



# Fifth Gear

*December 2023*



[www.torontoautosportclub.ca](http://www.torontoautosportclub.ca)

# Toronto Autosport Club

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## 2023 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Rob McAuley	president@torontoautosportclub.ca
VICE-PRESIDENT	Gary Vernon	vicepresident@torontoautosportclub.ca
TREASURER	Brooke Jacobs	treasurer@torontoautosportclub.ca
SECRETARY	Ingrid Beck	secretary@torontoautosportclub.ca
COMPETITION DIRECTOR	Graham Tulett	competitiondirector@torontoautosportclub.ca
SOCIAL DIRECTOR	Nick Beck	social@torontoautosportclub.ca

## 2023 COMPETITION COORDINATORS

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

## 2023 COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

RALLYSPORT ONTARIO	Graham Tulett	competitiondirector@torontoautosportclub.ca
MEMBERSHIP	Claire Jacobs	registrar@torontoautosportclub.ca
WEBMASTER	Brooke Jacobs	brooke@brooke.net

**Club Mailing Address: 148 Tamarack Drive, Thornhill ON, L3T 4X4**

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. (currently via ZOOM online).

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## 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

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



# From The President's Desk

## Rob's Trip to Austin

This past October, wife-Sue and I were able to get to the USGP in Austin Texas. It was a blast!

To back up a year, we were watching for tickets to go on sale, and when they did, we grabbed the top row in the Turn 1 grandstand. These seats look down the front straight, and all the turn 1 action takes place right below. You know it's a good spot when the helicopter hovers just off the end of your grandstand at the start of the race.

We found an Air BnB in town in a funky neighbourhood, near some interesting Western-Wear shops and cool restaurants. I'm not sure the renters knew anything about the race, because they had reasonable rates that didn't change for the race. We booked Wednesday to Wednesday, and planned on taking a couple of days after the race to explore the town.

As the date got closer, we started checking to see what activities there were on the track and in town. We found the track was only open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I found an Aston Martin event at the University of Texas. They were participating in a Women in STEM event, and their brand ambassador Jessica Hawkins was there. I was able to briefly chat with her, and congratulated her on moving on from a good W Series run to a role at Aston. Unfortunately, she didn't have time for a photo ("I really have to wee!").



**Rob & Sue with new cowboy hats and ice cream!**

Sue and I did the Austin tourist things: Ate barbecue, took a brief boat tour of down town at sunset and watched the millions of bats leave

from under one of the bridges over the lake, and bought our cowboy hats.

The best way to get to the track is the shuttle bus service. They left from down town Austin, and ran in dedicated lanes, breezing by the cars lined up to get into the parking lots. Friday's shuttle took 20 minutes, Saturday's was 30 minutes, and Sunday's took about an hour. They need a few more dedicated lanes on race day. Coming home was tougher. There was a huge queue to get on the bus at the track after the sprint race. It was hot and sunny, and we saw a few people suffering from heat stroke. We'd had enough sun that day, so skipped seeing the free Killers concert.

Our first stop on Friday was the Fan Zone. We saw the driver introductions, where the F1 hosts made fun of them. It meant missing some of the practice rounds of the Historic GP and women's F1 Academy cars, but it was fun.



**Teasing the drivers in the Fan Zone**

We had heard that Google was offering free trips up the Observation Tower on Friday. The normal fee is \$35 per person, and it's like the CN Tower. You just have to do it! There was a 3 hour window from noon until 3pm. We wandered over at 11:30, and were blown away by the length of the line. However Google people were handing out bottles of Google water Google electric fans to those in line, so we stuck it out. The line moved slowly, and the fan batteries were gone after 1 hour. We watched some of the support races while the lineup snaked through a general admission area. We finally got to the front of the line right at 3pm, and were just about the last people to get in for free. From the top, you could see our grandstand seats, and watch the cars run around on the track. Of course, you didn't know what you were watching, but the view was great.

