



Audi
Club North America
Southern California



Weekend High Performance Safety Driving School

First-Timer Overview

We are excited you are joining us! Our club's goal is to provide you with a fun and safe High-Performance Safety Driving School where you will learn about the performance and safety features of your Audi (or other car) and improve your driving skills.

We realize you have many questions and maybe some concerns, so we have provided this overview to provide you with useful information and set proper expectations for the event.

This general information applies to most SoCal Audi Club driving schools. See the information provided during [online registration](#) for details on the specific event you are attending.

An Audi Club driving school is a pleasurable weekend event where the Club's goal is to provide a SAFE, Fun, Learning Experience for our members.

An Audi Club driving school is **NOT a racing school**. It is not the intention of the club to teach or demonstrate competitive racing techniques. This is **NOT** a timed speed event, there are no trophies, and safety and courtesy between club members is the prime directive. Bear in mind that you need to be able to drive your car home at the end of the event!

PREPARE YOUR CAR

To ensure your safety, and the safety of others, all cars are required to be in **excellent mechanical condition**. Your car must pass a **safety inspection** prior to participating in the event. We refer to this as "**Tech Inspection**" and strongly recommend that this inspection be completed by your Audi Dealer or by another trained mechanic. There is an inspection form in the event materials which were offered when you registered online. The form may also be downloaded from our website. You must have your car inspected within one month of the event date. The club is not qualified to "tech" your car and will not provide car inspection at the event. **You must sign and email a copy of the form to the club registrar.** As a last resort, you can bring the signed inspection form with you to the check-in desk at the event. By your signature on the form you certify that both you and your car are fit for high performance driving.

Audi Club North America (ACNA) mandates that all participating cars provide **equal restraints** for the driver and passenger. This includes seats, seat belts, air bags, etc. For example, this means that if you have an "improved harness" for the driver, you must also provide the same harness for the passenger.

There are also ACNA-mandated restrictions on participation by some vehicle types, including **convertibles and CUV/SUVs**, so we recommend that **PRIOR TO ARRIVING** you contact the organizer for the event if you wish to drive one of these vehicles on the track.

You must **remove all loose items from your car** before you begin the car-control exercises or go onto the track. This includes everything in the glove box, door pockets, center console, lying on the floor, on the dashboard, clipped to the visors, and inside the trunk. To minimize the work that you need to do at the track, we suggest that you remove non-essential items before arriving. Some items which are typically removed from your car because they are not firmly and permanently attached include:

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Floor Mats	Tool Kits (look under seats too!)	Toll-Road transponder
Lug nut covers (use plastic tweezer in tool kit)	Hub caps and wheel cap centers (use metal hook in tool kit)	Spare Tire (unless securely fastened with metal bolt)
Pencils and Pens	iPods or CD holders	Radar detectors
Garage Door openers	Cell phones and cameras	Maps
Portable GPS	Coins	Children's toys
Umbrellas	Blankets	Bowling ball in trunk

We suggest that you bring a plastic tote, a small tarp, or something else suitable to store all the stuff you take out of your car and keep it organized (and dry in case of rain) during the event. (Hint: Leave what you can at home or at the hotel.) While we have not experienced theft at our events, we advise that you *do not leave items of great value unattended*. Here are some photos of the paddock at a typical event.



Handheld cameras and smartphones are considered a loose object, so are not allowed inside your car. There will usually be a professional photographer taking pictures of you and your car on track during the event. Prior to the conclusion of the event, you will be able to purchase and take home digital copies or order photo enlargements suitable for framing.

PREPARE YOURSELF

You will be surprised at how intensive the driving experience will be. It is important to take care of yourself. Plan enough hours of evening sleep before the event and during the weekend, eat regular healthy meals, stay hydrated, and minimize stimulants such as coffee and sweetened or caffeinated drinks.

The club typically provides drinking water and lunch at the track. Depending on the venue there may be a snack bar serving breakfast, lunch, and other snacks throughout the day. Alcoholic beverages and prescription or other drugs which may affect your ability to drive safely are prohibited for all participants and all guests while the track is "hot" (while performance driving is underway).

You will be tired after the event. Many of us have learned that, facing a late and long drive in Sunday evening going-home traffic, the wise choice is to plan an extra night's hotel stay, meet friends for dinner nearby, and then drive home Monday morning.

