



Fifth Gear

February 2025



Toronto Autosport Club

2025 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	(open position)	social@torontoautosportclub.ca

2025 COMPETITION COORDINATORS

ICE RACING	Graham Tulett
TIMEATTACK /SOLO-I	Gary Vernon
AUTOSLALOM /SOLO-II	Keith Hui

2025 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).

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 second Wednesday of each month. Certain scheduling changes may 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

The 2025 Canadian International AutoShow is now running at the Toronto Convention Centre. This year marks the return of BMW and Mercedes. I always enjoy going on Press Day, ahead of the public opening, where the crowds aren't there, and we get a free breakfast!

The day starts off with the announcement of the AJAC Car of the Year awards and some major sponsor announcements.

Winners this year were the Honda Civic as Car of the Year, the BMW i4 as the Electric Car of the Year. The Hyundai Santa Fe was the SUV of the Year, and the Hyundai Ionia 5 N was the Electric SUV of the Year.

The BMW i4 EV comes complete with a monitor sized kidney shaped grill that is completely fake, and is highlighted by a glowing perimeter. This just emphasizes its grotesqueness.

Some of the sponsor announcements included a preview of the Cadillac Celestiq. This was the ugliest car at the show. Banana yellow, and is longer than an Escalade, I just don't understand what they are trying to do. Although every surface that would normally be touched is heated, and a Dolby Atmos sound system is available.

Next up, Hyundai talked about the \$4million donation towards kids' cancer research. This includes a \$1million donation to Sick-kids Hospital. There was a specially painted Santa Fe at the show with survivor's hand prints on it.

The Cobble Beach Classic Auto Show talked about their event. I never realized this took place not far from Owen Sound, on the shores of Georgian Bay. This year, the theme is All Things Mercedes.

Speaking of Mercedes, they showed off their new electric G-Wagon. They demonstrated how it can turn in place by driving the wheels on each side in different directions. "You will never have to reverse this vehicle!" As we were being told that, the driver did a 5 point turn to get the G-Wagon backed into it's display spot on the stage.

Then it was on to the floor of the show to hear about all the special launches.

Audi was first, and they showed off their Audi Room - a very nicely designed space with 10 cars on display. The most striking was an RS 6 GT that was optioned to look very much like the Audi Quattro from the 1980's. They also gave a video clip of their upcoming 2026 F1 car.

Next up was the Lego McLaren. This is apparently the first full-sized Lego car that can actually roll. It was a great way to promote their Lego Technic kits.

Speaking of toys, Mattel had a Hot Wheels display. I stopped playing with them about 55 years ago, but they have some new versions out for big kids. This includes the Big Foot truck. Wife-Sue says I can't get one because I wouldn't be able to climb in.

[Click Here for link to TAC ZOOM Meeting 3rd Wednesday Monthly 8pm](#)

Maserati had a new SUV that costs under \$80,000! However the sales rep said that you could add quite a few options to price it up to what you'd expect for a Maserati. They also had a gull-wing 2 seater, and a very pretty 2 door 4 seater. No Quattroporte, so Sue will have to continue to look at BMWs.

Grand Touring Auto had another extravagant display, with the cars ranging from a cheap-o Lamborghini Urus SUV for \$305,000 to a Bugatti Chiron Pur Sport for US\$4,800,000. Interesting that some of the cars had prices in Euros and Pounds. Welcome to the world of rapidly changing exchange rates.

Subaru had a large display, with a very pretty BRZ tS plus a lot of done up cars fitted to support outdoor active living. Alfa Romeo showed their 3 models in the colours of the Italian flag, and Ineos Grenadier had 2 models looking very much like Land Cruisers.

I tried my hand at a race simulator hosted by SimStaff. The great seating position required some contortions to get in and out of, but it was worth it! I raced a few laps at Red Bull Ring in Austria in an F4 car. The feel of the steering wheel was great. This company will rent out simulator rigs for corporate events, or sell and install complete simulators for home use. Prices appear to range from \$8,000 to \$38,000(!). Ice racing is still the cheapest way to get into racing.

We finally made our way through the BMW display "On level M" (part way down the escalators between levels. They seemed to have SUVs on one side of the aisle and electric vehicles on the other. Besides that, they had an M4 Competition Coupe and an M5 Touring car. I get the feeling that they are trying to shock with the high sticker price so that when you see a 2-series coupe for under \$55k, you are relieved that it is so cheap.

The Autoshow is a great way to give you a good idea of the new cars available. It's still too bad that some manufacturers are still not coming out (Volkswagen), but it is a great way for the dealers to meet the public, with close to half a million people exploring the hundreds of vehicles there.

In other news, our TAC Saab Ice Racer has been a hit, with at least 4 people checking it out. There are still some slots available, and if you're interested, get in touch with Competition Director Graham to see about booking a date. Remember that the TAC Ice Race Weekend goes March 1st & 2nd. We are always looking for volunteers, and will put you up in Minden and feed you while you're there.

