

# Kent Rafferty



Larry Steckel wrote a befitting tribute to Kent in North American Pylon last year. An excerpt goes as follows:

Kent was a guy who was a very successful athlete in a number of sports and yet didn't look or act like a jock. He was quiet to the point of shyness until he got to know you and even then he didn't say much. His most endearing feature was a permanent little smile that simply lit up his face. Kent was proficient in swimming having won several U.S. National Masters Championships, achieved black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and completed the Pittsburgh Marathon. Kent held bachelors and MBA degrees and had a successful career as an executive in the printing industry. When Kent discovered autocross, he attacked the sport in the same way he approached every other thing he tried; head on with the idea of winning every event he entered.

Kent was an integral part of the autocross landscape around here. When you showed up at an event, you expected to see a timing trailer, a parking lot full of cones and Kent walking the course with Harley, his beloved poodle.

Like a lot of us, Kent went through a bunch of cars during his autocross career. Some of his most notable were a 70 TransAm, 93 RX7 R1, 2003 Corvette Z06, 96 Corvette Grand Sport and of course, his last car... a 93 Baltic Blue Toyota Supra that Kent had turbo'd to the nth degree sporting steam roller tires and a titanium exhaust that shot flames for 6+ inches. Wow! What a fast car.

Kent was one of the original six who crafted the Street Mod rules on an internet chat site and then dropped them onto Howard Duncan's desk as a done deal. The Supra was Kent's answer to the SM rule set. In typical Kent fashion, he created a monster hammer and used it to destroy the competition... A feat he accomplished by becoming the first SM National Champion in year 2000 and also winning the SM Pro Solo Championship including the Finale.

Kent was a beloved son, brother, but most of all FRIEND. May all your lines in heaven be wide and tight Kent...you know what we mean ☺