

What to expect:

Congratulations, you made the decision to attend a performance driving school, sponsored by the Tarheel Chapter at Virginia International Raceway, in your BMW. This may be your first school ever or simply your first school with Tarheel. The purpose of this document is to provide you with answers to some questions you may have about the event ahead of time. We'll title this write-up as "A Day at the Track".

1. Before leaving for the track, make sure that you have packed all necessary documents for the event. These include directions to the track, technical inspection and medical forms and helmet release all properly completed. Be sure that your helmet Snell Rating meets current requirements as specified in the initial notice found either on the Chapter Website or in Footnotes*. Make sure you bring your valid driver's license with you to the registration. . Registration will be open the night prior to the event from 6:00 - 10:00 pm.

Additional items:

2. Prepare for the weather as forecasted and the inevitable missed forecast. Quick pop-up shelters or tents are nice but not required. The same goes for folding chairs. Bring sunscreen and wear a hat or cap if possible. We run rain or shine so it is reasonable to have an umbrella close at hand.
3. Be sure to bring long pants and long sleeve shirt, natural fibers preferred, to wear while on track each day. Wear shoes that are comfortable but will not interfere with use of the clutch, brake, and throttle pedals. Thin soles are preferable as they allow more "feel".
4. Bring plenty of water, non-alcoholic fluids, and ice in a cooler for the day. These items, along with food, are also all usually available at the track concession area.
5. For your car, bring an extra quart or two of engine oil and maybe some 50/50 antifreeze water mixture if you have room. Fuel is available on the way to the track and it is recommended that you top off your tank before arriving at the track. You can purchase gasoline at VIR's credit card operated pumps, but it is a bit pricey. Bring any tools that you feel may be necessary. We highly recommend a dial type torque wrench and proper socket/extension for your wheel lugs and a good tire pressure gauge. Part of the tech procedure is to check lug torque, but if you don't have a torque wrench, other students or instructors will most likely help out. Insure that your brake fluid is fresh and that the brake system has been bled for air. Finally, bring a roll of paper towels and some glass cleaner or glass wipes to keep your windshield clean.
6. Drive time to the track from Danville area hotels is about 20 - 30 minutes. Plan to arrive at the track entrance by 7:00. If you were registered on Friday evening at the track you will have on your arm-band and can drive through the gate unimpeded. Otherwise, VIR Security staff will require you to sign some track and club waivers at the entry gate. After sign-in at the gate, proceed to the north paddock and find the classroom, a red barn like structure to the right, near the gate onto the track in the North paddock. Park in the paddock area and establish your spot. If you failed to register on Friday evening, run don't walk to registration. Be sure to bring all necessary forms, your license, and your helmet with you. At registration, you will receive a packet of information that includes the event schedule, run group

assignments, and car numbers. Run group assignments are based on experience level relative to others at the school. After you are registered, return to your parking spot and unload your vehicle. Remember to remove floor mats and any other loose articles from both your vehicle interior and trunk. You can leave your spare in place as long as it is secure. Bring a tarp to cover your materials, etc. in case rain develops.

7. Once you've cleared the vehicle, you need to put your car numbers and your run group sticker on. Follow the instructions in your information packet...basically the car numbers go on the rear quarter windows and the run group sticker on the left (driver's side) of the windshield.

8. Now you should have a few minutes to take a break prior to the mandatory student meeting. Use this time to check over your vehicle...check oil and coolant levels, make sure the battery is secure, and torque your wheel lugs to the recommended foot pounds. Air is available at the track at the Tech Building. It is a good idea to add air to your tires, about 5 lbs over the recommended normal driving level (find the information inside your driver door jam); do not exceed the high limit posted on the tire. Your instructor will assist you in making adjustments to the tire pressure as the day goes on. Coffee and breakfast foods are available at the concession stand later in the AM.

9. Your Student meeting will begin promptly. (Time is in your packet) in the same classroom in which your in-class instruction sessions will be held. This student meeting will be held by one of our co-chief instructors and is to inform you of details for the day. After the student meeting is our "MEET & GREET" to introduce you to your instructor. Your instructor and you will do a final tech of your car and get acquainted prior to going on track.

10. New students will have their first session in their instructor's car at highway speeds with no helmets. This gives a look at how the car is to be placed, where the flag stations are let you relax a bit. D students also have classroom time prior to venturing out on track. Classroom attendance is mandatory. You will not go out on track if you miss a classroom session. In the class you will see a preview of the track layout. The classroom instructor will review terminology that you will hear during the event...Turn In, Apex, and Track Out are examples. Don't worry, the classroom session will end in plenty of time for you to meet your track schedule.

11. Finally, track time. You and your instructor will meet as previously arranged. Be a good listener and follow instructions. Try to be relaxed and know that things begin slowly and progress according to your & your instructor's comfort level. Your first lap will be under the Yellow or caution flag. The first two or three laps will be for track orientation. You will have three to four run sessions each day. The daily schedule usually ends at 5:00 pm but could vary from event to event.

12. Between sessions be sure to keep your body hydrated. Water or a sports beverage is better than a soft drink. No alcohol is allowed during the event hours.

13. Parade laps will be available on Sunday, during the mandatory quiet hour. At this time you can take out relatives and friends on track for a low speed tour. Helmets are not required. All participants must be properly belted in & have signed the waiver and be wearing the wrist band.

Please feel free to ask Chapter Event Staff for assistance during the school. You may want to begin to prepare yourself by reading the articles contained in this section of the driver school information. Don't try to understand it all at first, just become familiar with the material. During the event we provide an information table, manned by volunteers who can find the answers to most of your questions. We are available to help you. Our goal is to provide you with a safe, educational, and enjoyable Performance Driving Experience.