

RMR/AMR Event Chairperson's Guidebook 2009 **New Driver: What to Expect**

WHAT IS DRIVERS' EDUCATION?

First of all, Drivers' Education is neither racing nor race preparation, but an event to have fun while learning how to safely and properly drive your Porsche (or other vehicle) and to learn its capabilities. We have a strong corps of qualified instructors to help achieve that goal.

WHAT'S AN AUTOCROSS?

An autocross is a series of maneuvers prescribed by sets of cones laid out on a large area. The challenge is to navigate the course in the quickest time with the fewest penalties. Autocrosses are rarely high speed events – usually second gear and provide drivers a great opportunity to learn the limits of car handling in a safe environment.

WHAT'S A TOUR/RALLYE?

A tour is an event which is guided by a series of instructions beginning at one location, going through interesting countryside, and ending up several hours later. Tours do not involve competition, just a lovely drive.

A rallye is a tour governed by a specific set of instructions and by time, speed, and distance constraints. There are checkpoints along the route at the end of each 'leg' of the rallye. The object of a rallye is to get to the destination in an exact time.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR AN EVENT

This year we will be using an on-line registration system for all of our events.

If you do not have access to the web, you may register for a Drivers' Ed event using the **registration form** supplied in the newsletter or print one from the web page. Fill out all the sections and mail it along with your registration fee as early as possible to the person accepting registrations. The earlier they get your registration the more time it gives them to plan for run groups and corner workers.

NOTE: if you pre-register for an event and for some reason can't attend, a phone call to the event chair or registrar 24 hours before the event will get you a refund, unless otherwise noted in event article.

PRE TECH (for DEs only)

Next you'll need to get your car inspected to be sure it's safe for a DE. Ten days prior to a DE a Tech Inspection will be held at one of the local shops. The location for the Tech Inspection for your event will be listed in the newsletter and also posted on the web page. Take your car there to be inspected. The inspectors will check the general working order of your car from the headlights, brake lights, turn signals, security of battery and other under the hood parts, break fluid, coolant level, break pads, tightness of suspension parts, fire extinguisher if necessary for your class and other safety related points.

If you can't make it to the scheduled pre-tech, you may have your mechanic do the inspection, ask an RMR instructor to inspect your car, or ask one of our certified tech inspectors to do the honors. You may NOT inspect your own car,

A **Tech Inspection Sheet** will be used to check off these points and turned in to the registrar. A copy of this form will have been included in a newsletter or you can print one from the web page.

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DO YOU NEED SPECIAL EQUIPMENT?

To participate in a Drivers' Ed or Autocross event you must wear a helmet, long sleeved cotton shirt, long cotton pants, and closed toed shoes (for autocrosses, you can wear a t-shirt and shorts, if you like). A white or light colored shirt is preferred. Please avoid shirts that are yellow, blue or red as these are the colors of the communications flags used on the corners, and you do not want to be mistaken for a warning flag!

Your helmet must have at least a SNELL 2000 M rating. The M rating is a motorcycle helmet and an SA rating is for special applications such as cars. The club has a few loaner helmets that you can arrange to borrow.

PREPARATION:

Now you need to prepare for a day at the track. You want to bring what you need but not haul a lot of extra stuff. Besides, there's only so much you can fit into a Porsche. So here are some of the things you might need:

Things you NEED:

- directions to the track, check the web page
- helmet
- hat, for protection from the sun
- sunglasses
- sun screen
- white or light colored long sleeve (for DEs) cotton shirt for driving and working corners
- long cotton pants (like blue jeans) for driving and working corners for DEs.
- a cooler with ice, plenty of drinks and lunch or snacks. There may be some place to get lunch at the track or nearby. Check the description of the event in the newsletter or the web page.
- something to hold all this stuff, a plastic container with a snap on top is good for this. You can leave all of your track stuff in it, always have it handy and not have to worry about forgetting something. You may want two of them, one for your track stuff and another one to hold things you bring for yourself and the loose things you remove from the car such as things in the glove box, console, tapes, CDS etc

