

PBOC DRIVING SCHOOL NOTES

I took some time to go back to my first school and tried to gather all the questions that raced through my mind. I say tried because there were hundreds of things that bounced around in my gray matter. Also my memory seems to be failing which I hope stops short of the swiss-cheese mind that I liken to that Sam character in a popular science fiction series.

Hopefully I will cover most, if not all, of the questions that have been forwarded to me and make your adventure just a little bit easier. We will touch on preparation, registration, first morning, class, meeting your instructor and track time.

PREPARATION

Preparation will make a great difference to how smooth your weekend will go. The more effort you put into your homework the easier and more enjoyable your weekend will be.

At least two weeks before the event you should have your car inspected by a professional who will go through the tech sheet provided in your packet. This extra time allows you to order parts and make repairs that may be necessary. Also about this time you should start assembling a 'track box'. I use a 12 gallon tote with a lid which catches any liquids that may escape from their bottles. The size is large enough to hold all the items you clean out of your car before going onto the track. Some of the items you may want to keep in the box are a spare set of front brake pads, brake fluid, extra quart of oil, helmet (Snell 2000 or 2005), towels, tools to change out pads and perform minor repairs.

You can start getting things ready for yourself as well. Folding chair, cooler, water, and food are some of the essentials.

It is advisable to start a notebook with a track map and some blank pages for notes. Take this to class and jot down information after each session on the track. Write down braking points, turn-in points, apexes and track out. As time goes on you can write down changes to the car such as tire pressure adjustments and how they affect the handling.

The night before your track time you should check the air pressure in your tires, fill up your gas tank and recheck all fluids.

REGISTRATION

Registration is open the night before in the host hotel and again the next morning. If possible you should try to get there for the night registration so that you do not have to worry with it on track day. When going to registration you will need your helmet and the tech sheet filled out and signed by a mechanic. Leaving registration you should have an event t-shirt, time schedules, numbers for your car, colored wrist band, tech sticker and some general rules for the weekend.

TRACK MORNING

The first morning is pretty hectic so get to the track at least an hour before your first class or track time. Pick out a spot in one of the pit stalls or paddock area and start unloading your car. You need to take out anything in the trunk, glove box, and passenger compartment that is not bolted to the car. For the trunk this includes tools, bass boxes etc. The spare and jack can stay if they are secured. The interior needs to be free of all electronic devices (radar detectors, cell phones, garage door openers, remotes for cd players, etc.)

You also need to remove items such as hats, floor mats, clothing, coins, etc. If your rims have large center caps they will need to be removed as a safety precaution.