



Fifth Gear

August 2015



Toronto Autosport Club

2015 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Rob McAuley	(905) 335-3141	rob@rmcauley.ca
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SOCIAL DIRECTOR	(position vacant)		

2015 COMPETITION COORDINATORS

TIMEATTACK /SOLO-I	Carsten Gieschen	(416) 792-2804	cgieschen@dynamic.ca
AUTOSLALOM /SOLO-II	(position vacant)		

2015 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 the MOOSE AND FIRKIN, 7600 Weston Road at Hwy 7 (SW corner), just west of Hwy 400 in Woodbridge (www.mooseandfirkin.com)...

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

I suspect that many people have wondered where I have vanished to this summer. I have managed to miss most of the Ontario Time Attack season, our Canadian Tire Motorsport Park Picnic, and a club meeting or two.

When I started working on the Toronto 2015 Pan Am / Para Pan Am Games, I never realized the huge commitment they would take! My last free weekend was back in June. Since then, I've been cabling up our West Zone venues (Soccer in Hamilton, Rowing in Niagara, Combat Sports in Mississauga, as well as BMX bike racing and even bowling). We've deployed hundreds of laptops, printers and other tech gear. I've juggled 3 calls at a time as Timing and Scoring people arrive from Spain, and Broadcasters arrive from South America. I'm not sure how, but I managed to log over 200 hours in a two week period.



I blinked, and our weekend at Mosport was over. It fell on the same dates as Pan Am's opening weekend. No sooner had we completed our deployments to some of these great new venues, we were packing up and pulling out. A year of planning, and my venue was back to little more than a field after 2 days of competition. At least everything ran smoothly.

We have now wrapped up the Pan games, but are in the middle of the Para sports. I have the primo venue, as we are holding 3 sports there: Power Lifting, Goal Ball, and

best of all, Murder Ball - I mean Wheelchair Rugby. In WR, teams of four play on a basket ball sized court. They pass and carry a volley ball and try to get it over the opponent's goal line. Full contact is allowed. Chairs are rammed, dumped, and pushed out of bounds during the play. This is one of the more popular Para sports, and is televised on CBC.

While I'm having a blast keeping the venue technology up and running, I am missing lots of events. Brook and Kim held the Discover Ontario Car Rally on June 21st. OTA visited Mosport, Calabogie, and Shannonville. After setting the car up for a winning season, I now find that I won't compete in enough events to qualify for the championship. Not only do I miss Sue's BMW on the weekends, but I have to drive a Pan Am truck. At least I'm allowed in the HOV lanes!

My last big act of the racing season will be to co-organize the OTA Grand Bend weekend with Ron Billings. This event is the last series competition of the season, and runs on August 29/30. The locale is amazing, with one of the best beaches in Ontario. Racers generally bring their families, and everyone has a blast!

It should be a great weekend, and leads me right into switching jobs to work at the Toronto Film Festival. It really never ends!

Rob

Rob McAuley
TAC President

The logo for the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), consisting of the word 'tiff.' in a bold, lowercase, orange sans-serif font.

TAC 2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>EVENT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>CLUB</u>
August 2015			
15	TimeAttack	Event #6, 7, SMP / Shannonville	SPDA
21-23	F1	SHELL BELGIAN GRAND PRIX (Spa-Francorchamps)	
22-23	Regional Race	Regional Races, Calabogie	MCO
22-23	Race	Chumpcar - "St. Chumptache" - Autodrome St Eustache	
23	INDY	Pocono I, Long Pond PA	
23	Rally	"Saturday Night at the Rallies" series, Kitchener	KWRC
29-30	TimeAttack	Event #8, 9 GBM / Grand Bend	TAC
30	INDY	Sonoma Raceway	
September 2015			
4-6	F1	GRAN PREMIO D'ITALIA (Monza)	
11-12	Rally-CRC	Rallye Défi , Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, Quebec	CASDI
12-13	Regional Race	Indian Summer Trophy , CTMP (Mosport)	BEMC
16	Meeting	TAC Monthly Club Meeting, Moose & Firkin, Weston & 7	TAC
18-20	F1	SINGAPORE GRAND PRIX (Singapore)	
20	Rally	"Saturday Night at the Rallies" series, Kitchener	KWRC
20	Autoslalom	Ontario Regional Event #8, Picton Airfield	PMSC
20	Rally	Contract/Charity - Guru Nanak Car Rally see Flyer/Ad	TAC
25-27	F1	JAPANESE GRAND PRIX (Suzuka)	
26-27	Regional Race	Celebration of Motorsport &OTA Shoot-Out & Autoslalom:	CASC-OR
26	TimeAttack	Time Attack Championship Shootout, CTMP DDT	CASC
October 2015			
2-3	Rally-CRC	CRC - Pacific Forest Rally, Merritt, BC	WCRA
9-11	F1	RUSSIAN GRAND PRIX (Sochi)	
21	Meeting	TAC Monthly Club Meeting, Moose & Firkin, Weston & 7	TAC
23-25	F1	UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX (Austin)	
30-01	F1	MEXICAN GRAND PRIX (Mexico City)	
30-31	Rally-CRC	CRC - Rocky Mountain Rally, Invermere BC	CSCC
November 2015			
13-15	F1	GRANDE PRÊMIO DO BRASIL (São Paulo)	

More events to appear as 2015 Schedules are released.