Other Things You Might WANT:

- a small folding chair
- umbrella
- paper towels and window cleaner
- tire air pressure gauge
- wrench to tighten wheel lug nuts, preferably a torque wrench
- your car tool kit, jack, etc.
- cotton towels and/or shop rags
- damp washcloth or hand wipes
- gasoline - be sure you have enough to complete the event. Some people don't like to carry the extra weight of a lot of gas but be sure you have enough so you don't run out.
- a couple of quarts of oil

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- air pump or an air tank (be sure you fill it)

WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT AT THE EVENT?

Plan to arrive in plenty of time to get things set up, register, and schmooz before the drivers meeting. If the gates open at 7:00 AM, plan to be there soon after.

1. When you arrive, you must sign an insurance waiver. One for you and a separate one for each minor child accompanying you.
2. Proceed to the paddock area and find a place to park your car. Leave plenty of room between cars – these Porsches have really big doors!
3. Take all loose items out of your car. This means everything! Empty the glove box, the trunk, the door pockets, remove the radar detector, the cellular phone, tapes, CDs, floor mats anything loose. Place them in the plastic containers you brought to protect them from the elements. Also you may need to remove the spare tire.
4. Check in at the registration table. There you will receive your registration package which contains:
 - the schedule for corner workers,
 - the run group schedule,
 - a track map,
 - an information sheet and
 - a colored dot which indicates your run group.
 - If the event is a DE and you had your car teched at the local pre tech you will also have a white dot. If not you will have to pay to have it inspected at the track after which you will receive your white tech inspection dot. Apply the colored dots on the upper, center of your windshield.
 - If the event is an autocross, tour or rallye there is no pre tech needed. For an autocross you will need to top tech your car (get all the loose items out of the interior and trunk).

Now relax, check your oil, tire pressure, lug nut torque, have a cuppa and socialize a bit.

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THE DRIVERS' MEETING

There will be a **MANDATORY** drivers' meeting prior to the start of any event. At the meeting you will be given information about the track, any special considerations, how the flags are to be used, etc. If this is your first time at this track you will be assigned an instructor. If you do not attend the drivers' meeting, you may not be allowed to participate in the event.

At DEs, after the drivers' meeting there is a meeting for beginners and novices to further explain safety considerations and allow you to ask questions. Take this opportunity to ask about anything you don't understand.

GETTING READY TO RUN

Check the schedule to make sure you know when your group starts. Go to the bathroom, find your instructor and arrange when and where you will meet him/her.

Be sure to get to the grid area on time. There will be a top tech inspection of your car and equipment when you stage for your first run session. The inspector will check to be sure there are no loose items in the car, both inside and under the hood. Your helmet will also be checked to be sure it is of the proper SNELL rating. After successfully completing the top tech the inspector will place a check mark on your white dot.

AFTER YOU RUN

Try not to grin too much After you complete your run session, be sure to properly cool down your car. Don't set your parking brake because really hot brakes may cause them to lock and not be able to be released.

Check the corner worker schedule, know when you are scheduled to work corners and don't be late. All the time it takes you to get to the corner workers truck is time taken from the scheduled track time.

CORNER WORKING

Everyone that drives will also be required to work at least one corner worker session. Workers are placed in bunkers on specific corners around the track. Corner workers are there to provide a means of communication to drivers on the track and to Control about track conditions.

There will be a set of flags, a fire extinguisher, water, broom, crowbar, vest and radio at each corner. There will be two workers on each corner, one on the radio and one on the flags. The radio is used to communicate with Control (the person in the tower with a view of the whole track) changes in track conditions.

More about corner working can be found on the web site.

BEER THIRTY

After a day of fun in the sun, we relax, tell stories and have a cool one. There will be beer, sodas, and snacks after the last run group of the day. More socialization time!

HAVE FUN!! LEARN SOMETHING NEW!! THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!!