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CLUB RACER



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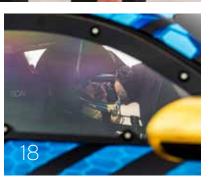
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Calzaretta captured two PCA

CALZARETTA

Championships in a

single season. by Ryan Carignan

Through determination, training, and dual-class racing,



FROM THE CHAIR

BY DAVE RODENROTH



A racer-driven future for PCA Club Racing

y the time you read this, our 2025 PCA Club Racing season will have ended, or be very close to it. In many ways, the season has been quite successful. We enjoyed some fantastic racing events and our major races performed well. However, our smaller events continue to face financial challenges due to declining participation. The number of renewing license holders, as well as new rookie and provisional license candidates, has remained largely unchanged over the past three years. This may become the norm

moving forward, which could mean making difficult decisions about certain events.

As someone who has participated in this program for many years, I always appreciated the relaxed atmosphere of our smaller races. I am committed to finding ways topreserve them. We teamed up with our HPDE partners at many events. That helps make things more financially sound, while giving HPDE drivers a peak under the hood at PCA Club Racing.

We participated in a joint event with BMW Club Racing and subsequent conversations have explored possibilities for expanding that partnership. Regional race series, such as the eight-race Mid America Championship Series and the eightrace West Coast Championship Series, have seen some success. We are also considering implementing bonus points at smaller races to encourage greater participation.

For the first time in recent memory, we had a presence at the Porsche Parade in Oklahoma City this year. We put four cars on display at two locations and saw steady traffic through our booths. Live Streaming helped new people engage with PCA Club Racing, but it's hard to quantify whether it's helping drive participation.

The announcers also got more familiar over the year understanding our rules, our classes, and how we

operate. I really like the fact that the friends and relatives of our racers, as well as PCA members at large, can enjoy the quality of our racing program through this venue.

I've often said PCA Club Racing is a racer driven program. It was started by racers, it's run by racers, and its continued success will be dependent on racers.I would challenge each of you to put one or two of our smaller races on your schedule in 2026, grab a couple of buddies and have a great track weekend at a place you might not have been in the past.

As always, I'm open to ideas and solutions to help make our program better. Please reach out to share and discuss them as none of us have all the answers. I hope to see you (and a friend) at several tracks in 2026!

See you at the races! ■







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VIEW FROM THE TOWER

BY BILL MILLER



Passing rules revisited

e've had a good number of new racers thing. So, for them, in this issue of Club Racer I'm revisiting a topic that's essential for every racer to know and understand: PCA passing rules.

In the rulebook, our passing rules comprise of three simple sentences. But few years ago, we published a description of what goes into each. In case you missed it, we've also been putting it in the drivers' meeting notes at events.

This is especially important to our new racers as they learn and practice their passing race craft. With that, let's begin with what's

in the PCA Club Racing rulebook, then the additional description of what each means.

RULEBOOK: "It is the responsibility of the overtaking car to complete a safe pass." What this means: The over-

taking car must pick a place where a safe pass is achievable. Timing is sufficient that it can be completed. It can present itself by turn in (about) halfway or more alongside the other car. And it can be there long enough to reasonably be seen by the other driver. Hanging out in the other driver's blind spot or a dive bomb right at turn in doesn't count as safe.

RULEBOOK: "The car ahead

at turn in has the corner but does not own the corner."

What this means: The car being overtaken must leave racing room if an overtaking car presents itself by being (about) halfway or more alongside and is there long enough to reasonably expect to have been seen by the car being overtaken. The car being overtaken needs to be situationally aware. But if the overtaking car isn't sure of being seen, backing out is always a better option than contact.

RULEBOOK: "Everyone must leave racing room."

What this means: Cars vying for the same piece of pavement, running close together need to be situationally aware, respect each other, and leave room. We've all been side-by-side thru a series of corners, possibly moving in and out of another racers blind spot, or swapping positions on a straight, as they approach a turn. If a car was beside you, leave a lane until you're sure you're clear, it doesn't have to be a big one.

