



Audi
Club North America
Southern California



Welcome to the Audi Club SoCal High-Performance Driving School
Buttonwillow Raceway Park
November 17-19, 2023

November 3, 2023

Fellow Performance Driving Enthusiast,

Thank you for joining us at Buttonwillow for the Audi Club High Performance Driving School! We are looking forward to a safe, fun, and educational driving school; one where we will revel in the camaraderie of fellow Audi enthusiasts and enjoy our cars in a way just not possible on the public roads.

First and foremost, this is not a racing school! The purpose of this driving school is to improve your personal driving skills while learning about your car's capabilities. **Safety** throughout the entire event is of utmost importance!

If you need to refresh yourself on the event details, they may be reviewed on the driving school registration pages at www.msreg.com/BW23. Here for your convenience are some important reminders. The first three are mandated by our insurance – if we don't have this information then you won't be able to drive!

1. **Tech Inspection** - Your car's mandatory **Safety Inspection** (colloquially known as "tech inspection") must be complete and in our hands before you arrive at the event. The inspection may be completed by your dealer's service department, an independent shop, or by another mechanically competent individual whom you have determined is qualified to evaluate your vehicle for safe condition. Once inspected, and you have signed the bottom of your completed tech form, please email a copy to AudiSoCalRegistrar@gmail.com. Note that the Audi Club tech inspection form has been updated for this event and a copy of the new form is included in this Welcome Letter. The form may also be downloaded from our website.

Your Registration Status - Please go to the [See Who is Attending](#) page on MSReg. Most of you are all set. A few have a status of "On Hold" meaning you still need to complete one or more of these items:

2. **Audi Club membership** – Your membership must be valid through November 30, 2023, or later. We can't always verify expiration dates independently. Please join or renew your ACNA membership as needed to meet this requirement and email a copy of your membership page at member.audiclubna.org showing the expiration date to AudiSoCalRegistrar@gmail.com.
3. **SpeedWaiver** – Liability waivers for *everyone* entering the track are required by our insurance. This includes **you** and all your **guests**. If you haven't completed your SpeedWaiver please do so NOW using the personalized link sent to your phone. If you can't find the link, use the same generic link we ask you to send to your Buttonwillow guests <https://acsc.speedwaiver.com/cnbeu>.

Safety Meetings - will be held in the Audi Club Big Top Tent at the Track on **Friday evening**. There is a Meet & Greet with heavy appetizers starting at 5:30 PM, so you won't need to leave the track to go offsite for supper. The First-Timer and Instructor meetings kick off at 7:00 PM that evening, followed by the **mandatory all-drivers meeting** at 8:00 PM. See the preliminary schedule in the [MSReg](#) event listing for other important times. A detailed event schedule will be available at onsite check-in.

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Trackside Chats – Based on member feedback, we are featuring a brand-new set of Tech Talks during the event. Brief descriptions of the topics are at the end of this letter.

Passing Protocol - Passing in all run groups will be by **permission-only** in **designated passing zones** using the **point-by** protocol on **either side** at the discretion of the car being passed.

NEW: D-Group (advanced) and X/Y-Group (instructor) Passing – Please see the advanced driver supplement at the end of this letter for some introductory information about expanded passing opportunities on Friday and in your weekend advanced run groups.

Open Top Cars - If you are driving an open top car, it is your responsibility to provide arm-restraints for both Driver and Passengers. Additionally, both occupants must wear eye protection.

Friday - Our experienced drivers are joining us on Friday for the optional Experienced Driver Day. **Everyone else is welcome and encouraged to attend Friday** to watch the action and get a ride with one of our instructors. Go to [MSReg](#) and add Friday to your registration, or email us at AudiSoCalRegistrar@audiclubsocal.org and we will help you add Friday to your entry.

Speed Secrets - First-time performance drivers **must** complete the Speed Secrets **Performance Driving 101** e-course prior to arriving at the event. If you turn in a copy of your completion certificate to your A-Group classroom leader, the club will refund \$39.50, the discounted cost of your course. Visit learn.speedsecrets.com and use discount code **SoCalAudi-50** at checkout. While this is only mandatory for first-time performance drivers, we encourage *all* our drivers to take advantage of the special 50% discount Ross Bentley has graciously offered to Audi Club drivers on lifetime subscriptions to his outstanding online training courses.

Meals – We **eat very well** at an Audi Club HPDE! Those who attended last year know the quality of the menus designed by Zeke in cooperation with the track’s experienced lead chef and catered by the kitchen crew.

- You may purchase a no-host **breakfast** at the Tower Café each morning starting at 7:00 AM.
- Friday, Saturday and Sunday **Lunch** is included with every driving school registration. Guests may purchase lunch at the Tower Café lunch counter.
- The Saturday evening **Banquet** in the Audi Club Tent is a very popular fun evening. We have some great items to raffle/auction in support of the chapter; among them are a set of four Toyo Tires for your car and professional photographs of you and your car on track. But there will also be plenty of time to visit with your new and old friends as you rehash the happenings of your day on track. If you didn’t pre-order, Banquet tickets may be purchased at the on-site check-in desk in the Tower Café.