# TAC 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	CATEGORY	EVENT DESCRIPTION	CLUB
<b>January 2024</b>			
17	Meeting	<b>ONLINE: TAC Monthly Club Meeting, ZOOM</b>	TAC
20-21	Ice Race-Minden	Ice Race, Minden Fairgrounds	BEMC
27-28	Ice Race-Minden	Ice Race, Minden Fairgrounds	BARC
27	Rally-ORRC	<b>January Jaunt Rally, Waterdown - See Flyer this issue</b>	TAC
<b>February 2024</b>			
3-4	Ice Race-Minden	Ice Race, Minden Fairgrounds	PMSC
3-4	Ice Race-Minden	Ice Race, Minden Fairgrounds	
10-11	Ice Race-Minden	Ice Race, Minden Fairgrounds	TLMC
17-18	<b>Ice Race-Minden</b>	<b>Ice Race, Minden Fairgrounds</b>	TAC
21	Meeting	<b>ONLINE: TAC Monthly Club Meeting, ZOOM</b>	TAC
24-25	Ice Race-Minden	Ice Race, Minden Fairgrounds	DAC
29-02	F1	BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX (Sakhir)	
<b>March 2024</b>			
2-3	Ice Race-Minden	Ice Race, Minden Fairgrounds, RAIN-DATE	
7-9	F1	SAUDI ARABIA GRAND PRIX (Jeddah)	
20	Meeting	<b>ONLINE: TAC Monthly Club Meeting, ZOOM</b>	TAC
22-24	F1	AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX (Melbourne)	
<b>April 2024</b>			
5-7	F1	JAPANESE GRAND PRIX (Suzuka)	
17	Meeting	<b>ONLINE: TAC Monthly Club Meeting, ZOOM</b>	TAC
19-21	F1	CHINESE GRAND PRIX (Shanghai)	