One thing that new racers sometimes misunderstand is the linear nature of the rules and that you have to meet the requirements of the first rule before the next two apply. Racing pro David Murry and I were talking about this recently and he put it in perspective in a brilliantly simple statement that I want on the dashboard of my car, he said safe racers "race to the turn in, not the apex."

Yep, that simple.

If you have any questions about safe passing or anything else, reach out to me any time or visit with the Steward at one of your events.

See you at the track, Bill. ■

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lick tires are a fundamental component of motorsport, particularly in track days and club racing. Slick tires are specifically designed for dry conditions. In the dry, they provide superior traction and handling compared to treaded tires. The absence of grooves allows for a larger contact patch, which translates to better grip on the asphalt. This is particularly important in performance scenarios where cornering, speed, and acceleration are critical. However, slicks are not suitable for wet conditions, as they lack the channels needed to disperse water, which increases the risk of hydroplaning.

CHOOSING A SLICK TIRE

Several manufacturers produce high-quality slick tires that cater to the needs of racers and track day drivers. The choice of which brand and model tire to use depends on several factors. Aspects like maximum grip, degradation, heat cycle effects, cost, temperature effects, wear, bump compliance, drivability, and more. All of these factors contribute to the choice for which tire to purchase and use. They all come with a price tag.

Different types of events also help determine which tire works best. Simply track day events where lap







time is not critical may make the choice more about longevity and cost. Races, on the other hand, push the priority more to lap time. Degradation, along with the length of race is another important factor.

Make the best choice you can for a brand and model tire from the data

you currently have. When you put on a new set of slicks, make notes on the performance aspects for each heat cycle and number of laps. Log as much data as you can for comparison (lap time, degradation lap times, air temp, track temp, etc). Do that for the life of the tire. Then if you want



the same for that set. Of course, your budget or even the race rules may dictate a certain brand/model tire.

WHEN TO CHANGE SLICK TIRES

Knowing when to change slick

tires is crucial for maintaining optimal performance and safety on the track. Several factors can indicate that it's time for a replacement:

- Tread Wear Indicators: While slick tires do not have traditional tread patterns, many manufacturers include wear indicators on the tire's

6 PCA CLUB RACER PCA CLUB RACER 7 surface. These indicators help drivers assess when the tire has reached its limit. If the wear indicators are flush with the tire surface, it's time to replace them.

- Heat Cycles: Slick tires are designed to operate within a specific range of heat cycles. Each time a tire heats up and cools down, it undergoes a heat cycle. Most high-performance slicks can handle around 10-15 heat cycles before their performance begins to degrade. After this point, the rubber can harden, leading to a loss of grip.

- Performance Drop: A noticeable decrease in grip or handling can indicate that slick tires are past their prime. If drivers experience longer braking distances or reduced cornering ability, it may be time to consider new tires.

- Visible Damage: Regular inspections are essential for identifying visible damage to slick tires. Look for cracks, blisters, or other signs of wear that could compromise the tire's integrity. Any signs of structural issues warrant immediate replacement to ensure safety on the track.

MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR SLICK TIRES

Proper maintenance can significantly extend the life of slick tires and enhance their performance. Here are some essential tips:

- Proper Inflation: Tire pressure



is critical for performance. Slick tires perform best within a specific pressure range. Always check tire pressure before a track day, as under-inflated or over-inflated tires can lead to poor handling and increased wear. Start with the manufacturer's recommended pressure, then you can increase and decrease psi by a couple of pounds at a time to find the optimum psi for your application. Use nitrogen to fill tires, it expands less and will help keep psi consistent. Humidity also increases psi build when tires get hot. It's best to purge tire air after mounting is performed and tires are inflated with air and replace it with nitrogen without humidity.

- Temperature Management: Slick tires perform best within a specific temperature range. Monitoring tire temperatures during practice sessions can help drivers understand how their tires are performing.

- Alignment and Balancing: Ensuring that the vehicle's alignment and tire balancing are correct is vital for preventing uneven wear. Misalignment can lead to premature tire wear and negatively impact handling, making it essential to have these checked regularly.

- Storage: If tires are not in use for an extended period, proper storage is crucial. Tires should be stored in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight to prevent degradation. Keeping them in a climate-controlled environment can help prolong their lifespan. Never allow them to freeze.