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Clothing You should wear a **long-sleeve shirt and long pants** any time you are driving your car in the exercises or on track, or while you are riding as a passenger in an instructor's car. Clothing should be cotton, wool, or made of other substantial and fire-resistant materials – no polyester leisure suits, please! Wear **appropriate shoes** - light weight and well-fitting - when driving. Shoes with thin, narrow soles are best. Lug-soled shoes, boots, open-toe shoes or sandals are *not* appropriate.

We suggest you check the weather for the event venue prior to arriving. Temperatures at the track often fluctuate during the day, so it is a good idea to dress in layers. Remember that you should select clothing that is comfortable and doesn't restrict your movements while inside the car.

Sun screen, a hat, and a folding chair will make the day more enjoyable. A jacket, or rain-proof windbreaker and sweater is a good idea in the event of inclement weather, as the school continues whether there is rain or sunshine (hooray for quattro!). A tire pressure gauge, windshield cleaner, and an extra liter of engine oil can also be useful.

Online Learning Experience If you have been provided with "homework" in the form of an **online learning experience, you must purchase and complete the course before arriving at the event.** You will be expected to know the material, so don't cheat yourself of the full benefit of the driving school by ignoring this requirement. Your safety and the safety of your fellow drivers depends on your knowledge of the performance driving principles you will learn by completing the course.

We also recommend that you purchase the course even if you are not a true first-timer. An expert driver is one who performs the fundamentals well, so a review of the principles of performance driving is a very worthwhile endeavor. The course is available at a substantial discount to our members, and a discount code and signup details were provided when you registered and again in the Welcome Letter.

Audi Club of North America (ACNA) membership: Please join (or renew) your ACNA membership well in advance of arriving at the track. Audi Club membership is a requirement of our insurance and must be current before you can drive at the event. The affordable membership dues are in addition to the event registration fees, and include a subscription to *Quattro*, the excellent club quarterly magazine.

New members must join at www.audiclubna.org/join. Once you have obtained your ACNA membership number please remember to add it to your *Audi Club NA – Southern California* club information in your profile on MotorsportReg.com. To do so, please log into MotorsportReg.com, then visit this page <https://www.motorsportreg.com/orgs/audi-club/southern-california> and click "Add this organization to your account" to access the club questions.

Existing ACNA members may also renew online at www.audiclubna.org/join.

WEEKEND EVENT

Our two-day driving schools are typically scheduled over a 2½-day period, with check-in and **mandatory drivers' meetings** occurring on Friday afternoon and evening. The balance of the event is scheduled for all day Saturday and Sunday.

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A light supper with heavy appetizers is typically provided during Friday check-in (before the meetings). Lunch is provided at the track, and your weekend registration fee includes a very nice banquet dinner on Saturday evening.

You will meet with our First-Timers' advocate on Friday evening after you check-in. As a first-time attendee at one of our events, your attendance is required. The meeting is expected to last about 45 minutes and will provide you with an opportunity to ask questions.

An All-Drivers Meeting will follow; again, your attendance is required. After the meeting you will be introduced to your instructor and will have a chance to get acquainted and briefly discuss your goals for the weekend.

At the Track Your first day at the track will be a combination of classroom, driving skills exercises, and track time. You will be assigned a club-trained instructor who will ride with you while you are on the track. The second day will combine Q&A classroom "download" sessions with more driving practice on the track. A detailed schedule will be provided when you check in at the event.

The driver and front passenger side windows must be completely down while on track. Rear windows, sunroofs, and convertible tops must be closed. As per the *ACNA Driving School and Event Guidelines*, "In the event of rain or other increment weather, windows may be rolled-up at the discretion of venue management and coordination with track facility management." Translated, this means if it is pouring cats and dogs, we may be able to obtain authorization to roll up the windows while on track. Damp fog and light drizzle do not qualify, and windows will stay down in these conditions for your safety and for visibility.

Passengers No passengers (other than your instructor) are allowed in your car during the exercises or on track sessions. If you have a guest attending the event, they are invited to get a ride on the track with one of our instructors. Check with the registration desk to obtain a credential and a helmet for your guest.