*More events to appear as 2024 Schedules are released.*

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

# THE JANUARY JAUNT



**Saturday, 27 January, 2024**

**Winter Navigational Car Rally  
for Novices and Experts**

**Start:**

**Tim Hortons**

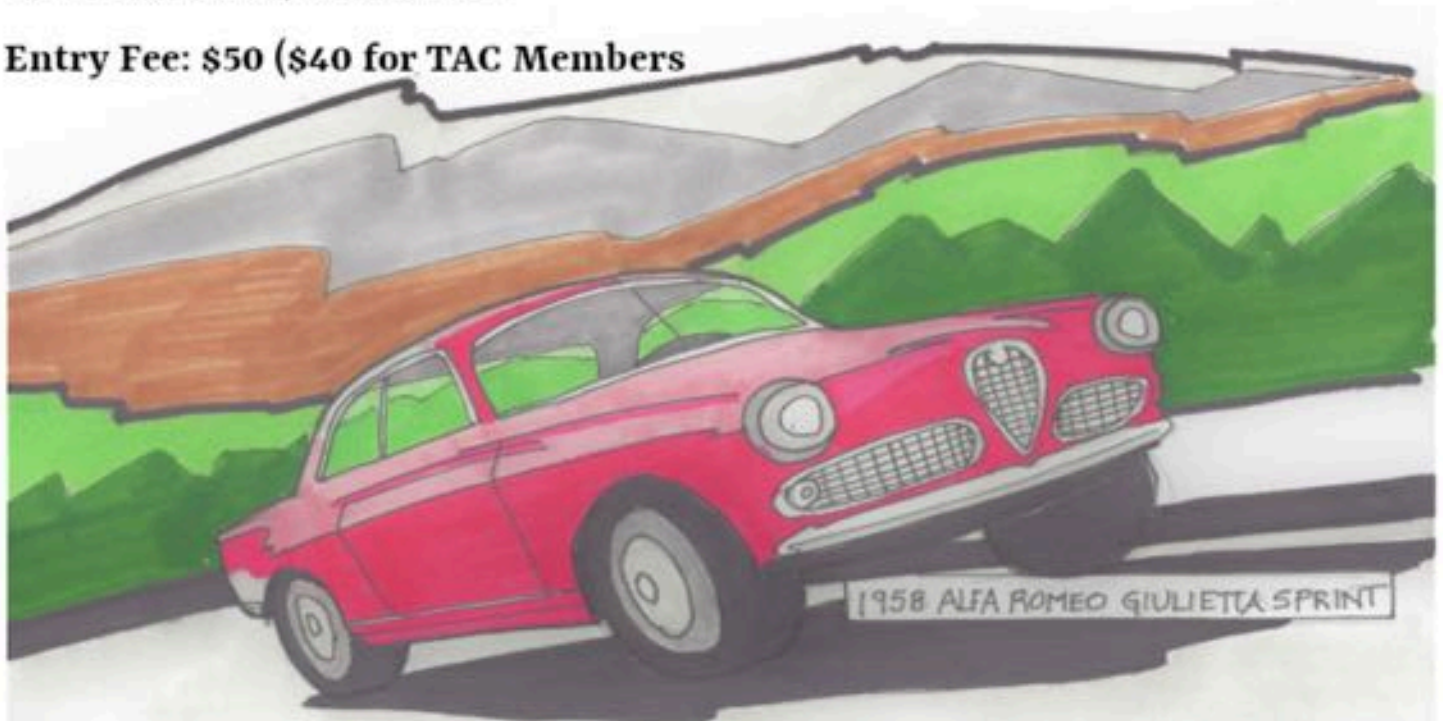
**145 Hamilton St N, Waterdown, ON**

**GPS 43.3350417,-79.9041773**

**Finish:**

**TBD**

**Entry Fee: \$50 (\$40 for TAC Members)**



**Round 1 of the 2024  
Ontario Road Rally Championship**

<b>Registration</b>	<b>10:30</b>
<b>Beginners' Meeting</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Comptitors' Briefing</b>	<b>11:15</b>
<b>Car 'o' Starts</b>	<b>11:30</b>
<b>Car 'o' Finishes</b>	<b>16:30</b>

[www.januaryjaunt.com](http://www.januaryjaunt.com)

[info@januaryjaunt.com](mailto:info@januaryjaunt.com)

[@JanuaryJaunt](https://www.instagram.com/JanuaryJaunt)





**The fisheye view of Turn 1 from our seats**



**From the top of the Observation Tower. Our grandstand seats were just to the left (my right) of the brim of my hat.**

We were now in a rush to get back to our seats for F1 Qualifying. We brought our wrist-band radio, complete with a splitter and our headphones. I had no trouble finding ESPN radio, and the F1 broadcast, however the splitter didn't work with my headphones. Sue's worked great, so she was able to follow what was going on and kept me filled in. I noticed quite a few people had small hand-held shortwave radios. Apparently, they are inexpensive on Amazon, and you can find frequencies for both the official F1 broadcast as well as SkyF1's (better) broadcast. Maybe next time.

The other fans were lots of fun. Everyone was knowledgeable, and friendly "Hey, it doesn't get any better than this. We've got great seats at a Formula 1 race!" Qualifying was over all too quickly, and we decided to head back to town instead of waiting the 3 hours until The Killers concert. I was very disappointed that my Canadian Driver Lance Stroll and team-mate Fernando Alonso were eliminated in Q1. The only saving grace was that they both beat American Logan Sargeant.

The next day was Sprint Day! We hit the fan zone again and watched the introductions of the other drivers, then headed for our seats. The Sprint Shootout went better for my team, with both Aston drivers making it into Q2. The race featured some good passes going into turn 1, and pass-backs going into turn 2. Alonso and Stroll did poorly, with Alonso dropping a place and Stroll retiring early. It seemed that they had some ideas for things they wanted to try on the car.

That evening was Queen in concert. We could go early and get a spot standing in front of the stage, but once again, we were beat. The sun was scorching. So we wandered slowly around the track, checking out all the different areas. There was a Mexican canteen, and an Asian bistro. Each had interesting and different food and drink. I have never seen such high prices, and many people in the stands brought their own picnic food. The published info for the event says that you can bring in 16 oz sealed water bottles, but we had no problems bringing in frozen 32 oz bottles. They even searched Sue's bag when her sun umbrella set off the metal detector, and had no problems with anything she had. Just don't bring a metal water bottle!



**Monster video screens kept the show entertaining**



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Queen, with Adam Lambert played almost all of their major hits in a 2 hour show. We grabbed grandstand seats across the track from the stage, but they had monster video screens so we had no problems seeing Adam.