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erriam-Webster's dictionary defines the word taproot as "the central element or position in a line of growth or development." The taproot automobile is the one that started it all, and for Mark Calzaretta, it was a Porsche 924.

Calzaretta's family didn't have a lot of money growing up, and the family vehicle was often an ex-police vehicle. "We used to joke that we would stick our fingers through the floorboards in the back," said Calzaretta. "But that's the kind of cars we had."

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The experience had the expected effect. It led to years of DE weekends, car modifications, and ultimately a dedicated 944 track car.

As often happens, life intervened. Family and new business ventures led Calzaretta away from the track. He sold his Porsches and focused on his growing family and new business for several years. In 2016, he was in a position to rekindle his passion, and a Porsche returned to his driveway.

The old feelings didn't take long to return, and soon he purchased a track-prepped Cayman.



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After a few years of piloting the race-ready Cayman at PCA DE weekends, he decided it was

Calzaretta may not have realized that he was jumping into the deep end of the Club Racing competition pool by entering the über-competitive GTB1 class, but he didn't care. Calzaretta raced the Cayman and enjoyed PCA Club Racing's famously

friendly, yet competitive environment.

As his home race at NJMP approached, the GTB1 car started to get maintenance-intensive. A transmission issue leading up to the race made the possibility of missing the event very real. Until his local race shop offered a solution: its loaner Cup Car.

Always up for a challenge, Calzaretta rented the

Cup Car for the event, despite having never driven one before. The shop knew what they were doing by letting him sample the factory racing machine. Calzaretta asked how much it would cost to buy the car by the end of the second practice. He put the car he had never driven before on the pole and won

That race at NJMP was his first experience with





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a factory-built race car, and he couldn't see himself going back to his Cayman. He didn't end up buying the exact car ready to race at the most competitive levels he could find.

he rented, but he did procure a Cup Car for himself and was He considered entering an IMSA series and even tested as a Bronze driver with Ford. Calzaretta decided that he needed as much seat time as possible before he tried to level up. This was the genesis for his idea to compete in two different PCA Club Racing classes in the same season. YOKOHAMA





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often ran in the same group. That is when he decided to look for another fun and competitive class in club racing. His love of the 924 as a child and his experience with a 944 track car led to the purchase of a fully sorted SP3 car.

He found a great example at Precision Motorsports (better known as PMR) and jumped in. As soon as he got the SP3 on the track, he knew he had made the right decision. "Oh my God, is this thing fun to drive," said Calzaretta. "You never have to lift!"

Mark hired two driving coaches tailored to his specific needs in each class. He performed hours of testing and simulator training. His goal was to compete in every race and enduro in both classes and win both championships







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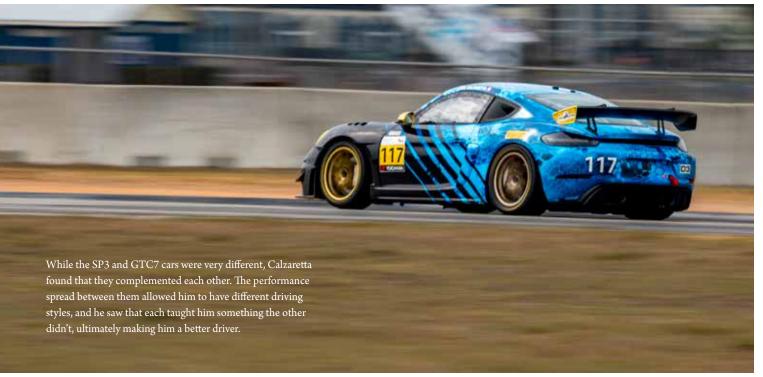


