



THE **Aficionado**

The Official Newsletter of the Winnipeg Sports Car Club

NOV 2023





CONTENTS

Welcome	2
Club Information.....	2
Presidents Message	3
Winnipeg Autocross	4
Race School.....	6
Drift Days	8
Road Racing.....	10
DirtX	13
Ice racing.....	14
Sponsors.....	18
Race Cars for Sale	19
2024 Ice Racing Schedule.....	20

Cover Photos from JEREMY PASKARUK

Welcome

The Aficionado contains articles from club directors, members and information from our club forums. Please distribute this newsletter to anyone that is interested in joining, competing, or volunteering with the Winnipeg Sports Car Club.

Brad Epp, Aficionado Editor

Club Information

The Winnipeg Sports Car Club is a non-profit corporation and, at 71 years old, is Canada's oldest continuously operating sports car club. Since 1952 the WSCC has organized motorsport events in and around Winnipeg. By the 1970's, Gimli Motorsports Park became the WSCC's "home base." These motorsports events are sanctioned by the Western Canada Motorsport Association and include road racing, time attack, autoslalom, rally, track days, drift, and ice racing. High performance driving education (HPDE) schools are also coordinated to license new racers into the sport.



Mailing Address: WSCC Box 672,
Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3C 2K3



www.wsc.mb.ca



Forums.wsc.mb.ca



#wscrcing



@WinnipegSportsCarClub

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Jay Funke

As another year comes to a close on the summer racing season and we brace ourselves for the harsher conditions that winter surely brings, we turn our minds to our upcoming awards banquet and wrapping up the year at our Annual General Meeting.

It's an opportunity to look back on 2023 and celebrate all the people that have made this year such a success for the Club. I won't attempt to name you all, as I would surely leave someone out, and I don't want to overlook anyone's contribution. Suffice to say that without all of the work and effort of our organizers, marshals, volunteers, racers, club members and families, none of the great racing we've enjoyed over the last year would have been possible.

This end of season review is also somewhat different as it is the last year of my term as President. It's a bittersweet moment as I look back over the last four years, and all that we've achieved together. There is no question that we've not met all of the objectives we set for ourselves, but the Club has accomplished some amazing things over that time and continues to be in a strong position, despite the hardships presented by the COVID pandemic, a persistently difficult economy, and an embattled political climate.

No doubt the Club will face further obstacles in the future, but we have an amazing Executive leading our organization, who will continue to guide us through the coming months and years. I have had the tremendous good fortune to work with this exceptional group of people for the last four years, and have come to rely on each and every one of them for their wisdom, support and guidance.

Not the least of the challenges facing the Club will be our long term tenure at Gimli Motorsport Park. The fate of GMP will be revealed in time when the RM ultimately announces their plans for the venue, and the new President and Executive Committee are ready and capable of responding to whatever lies ahead. But as I've said for some time now, we can't afford to pin all of our hopes on that uncertain future, and we must have alternatives in place in the event the worst comes to pass.

That is where I will be focusing my efforts and energies going forward, and together with a small group of others, we hope to have more news to announce soon.

Until then, thank you all for the trust you have placed in me and the opportunity to have served this storied organization over the last four years. It has been a singular honour to work with and alongside you all.

All the best,

Jay Funke



GRASSROOTS RACING IN WINNIPEG'S BACKYARD.



In 2023, the Winnipeg Autocross club once again ignited speed, precision, and passion, concluding another heart-pounding season. Building on the momentum generated in 2022, this year witnessed an unprecedented surge in participation, boasting the largest turnouts in a decade! What truly set this season apart was the diverse influx of new drivers eager to delve into the world of autocross, by pushing boundaries, forging new friendships, and joining in the exhilaration of grassroots motorsport.

Autocross, meticulously crafted to challenge both novice and advanced drivers, stood as a vibrant thread in the rich offerings of WSCC's racing disciplines. This season, our events at St. Andrew's airport moved to embracing the 'double-lap run' philosophy for course design, requiring each driver to complete two passes of the

layout before crossing the finish line. This approach, voted a unanimous success early in the season, led us to tirelessly create fresh designs - every event - while preserving the intricate complex corners and fast sweepers that demand precision, finesse, and now, even more unwavering focus from every driver.

