



THE MURPHYS: FAMILY THAT RIDES TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER

by Roger Amsden
News Correspondent

LACONIA - "It's quite an adrenaline rush for an old man" says Terry Murphy of Terry Murphy's Court Street Auto, who for the last year and a half has been taking part in Sports Car Club of New Hampshire events with his Pontiac Solstice GXP.

Murphy got into the sport after watching all the fun

TEAM MURPHY from 1 since 1994, turning it into a south end institution with a loyal customer base which has seen it through good times and bad thanks to the word-of-mouth recommendations.

The younger Murphy, who drives a turbocharged Subaru Impreza WRX, recalls pumping gas at his parent's business as a teenager and developing his life-long fascination with sports cars while working there.

"I used to ride quads and dirt bikes. I've always been a fan of rally racing that's how I got into it five years ago. It's also nice to have something that my dad and I can do together," he says.

He's currently working on another race car for himself, a Subaru Impreza RS that's outside in the



Terry Murphy competing in his Pontiac Solstice GXP at one of the SCCNH events. COURTESY PHOTO

that his son, Terry Murphy IV, was having and says he's really into the challenges posed in the Team Autocross events held in the parking lot at New Hampshire International Speedway.

"I really like it. The rallies and the other events are fun too," he says.

Murphy and his wife Deanne have run Terry Murphy's Court Street Auto See **TEAM MURPHY** on 42



Terry Murphy, right, of Terry Murphy's Court Street Auto, and his son, Terry, left, have been competing together in Team Autocross events at New Hampshire International Speedway. www.wwn.com



Maintaining control while zipping between the traffic cones tests a driver's reactions.

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Rumble events are held at the Hobo Railroad parking lot in Lincoln.

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corner of the parking lot at his father's auto service and gas station.

He says that he's stripping the Subaru down, installing a full roll cage and race seats while working to install a new engine.

"It doesn't take much to get into this sport, which

is really good. You can get older cars and fix them up like a lot of people do with Honda Civics from the 1990s and race against the clock with the high end cars. Or you can use the family sedan if that's what you want to do. There's a

See **TEAM MURPHY** on 43



Terry Murphy works on his new racing car, a Subaru Impreza. ROGER AMSDEN PHOTO



New engine for Terry Murphy's racing car is on the block. ROGER AMSDEN PHOTO

TEAM MURPHY from 42 great group of people in the club and they're really dedicated."

He said that the autocross events test driving skill over a short, miniature road course clearly defined by using traffic cones which are set up in one of the large parking lots at the Speedway.

Each vehicle is timed individually as it negotiates a course that puts the emphasis on driver skill and vehicle handling using time as a means to measure skill level.

Murphy says that the skills learned and practiced in those events, including

smooth transitions, enhanced braking and skid correction, actually make people better street drivers.

"It really improves your ability to handle the road in any condition and makes you a safer driver," he says.

He said that the club's rules and guidelines for the autocross cover participant, site, safety and vehicle capabilities and are the result of the club's more than 50 years of experience.

There are course standards that must be met to protect the participant, the facility and the neighbor-

hood. All cars must pass a safety inspection. SCCNH sanctioned events are conducted under the watchful eyes of safety stewards, ensuring that autocross is one of the safest motorsports.

He said the events are low-keyed, with the emphasis on fun. Instructors are available to assist and ride along with novice drivers or any driver who feels they

could use some improvement. At the beginning of each season an autocross school is held where drivers can learn how to autocross or improve their skills with instruction from the experts. The school provides an opportunity for drivers to test the handling ability of their car and their capability as a driver in a safe, controlled environment. There are also drifting

events, which were recently added to the club's schedule.

Drifting refers to a driving technique and to a motorsport where the driver intentionally oversteers, causing loss of traction in the rear wheels through turns, while maintaining vehicle control and a high exit speed.

See **TEAM MURPHY** on 46



Terry and Deanne Murphy with their son Terry at Terry Murphy's Court Street Auto in Laconia. ROGER AMSDEN PHOTO

TEAM MURPHY from 43

A car is said to be drifting when the rear slip angle is greater than the front slip angle prior to the corner apex, and the front wheels are pointing in the opposite direction to the turn (e.g. car is turning left, wheels are pointing right or vice versa), and the driver is controlling these factors. As a motorsport, the drivers are judged on their drifting technique.

The events are run by a group called Drift Spot, which sets the rules, handles registration, sets up the course and provide instruction to those who want to learn the techniques.

"It's really exciting," says Murphy, who says that this coming winter the club will hold a WinterCross event at the Speedway on February 27 in which the parking lot is iced down to provide a real challenge.

Founded in 1956, The Sports Car Club of New Hampshire is open to any person who is interested in automobiles and automobile activities. Safety and improvement of driving skills are stressed at all events. The events have included autocross, con-course, rallies, hillclimbs, time trials, ice races and wintercross.

Its events are held at the Speedway and at the Hobo

Railroad in Lincoln, which was the site earlier this month of SCCNH's annual rally. There is also an annual hillclimb in Ascutney, Vermont.

Murphy was in charge of both the Autocross event, which had 52 entries on November 6, and the Rumble, a team autocross event with four people in a car, the following day and says that all went well.

The club has 104 members and has been asked to sanction the Mount Washington Hillclimb which will be held next June.

For more information on the club visit its website www.sccnh.org.