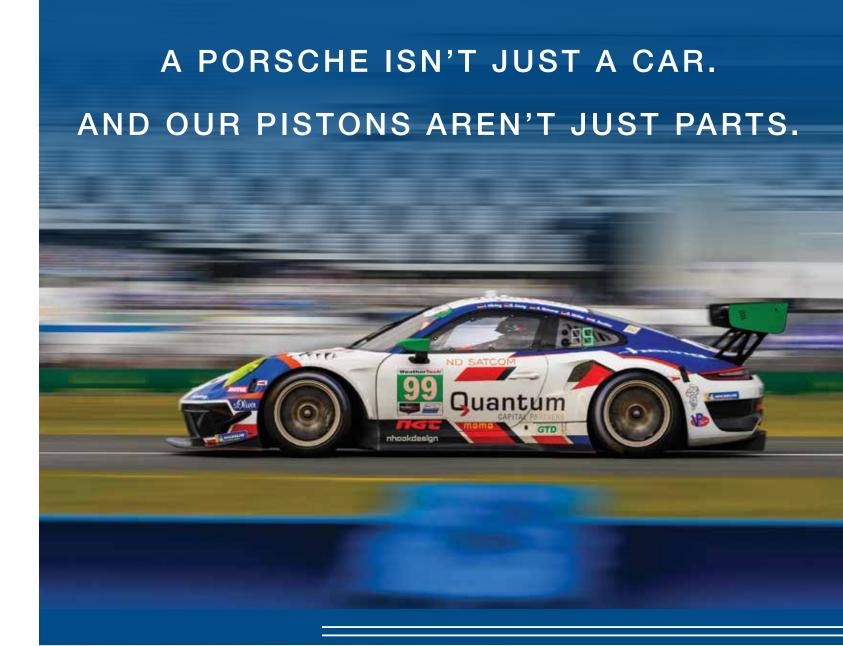
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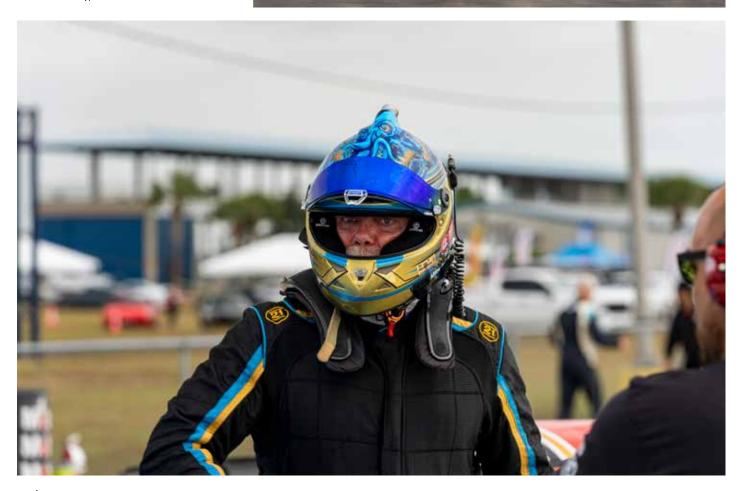








Calzaretta found the racing environment in the SP3 class invaluable for two reasons. First, the close competition. Second, the skill and race craft required to be competitive in a run group of SP3 and SPB cars. It improved his driving when he transitioned to the GTC7 car. At the same time, the situational awareness and ability to process data at high speed from the Cup Car helped his decision-making in SP3.



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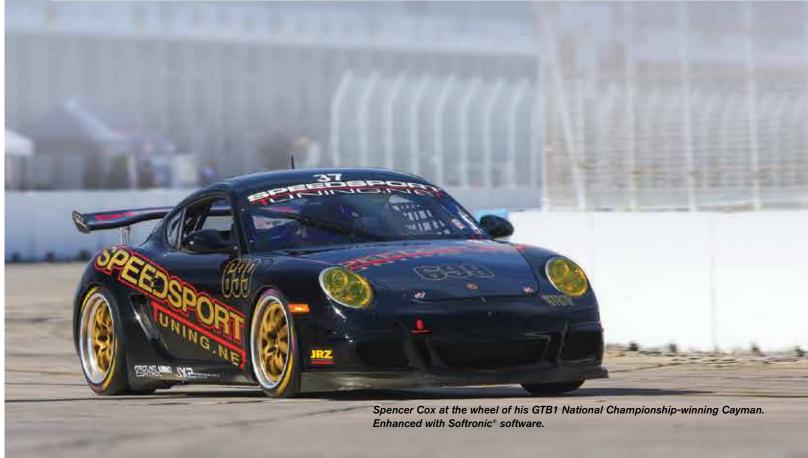
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can't take these risks to reach my goal." By focusing on the championship, he adjusted his in-race strategy to keep the "big picture" in mind and not get caught up in small battles.