Diverse Competitors, Shared Passion: Empowering Enthusiasts

The Winnipeg Autocross Club's 2023 season's reached its brightest highlight with the Hers & Hirs Autocross School, an initiative designed exclusively for women and all underrepresented individuals in the predominantly male dominated racing community. This special day provided a welcoming space for enthusiasts to explore their passion for cars, curiosity for motorsport and break down barriers within the motorsport world.

HERS & HIRS AUTOCROSS SCHOOL

25 Students (capped)
21 first time drivers

9 Sponsors \$1750 raised for club
5 first time sponsors

PERFORMANCE DRIVING SCHOOL '23

23 Students 15 attending new classroom session

3 Sponsors \$2080 raised for club
*Full season sponsors





Under the expert guidance of our dedicated instructors, participants, limited to 25 due to overwhelming demand, broke the ice and built foundational performance driving tools progressing through our bespoke curriculum. The air at the school was one of palpable camaraderie and support, no better exemplified by all the spectating students applauding every returning driver after each run, and all our 9 sponsors contributing to the experience in invaluable ways.

Huge thanks once again goes out to Speedworld, Porsche Centre Winnipeg, Collective Event Rentals, Machine Girl Motorsports, Subway, Finely Tuned, The Sober Market and Feast & Festivities. An extra special thank you to McPhillips Toyota, who generously provided 2 Toyota Corollas for students without vehicles to drive at the school, allowing 7 women

to join us who otherwise wouldn't have been able to!

Fierce Rivalries

The 2023 season witnessed fierce competition across its four divisions: Mixed, Modified, Novice and Street categories. Each division hosted hotly contested championships, with each division fostering a competitive spirit that exemplified the heart of autocross racing. Moreover, the pinnacle of achievement was the Overall PAX championship, uniting drivers from all four divisions, unfolding an exhilarating season long battle for the title.

Winnipeg Autocross continues to nurture community through race day connections, post-event gatherings, and shared passion, solidifying its family-like bond and inclusivity for all. Cheers to superb season! Autocross is for everyone.

2023 CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

OVERALL PAX

1	Rob Rurak	60
2	Louis Martin	57
3	Brandon Rebillard	51

MIXED

1	Corey Matthews	60
2	Allan Ball	52
3	Jordan Frank	51

MODIFIED

1	Jason Tran	60
2	Jeremy Choy	55
3	Chris Taggar	49

NOVICE

1	Jack Dunlop	60
2	Hisham Peerbuccus	57
3	Valerie Martin	52

STREET

1	Rob Rurak	60
2	Louis Martin	57
3	Brandon Rebillard	51



By Roland Hufgard Photos by Demitry Klimenko @zerodark_collective

This May the Winnipeg Sports Car Club held its annual Competition Licensing School in the first week of May. The decision to have the event one week later than usual was rewarded with good weather and a track that was dry enough for people to utilize the grass areas.

Already during the theory lessons on Wednesday evening, it became obvious that the participants were eager to learn and excited about the prospect of running on the track. Inquisitive students asked a lot of questions, several topics beyond the regular curriculum were discussed, and the light-hearted banter going on showed that most students already felt at ease with their fellow racers.

A few of the students came out to the HPDE/Hotlapping event on Friday to get their feet wet, however the bulk of participants showed up on Saturday morning. Already at 7am a large variety of vehicles started to roll into Gimli Motorsport Park. Built between 1967 and 2023, there were Sedans, Coupes and Convertibles filling the Pit – every driver eager to get their car ready.

A welcoming tent awaited the crowd with coffee and donuts, and at 8am the first driver meeting was held. Concurrently, the 44 volunteers held their workers meeting to ensure that everybody was familiar with their role for the weekend. After a track familiarization, the students were lined up at Grid in their respective groups and then released into the various exercises.

Within minutes, the air was filled with the sound of buzzing four-cylinder engines and the roar of V8s trying to drown out the squealing protests of over-worked tires.



By noon, every student had gone through three exercises designed to allow the drivers to heighten their senses and to become familiar with the limits of their vehicles. Then, after lunch, the action moved onto the track with students lapping in a Time Attack style pattern of seven laps at a time, including the warm-up and cool-down laps. Gradually the speed limit was increased, forcing the students to adjust to higher corner entry speeds and harder braking. During breaks, the participants received lessons in flags, tire selection and tire tips, and many more tidbits of information.

