

# NEW YORK POST

## PUMPED UP

By JUSTIN ROCKET SILVERMAN

AMERICAN EXPRESS®  
CARDMEMBER OFFER

August 2, 2008 --

LUIS MIGUEL  
October 31  
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

GET TICKETS

RADIO CITY  
CHRISTMAS  
SPECTACULAR  
November 7 -  
December 30

GET TICKETS

JANET JACKSON  
November 1  
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

GET TICKETS



ARE YOU A  
CARDMEMBER?

THE hardest part of driving a \$200,000 Lamborghini Gallardo down the West Side Highway isn't avoiding potholes or pedestrians; it's keeping the steering wheel straight when you lay down the accelerator. There's so much raw force packed into that 520-horsepower engine that the car wants to skid off into the Hudson River even if you, the driver, would rather stay on the road.

"Lamborghinis are great, but they're all about testosterone," says Mike Prichinello. "The Ferrari though, now there's a car with finesse." Prichinello would know. The man eats, sleeps and breathes cool cars.

And he's not alone. A stylish ride is something to be savored, and this summer, it seems like there are auto options popping up all over the place. Car-crazy people of the world, unite!

As director of the Classic Car Club of Manhattan, Prichinello has easy access to dozens of groovy automobiles, from iconic

roadsters like the '67 Chevelle and '72 Jaguar convertible, to modern muscle machines like the '08 Maserati Gran Sport and '05 Ford GT - a car

originally designed to compete with, and then beat, Ferrari on the racetracks of Europe.

For significantly less than the purchase price of any one of these cars, club members can get behind the wheel of these badass automobiles for an afternoon, a full day or the entire weekend.

Have a business meeting in Connecticut? Sure, you could sit on a Metro-North train for an hour; but wouldn't it be more fun to beat every red light between The Bronx and Stamford behind the wheel of a yellow Lamborghini Gallardo?

Club memberships range

from \$7,500 to \$38,250 annually, with the higher-end price granting members more days in more awesome cars. All members have 24-hour access to the club's cavernous TriBeCa showroom, where they can gather for weekly happy hours or day trips to nearby race tracks.

Prichinello describes the

typical member as "adventure-seeking with a bit of extra cash." One of the club's first members was

Shimmy Mehta, founder of Angelwish.org, which provides services to children living with HIV.

Mehta calls the club a perfect blend of the practical and the indulgent.

"Usually [as an owner] you'd be locked into one car," he says.

"But it's impractical to own a convertible during the winter,

as much as you want to drive one during the summer.

That's what this club is ideal for."

It's also ideal for getting attention, and lots of it, as I discovered driving a red convertible Jag through Times Square.

While I was stopped at a light - perhaps a little farther into the crosswalk than the law proscribes - one pedestrian after another called out, "Hey man, nice ride!"

One young man sitting on top of a newspaper box asked straight out, "Are you a celebrity?"

"No," I said, "but the car is."

The Classic Car Club currently has a maximum membership

of 350. If you're interested in

nabbing one of the remaining spots, download an application at [classiccarchclubmanhattan.com](http://classiccarchclubmanhattan.com).

### **European kart racing comes to Westchester**

The Classic Car Club takes members on a monthly trip to Grand Prix New York ([gpny.com](http://gpny.com)), a full-service, indoor kart race course in Mount Kisco. Driving \$8,000 French-made Sodi karts with top speeds of 40 mph, this is a far cry from the go-karts of summer camp. Every corner of the two quarter-mile tracks is based on real European race tracks, and 12-lap races give kart drivers a chance to practice all the moves that would get them pulled over on public streets. As the pre-race safety video puts it, "Racing is life. Anything that happens before or after is just waiting."

## **Home**

---

NEW YORK POST is a registered trademark of NYP Holdings, Inc. NYPOST.COM, NYPOSTONLINE.COM, and NEWYORKPOST.COM are trademarks of NYP Holdings, Inc.  
Copyright 2008 NYP Holdings, Inc. All rights reserved.