

Autocross School for Novices

NWACC and the Viper Club are sponsoring training for people who would like to experience the sport of Autocross. This is a one-day school held on Saturday, May 12th and Sunday, May 13th at the Shelton Airport. You can sign up for either day. The school this year is different from those we have sponsored in the past. Each student is assigned to a personal instructor. The two are together for the entire day. You start by riding in the instructor's car as he drives the course. The instructor then coaches you in your car as you drive the course.

Expect to get 4 runs with NWACC or 5 runs with the Viper club (weather dependent) in the morning and the same in the afternoon. When not driving the course you work the course, resetting cones to make it possible for others to drive it. This is the standard protocol for all autocross events. You "work" to "drive".



Autocross is a timed event. You compete against yourself and the clock. You do not race side by side with another car. You don't have to worry about hitting another car (or them hitting you). The course has no curbs, telephone poles, or other obstructions. You can (and probably will) hit a cone or two. But they are soft and won't dent your car.

The Viper group has also offered to allow you to walk the course Friday afternoon, May 11th before driving on Saturday. Don't worry if you can't make it on Friday. We also do a walk of the course on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The purpose of walking the course is to help you remember the turns and where you are to drive. Without walking the course it looks like a sea of cones. The instructor helps you sort it out.

At the end of the day you should be a better driver (on the street as well as on the track). If you are like most of us, you are grinning ear-to-ear and eager to do it all again. You pay the admission fee to the autocross sponsor. There will be no other fees.

The Saturday school on the 12th of May is being hosted by the WA Viper Club. The cost to participate that day is \$55. The Sunday school on the 13th of May is hosted by NWACC (North West Association of Corvette Clubs). The cost for that day is \$45 for CMCS members and \$55 for non-members. You will likely get 8 circuits of the track on Sunday with the NWACC group and 10 circuits on Saturday

with the Viper club. More times around the track gives you more times to practice your skills. The instructors for both days are the same people.

Some have asked if you can take both days. The answer, sadly, is NO! The purpose of the school is to introduce as many people as possible to the sport, so you will be limited to taking one day or the other, not both. But you can come to the other day and register as a participant. That will give you a chance to ride with other participants and get even more experience in the sport.



What Can I Drive?

You don't have to drive either a Corvette or Viper to participate in the school. Any car in good condition will work. But as we are all fans of Corvettes, we all know that you will have more fun in a Corvette than in a Ford Pinto or other underpowered economy car. There will be a technical inspection that you will have to complete prior to going on the track. The inspection this year is a Self-Check. You can do it yourself, and our plan is to have an instructor help you complete the inspection prior to the day of the school. If you have your own helmet, bring it with you. The helmet MUST be Snell approved (2000 or newer). DOT approved helmets are not allowed.

Who Can Come?

Everyone is welcome, but you cannot take the class unless you first attend the "ground school" where we give you basic information on what to expect during the driving event. We are scheduling an two ground schools, one after each of the next two CMCS club meetings (April 14 and May 5). The ground school will take about an hour. You do not have to sign up to come to the talk, everyone is welcome (guys AND gals). If you like what you hear, you will be able to sign up to take the Novice school at that time. If you have already expressed an interest in the school, please plan to come to one of these two talks. There is no cost for this meeting or for the instruction at the autocross, other than the normal fee for participating in the event as discussed above. Directions on where to meet and how to get there will be discussed at these meetings.

If you have questions, contact Alton Loe (altonloe@gmail.com).