

## Guest Driver

When I started autocrossing, I started using my daily driver (DD). My first season was in an AWD Eagle Talon. I traded that car for a 1988 BMW 325 and raced that for about 7 years. Most people start using their street driven DD because of convenience. With the pace of automotive technology, a person has to buy a new car every few years to stay competitive in stock class. Because most people can't afford that path, they modify their daily driver to make it more competitive, but after a while they have to decide what their priorities are. A highly modified car becomes less reliable and less comfortable for daily duty. You can't risk your ability to get to work when something inevitably goes wrong. This is how I made the decision to get the Pinto as a dedicated race car. A Pinto obviously isn't most people's first thought when they think of a performance car, but this one was an old vintage road racer. All of the hard work had already been done. The suspension was properly modified, interior stripped and caged, and the engine was ready to assemble however I wanted it. Plus, it had a price that couldn't be beat.

The Pinto has proven to be a pretty competitive car with the local club, when it is running... Being on a limited budget meant I couldn't just throw money at it and because of its vintage there were very few available performance parts or knowledgeable resources. This has meant I have missed several events. Being a leader of the club, I found myself at many events without a race car. Fortunately, many people have come to my rescue and offered to let me drive their car. This is one of my favorite things about amateur racing. The participants are into it for the camaraderie and competition and many have been willing to share their race car with me. And I mean MANY.

The EESCC website is awesome. It allows you to pull up every event you have raced with this club since IB2000, by your name. Below is a list of all the race cars I have been a guest driver in. Some of these great folks have let me drive their car more than once, but if it was the same car, I left it out for the sake of space.

2003 Subaru WRX, Nathan Greiner  
2002 WRX Wagon, Ryan Carothers  
2005 Nissan Sentra Spec V, Mike Baker  
1992 Mazda Miata, David Mills  
1983 VW Rabbit, Jason Mattis  
2003 Ford Focus, Nathan Allen  
2007 Pontiac Solstice, Bruce Harmon  
2008 Mazda RX8, Shunan Zu  
1982 BMW 320, Allen Hesch  
1975 Nissan 280z, Chris Nunez  
The Bandit, Tony Chilton  
2012 Mazdaspeed 3, Jeremy Dey

2002 Subaru Impreza, Nathan Allen  
1983 Camaro, Bert Jacobson  
WSR Sports Racer, Tony Chilton  
1987 BMW 535i, Sean Kato  
1991 Toyota MR2 Turbo, Eli Miller  
1991 Toyota MR2 V6, Eli Miller  
2008 Porsche Cayman, Jerry Shultz  
2017 Fiat 124 Spider, Bruce Harmon  
1999 Mazda Miata, Alan Bowers  
2006 Mazda Miata, Bill Randelman  
1986 Nissan 200SX, Jeremy Bunker  
1999 Mercedes CLK 430, Eli Miller  
1989 BMW 3251, Mike Baker

That adds up to 25 racecars, that are not my own, that I have had the pleasure to race since I started autocrossing in 2000. I really appreciate all of these folks for sharing their car with me. This list doesn't include the 2 cars I raced in Chump Car and Lucky Dog. Thank you to Jeremiah Russell (1989 Nissan Sentra), and Raye and Jamie (1986 BMW 325), for the track racing. I wanted to give a Special thanks to Tony Chilton. I raced his AM Bandit with him for a full season in 2015. That car was mind-bendingly fast.

Finally, I wanted to extend an offer to drive the Pinto, to all of the folks who's cars I have driven. I have invited a few people to drive the Pinto in the past and I have to say, I get the feeling many of them didn't really enjoy it that much. Haha. It has manual brakes, manual steering and big sticky race tires. It's actually takes great physical effort to drive it sometimes and this isn't everybody's cup of tea. I will be making further efforts to improve drivability and durability in the future and as it becomes easier to drive more people can enjoy it. If you find yourself without a race car, come race day, or if you have a durable car and you just to have fun runs, let me know. Thanks again to EESCC members for all of the great memories, and I look forward to creating many more in the years to come.

Keith Olsen.