Finally Sunday - Race Day arrived. The traffic was much worse getting to the track, and our bus was held up when HRH Harry came by in a motorcade. We missed the support races, but were in our seats for the grid prep. We forgot our binoculars, so couldn't see any of the Sky F1 crew in the paddock – or the not-so-giant video screen across the track from our seats. The race was a blast, with Lando Norris passing Max Verstappen into turn 1 at the start. It didn't last long, and Max won as usual. Both Aston Martins started from the pits, as they had made changes to the cars since qualifying. It was fun watching them cut through the pack, and in the end, Stroll finished 9th and later bumped to 7th after Hamilton and Leclerc were disqualified.



**Lance was ninth!**

Sue and I walked the track on the way back to the shuttle buses, and got a real up-close look at the curbs and artwork along the track.

On one end of the track, there was a giant US flag. On the other end, was a giant Texas flag.



When the anthem played, most people turned and faced the Texas flag.

The curbs looked pretty tame from our seats. There were complaints about the giant sausage curbs at the track last year. This year, they just had cement “pylons” at most apices. You wouldn't want to cut this corner!



**Sue explains the racing line**

The three day event was just like a big party. Everyone was very friendly and out to have a good time with anyone who would join them. We figured that this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but now we are wondering if we can get back there - but bring the kids with next time. It's been many years since we all saw an F1 race together.



**The COTA Circuit is on the flightpath of the Austin airport!**



*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>



# ECO Dolomites GT

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## 2023 FIA ECO Rally Cup

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Hello to all TAC members,

On November 11th-12th, 2023 we took part in the last round of 2023 FIA ECO Rally Cup at the ECO Dolomites GT in Fiera di Primiero, Italy. This time our team was represented by Andrea Caser and Lukasz Nytko, Andrea as a driver and Lukasz took the spot of the co-driver. Peter was unable to take part because of work related obligations, but Andrea drove the car very well.

Nytko Motorsport has taken part in FIA Eco rallies since 2013, representing FIA Canada ASN and TAC on this international motorsport stage.

Since 2016, the Cup has changed to electric and hydrogen cars only. This caused significant effort in securing a vehicle for this event and thanks to Andrea, who drove his personal Peugeot e208 for the rally, we were able to compete in Italy this year.

Now, some info about the rally; 2 days of a competition were divided into 4 legs, with 2 separate Road Books which were handed out only an hour before the start. The 441 km route was from Fiera di Primiero - Ortisei - Fiera di Primiero, with 16 regularity stages and average speeds ranging from 36 to 41 km/h. As always the event brings in amazing roads with fantastic mountain views which at times distract you during the stages. Some road sections were already snow covered adding to the difficulty of the event. The organizer also added extra excitement by making the transit section a bit short on time so reaching the checkpoints required some spirited driving.

Our performance was very good especially this being a first rally for Andrea; we were able to achieve a top 10th place during the stages. The rally also provided us with a respective crash course in Italian and English language but the communication ended up being perfect.

Thanks to fantastic organizers and wonderful scenery, this event is on top of our list in the European regularity rally calendar, not to mention fantastic Italian hospitality and family atmosphere.

The event brought in good number of international entries with 20 top teams from all over the Europe and us from Canada :) It was nice to see our fellow competitors, after such a long time, some of them we have known personally for 10 years now.

The final result for us - 10th place in Regularity Classification, 5th place in Performance Index, 8th place Combined regularity and energy consumption, also we won a special award - "Premio Marco Modena" trophy.

Special thanks to the organizers of the rally Mario Montanucci Pignatelli, Stefano Torcellan, Nicola Ventura, all FIA officials and technical support.

Link to our Facebook page with more pictures from the rally - <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.867545058631293&type=3>

Best regards,  
Lukasz (Lukas) Nytko

# ECO Dolomites GT - 2023 FIA ECO Rally Cup





# Competition Directors Report – November 2023

The 2023 Competition season is pretty much wrapped up and reflected a return to normal, although somewhat a new normal!

Ice Racing had essentially a full season except the final day of the last event was cancelled. The season ended late with both the rain dates in March being used which is pretty rare. Track rental costs escalated and five of six clubs lost money. Towards the end of the season the organizers were advised that the track builder was not prepared to continue with the black rocket street stud tire due to track wear. Ultimately a new Ice Race Director was confirmed and a single, mandatory spec street stud tire, the Nokian Hakkapeliitta 10 for the 2024 season was announced very recently.