Eat three squares daily and start drinking water early and stay hydrated throughout the day to ensure your peak personal performance. Audi Club will provide complimentary **drinking water** under the awning in front of the Tower Café.

Weather and Clothing – Late November weather has traditionally been very nice, with cold mornings and pleasant days. The weather has been unusually fickle this year, so we encourage you to bring and wear layered clothing appropriate for varied conditions. The souvenir shirt for this event is a short-sleeve pocket tee. While we allow (but do not encourage) short sleeve shirts and short pants at our events, given the expected cool weather and for your own protection we suggest that long pants and long sleeve shirts are a better choice for base layers at a HPDE, so bring long sleeve shirts. We also require

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practical, flexible-sole, closed-toe shoes while performance driving. Clothing should be made of cotton or wool blends or other fire-resistant materials. Jeans and a long-sleeve tee shirt are fine. Finally, driving gloves can be a welcome addition during those cold mornings at speed with your windows down.

Alcohol, Medications, and Recreational Drugs – None of these have a place at a performance driving event! The latest Auto Club magazine *Westways* relates a survey of thousands of drivers in which *about half* reported using one or more driver-impairing medications which can cause dizziness, sleepiness, fainting, and attention problems during the previous 30 days, whether OTC or prescription. These included antihistamines, antidepressants, and pain medications, among others. Many drivers weren't aware of the effects of their medicines on safe driving. Please leave the meds and cocktails at home. Check yourself and your fellow drivers for safety during the day. There will be no open containers by anyone until the track goes cold at 5:00 PM each day. Hydrate and Eat regularly and well; stay Healthy; be Safe!

Important & Helpful Documents – The forms below are by online distribution only; we will not provide printed copies at the event. Print and bring with you if you want a copy during the event.

- Event Registration info and preliminary schedule is at www.msreg.com/BW23
- Our SoCal Driving School page: <https://audiclubsocal.org/driving-school/> has links to *First-Timer Preparation* Tips and the detailed *Driving School Requirements*, a must-read document with important info about Audi Club driving schools.
- We will be running the **#1 Star Mazda Course Configuration** on all three days – CCW on Friday and CW on Saturday and Sunday. Our Buttonwillow-specific page has links to Track Maps, Track Driving Guides, and Track Videos along for hints on learning the course. A copy of this Welcome Letter is also posted on that page: <https://audiclubsocal.org/buttonwillow>. At a minimum, we suggest you print a small supply of track maps and bring a pen or pencil for taking notes about the track during the event.

Hotel Information - Make sure you have a place to stay! Local Motel, Hotel and Camping information is in the [event listing](#) on MSReg. We do not have a designated headquarters hotel, as all meetings and related activities will be held at the track.

Location - Buttonwillow Raceway Park is located 1/4-mile West of Interstate 5 at the Lerdo Hwy exit. The street address is 24551 Lerdo Hwy, Buttonwillow, CA 93206. It's a couple-hour drive from LA, more from points south. Check your maps app for estimates from your location.

Questions? - Should you still have questions or need additional information please contact the club's HPDE organizers at cdi@audiclubsocal.org (Cris Olariu– for driving activities) or eventmaster@audiclubsocal.org. (Bill Vogel – for event organization).

We look forward to seeing you at Buttonwillow! We are going to have a Great Time!

[Turn the page for **Trackside Chats** info, the **Tech Form**, and the advanced groups' **Expanded Passing Zones** supplement.]

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Trackside Chats

These tech talks are of interest to and appropriate for drivers of all experience levels. Please be sure to find these on the detailed schedule you will receive at on-site check-in. Make time during your day to attend as many of these interesting presentations as you can, given your own classroom and driving schedule. Most will be held in the upstairs Tower classroom; Corner Observation will be trackside and Car Mods at a table in the Tower Café.

- **BW Preview** – Right after the Saturday morning safety briefing.
Get a jump on driving Buttonwillow for all Drivers Deeno will be showing his ever-popular in-car video of Buttonwillow. Alex will discuss the safety features of this weekend's track configuration.
- **Paint Protection** – Saturday morning.
Randy shares his knowledge of paint protection gleaned from years of operating his detail shop and shares tips for caring for your Audi's finish at a HPDE event.
- **Car Mods for HPDE** – Saturday lunchtime.
AJ gives an overview of mechanical modifications to your HPDE car, and when you should (and shouldn't) consider doing them. This is a great opportunity to ask questions about the true value of those cool goodies vendors want to sell us for our cars.
- **Ask PJ** – Saturday afternoon.
Discuss driving technique in an informal Q&A setting. PJ always gets rave reviews for his detailed insight into driving Buttonwillow. *Not a gripe session about passing!*
- **Garmin Catalyst** – Saturday afternoon.
Paul goes in-depth on the amazing Garmin Catalyst driving analyzer and digital coach. Learn the best use of this device to improve your own track driving.
- **Corner Observation** – Sunday morning.
Join Michael alongside the track to observe and analyze the line and car dynamics of drivers negotiating some of those tricky sections of Buttonwillow.
- **Tire Preparation for HPDE** – Sunday morning.
David will discuss pressure / temps / compounds / tread / torques for HPDE. Get answers to your pressing questions about those mysterious round black sticky things underneath your car. We usually take them for granted but they take on increased importance for Performance Driving.

