

SCCA Autocross, Rally, Club Racing News

The Indy SCCA has not released their 2005 event calendar as of press time, but they do have a TSD rally scheduled for Sunday, March 13th. This is billed as an easy Time, Speed, and Distance rally, so if you've been thinking about trying a TSD, this could be the right one to attend! Registration is at noon at the McDonalds at I-65 South exit 76B near the Edinburgh Premium Outlets. More information may be found at the Indy SCCA website (<http://www.indyscca.org>).

Indy SCCA has also announced that they and the management of Indianapolis Raceway Park have reached an agreement that will ensure that SCCA racing continues at the Indianapolis road course well into the future. The serious pavement deterioration that affected the 2004 Indy Grand Prix National Races will be replaced for the 2005 season. The company that just completed work on the Indianapolis Motor Speedway re-paving project, Grady Brothers Paving, is in charge of the repairs. Turn one, the oldest, and roughest pavement on the 2.5 mile, 15 turn circuit, will be replaced and along with broken areas at several other corners and curbing will be added at these corners.

SCCA club racing is exciting as you'll see Miatas, Neons, BMW Z3s and other smaller cars go toe to toe in the Showroom Stock B and C classes. We'll provide information about the Mother's Day Regional Race (May 7-8) and the Indy Grand Prix (July 2-3) events when it becomes available.

The Indy SCCA also runs Solo events, (also called autocross) with many of them held in the parking lot of old Bush Stadium on 16th street in Indianapolis. Autocrossing is all about a driver's ability to accurately and precisely maneuver around a pylon-marked course in the fastest time possible. If you think you have what it takes to beat the clock and your fellow drivers, then show up to an event. Prove that you're as good as your car looks, that you have what it takes to go fast. This is also an excellent way to learn more about your car's handling. Don't think your car is up to it? Show up anyway. You can watch other drivers put their car through the paces and someone may offer to show you the ropes and let you ride in their car. We'll post the Indy SCCA autocross events as soon as they become available.

The Cincinnati SCCA is holding a "Test and Tune" event on March 6th if you're going to be in that area. There's more information concerning the event at their website: <http://www.cincyscca.com/solo/solopage.htm>.

Spec Miata Events Announced

Fifteen events over eight weekends make up this season's SCCA MazdaSpeed Pro Racing Miata Cup series, with events at Laguna Seca, Lime Rock, Road Atlanta and the closest venue to Indianapolis, Mid-Ohio in Lexington, Ohio. On August 27 and 28th, Spec Miatas will line up to race on the course that has been called the "most competitive in the U.S."

The Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course is a permanent road course with both a 2.4-mile, 15-turn configuration and a 2.25-mile, 13-turn layout. Some of the track's signature turns are the Keyhole, Thunder Valley and the Carousel.

"The Mazdaspeed Miata Cup is one of today's fastest forms of racing in terms of growth," said SCCA Pro Racing Vice President Mitch Wright. "With that being the case, we want to ensure that our drivers have ample opportunity to compete in high-quality events. The 2005 Miata Cup schedule accomplishes that goal."

Club members who race Spec Miatas include Shane Benson and Chuck Wills. Shane and crew traveled to the famous Laguna Seca track in 2002 to race in a Spec Miata MazdaSpeed Cup race. Their adventures were featured in the Open Road (archives at <http://2cat.com/openroad/2002/aug/aug.html>).

We'll keep you posted as more events are added so you can go and see for yourself what fun racing can be, either watching or participating!

Is A HPDE School In Your Future?

Have you ever watched auto racing and thought "I could do that!" but didn't know how to get started? Since you know that city streets and highways are not the place to learn these skills, what you may want to do is to attend is a local High Performance Driver's Education (HPDE) school.

The National Auto Sport Association (NASA) offers you the chance to learn how to drive on a road course in your own vehicle. Participants are grouped according to their experience and instructors are assigned to novice drivers. Personal instruction is the key and you receive one on one guidance from experienced racers, as you learn to control your car and yourself. Your mentor will provide you with help you learn how to drive at the limit. You will address how to approach a turn, the fast way around it, what gear should you be in, how to brake, and how to exit. You will have class time as well as track time.

NASA will be holding an event at Putnam Park on May 21-22. More information can be found at NASA's Ohio/Indiana regional site: <http://racenasa.com>.

Club members Shane Benson and Chuck Wills have been instructors at NASA's Putnam Park HDPE events and other HDPE schools in the past and would be happy to answer any of your questions.

Knowing your car and becoming a better driver is the result of a school like this!