Ontario Time Attack had another good season with lots of participation, very close competition and new track records. The series is well organized and marketed and has prospered financially to the point where it is largely self sufficient. Some TAC members did very well. Thank you to Gary Vernon for his continued contribution to the success of the series on behalf of the club

CASC-OR road racing had a full season with some participation by other race groups such as SPC from Quebec. Breakout times for SMP long track were adjusted as the paving improvements appear to have made the track faster. Field sizes were generally improved and there are some nice race cars out there. There were lots of scrutineers available most weekends but grid and pit marshalls are in shorter supply and volunteers are often scarce.

TAC's January Jaunt and Discover Ontario Car Rally (DOCR) continued with larger entries than 2022. Thank you to Kurt S and Brooke J for their continued commitment to these events. The ORRC has one event remaining and it looks like TAC will finish the club challenge in second place this year after last years win. There are some close races for TACies to win so this will come down to the wire.

Overall there are some dedicated competitors and volunteers making racing happen but we need more youth and extra hands to make lighter work for the old timer. Please get out and participate and it can be fun! Maybe try something different in 2024.

**Minutes of TAC GENERAL MEETING Nov 15, 2023 via Zoom**

Called to order 8:00 pm

Present: Rob M., Rob J., Brian Maxwell, Gary Vernon, Graham Tulett, Brooke Jacobs, Claire Jacobs, Paul & Rita Moore, Nick & Ingrid

**President**

614 FaceBook followers.

**Vice President**

112 members: 6 life, 63 members, 43 family - no update this month

**Treasurer**

Tangerine	\$ 22,948.65
RBC	\$ 466.08
PayPal	\$ 636.05

no updates this month

**Competition**

**Social**

looking into a date for the annual awards dinner

**Old Business** - none

**New Business** - none

**Items for Sale** - none

**Items Wanted** - none

**Loonies in the Bus** - on hold until we meet again

Meeting adjourned 8:40 pm

Minutes by Ingrid

## **Minutes of TAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Nov. 16, 2022 via Zoom**

Called to order 8:20 pm

We have a quorum, 11 members present, 7 proxies.

Last years minutes were reviewed and accepted.

### **Reports:**

**President Report** - read as published

**Vice President Report** - as published in Fifth Gear

108 members, 6 life, 62 primary, 40 family

**Treasurer** - as published in Fifth Gear.

**Competition Report** - summarized the published report.

Brian Maxwell, with amendment to Treasurer's report as discussed, made a motion to ratify, sanction, approve and confirm the actions of the TAC executive for 2023. Seconded by Paul. All in favour passed unopposed.

**Old Business** - when can we get back to holding in person meetings  
- need to update the constitution and by-laws. (ONCA)

**New Business** - none

**Elections:** Rob Jones volunteered to be returning officer.

Open positions, Vice President, Competition Director, Secretary.

**Position of VicePresident:** Nominating Committee nominates Rob McAuley. Seconded by Rob M. No other nominations. Gary Vernon is declared by acclamation as Vice President for another 2 year term.

**Position of Competition Director:** Nominating Committee nominates Graham Tulett. Nominated by Rob M. and seconded by Brian Maxwell. No other nominations. Graham Tulett is declared by acclamation as Competition Director for a 2 year term.

**Position of Secretary:** Nominating Committee nominates Ingrid Beck. Nominated by Gary Vernon and seconded by Brian Maxwell. No other nominations. Ingrid Beck is declared by acclamation as Secretary for a 2 year term.

Rob Jones steps down as returning officer and hands the meeting back to the President.

Motion to close the AGM by Ingrid, 2nd by Rob Jones, All in favour.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm

**Minutes by Ingrid**



# Membership Application

**Mail:** 148 Tamarack Drive,  
Thornhill, Ontario, L3T 4X4

**Email:** [registrar@torontoautosportclub.ca](mailto:registrar@torontoautosportclub.ca)

- New Members – Single or Family \$40  
 Renewal Members – Single or Family \$30 or \$25 Early

(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](http://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 by email within 2 months.

FIFTH GEAR is also available on the website.

**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