

The Driver's Education Experience

by Sandy Steckman

Ever wonder what it is like to attend a Driver's Education (DE) event? While many of our 200 members have attended, or are aware of what happens at these events, many have not. I am writing this article for those who have always wondered what it is like, or what it would be for them. First of all here are some common concerns:

Concern	Response
My street car would not work for this purpose-	All Porsches were made for performance driving. We have had nearly every category of car participate successfully, including high mileage cars, inexpensive compact cars, and expensive exotic cars. The drivers learned how to drive within the limits of the car, and their abilities.
It would be too hard on my car-	You will consume mostly brakes and tires.
I don't want to wreck, or put my car at risk-	We have nearly 100 cars per event, and after three years of running these events at Mid-America Motorplex, we have never had a car hit anything at a Drivers Education event. We also ran these events in Topeka for over ten years, and novices have always been spared there too. Safety is our primary focus!
DE events are only for hard-core drivers-	<i>Everyone</i> needs to improve their skills, and we have separate run groups, depending on your skill level. Novices have their own run group, so you will be on the track with others who are at your level.
I'm worried about 'the other guy'-	We have strict rules for DE events, designed to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We limit the runs groups to less than 20 cars, spread over the 2.23mile track.
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We also welcome other marques. Yes, we have Vipers, Corvettes, BMWs and Mustangs, but we even have Toyotas, Chevys, Fords and Hondas. If you are a novice, your weekend will begin on Saturday morning with some classroom instruction and handout material. You will hear and see some things about apex cornering and threshold braking. You will learn about the track layout, corner workers and the rules required for safety. You will attend a Driver's Meeting and you will meet your personal instructor. Your instructor will first show you 'the line', driving your car so that you can begin to learn *where* to drive, *when* to brake, shift and corner. The next time out you will drive with your instructor coaching your every move. If your instructor approves your skill level, you will be certified to solo by Sunday afternoon.

I have had many novices tell me that this event ranked near the top of their experiences in life! Others have stated that after driving on the track it has deterred them from wanting to drive fast on the public roads. (big curbs, two way traffic and no corner workers!)

The DE events are vital to our region in many ways. Please consider coming down to the track to have some fun with us! You can view the registration and technical inspection requirements on the main DE page of our web site. Just click on the areas marked for registration and technical inspection. We hope to see you at an event soon!