The experience of chasing the points lead, securing it, and then holding off competitors to finish in first place in both classes taught Calzaretta more in one year of racing than he feels he could have learned in multiple seasons in a single class.

The hard work, the hours of physical training,





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Calzaretta was one of the lucky racers who, through the partnership between PCA Club Racing and Porsche Motorsport North America, received an allocation for a 718 GT4 RS Clubsport. He wanted to focus all of his attention on the GTD3 class and on each event and each race. Or, in his words, "Not to run around like a lunatic racing two classes."

His experience was unique, rewarding, educa-

tional, and an achievement he will never forget. As I write this, Calzaretta is in the lead of the GTD3 class, which is not surprising.

Calzaretta emphasized time and again how much he loves the PCA Club Racing environment and people. He can easily move to a professional series and might in the future. If so, you will still see him in his SP3 car competing in PCA because it's too damn fun to miss.





Bryan D. Henderson, 78, of Bedford, Texas, passed away on August 31, 2025.

Bryan was the Club Racing chair when I became Club Racing News editor in 2015. Vicki Earnshaw was Chief Steward. In 2016 Vicki became Club Racing Chair and Bryan became the Chief Steward. Bryan was always there to help me get started as editor. He was a professional in any way you can think of.

When I heard about his passing I felt like I wanted (and needed) to attend the funeral services. Bedford is only ten minutes from Love Field in Dallas, so I flew in the night before, got a hotel room near the airport and a rental car. My long time friend and former Club Racing Scruit lived a couple of hours drive from Dallas, so he came down and spent the night with me. It was great talking into the wee hours and remising about Bryan. In the morning we drove to the service and were happy to see probably a half dozen other



club Racers there, including Dave Rodenroth.

Bryan was one of those people who made a mark wherever he went. He was well respected and a consummate professional. It is sad to think that he is gone now, but grateful that I had a chance to work with him and get to know him a little.

Bryan was born in Amarillo, Texas to Dorothy and Morris Henderson on October 1, 1946. He attended high school at North Little Rock in Arkansas and went on to continue his education at the University of Arkansas.

Bryan worked for 39 years with the FAA as an air traffic control supervisor and instructor. There he developed a love for airplanes, and piloted RC airplanes for 15 years. In addition to planes, he was passionate about sports and cars! He coached little league sports for 10 years, including boys football and girls basketball. He was a member

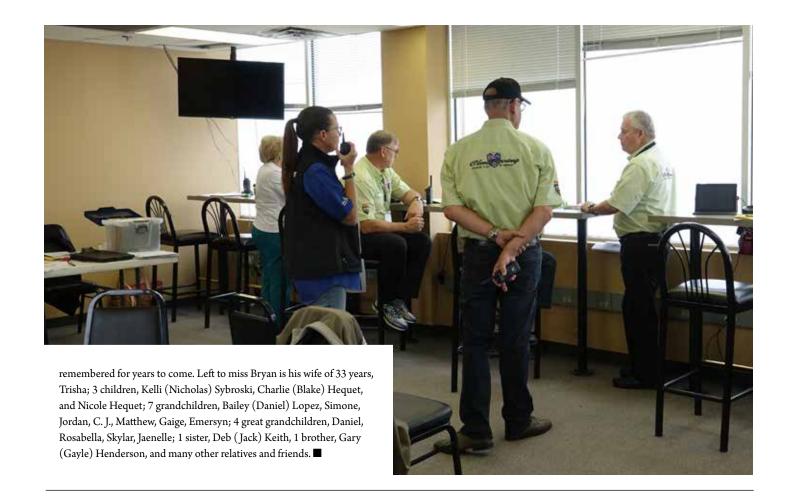






of the Porsche Club, where he volunteered and raced in the E Class 911 SC, served as a National Chairman of the Porsche Racing Club, an instructor and developed the rules for Porsche racing, that are still in use today.