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



GURU NANAK COMMUNITY SERVICES FOUNDATION

17th Guru Nanak Car Rally & Picnic

Sunday September 20, 2015 9:30am - 5:30 pm

Guru Nanak Community Services Foundation Executive Committee feels honored to announce the 17th Guru Nanak Car Rally

Start & Finish Point

Wildwood park Mississauga -
Area B
3430 Derry Road East
Mississauga Ont.

You can contribute many ways

- Be Sponsor
- Be Participant
- Be Volunteer.



For more **Information, Participation and Tickets**, Please contact

Darshan Singh Bilkhu 416-805-5628
Major Singh Nagra 416-997-3000
Daljit Singh Gaidhu 416-305-9878
Priti Lamba 416-418-6263
Inderjit Singh Lucky 416-671-1679
Manjit Singh 416-275-2374
Contact Email gncsf.org@gmail.com

We appreciate your generous support in previous years and hope for the same in coming years.

Major Singh Nagra President 416-997-3000

eBay Adventures, by Rita Moore

As the time had come to sell our old car, I thought back to my last exercise in used-car selling, which was in 2008 with my GMC Sierra. Then, I had been quite successful putting it on eBay, where it had sold to a buyer in British Columbia who had happily paid an extra \$1000 to get it shipped to him by train. So it seemed easy to put the latest offering on eBay as well.

Auctions on “eBay Motors” have a default term of 7 days. You can either pick a starting bid amount of the minimum price you will accept, and hope it goes up from there; or you can pick a starting bid way lower than you’ll take, but put a reserve amount on it. However, eBay charges an extra fee to put a reserve on your auction. I chose to list the car with my minimum price as a starting bid, no reserve. My opening bid amount was lower than completed sales and comparable vehicles up for sale, both in this area as well as online. I’d done my research. In some cases I was actually less than half the asking price for very similar vehicles. So, I clicked “list your item”, and the action was on!



The first message I got from a potential buyer was:
“Very interested in buying your car how much is shipping to Utah?”

Well, if you look at a car on eBay Motors, the listings say, “This vehicle is available for local pick-up. Additionally, shipping arrangements can be made through uShip.com” (with a link for “get a custom quote”). How hard is that to comprehend? But ok, I played nice and answered the guy, saying I had no idea how much shipping to Utah was, but he could look it up either using the eBay link, or by googling “car transport Canada to USA”.

He actually got back to me saying,
“I looked it up it would be 1750 which is really high but would be doable depending on your price. What do you need out of it?”
Depending on my price? It’s an AUCTION, dummy! My price is the opening bid!

Next up was a member who sent me a message with “[a dollar amount about half of what my opening bid was] and you got a deal”. Two things here: first off, my price is fair. So offering me half that again is ridiculous. Secondly, exactly how could I “got a deal” in an auction? It’s not as if the guy can put in a bid for half the opening amount. Wow.

Following that, I got another guy asking how flexible I was on the price. What exactly is going on here? Did I miss the part where “auction” is a foreign word these days?

By mid week, though, I had two people bidding, and in the end, it sold on the Saturday to one of them after 6 bids. Yay! The winning bidder, “cpages2”, was in Florida. Great. So, I waited to receive the

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deposit, which eBay had been programmed to require in 24 hours of the auction closing. (2 days for full payment). I waited. I waited. Sunday, I wrote the guy.

Finally, I got: "I am sorry for delay, I am traveling most of today and morning. I will reach out to you as soon as I arrive back home."

Well, ok, I gave him an extra day; after all, I've done my share of traveling for work as well.

But by Monday night I wrote him again, and got this response on Tuesday: "I am sorry for the delay I did not end up getting into FL until late yesterday. I am working on now to track down a company that can give me a price on importing/transporting the car to US. "

This is starting to be suspicious -- he didn't bother to check this out before buying the car? But, still trying to be reasonable, I realize that it's not the same as shipping to Vancouver, so I settled for reminding him that he was still overdue for the deposit.

