

NWACC Autocross School

Welcome to the NWACC autocross school. We hope that you find the school not only fun, but educational. Our goal is simple: To introduce you to the sport of autocross. Hopefully, some of you will like the sport enough to continue to compete with us at future events. In this welcome statement, we will try to get you enough information to get you started.

How to find us: To get to Sanderson Field: From I-5 take Exit 104 towards the Ocean Beaches on SR 8/ US 101. Take the Shelton/US 101 exit and drive approximately 17 miles. When you get to the airport, take the second left (Sanderson Way) into the airport. Bear to the right at the “Y” and you will see the entrance gate on the left just past the old runway. You will probably see orange traffic cones set up on part of the runway. See the attached documents for Port of Shelton imposed site restrictions. One of the main restrictions is to park ONLY on the pavement, not the grass.

Schedule: Yes, we know this is early and Shelton isn't close to most of you, but we have a full day of activities and we need an early start. The gates will be open from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM for registration confirmation and a quick technical inspection of your vehicle. Be there promptly. The school will start at 9:00 AM. We anticipate the school should conclude about 3:00 PM. On Sunday, NWACC will host a normal autocross event, and hopefully you will be putting your new skills to work on Sunday. The course on Sunday will be longer and different. However, the day of event schedule is very similar, which is why many will choose to find local lodging on Saturday night.

Weather: While we hope for nice weather, this is the NW and autocross runs rain or shine. Shelton is a fair distance from most of us, so the weather might not be the same as your home. Many driving coaches will tell you that you will learn far more car control in the wet than you will in the dry. This is another reason to be prepared for whatever the weather brings.

Lodging: If you are planning to stay overnight, either Friday or Saturday, Little Creek Casino and Hotel (very nice facility) is located about 4 miles south of the airport. Call 800-667-7711 for reservations. We understand there can be a special rate if you tell them you are participating at an event at the Ridge (a local race track located near the airport). Might not work, but worth a try. There is a Super 8 Motel just 1 mile south of the airport, 360-426-1654. In downtown Shelton is the Shelton Inn, 360-426-4468. Certainly there will be a lot more options closer to Lacey/Olympia.

What to bring:

1. If you have a helmet, please bring it. If you don't have a helmet there will be loaners available.
2. Tire pressure gauge.
3. There is no shelter or seating at the airport. If you have an easy-up, consider bringing it and sharing with others. Maybe an umbrella if the weather doesn't cooperate.

4. Definitely bring some folding chairs for your use when you are not on the track or classroom.
5. Hat, Sunscreen, and lots of water to stay hydrated. There are no beverages available on site.
6. Bring your lunch, or plan to buy lunch on site. We have a Hispanic family that brings their trailer to many of our events. We expect them both Saturday and Sunday. Cost will be about \$6, but again plan to have beverages. There is a service station shop located near the entrance to the airport and more choices at the Shelton exit about a mile away, but we highly recommend you bring your lunch or buy the lunch on site, as we will not have time for a leisurely lunch. The Port does require us to keep the gate locked during our events. So if you are late coming back from lunch it will inconvenience you and whoever has to stop and go back to the gate. Just more reasons to bring a lunch.
7. There are two sani-kans located at the airport that should be freshly serviced before our school on Saturday.
8. This is a competitive school. Alcohol and drugs are prohibited at all autocross events.

Car Preparation:

1. Suggest you start with maybe 5 lbs of air pressure more than normally recommended on the door information decal. This will help keep the tires from rolling over in the corners. If the day is warm, your tire pressures will build up, and you will want to bleed some air during the day. Thus the need for a tire pressure gauge.
2. Check your oil and brake fluid levels.
3. Leave everything you won't actually need for the event at home. You are expected to have your car cleared of loose items, floor mats, cell phone, radar detectors, portable GPS units, etc. Anything loose, can and will roll around (or fly around) while you are on the course, and you don't need those distractions.
4. If your car has hub caps, you will need to remove them. Tight little center caps in aluminum wheels are not a problem.

Reading Preparation:

1. Enclosed is a great first time autocross article that we have permission from the BMW magazine to re-print. Read the article a couple of times and then be thinking of his recommendations during your school. We should point out one glaring error in the article. If you hit a traffic cone, it will leave a black mark. Actually, these are extremely easy to remove. Xylene (sometimes sold as Xylol or Acryliclean) works great and no polish or rubbing compound is required. Put a little on a rag (it is a solvent, so use rubber gloves) and let it soak on the mark for a couple minutes. The mark should rub right off with the same soaked rag. You can buy this product at any paint store.
2. If you have the time or the inclination for more reading there is a lot of videos and articles on the internet. One good source is the Solo2 Novice Handbook (In Sports Car Club of America parlance, autocross is referred to as Solo2), at Tire Rack. www.tirerack.com/features/solo2/handbook.htm. There are different tips

for higher horsepower cars vs. lower horsepower cars, so remember this as you are reading the articles. Many of the points in this article will also be covered in the classroom part of the school. Sometimes, we can get so much information that it overwhelms us. Don't feel that you have to memorize (or even read) this second article. We furnished the link for those that are looking for even more reading material.