Quality Qualifying

HERE ARE A FEW BEST PRACTICES TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR QUALIFYING SESSION BY ANDREW FORREST

Qualifying is, of course, the process by which the starting order for a race is determined.

The quicker your best lap time in qualifying, the closer your starting position is to pole position. In club racing, we share the track with our competitors during qualifying sessions, which necessitates both strategy and etiquette. The PCA Club Racing rules say nothing

explicit about these elements of qualifying and this article should not be construed as authoritative. Instead, it outlines some points that may help reduce the frustration of yourself, and others, as well as improve the chances of producing your best possible result.

The fundamental fact is that, on any given lap during a qualifying session, one is either on a flyer or is not. A flyer is a lap that has the potential to be your best of the session. A lap that is not a flyer has no hope of improving your, as-yet, best time of the session. Perhaps you caught

a lot of traffic, spun, or another car stole the apex at a critical corner. There are many potential reasons why a lap may not be a flyer, but the distinction is the important part. Lastly, anyone can turn a flyer into a non-flyer. But I've never heard of anyone doing the opposite.







ARE YOU ON A FLYER?

Great! Go for it! I hope it goes well for you. If you're not on a flyer, then try not to impede others' and prepare yourself for your next (perhaps by establishing a gap). On a non-flyer, there is little point in taking risks or defending against others. Have you ever caught a car during qualifying that has just recovered from a spin and then

goes on to defend and block you for the rest of your otherwise speedy qualifying lap? Rude.

How do you tell you're on a flyer? Most data systems have a feature that can show the time delta, or difference, between the current lap and some best reference lap. That can be either from the same session or from all time. A favorable delta, or a very slightly unfavorable one, can

be considered flyer territory.

Absent a data system telling you that you're on a flyer, assume you're on one if you're going roughly as fast as you can, made no serious mistakes, nor encountered any need to over-slow the car. Given the layout of most tracks (entry is past start/finish, exit is before start/finish) you are typically not on a flyer on your in or out laps.

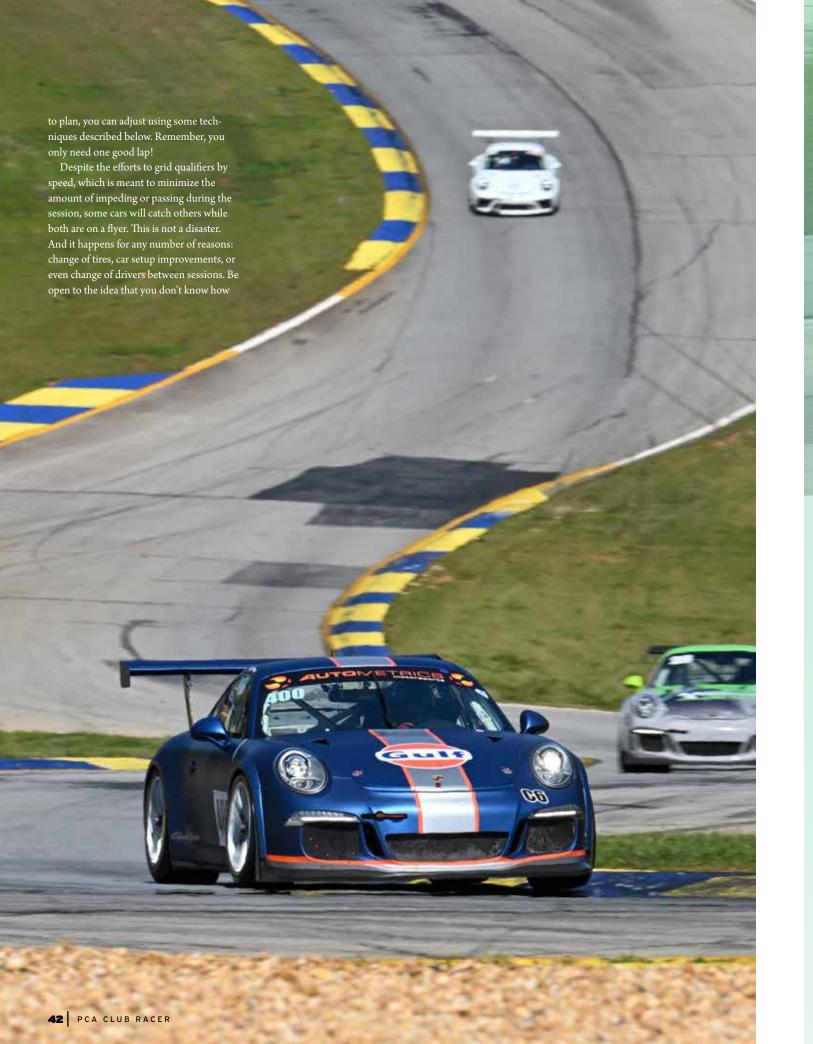
START YOUR QUALIFYING SESSION WITH A PLAN

