

Performance Driving Opportunities

PAS Introductory Driver Orientation Program

All drivers who wish to run at Firebird Raceway through PAS must first complete the one-day PAS track driving class -- termed the New Driver Orientation Program.

The New Driver Orientation Program includes 3-4 hours of classroom instruction and four or five on-track instruction sessions with an instructor in your car (they will waive the instructor requirement after a few on-track sessions if you show good car control skills).

After completing the Driver Orientation Program, you will be certified to run your car on the track in the PAS Red Group (the novice street car group) at PAS track days held at Firebird during all but the summer months, and a track driving license will be issued to you. In the novice Red Group, you have the option of having an instructor with you in your car when on the track, passing is allowed only on the straight a-ways, and no racing with other cars is permitted (they don't want you to run too close to other cars as is done under racing conditions). While there are no on-track speed limits, drivers are strongly directed to drive at speeds that are comfortable to them, i.e., do not feel compelled to keep up with cars in front of you -- run at your own comfortable and safe speed because there will always be drivers and cars that are faster.

After you acquire appropriate track experience driving in the Red Group (by your own determination), you may move up to either the Orange (Intermediate level drivers) or Green (Advanced level drivers) street car Groups where passing with courtesy is allowed anywhere on the track. Note that drivers in these latter Groups are typically faster, and especially in the Green Group, are more aggressive, so some choose to stay in the Red Group or Orange Group. Cars running in any of the street Groups may carry a PAS registered passenger while running on the track.

Safety Equipment Required For PAS Street Group Track Driving
Minimum of a standard OEM 3-point seat belt (standard on the Miata).

Convertibles must run with the top up if the car does not have a rollbar.

Cars must be in safe driving condition: no fluid leaks, good tires and brakes, and all loose equipment must be removed from inside the car and trunk. PAS does not perform a formal tech inspection (but spot inspections are sometime done by track officials); the drivers are expected to maintain their own car in proper condition for running on the track. Be advised that tires and brake pads will wear far faster on track days than under normal driving conditions.

All drivers and passengers must wear a U.S. DOT or Snell Approved (SA) motorcycle or racing helmet no more than ten years old when on the track. You can try-on and purchase various types of motorcycle helmets (about \$100 and up) at any of the many local motorcycle sales outlets in Tucson. Most drivers use the safer full-face helmets, but the cooler and lighter open-face helmets may also be used in the street-car driving sessions.

Drivers and passengers must wear long sleeve cotton shirts or jackets, long pants, and closed shoes (no sandals). Driving gloves are not required, but some do use them.

Track Safety

PAS always has a full crew of flaggers and other course control officials for track days and races. They enforce all PAS track rules and regulations to assure safety on the track.

Firebird Raceway has at least one fast-response safety vehicle and crew on hand during events; the crews are trained in all aspects of track safety, rescue, and fire fighting.

During track and racing days there is always at least one ambulance stationed at the track at all times.

These on-track driving events are promoted and described by PAS as non-competitive, non-racing, driver education classes; so many (and possibly most) personal auto insurance policies cover auto or other property damage that may possibly occur during the events. PAS has an excellent safety record and there have been only a few minor incidents and no significant injuries during the many years these track driving events have been sponsored by PAS. However, please be advised that OPMC is not in any way involved with Professional Auto Sports Inc. in sponsoring or promoting these on-track events, and because there is some minor inherent risk involved with any type of race track activities (including non-competitive activities), it is up to each individual club member to decide if participation in PAS events is

appropriate for them. The OPMC assumes no liability or responsibility for property damage or personal injuries that may occur during participation by club members in PAS events.

Time On-Track During Track Days

PAS sponsors track days and racing days once each month at Firebird except during the summer months. These are three-day events with the PAS Driver Orientation Program driving class held at least on Friday and Saturday of each three-day event, and four 20-25 minute track sessions are offered each of the three days for each of the street and driving class Groups, as well as for the racing Groups. PAS-sponsored races are held on Sundays during these events and are interspersed with the various street-car Group driving sessions. At least four and sometimes five rotations of 20-25 minutes each are offered for the street car Groups (participants need not run in all the sessions available). Because of the driver concentration and physical effort involved, many find they are pretty tired after only a few of the on-track sessions. It's good exercise.

Cost For the Street Car Group On-track Events

Rod DiMarco from the Sahuaro Miata Club has worked out a special price discount with ProAutoSports Inc. for participation of OPMC and Sahuaro Miata Club members in PAS sponsored driving events at Firebird Raceway. Beginning in January 2007, the PAS cost to Miata Club members for track days is now \$100 rather than \$140, and cost for the New Driver Orientation Program Driving Class is now only \$100 instead of the usual \$180 (the \$40 PAS membership fee and track license are also included in the \$100).

Registering For PAS Track Days Or The New Driver Orientation Class

The best and quickest way to register for any of the PAS on-track events is to call PAS and have them register you over the phone. Be sure to mention you are a Miata club member and should get the reduced rates noted above. The PAS phone number is: 480-664-3872 .

The bottom line here is that the PAS track days are safe and great fun, and will absolutely make you a better and safer driver on the road.

for more information see www.proautosports.com and the Performance Driving Forum on www.oldpueblomiataclub.com.