

The most fun you can have with your clothes on!

It would be hard to disagree with automobile magazine writers who have declared this as a, “Golden Age of Automobiles”. Never before have there been so many cars available in every price range that offer excellent handling, acceleration and braking. Where once enthusiast’s choices were limited to a few bonafide “sports cars” with limited seating, today’s buyer is presented with a smorgasbord of vehicles of every type and price range. Many sedans seating five in comfort are capable of handling a curve as well as some two-seat sports cars. Many of today’s sports cars can do a lap at Road America faster than racecars of 25 years ago. **Unfortunately, for SCCA members, until recently there could be a level of frustration attached to the ownership of such a vehicle.**

There you are; you just purchased a new Miata, Celica, Corvette, Porsche, Ferrari, AMG Mercedes, or just about any performance car and the first thing you want to do is answer your friend’s question: “What’ll she do?”. So, you drive to your favorite on-ramp, back road or city street and, “cut ‘er loose”!

Two speeding tickets and a raised insurance premium later you’re wondering whether you should sell this thing before you lose your license.... Is that what’s troubling you Bunky? **Well, we have a solution for you! It’s not Solo 2**, because not every one wants to compete with their cars, and besides, while ripping around cones in a local parking lot is both challenging and a heck of a lot of fun, the Walter Mitty in you believes you really belong on a race track, where God meant you to show your stuff, like Sylvester Stallone in “Driven”.* **It’s also not racing wheel to wheel** on a race track because your wife/husband/parents would kill you if you risked the family chariot slamming doors with other racers like they saw Tom Cruise doing in “Days of Thunder”. There is a third choice, however.

This year you will be able to drive your pride and joy on a real racetrack, in a non-competitive situation, with procedures to help keep you separated from other drivers, and instructors to assist you in learning how to better explore the limits of your car. It is called a **High performance Car Control Clinic**, and will be held at **Blackhawk Farms on Oct 6th**. It will be sponsored by Chicago and Milwaukee regions.

This will be a great opportunity for anyone who has never been on a racetrack before, a chance for corner workers to get their turn on the track, an opportunity for racers’ families and crew members to catch a glimpse of what it’s like “out there”, and give back a little to those that have helped them through their Solo and road racing seasons. It will **not** be a competitive event. Racecars will not be permitted on the track. Passing rules will be strictly enforced. Overly aggressive drivers will be removed from the course. It will not be a race day in any way. It will be a day

for automobile enthusiasts to bring their favorite, well maintained cars to the track and become familiar with their performance features, learn to drive them in a spirited manner and return them home none-the-worse for the experience. **Sound like Fun?** We think so too.

OK, so you're interested. Now what do you do? The most important thing is to **mark your calendar/laptop/Palm Pilot to hold the 6th of Oct open** so you won't miss it. (Road racers, crew and club worker/volunteers should have it easy as a national race will be held at Blackhawk Farms the two days before.) **Then watch the Piston Patter or The Drift in the coming months for information about the clinic.** Meanwhile, keep your car in good condition, paying attention to your car's maintenance, particularly tires, brakes and shocks, all of which will need to be operating properly at Blackhawk.

Chicago and Milwaukee Regions are excited to offer this exciting new activity for our members. Plan on attending and help make it a success so that it can become a part of our club's annual schedule.