If you run DOT R tires that warm up quickly and degrade steadily, you might plan to warm them up on your out lap. As you do, establish a gap between cars ahead and behind. On lap two, attempt a solid flyer to put one "in the bank" (more on that later) and then really go for it on the third lap. If things don't go according





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Demon Speed brought home a Clubsport trophy at every event except Road America. Read our write up to see why.





















completing the lap without attempting a pass will result in a faster time than going off line to pass. After all, the gap to the lead car was closed so the following car set a faster lap than the lead car. This is not to say that the following car can't achieve an

even faster time if unimpeded, just that going off line to pass, or worse, repeatedly attempting and failing at passing, particularly in corners, will just slow you both down.

If you're in the following car and you don't intend to pass, don't "take a look" while approaching a corner. That may necessitate the lead car to spend more attention looking in their mirrors, or even leaving room in a corner, thereby slowing everyone down.

If a pass is deemed necessary and it

can't wait for the lead car to complete a potential flyer, try to carry out the pass where it will slow you both the least. Pass on a straight, well before the following braking zone. If a following car seems intent on passing, try to induce them to do so early in a





straight by feathering the throttle and providing a point-by.

MULTI-CLASS QUALIFYING

In multi-class qualifying or fields with a great spread of driver skills, it is possible for cars with substantial

speed differentials to encounter each other, particularly towards the end of a session. The same considerations to passing with minimal disruption apply, although the incentive for the faster car to take an apex may prove irresistible and their ability to do so

without disrupting the overtaken car, broadens your options.

A good gap in front, and behind, your car helps avoid all the considerations of passing entirely. If you're lucky enough to have a radio and a spotter, you can arrange to be directed to a portion of the track that offers this advantage. If you don't have this luxury, you can sometimes till approximate this.

In single class qualifying, or if field is small, the track is long, or the lap times are close, wait in the hot-pit on



the out lap for roughly half the duration of the average lap time. This puts you nominally on the "opposite" side of the track to the rest of the field. Likewise, if you encounter unmanageable traffic during a session, you can always

come into the hot pit (but not the paddock!) and return to the track where there's more space.

Also, waiting to set your fast lap later in the session may come with a risk. The session may end prematurely, before you set

a representative lap time. Or the weather conditions deteriorated, making it harder to achieve a good lap time. This leads to the strategy of getting a lap time "in the bank." A "banker lap" is one that is set early in the qualifying session and

is close to your potential best but doesn't involve taking maximum risk (and therefore suffers from no mistakes). While it may not be the best you can achieve, it has the virtue of being set early in the session before something out of





insight into qualifying. Practicing your control can go wrong. In conclusion, you're either the above can improve your satison a flyer or you aren't. While faction with club racing and reduce the ideas in this article are not an frustration during qualifying. It also enhances your potential to get official PCA Club Racing policy, it is hoped that they can offer some the best possible result you can. ■

2025 PCA CLUB RACING SCHEDULE
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Event Registration: http://register.pca.org