His response: "Again I am truly sorry for the delay I am trying to clear up my PayPal now so I can make deposit (also can I just make full payment there for you?). Right now I am trying to sort out what is needed to bring it across border. Few transport services I talked to said they cannot do it for me, might be easier for me to fly into Toronto and meet you there, then drive car myself (thoughts on this? Would you be willing to meet me at airport?)."

I said, sure, we can do it that way, the car could easily drive to Florida, and even gave him info on how to get a transfer plate. That was the last I heard from cpages2. He vanished. By Thursday, I initiated the "non paying buyer" process on eBay in order to avoid being charged the 3% sales fee. What a headache.

But the good news (I thought!) was that there had been 2 bidders! So, I sent a message to the other guy, saying the sale had fallen through, so if he wanted it at his bid price, let me know. eBay allows this: it's called a "second chance offer". But, no response came back at all. I guess he was another crank -- thankfully he didn't win it either. Oh well, I will relist the car; with all the questions I'd gotten, and over 1500 views to my auction, I ought to have better luck next time, right?

I relisted it that Friday. And here we went again! In came messages offering me less than the opening bid; some idiot in Kansas who asked "would you been interested in a trade?". (I wonder how he thought that could happen?); another guy (coolman_ace99 -- remember that, it comes up again later) writing, "What is the least that you will take for it? Help me out a little. Really want the car.."

Yet another guy wrote with some reasonable questions about the car's condition, and said he was in Michigan with family in Toronto, so picking up the car would not be an issue for him. This sounded promising. He proceeded to correspond, asking how we would accept payment (Paypal); but then we were back to, "now discussing price, what would be your honest lowest price you would take?". I replied (again!) that my starting bid was fair considering the comparisons, and reminded him that there was no reserve on my auction so one bid could take it. He still replied with, "would it be safe to say you are firm on the price?". Hey genius, I think you are catching on!

Finally, the auction came to a close that Friday with 2 bids. This time the winner was "bradolilly" in Michigan (not the same guy who'd been writing). And it was deja vu all over again. The 24 hours passed, no deposit.

In reply to my reminder, he wrote, "I'm out of town. I'll be home later tonight and I'll get your deposit sent. Sorry for the delay."

Starting to sound familiar? And hang on here, he was able to place his bid at one minute prior to the end of the auction -- so why was he unable to place his deposit at a few minutes after? Hmm... I gave the guy till Monday, and heard no more peeps out of him, so back to the non-paying buyer fee-reversal process!

I then contacted the second bidder, who happened to be coolman_ace99 in Texas, to make him the second chance offer. He responded immediately, much to my surprise! He said he had been researching shipping companies, which sounded more serious than the other guys.

But sure enough, he then started asking if I would sell it for even less. My response was that I had other people interested, and I was still going to face nearly \$500 in fees between eBay and PayPal, so take it or leave it. His next tactic was to talk about paying outside of PayPal, using a Wells Fargo money transfer ("no fees", he said). I explained that there are no Wells Fargos around here, and even if there were, the 'no fees' applies to the sender but not the receiver of money transfers, so forget about it.

Next, he was back to outlining his problems with finding a way to ship it to Texas, and we went through the same sort of conversation regarding meeting him at the airport if he wanted to drive it back. I made him the same offer as the last guy, including getting the transfer plate for him. It all sounded serious, but by Tuesday I told him that the car was not sold until I got a deposit, and other people were calling about the car, so fish or cut bait, so to speak. Last I ever heard from coolman_ace99.

At that point I went ahead and sold the car to a Mississauga guy who had seen my ad in AutoTrader. I guess all's well that ends well.

From this experience (and things I read on the eBay member forum afterwards), I have learned that the eBay selling policies have changed quite a bit since I sold my Sierra those years ago. These days, the "Motors" section of eBay does not consider a winning bid to be binding the way it does for all other sections of eBay. Because of that, Motors is flooded with 'sport bidders' who have no intention of actually buying a car. The virtual reality generation, I guess.



Some folks just aren't cut out for sales.

The weird thing is that none of the people I dealt with had the decency to ever tell me they were just kidding, or they had changed their mind, or wanted out of the deal. They just kept on with the pretense of traveling, researching shippers, etc. I guess they think it's hilarious; but to the seller it is just a runaround, a waste of time, and a hassle to reverse the fees after the fake sale. And the whole time they're playing this game, I am in limbo with a "sold" car that other people are asking to see.

So, bottom line: it was sort of entertaining, but also a big headache; and in the end, pointless. That's today's eBay experience. But (I hope) it made a good story to tell my grandkids -- er -- my fellow TAC members!!



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RACING IN GT3 AT TROIS-RIVIERES.

PHOTO SHOT & PROVIDED BY
GARY GRANT
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Attention Proud TAC Members!

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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

