

Okay, here's my story:

I was born and raised in Winnipeg and was lucky enough to experience the late 60's muscle car era while I was in high school. Nothing like spending your lunch hour at Daniel Mac watching these cars circle the school, showing off. Best burnout ever was a guy in his mother's 1968 dark green Mustang GT 390 (true story) that "lit 'em up" for the full length of the front street. Unfortunately, the principal's office faced the front street, and that was the last we saw of the Mustang.

As soon as I earned enough money for a down payment, I bought my first motorcycle. That was at a time when riding a Honda 90 was considered cool. I was envious when a friend showed up at school with his brand new Jawa Road King that he bought at Eaton's. Yeah, different times and different values.

My first two cars were '57 Chevys, followed by a '69 Mustang Mach 1 and a 1970 Camaro Z28 350 c.i./350 hp. Unfortunately, a 350 hp car and a young hooligan is not a good recipe for keeping your driver's licence.

Up until 2007 I had owned 10 motorcycles and a few "winter-beater" cars, but never got into the sporty or performance cars again until I bought an Integra RS, Mazda RX-8, Mustang GT, Scion FRS, and finally the Focus RS.

It was a "no-brainer" to sign up for the 2017 HPDE and learn some proper driving skills. Unfortunately, the school was full by the time I registered. No problem ... on to Autoslalom! This was a great way to get introduced to motorsports in a safe, yet challenging and fun environment. I definitely got hooked on Autoslalom as I probably set the record for most tires used and most cones hit. Didn't miss a single event, even the private one, to which I wasn't invited.

No way I was going to miss the 2018 HPDE, which I signed up for in December 2017. The HPDE was a great experience that led me to Time Attack and learning, again, that it's more about the driver than the car. Can't remember how many times I had to give a "point-by" to less powerful cars. This "learning thing" is going to take a while to get figured out.

Hope to see you at the track sometime soon! And by the way, check out the COVID-19 hairstyle, in the picture below, that is six weeks overdue for a cut.





Steve Carmichael | SoloSnapshots
WSSC Autocross