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COTA Mid America Series

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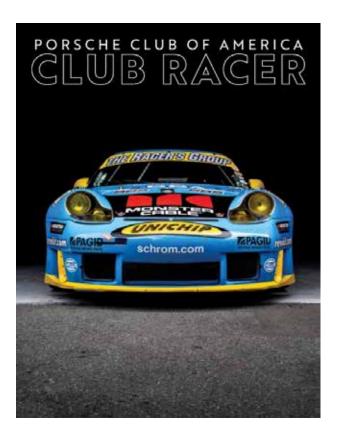
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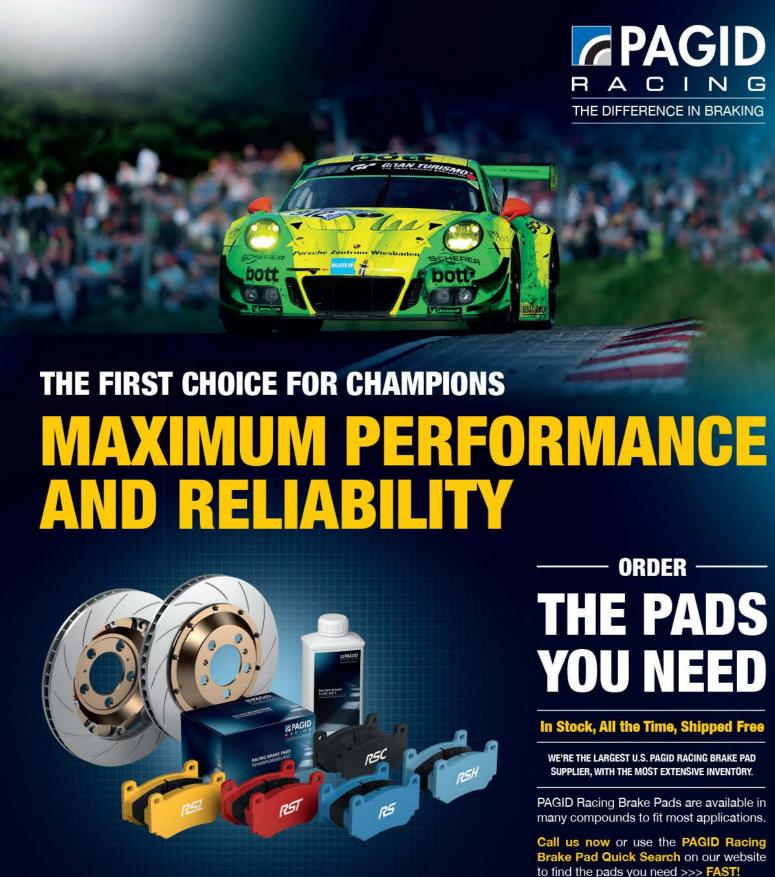


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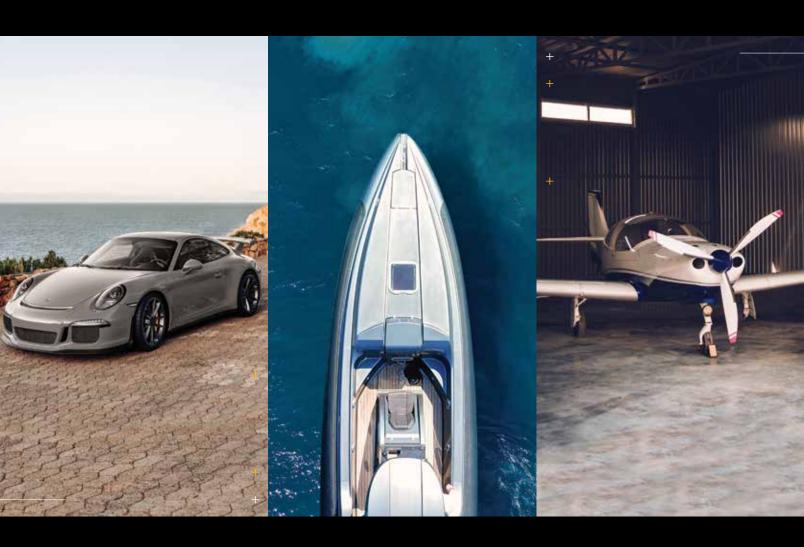
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