

Autocross: what to expect

Details of a typical day (rev 2019)

What is Autocross?

Autocross is formally known as “Solo 1” racing. It is true racing, against the clock, in a class (to “handicap” cars in golf lingo) through a cone-defined course. Typically, speeds are below 60 mph and the course can be completed in a minute or so. You get as many runs as we can cram into a day- which is where we need your help to move quickly and know your work task!

Because autocross is typically in a large, open lot or course, under 60mph, and one car at a time, it is very safe, if you use common sense and follow the rules. It’s also relatively easy on your car, and beginners can bring a street car – no issues. There’s even a set of classes for “showroom stock”.

Schedule

Autocross is a long, early day, Plan on arriving by 7:45, and staying until 4pm or later. Do not plan to leave at any time – bring food, water etc. It’s a jam packed, exciting, but hard day.

Format – Preparation, Driving, Working

We can break down the day into roughly 4 parts –

1. 7:45-9:30 – arrive, check in, get and understand your work assignment, empty car, go through tech, walk/study/learn the course! Get ready.
2. 9:30-3:30+ -- Driving
 - We split the field into 2-3 groups for the main event. Generally, you are either driving or working. If you are driving, you will queue up in a large paddock with ~ 35-50 other drivers, and be guided, one-at-a-time, to the start line. Timing is automatic based on when you break the start and finish timing beams.
3. 9:30 – 3:30 Working
 - When you are not driving, you are working – making it possible for the others to drive. Your work assignment is typically be working the course, watching for infractions and re-setting cones. We have a working document listed here – please download and read.
 - If we split into two groups we take a **SHORT (20 min) lunch break**. If we split into 3 groups, you get one session free for lunch. There is no practical ways to leave the site – bring lunch.
4. 3:30 → end. Break down, pack and leave.

- Aside from packing and leaving, we need everyone to stack cones, bring them back, and put away the voluminous equipment it takes to put on an event.

Car preparation and tech

No pre-tech is required. Your car must be truly empty, so bring bins to put everything in. Make sure your tires are in safe condition and properly inflated. Start with factory recommendations, or +2 psi. Bring a gauge.

Car preparation and tech

Every car needs clear numbers on both sides (rear windows, doors). If we are running with the SCCA you also need your 3-letter class (e.g.: "SS1", "FUN"). Make sure they are right and clear or a) you may not get times, and b) you may hold everyone up and cost us driving time!

What to bring

- Water. More water.
- Food/lunch/snacks
- Tape or something to make numbers from
- Sneakers
- Comfortable clothes
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Umbrella
- Tire gauge
- Chair?

Helmet

Yes you need one. You can borrow one on a run-by run basis, but you really want one 😊 Must be full face, Snell SA, 2010 or later. If you are buying one get a 2015!!!! 2010s expire this year.