And don't forget that Mitch & Brooke's Formula 1 pool will be starting up soon. The boys are testing the new 2025 cars in Bahrain starting February 26, and the season starts on March 16 in Australia. Best of luck to everyone!

Rob McAuley
TAC President



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TAC 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	CATEGORY	EVENT DESCRIPTION	CLUB
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February 2025

19	Meeting	ONLINE: TAC Monthly Club Meeting, ZOOM	TAC
22-23	Ice Race-Minden	Ice Race, Minden Fairgrounds	TLMC

March 2025

1-2	Ice Race-Minden	Ice Race, Minden Fairgrounds	TAC
15	Meeting	RSO Annual General Meeting	RSO
19	Meeting	ONLINE: TAC Monthly Club Meeting, ZOOM	TAC
22	Rally-SNATR	SNATR- #2 Saturday Night at the Rallies	KWRC

April 2025

5	Rally-OPRC	OPRC - Rally of the Voyageurs	OPRC
16	Meeting	ONLINE: TAC Monthly Club Meeting, ZOOM	TAC
19	RallyCross	KWRC Rallycross Test Day	KWRC

May 2025

3	Rally-ORRC	ORRC & SNATR - Blossom Rally	KWRC
3-4	TimeAttack	Ontario Time Attack School #1 / Event #1 CTMP-DDT Track	
10	RallyCross	KWRC Rallycross #1	KWRC
21	Meeting	ONLINE: TAC Monthly Club Meeting, ZOOM	TAC
24	RallyCross	PMSC Rallycross #1	PMSC
31-1	Rally-CRC	Rocky Mountain Rally, Invermere BC	CSCC
31-1	TimeAttack	Ontario Time Attack School #2 / Event #2 CTMP-GP Track	
31	RallyCross	KWRC Rallycross #2	KWRC

More events to appear as 2025 Schedules are released.

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



The BMW i4 is the AJAC Electric Car of the Year. The front grill is completely fake, but the outline can be illuminated.



1984 Audi Quattro?



The Cadillac Celestiq. Electric, longer than an Escalade, Dolby Atmos sound system, very ugly.



Rob & Wife-Sue with the Lego McLaren. The smaller version is available to purchase



Mercedes Benz electric G Wagon



It looks like those yellow Lego pieces are glued on.



The Mattel Hot Wheels BigFoot!



Rob racing at Red Bull Ring



Grand Touring Auto had the 9 fanciest cars at the show.



Pininfarina at 3.1 million. Not bad - but wait!
That's Euros!



Try for free, buy for about \$20,000



BMW's with glowing grills



The station wagon every family needs -
The BMW M5 Touring can be yours for \$166,000



When you need a true SPORT Utility Vehicle,
grab an XM for \$285,000

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>



TAC GENERAL MEETING Minutes January 15, 2025 via Zoom

Called to order 8:00 pm

Present: Rob J., Nick B., Brooke J., Ingrid B., Graham T., Gary V.

Welcome new member Warren L.

President

Rob is working tonight.

Vice President

100 members: 8 life, 56 members, 36 family

Treasurer

RBC	\$ 25,444.70
PayPal	\$ 0.00

Competition

TAC Ice Race scheduled for March 1 & 2, 2025.

This Saturday, Jan 18, is Cars to Track day.

DAC is getting ready for the first ice race Jan. 25/26.

Time Attack, just finalizing the rule book. Should be ready to distribute in a couple of weeks.

Have a full agenda of items for February meeting where they will approve 2025 budget. There are concerns about geopolitical, mortgage rates, etc. which may limit participation. New director is working out well.

There may be only one road race event this summer - Calabogie

MLRC is not hosting any rally cross events this year. But may try to host a rally sprint event.

RSO meeting a week Monday. We need to get re-affiliated with CARS.

Brooke is organizing the DOCR in June

Only four ORRC events this year; Snowy Safari, Blossom, Discover Ontario and the Automapic.

Social

Looking for a new social director.

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 8:43 pm

Minutes by Ingrid

Toronto Autosport Club - Executive Zoom Call Meeting Minutes February 5, 2025

Call time: 8:00 pm via ZOOM

Participants: Rob, Graham, Gary, Brook & Ingrid

President:

TAC hats have arrived and will be distributed at the Ice Race
Discussion about CARS affiliation.

We have 638 followers on Facebook.

Membership:

83 members; 8 life, 42 regular, 33 family

Treasurer:

Account Balances:

RBC	\$	\$ 25,093.19
PayPal	\$	\$ 4.55

Competition:

Graham tested the TAC ice racer, seems to be running well.
Ice Race attendance seems to be meeting expectations.
Time Attack meeting on Sunday - pricing will be on the agenda
They have expanded to a 6 event season.
PMSC will be putting on rally cross events at Free Flow MX Park.
MLRC will try to put on 2 rally sprint events this year.

Social - none

Old Business - none

New Business - none

Adjourned at 8:38 pm

Minutes by I. Beck



Membership Application

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

Email: 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.

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

