



Bench Talk Aug, 2006

Think you want to move up to the next level?

An autocrossers view of our NCR-SCCA PDX:

I first heard of a PDX while researching Time Trials rules at the SEDIV meeting in Jekyll Island GA. At one of our board meetings, our RE-Mark Senior proposed a few dates that were open at "The Rock". Once the July 29/30 date was determined, I delved into the Level-1 PDX rules. ...only to find my S2000 would need either a SCCA Roll Bar or factory hard top. I'm bummed; I really wanted to do this! Oh well, I'll be there to support the Cape Fear Auto-X'ers. Thankfully, Jeff Angell; a fellow S2000 owner, offers to lend me his sweet Berlina Black factory hard top. This was something I could not refuse! I order the necessary hardware & Jeff helps me with the top install. For peace of mind, I pick up extra brake pads & change the oil.

Fast forward to the morning of the event; 7:15AM and the Wilmington caravan arrives. I'm pleased to see we will be using the NASCAR garages. Although it is warm, there is a nice breeze; This is not going to be like a boiling hot Parking lot! First Registration, then to Classroom instruction where Safety Procedures, Flags, Passing Zones, and Driving Etiquette are all explained. Finally, I get to meet my great Instructor-Oscar White, a fellow Honda owner. We suit up & head out on to the track. Then I find out I'm going to barrel into NASCAR Turn 1 at 90+mph! The infield at Rockingham is technical, but not too hard to find the right line. Oscar is telling me to keep both of my hands on the wheel & use the far outside edges of turns 3 & 4 before committing to the apex. I find my natural tendency was to tighten up the turn too much. I'm all tensed up physically, my shoulders & wrists ache from not being able to relax. I try walking, lying down which helps a bit. A few more 20 minute sessions are followed by more classroom debrief. I'm getting braver and more comfortable at speed. The next day I had a great 1st session, I'm much more relaxed and Oscar signs me off to run by myself.

Did I set any track records? Heck no...but I passed some people and they passed me. It was a great experience that I thoroughly enjoyed, and it has made me a much better driver. I had reached my goals. I also brought my car and Jeff's hard top back in one piece. So the question is, will I move away from Autocrossing? No, I still love to put on successful Solo events & compete for just \$ 20 bucks. Will I participate in the PDX next year? You bet. I've already offered to help with the planning and will absolutely, positively attend next yearand with my own hard top.



← Our Next Solo Event is the RiverFront GP in Downtown Wilmington, Saturday Night Aug 12th. Be sure to join us!

Richard Franklin - Cape Fear Chapter Coordinator
2002 Honda S2000 "11 A-Stock" Black/Red

July 15th, Saturday Nite Gator-XCross

Well, we tried to beat the summer heat & we succeeded. Unfortunately, severe lightning and rain cut the event by half. In the interest of safety, it was decided that we cancel the night portion of the event.



Thanks to all who helped load up the cones, T & S and other equipment while risking life and limb in the storm. Despite the event being shortened, we have met the requirements of an "Official" Points Event by running 3 runs in the early session.



1st PDX for the NCR Region was a success!



After a bit of a late start, the Region put on its 1st PDX (Performance Driving Experience) under sunny skies at the legendary Rockingham Motor Speedway. With only 30+ cars, there was plenty of track time. Students experienced their cars potential like never before. Expert classroom instruction and the comfort of having an experienced track instructor ride along; allowed Novice/Intermediate and Advanced drivers learn new skills.