If the event includes an experienced driver day on Friday, we suggest you plan on arriving early enough on Friday to spend some time at the track. We will arrange rides with our instructors for you and for your guests.

SUMMARY

This is a general overview for first time drivers at a SoCal Audi Club high performance driving school. Please refer to the event materials for the event for any differences. You can also review our website for additional information. www.audiclubna.org/southern-california/driving-school.

When the event concludes, you will have had more fun than you can imagine and will leave with a new appreciation for what your car can do, with *YOU* behind the wheel!

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GLOSSARY - Performance driving has some unique and potentially confusing lingo associated with it. Casually throw these terms into your conversation around the paddock and you will sound like a pro!

HPDE or DE – This safety driving school. A commonly-used acronym for *High Performance Driving Education* or simply *Driver's Ed*. Performance driving is precision driving – please note that racing, drifting, burnouts, roosting, and hooning are NOT part of an HPDE event.

Paddock – A parking lot. The (usually paved) area near the race track where your car will be parked during the event. There is a lot going on in the paddock. Drive S-L-O-W-L-Y and be aware of pedestrians, kids, pets (depending on the venue) and other drivers whose attention may be distracted or whose vision is limited by their helmet.

Exercises – We don't expect you to go from being a timid and unaware street driver directly to being a hero of the track. The Saturday morning driver skill exercises are designed to get you up to speed (pun intended) by practicing the control inputs appropriate for driving on the track. The Exercises will be conducted in a separate area of the paddock.

Grid – The area where drivers stage while waiting for their turn to go on-track. You should arrive at Grid ready to go, with enough gasoline in the tank, helmet on and buckled, front windows down, sunroof closed, and your instructor in the car. Arrive at Grid ten minutes (but no less than five minutes) before your session is scheduled to start; if you arrive on-time per the schedule, you're late!

Pit(s) (noun) – Usually means your spot in the paddock – properly your Cold Pit.

Hot Pit or Pit Lane (noun) – is a separate lane next to the track where cars enter and exit the track and can also take a brief detour from driving to pause and check the car or hold a brief discussion. The Hot Pit is considered part of the driving surface and is therefore a controlled area.

Pit-Out (noun or verb) – The path onto the track's driving surface, typically from Pit Lane. You need permission from the Grid Marshal before proceeding onto the track.

Pit-In (noun or verb) – The entrance into Pit Lane as you exit the track's driving surface during or at the end of a session.

Waiver – Everyone at the event, including drivers, their guests, and casual observers, must sign the club's waiver of liability at check-in as well as the track's waiver when entering the facility in the morning. No exceptions. The waiver is not only for the protection of the club; it is also for your protection and it is in your best interest to sign it. Minors between the age of 14 and 18 must have a parent or legal guardian with them who can sign the special minor's waiver. The track will usually collect a "gate fee" when entering the track. This is typically \$10 **cash** per person and will be good for the entire weekend. Make sure you have cash for the fee.

Wristband – You and your guests will get a colored wristband when you enter the track and sign the track's waiver, and another from our club when you check in on Friday evening and have signed the club's waiver. Wear these wristband(s) all weekend - don't remove them on Friday or Saturday evening! Your wristband(s) let the safety personnel know that you are permitted in the event area or allowed to enter the track.

Badge Holder – The badge holder you receive at check-in is your constant companion. Wear it always – to meetings, meals, classroom, exercises and while driving the track. The badge holder is an all-in-one reference, displaying your name, car number, run group, track map with passing zones, schedule, lunch tickets, and is your dinner ticket. Once you see that everyone else is also wearing one, you will realize how cool it is to have it dangling around your neck.

Instructor – An Audi Club member who has volunteered their time, energy, and incurred considerable expense to be at this event to help you experience, learn, and enjoy this fabulous pastime of driver education through performance driving. Our club instructors are trained in teaching skills and performance driving principles, and we are justifiably proud of them. Please remember to thank them for what they do for you and for the club!

CDI – The Audi Club's Chief Driving Instructor. The CDI is the final authority regarding your qualifications, run group and instructor assignments, and all on-track and off-track driving activities.

Eventmaster – The Audi Club member who is the overall organizer of the HPDE school. Contact the eventmaster with your questions about the event.

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