On Sunday morning after the welcome coffee, the students were asked to show the instructors how much skills and information they had retained from the previous day. After that more lessons followed, introducing passing, even higher speeds and also alternative lines. During lunch, the students wrote their mandatory test. For each student the culmination of the school was running the track without a speed limit, free to pass at the designated spot, while being watched by the instructors. One by one, the students showed their prowess, and by late afternoon every student had been signed off by their respective instructor as a safe driver on the race track.

With everyone passing the written test and every student being signed off by their instructor, the entire group of participants graduated; their names were forwarded to WCMA so that they could apply for their licenses to race.

There were very few problems throughout the course. Two cars had mechanical breakdowns, but the drivers managed to utilize a vehicle from a different group, so they could still get their track time. The weather cooperated, with only a short period of rain helping to underline the importance of alternative lines. The mood of the students could only be described as elated, and smiles could be seen everywhere.

The volunteers did an awesome job making this event run smoothly and effectively, helping to create a Competition Licensing School that moved along without any hick-ups -an event that the participants will remember for a long time.



2024 COMPETITION LICENSE SCHOOL

Dates for next years school have not been set but registration will open around January 1st 2024.

**Keep up to date at
forums.wscc.mb.ca**

wsccracing.com

or on our social media

DRIIFT

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM JEREMY PASKARUK

We held 4 drift events in 2023! Thanks to everyone who helped make these events a huge success. See you in 2024!







ROAD RACING



Photo Credit: Jeremy Paskaruk

GT3

Season: 2023

Pos	No.	Name	Total
1	7	Guy Dobson	30
2	14	Gary Cummins	6

GT4

Season: 2023

Pos	No.	Name	Total
1	28	Bill Langner	65
2	11	Damon Hill	54
3	89	Rick Dobson	25
4	12	Pete Loewen	24

IT1

Season: 2023

Pos	No.	Name	Total
1	25	Yogesh Thakore	19
2	15	Adam Knutson	5

Vintage

Season: 2023

Pos	No.	Name	Total
1	66	Glenn Gordon	40
2	43	Dan Brown	8

IT2

Season: 2023

Pos	No.	Name	Total
1	2	Al Marcoux	218
2	90	Johnny van Dorp	111
3	55	Chris Gauthier	106
4	6	Mike Demchenko	61
5	10	Randy Morash	58
6	60	John Armatas	57
7	44	Clint Sharples	41
8	7	Jordan Sharples	33
9	33	Wayne Shaw	23
10	9	Gerd Uebele	13
11	89	Dwight Ullberg	11
12	66	John Armatas	2



Photo Brad Epp



GMP was busy again this season
with Road Racing, Time Attack
and many, many Lapping Days!

Photos by Jeremy Paskaruk

TIME ATTACK

2023 Championship Winners

CLASS	WINNER
Extreme	Sheldon Fehr
SGT	Ryan James
GT	Kyle Anonychuk
TA	Nick Balaz
Rookie	Jason Schroeder



Photo by Jeremy Paskaruk



Photo by Demitry Klimenko



Photos by Jeremy Paskaruk

ALMOST ANY CAR CAN BE A RACE CAR, EVEN THIS ONE!

By Dason Wowk Photos by @photosby.sw

Probably the most common reply I get when I talk to people about coming out to the track: “Oh, I don’t have the right car for that.”

I get it. But the way I look at it, every car has the potential to be fun. The only major rules are that it has to be wider than it is tall, and that it can’t be leaking fluids all over the place. Other than that, it’s pretty much the same stuff you need to drive it safely on the street. Does it stop? Does it go? Do the lights work? Good enough!

Sure, it would be nice to pilot a brand new Porsche, or that Ariel Atom I’ve always drooled over, but in most cases, that’s not the reality. So all you have to do is look around a bit. Is there a car sitting around your place, not getting used much anymore? Is your co-worker trying to get rid of something cheap? These might be the ones to keep your eyes on. Here is my example.

I have been a fan of DirtX since the start, but I didn’t want to use my nice street car. So when a friend from work was talking about upgrading to a newer car, I jumped on it. He was going to send it to a scrapyard if it didn’t sell quick, he didn’t have the room for it. In situations like this, we can’t be too choosy, so the price was right, and I am now the “proud” new owner of a 2006 PT Cruiser. And it’s a race car now.

