

Autocross Report by Kevin Jewell

It has been fun to watch as more and more CMCS members have come out to try autocross. Some decide that the sport isn't for them, but at least they gave it a try. However, many are enthused, and we have a record number of CMCS members now participating. The club calendar shows the Viper Club autocross on Saturday and NWACC (Northwest Association of Corvette Clubs) autocross the following day. For the past few years both groups have been cooperating with each other, which has helped attendance at all the events. CMCS members are welcome to register for either event, or both events. As a CMCS member you are automatically a member of NWACC, so for NWACC events you pay "member" rates. Unless you join the Viper club as an associate, you will pay the non-member rates. If you have autocrossed with other groups, you might remember getting three timed runs and perhaps a couple of fun runs at the end of the day. The Viper Club and NWACC have both invested serious money on new timing equipment. The new equipment has helped make the events so much more efficient that we typically get 10 timed runs each day. That extra track time has helped make autocross financially feasible for both groups.

In late June, the Viper Club rented the track for the entire weekend and conducted their Super Viper event. They wanted to try out some different variations of autocross. On Saturday, each driver had one event in the morning and one in the afternoon. We entered the course for a warmup lap and then had 5 continuous timed laps without stop. Each lap was separately timed, so we had a total of 10 timed laps. Autocross can be very intense since there is no distance between "events". Most of us finished the five timed laps with heart rates well into aerobic. The conclusion was this was a fun alternative, but perhaps 3-4 continuous laps would have been better. On Sunday we had a relay. The entrants were divided into teams of 3. Each driver had a handicap assigned based upon their performance over the last two years. I was worried about the safety of the hand-off of the relay baton, but they had that well covered and had devised a method that kept us safe and also challenged the teams to be creative in how to handle the hand-off. The team time was the total running time of the three entrants, including the hand-off time and any cone or gate penalties. Each team did 7 relays. The final result was determined by taking the team's best overall time and subtracting the handicap. The top three teams were awarded a cash prize.

If you have thought about trying autocross but are hesitant, reach out to any of the club members that participate. We will give you some background information, and help coach you at the event itself. The CMCS member participants, and frankly almost everyone involved, are very welcoming to new participants. After all, new participants are the future of our autocross events as current participants move, sell their car etc., and leave the sport.