ACSC Safety Checklist - Event _____ Dates _____

Driver Name(s) (Print) _____ Car # _____

Vehicle Year, Make, Model, Color _____

Pre-event Inspection	Pass	... or List Discrepancy
ENGINE COMPARTMENT		
Coolant hoses: good condition, not cracked; reservoir full	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drive belts: tight, not cracked or frayed, not slipping (no squeal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Battery: securely mounted, cables tight, posts covered	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wiring; not frayed or exposed, connections secure	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Throttle: free travel, firm return action	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Steering & Brakes: fluid lines in good condition, reservoirs clean & full	<input type="checkbox"/>	
NO LEAKS - fuel, oil, coolant, hydraulic; water-wetter in 'race' cars	<input type="checkbox"/>	
BODY & LIGHTS		
Headlights, Taillights, Brake lights: functional and bright (no tint)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Let-by Signal: functional (turn signals or point-by - see event requirements)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Windshield and mirrors: functional and secure	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wipers: operational with good blades	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Body: good condition; Doors, hood, trunk lids: secure; Sunroof: closed	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tow hooks (if present): installed	<input type="checkbox"/>	
INTERIOR		
Loose Items: remove all - including floor mats, check under seats	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Glove box and trunk: empty, Spare tire secured or removed	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Seats & Restraints: functionally equivalent for driver and passenger	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Convertible rollover device: ACNA-approved (see HPDE Guidelines)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cameras & Devices: securely mounted, leash required if exterior	<input type="checkbox"/>	
TIRES, BRAKES, & WHEELS		
Tires: Adequate tread (2/32" min) with acceptable wear pattern	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brake pedal: firm (fluid recently bled or replaced)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brake calipers and hydraulic lines: good condition, dry, secure	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brake Pads: >50% thickness; rotors above wear limits	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wheels: not cracked or bent; Lug bolts: none missing, torqued to specs	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wheel bearings: no play	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SUSPENSION		
Suspension: tight, mounts rust-free	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Steering Wheel: minimal play	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Shocks: dry; Bushings & Tie Rod Ends: Tight	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CV joints & hubs: not binding, dust boots intact	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Exhaust system: secure	<input type="checkbox"/>	
OTHER ITEMS		
Helmet: Snell, FIA, or EA certification within ten-years of event	<input type="checkbox"/>	
EV/Hybrid: bring a copy of the Make Safe Procedure to the event	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vehicle modifications; comments; other inspections or discrepancies	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed on the reverse

Inspected By (Name of qualified Shop or Individual) _____ **Inspector Signature** (or Shop Stamp) _____ **Date Inspected** _____

Drivers' Certification: I certify that a *shop* (preferred) or *individual*, knowledgeable and qualified on this model, has thoroughly inspected this vehicle for safety using the suggested minimum list above, along with *any other items I/we deem necessary to ensure safe operation at this high-speed driving event*. Notwithstanding this or other third-party inspection, including at-track courtesy visual inspections if any, the undersigned accept(s) sole responsibility for this vehicle's safe operating condition. I agree to promptly cease operating the vehicle on track if it becomes unsafe, or if I become physically impaired for any reason including fatigue, illness, or use of OTC, prescription, or other substances. I may elect to wear a wristband or necklace describing my medical condition, place a similar notice on my helmet, or provide this information directly to the on-site medical personnel. I will sign the club's and the facility's liability waivers and agree to bear all costs of my vehicle's physical damage to the facility and of damage to my own vehicle. To ensure the integrity of this Audi Club event, the organizer reserves the right to reject any vehicle or any driver for any reason without refund or other consideration.

Driver 1 Signature _____

Event Review Initials: _____

Driver 2 Signature _____



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**Advanced Driver
Expanded Passing Zones Supplement
Buttonwillow Raceway Park
November 17-19, 2023**

At the end of the lunch hour on Friday Erin will brief all Friday drivers on two fun exercises for exploring “expanded” passing zones. This will be followed by two brief slow-speed sessions immediately after lunch so we can get comfortable with being side-by-side in places we are not used to doing so. The remainder of Friday afternoon’s open pit lane time will be run under the expanded passing zone rules.

If everything goes smoothly on Friday and our drivers exercise good situational awareness and drive conservatively, we intend to implement these expanded passing opportunities in the D, X, and Y run groups on the weekend.

We will discuss these expanded passing zones during Friday lunch and will review/debrief again during Friday evening’s meetings. If you are a D/X/Y driver who has not registered for Friday, we strongly encourage you to reconsider. We’d like everyone to participate in these drills as they are invaluable for getting comfortable with the new passing regime. If it is tough to get away early, try to at least be there by lunch on Friday. Reach out if you need help amending your registration to add Friday.

Thank you,

Cris and Alex
ACSC Chief Driving Instructors
cdi@audiclubsocal.org

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