Sure, it might get laughed at sometimes, and I do notice that people cringe when I tell them what I race in, but that actually makes it a bit more fun to me. This thing may not look as cool as the other cars, but when it’s tearing around that dirt track, nobody expects it. And it does pretty well too! It will never be an award winner on top of the podium, but it hasn’t come in last yet either.

So to sum it up, it doesn’t matter what you drive, just that you have fun driving it. See you at the track!



2023 ICE RACING

By Mike Demchenko

The 2023 WSCC Ice Racing season wrapped up in early March with the annual double header race and banquet weekend in Gimli and what a season it was! Mother Nature cooperated wonderfully this year and provided us with great winter ice racing weather on all 5 race weekends of the season. Following on last years introduction of a new ice drifting class, the streetcars came out in full force and put on a great show for everyone. We tallied 124 ice drift entries throughout the 5 race weekends as well as 11 racecars with 14 drivers that competed in the Fire on Ice season championship this year.

The competition for the championship was fierce throughout the season and the final result was decided on the last race with the closest points finish in WSCC Ice Racing memory!

Our season opened on Jan 7 with an HPDE/Ice School at the fabulous oval ice track facility in Beausejour. The CPTC (Canadian Power Toboggan Championship) track is unique to our ice racing series as it is our only "non road course" track design, however the big wide oval track with all its facilities is definitely popular with the racers, drifters and volunteers. As part of a fundraiser for the track the CPTC counted more than 300 spectators who paid admission to watch the racing.

With the growing popularity of the ice drifting and racing it was also decided to ramp up the event promotion and charge admission for spectators. This proved successful and with the help of our great club volunteers working the gate and putting on a well run event, the racing action was announced and broadcast locally for spectators on their vehicle's FM radio.

We closed off the season with a big double header race weekend and banquet in Gimli as part of the Gimli Ice Festival. This year it was bigger than ever with huge crowds lining the boardwalk and spectator areas surrounding the track! As part of this years event we also held the inaugural "Icelandic Pursuit Race" sponsored by the Lakeview Resort Hotel. For those familiar to road racing this is similar to what they call an Australian pursuit race where the entire grid starts in reverse order separated by a specific time period between each car that was calculated based on their average lap times....theoretically this means at the end of the race, every car should cross the finish line at the same time! 2023 Inaugural Icelandic Pursuit Race winners:

Brandon Rehill (#4 Ford Focus)
Ryan Lysik (#5 Honda Civic)
Lee McRae (#9 Ford Focus)

In addition we presented 3 awards to the top Ice drifters. 2023 Ice Drift Showdown winners:

AWD- Dave Halcrow (#79 Subaru WRX)
RWD- Nick Balaz (#10 Toyota Supra)
FWD- Mike Gordon (#999 Hyundai Elantra)



Photo Brad Epp



Video by Benli003 (Youtube)

When the snow dust finally cleared at the end of the season a winner was decided by a margin of only 1 point after 29 races. Well done to both Lee & Damon on the hard fought battle throughout the season!

2023 WSCC Fire on Ice Championship Winners:

1st place – Lee McRae (#9 Ford Focus)
2nd place – Damon Surzyshyn (#55 Honda Civic)
3rd place – Mike Demchenko (#88 Honda CRX)

Thankful as always to all the great volunteers and sponsors that helped us put on these race weekends. Without them we cannot race and we are always grateful to have such a great team!



Photo by Jeremy Paskaruk

2024 ICE RACING - *Street Safe Class* By Mike Demchenko Photos by Jeremy Paskaruk

We are extremely excited to announce our plans for a new class of ice racing as part of our Fire on Ice Championship Series. The new **Street Safe Class** of ice racing is expected to be both exciting and competitive. The key aspect of this new race class is that the car's preparation requirements are minimal and the only modifications that are typically required for most cars are the installation of a rear facing fog light, the removal of the airbags and marking your car number on each door. While the installation of a safety cage in the car is recommended it is not required. We encourage people to keep their cars as stock as possible. The goal of this new class is to develop a class of competitive ice racing that is fun and exciting while also being both safe and very affordable. Find a cheap car, register and join the grid of cars sliding together into turn one!

