone. Dan's cousin was flying in, as he could only get the weekend off. There was a consensus that I should leave my "Make America Great Again" hat at home. Though disappointed, I understood everyone's concern. We were unarmed. Others may not be.

We all admired Graham's perseverance. I don't know how he was able to driver for 20 hours each way without exceeding 110 km/h. We were easily the slowest cars on the road, as cars, and buses, and even transports whizzed past. However, we used so little fuel that we had to stop for comfort breaks far more often than fuel fill-ups.

Graham had everything organized, with hotels reserved and routes programmed into his GPS. We only had one "situation" when the GPS put us into the EZPass toll lanes.

We're not sure if it will cost us, but it did save 20 minutes around Washington DC.



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Ready to put on a show for all our fans

On Friday, we got to the track and unloaded our car into the garage. Our little open trailer was dwarfed by 53' semi haulers carrying high strung race cars.

The track was absolutely amazing. The grandstands along the front straight hold 167,000 people, and tower over the track. The curves are banked 31'. They are so steep, it is difficult walking across the track. There were 125 cars entered, and over 500 drivers. I have never seen an event like this!

Although we were only on the track for Saturday, they had the facilities booked for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Most of Friday was spent loading everyone in, getting cars teched and drivers registered. And everyone had to be gone by noon on Sunday.

Saturday morning, 500 drivers gathered for the driver's meeting. Krispy Kreme was a sponsor, and gave out donuts to all. We placed our hands on our hearts and faced the flag for the US national anthem. I saw no-one take a knee. Still, I was glad that I hadn't worn my MAGA hat.

We started towards the back - about 98th. We decided to swap drivers every 70 minutes. This way, each of the 4 drivers would get 3 1/2 hours of track time in 3 stints. One-by-one, the high strung race cars dropped out. After the first stint, we were 60th. After the second, we were 50th. Our BMW was a perfect compromise. There were some V8 powered cars that were faster running the oval, but we were more nimble in the interior. BMWs were common, but so were Mazda MX-5s and Mustangs.



Running at dusk

The high-banked corners were very disorienting. You turn into them, but then have to steer slightly uphill (right) to keep the car in its lane. At the same time, you are looking left to see where you are going.

G-forces push you into the road, but wind off the other cars and blowing weather cause the car to move around. Fitting 3 cars across the track can be a bit scary!

The eventual winner was a Lexus SC300 that sounded like it had a 4.0 litre V8.

We ran as high as 30th, when everyone except us pitted for fuel after 2 hours, but we ended up 42nd. There were just over 80 cars running at the end. We had 2 half-hour breaks due to lightening, and it started raining buckets as we lost daylight.

Almost everyone ran clean, and people let faster cars pass. Teams were running their own race, just hoping to get in all 14 hours. In the end, there were 3 cars running on the same lap as us. If we were serious, we would install a fuel cell, and run longer stints. We managed to finish 8th in class out of about 20 starters.

The car was in the same shape at the end of the race as it was at the start.

In the end, Dan's prep work made the day easy. Andrew was a great help, but I still don't understand how he could pass up the chance to drive on such an iconic track.

On the drive home, we pondered future upgrades. V8 BMW engine? Could you keep a turbo cool for 14 hours? Can we make the drive to Laguna Seca for the event in December? Given how few high strung race cars and their semi haulers were left at the end, perhaps we should stick with our mainly stock 1995 BMW 325. Or maybe we should run a second car??

I can't wait for the next ChumpCar event at Shannonville in early May!

Rob



Dan, Rob, Graham, and Andrew are ready for some ribs at Daytona Beach

Photos by Rob, Dan & Andrew

Look for more at
www.facebook.com/torontoautosportclub

On The Cover

Passing 3 abreast,
up tight against the wall

Attention Proud TAC Members!

Now you can buy clothes and more with the TAC logo on it, through the Toronto Autosport Club's online store (a partnership with Café Press.com).

Choose from a large selection of shirts, jackets, mugs, bags, even games and toys! Almost anything that Café Press sells, they will sell with the TAC logo on.

Visit the store at

<http://www.cafepress.com/torontoautosportclubgear>





Membership Application

Mail: 18759 Kennedy Road,
RR#1 Sharon, Ontario, L0G 1V0
Email: registrar@torontoautosportclub.ca

- New Members – Single or Family \$50.00
 Renewal Members – Single or Family \$50.00

(You may PAY ON-LINE or by Cash or Cheque; Please see below...)

- TAC Membership includes CASC-OR (Race, Solo) & RSO (Rally) affiliation for the year
- Family rate is limited to family members domiciled at the same mailing address.
- Renewals : Indicate membership number [#] (if known)
- Assigned membership numbers will be reserved until February 1st.
- All memberships and affiliations expire December 31.
- Please be aware that membership data may be shared with CASC-OR and/or Rallysport Ontario.

Date _____

1st Member _____ [#] email _____

Address _____ Home Phone (____) _____

_____ Bus. Phone (____) _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____

2nd (Family) Member _____ [#] email _____

3rd Family Member _____ [#] email _____

4th Family Member _____ [#] email _____

5th Family Member _____ [#] email _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash Cheque # _____ PayPal Other TOTAL \$: _____

To pay by PAYPAL/Credit Card, please visit the Club website at: www.torontoautosportclub.ca.

This Application Form must also be filled out and submitted so we have your information.

You should begin receiving the FIFTH GEAR newsletter within 2 months. Please let us know if you don't.

FIFTH GEAR is also available on the website. Check here if you do NOT need a mailed copy

TAC works only because volunteers make autosport happen!

So that we know *your* interests (and where you can help out) and can therefore plan the right mix of events – please complete the information checklists below ...

Please indicate your autosport interests for the coming year :

- TimeAttack (Solo 1)
- Autoslalom (Solo 2)
- Navigational rallying
- Performance rallying
- Road racing
- Vintage Racing
- Ice racing
- Karting

Please indicate three areas that you can help with this year :

- Solo (1/2) organizer / worker
- Road Rally/Ralliette organizer
- Contract Rally organizer
- Rally Checkpoint/Green-crew
- Social Event Organizer
- Ice race organizer / worker
- Event timing / scoring
- Performance Rally organizer



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