



Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs Ontario Region

CASC-OR, the Official Sanctioning Body of Motorsports in Ontario.

Happy New Year everyone! Well, the trackside world is a little down-played right now. Most Canadian racers have their cars in hibernation. Quite a few have spoken about all the improvements and restorations they'll be making to their cars this winter. Only a limited set have actually braved the cold garages and picked up their wrenches. By the way - this happens every year. It's kind of like ground hog day - the racers poke their heads into their storage garages and consider "it's only 10 more weeks to the first race... I don't have to work on the car yet..." And then they go back into their dens and watch 3 more re-runs of last year's races on Speed Channel. If only it could be determined that watching racing on TV really improves your skills when you get to the track. (Ah well - it does improve your bench racing skills!)

As a winter topic - I thought I'd focus on the Ontario Z Car's connection with the regional racing administrator, CASC-OR. Ahhh... did you even know there was a connection? Did you know that our club is CASC-OR affiliated? (Or what CASC-OR really is?)

Okay... so first off - what is CASC-OR? And if it's so important why haven't you heard of it before? I used to think the exact same thing. But after attending the CASC-OR Annual General Meeting on behalf of Ontario Z Car on November 13th, I can safely say I've been saturated with some first hand knowledge! And feeling like a responsible club member, and realizing that the Ontario Z Car is actually an affiliated car club of CASC-OR, I thought it'd be important to relay to our members the FAQs!

What is CASC-OR?

CASC-OR stands for the Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs, Ontario Region (www.casc.on.ca). (Note that the "OR" part is important when discussing CASC, even in a legal sense, there are other CASCs in other regions and it's not appropriate to misquote the region!) They are directed by ASN Canada (The Autorité Sportive Nationale du Canada, www.asncanada.com) who is in turn directed by the FIA (The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, www.fia.com) who is the governing body of motorsport world wide. COOL - that means Ontario Z Car is actually a relative of F1. (Do you think they'll offer us pit passes or potentially let us drive a test day???)

What does CASC-OR do?

CASC-OR is a non-profit organization that organizes and looks out for the best interests of car clubs in the Ontario Region. They are the head of Race Ontario (all closed wheel and open wheel racing in Ontario), Solo 1 (Timed lapping events), Solo 2 (Autocross events), MMIS (Marshalling Services) and car clubs all over the Ontario Region (over 30 of them!). It appears that the only type of motorsport in Ontario that isn't associated to CASC-OR is Rally (who have their own organization). Drift Nation (where we see a lot of Datsun/Nissan participation) is even a CASC-OR affiliated club.

Over the last couple of years CASC-OR has received a

huge makeover. Their current president John Bondar has done a fantastic job of looking to the community for ideas and support to grow motorsports across all clubs. He has considered that CASC-OR has typically focused on regional racing and forgotten about the by-standing car clubs. Their Board has taken some steps to improving the car club focus - and looks to improve that even more in the future.

How does that affect us?

Ontario Z Car is an affiliated car club of CASC-OR. This means quite a few things, it all depends on what we want to take advantage of and to what level we want to participate:

- Have our say and get involved - Ontario Z Car is the second largest affiliated club (by membership numbers) surpassed only by the Motorsports Club of Ottawa (MCO)! This means that we have a lot of say on what happens at CASC-OR. Every year member delegates from the affiliated clubs can attend and vote on the Board Positions and issues presented by CASC-OR. Members of affiliated clubs can also get involved and run for positions on the CASC-OR Board. Issues presented at the Annual General Meeting in November 2004 included presentation of Privacy Policy acts; potential government legislation that might hold negligent event organizers liable for accidents that occur at a club event; the creation of a universal members database for all car clubs and online registration, renewal and special promotions for registered members.

- Take advantage of event and club insurance - Event insurance is really one of the big reasons that car clubs become affiliated with CASC-OR. ASN Canada negotiates a new motorsport insurance policy every year. This policy is tailored to motorsports events and provides unique coverage at an affordable rate that simply would not be available to car clubs seeking coverage on an individual basis. In this day and age event insurance is essential to protect both the organizers and the participants. In Ontario, access to coverages under this policy is granted exclusively to CASC-OR affiliated clubs. (Information is available on this insurance coverage at www.asncanada.com/index2.html)

- Promote our events - One of CASC-OR's big tasks going forward is to increase promotion and expand media coverage of motorsports in Ontario - at all levels. CASC-OR is the region's first motorsport contact for media and corporate interests. And as an affiliated club, we can certainly benefit from this coverage. Magazines like Inside Track and Grassroots Motorsports (with their new Canadian edition!) are extremely interested in covering events. Wouldn't it be great to see Zedfest coverage on a more regional level??? (But remember it's up to us to promote our own club and events - CASC-OR provides the inroads). As a point of interest CASC-OR administers a couple of race series - but it is actually the affiliated car clubs like BARC, BEMC and CRDA that host the weekend of racing. So it just goes to show you how a club

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