All the details and information regarding the car requirements are detailed within the "2024 Ice Race Regulations" document that can be found in a separate pinned post on this forum.

The tires allowed for the Street Safe Class will be standard winter tires without studs. Any commercially available DOT rated winter tire will work. "RTI" (Rubber to Ice) racing has always been an exciting class of ice racing that involves more finesse and control and is often considered harder to master than the studded tire racing. One of the other key aspects of racing on ice with non-studded tires is that it equalizes the horsepower component of the cars. Low horsepower cars have just as much performance opportunity than higher horsepower cars as the speed comes with controlling the tire spin and the lack of grip. This type of racing is perfect for a small cheap high mileage car regardless of the engine size.

Top speeds in this class will be kept under 80 km/h utilizing track design aspects different from the Studded tire class. Typically this will involve the utilization of additional chicanes temporarily installed within the track straight-away that is utilized for the Studded class of cars.

We are still finalizing some aspects of this class with the anticipation that it also be sanctioned by WCMA. If this happens we are also working on a streamlined process for obtaining the Race Licenses that WCMA requires to participate. Our plans include providing an opportunity for new entries to get licensed on the Saturday before each Sunday race day. Application for the license would need to be completed online prior to the race day and all the relevant information will be posted on this forum as we finalize and confirm the details. Stay tuned for more info.

There is no cheaper form of door to door racing in motorsport than our Fire on Ice - Street Safe Class!

Find a cheap car and come join us!





**THANK YOU
SPONSORS & PARTNERS**



NOMAD
DIGITAL



HOME OF THE WINNIPEG SPORTS CAR CLUB

Race Cars for Sale

An easy way to get into racing is to start with an existing race car.

Check the club forum for further information and contact info:

forums.wscc.mb.ca

2007 Civic Si Track Car

Engine: k20 from an 07 CSX, cams and valvetrain from 07 TSX.

Trans: TSX gearset in civic case, still with the factory LSD

Koni yellows with about springs 500f/530r, adjustable rear upper control arms, camber bolts in front. Spherical front lower control arm bushings. 20mm rear sway bar.

Abs delete, sunroof delete, TSX front brakes with power stop track day spec pads, 3" exhaust, Injen hot air intake

\$3500 on rollers,

Contact Joose on the forums.wscc.mb.ca



1981 Mazda 626 Vintage Race Car

Pro-built, safe, reliable, fun to drive vintage race car for sale. Refurbished and ready to run right now. Or perfect toy for repaved GMP track next year. Comes with three sets of new tires (\$3400 value) including Hoosier slicks, 8 rims, fiberglass molds, and a dual axle trailer with electric winch.

Can't go racing easier. **\$5000**

Contact Wayne Jones on the forums.wscc.mb.ca



≡ **HAGERTY** | MotorsportReg

License Applications

Go to www.motorsportreg.com to get your 2024 licenses and to register for WSCC events. Click to get your license:

[Amateur License](#)

[Basic Ice Race](#)

[Race Official License](#)

[Time Attack](#)

[Car Number & Classification](#)



Photo by Jeremy Paskaruk

FIRE ON ICE WSCC ICE RACING



Photos by
@JeremyPaskaruk

WATCH 3 THRILLING RACING CLASSES!

ICE DRIFTING

STREET SAFE

STUDDER



**NEW FOR 2024! STREET SAFE RUBBER TO ICE CLASS!
CAGELESS, DOOR TO DOOR RACING WITH A PASSENGER!
GET READY FOR THE CHEAPEST MOTORSPORT EVER!**



**SCAN FOR
RULES &
FORUM**

2024 SCHEDULE

JAN 6TH - 7TH

**WINNIPEG SKIPOND
(LAKE SHIRLEY)**

FEB 3RD - 4TH

**WINNIPEG SKIPOND
(LAKE SHIRLEY)**

MAR 2ND - 3RD

**GIMLI WINTER
FESTIVAL**

JAN 20TH - 21ST

**BEAUSEJOUR
ICE OVAL (CPTC)**

FEB 17TH - 18TH

**WINNIPEG BEACH
WINTER FESTIVAL**



Visit wsc.mb.ca/ice-racing for info on how to join and race in the **WSCC**  