
autoX Saturday 7/19/2008 at Alameda Pt.

Posted by pixrken - 2008/07/17 20:14

It's a long downtime before our next race on Aug. 23-24.

Sid, Jonathan, myself and perhaps Jeremy will be at the PCA-GGR autoX this Sat. at Alameda Pt. It's \$30 for PCA members and \$40 for non-members for either a full day or half day. I'm just going to do the afternoon session.

More info here from the PCA-GGR website:

<http://www.pca-ggr.org/node/109>

Re:autoX Saturday 7/19/2008 at Alameda Pt.

Posted by Litespeeds - 2008/07/17 22:39

Hmmm. For the same price, is it worth it to wake up earlier and get there around 8-8:30 for early registration or sleep in and miss 4 runs and make it for the 11:30am registration. It would be ok if they have a fun run for the last 30-60 minutes of the day but that is not always guaranteed.

I think we just have to work the cones for 1 session if I remember right. I am leaning more towards the 8am start. Who else wants to join me in the chilly overcast morning at Alameda Point?

Re:autoX Saturday 7/19/2008 at Alameda Pt.

Posted by Litespeeds - 2008/07/19 00:07

OK it is not 12:06 am and I am still up so I guess I will be there around 11am for the afternoon session. See everyone there. Come on out and join the fun.

Re:autoX Saturday 7/19/2008 at Alameda Pt.

Posted by Litespeeds - 2008/07/19 17:42

Glad nobody came out except for Ken, Jonathan, Jeremy and myself. They were so unorganized today. There were 3 run groups and they didn't get through the 3rd run group until 2:30pm. That was only having 3 runs per group. The afternoon session only was 2 runs instead of 4 so they could try to get done and out of there by 5pm.

For \$40 and only 5 runs, it was not worth it. I've been to other events and they have at least 7 - 8 runs and if time permitted, they would have about a 30 minute fun run at the end which we can probably do 2 or 3 more runs. Oh well, I guess I will stick with racing instead of autoX.

Re:autoX Saturday 7/19/2008 at Alameda Pt.

Posted by pixrken - 2008/07/20 11:35

Is the glass half full or half empty? :laugh:

It has to do with expectations. I just brought a street registered car because I was too lazy to take my SUV to get my trailer to pickup my 944-SPEC car for a autoX. Sid did the same with a street car.

True, we didn't get many runs in but we didn't get there till close to 11:30 for the afternoon session and I was only expecting four runs and we got five. They were having problems with the timing equipment and behind on the schedule. I hate the wait at autoX's and the reason why I prefer track days but got nothing else to do on this Saturday and the event was only 15 minutes away from my house.

I hate the wait but do enjoy the actual autoX courses. This particular course was fairly long and challenging and I got two DNF's because I got lost. :blush:

So the typical autoX long downtime aside, I say the glass is half full because I enjoy hanging out with you guys, watching the sailboats, the dept. of homeland security speed boats and the coast guard helicopters go by, the beautiful view of

San Francisco from Alameda Pt. and a chance to test my new pop-up vented canopy against the high winds.

Jonathan with his sunroof delete '87 924S
<http://944spec.org/gallery/July2008AutoX/Images/2.jpg>

Jeremy's 944
<http://944spec.org/gallery/July2008AutoX/Images/1.jpg>

Sid's '88, full spec suspension.
<http://944spec.org/gallery/July2008AutoX/Images/4.jpg>

Ken's '88 924S
<http://944spec.org/gallery/July2008AutoX/Images/3.jpg>

<http://944spec.org/gallery/July2008AutoX/Images/7.jpg>

<http://944spec.org/gallery/July2008AutoX/Images/6.jpg>

<http://944spec.org/gallery/July2008AutoX/Images/5.jpg>

Here you can see the sun almost able to burn the fog off with San Francisco and the Bay Bridge in the background. For those not from this area, the fog and ocean breeze are the reasons why it can still be cold with the two hottest months of the year (July and August) in NorCal.

<http://944spec.org/gallery/July2008AutoX/Images/8.jpg>

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Re:autoX Saturday 7/19/2008 at Alameda Pt.

Posted by Litespeeds - 2008/07/20 14:31

Ken is right. There is always 2 ways to look at a picture and I did have fun hanging out with the fellas and Mike Lee even came by to say hi and rode with me for a run. That really helped as I also got a DNF for the first run due to being lost on the course.

A memo to myself, always get there for the morning session so you can walk the course and get a mental picture of it instead of going into it blind like we did. :ohmy:

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Re:autoX Saturday 7/19/2008 at Alameda Pt.

Posted by Jump07 - 2008/07/21 13:13

I had fun just hanging out and talking shop with you guys. I always learn something or get another perspective on something. I also had nothing better to do that day. Hanging out in the sun with a bunch of Porsche freaks is a pretty good day.

I got 3 DNFs for the same reason....totally lost! Everything comes up so fast....but once I learned about the "pointer cones" it was a lot easier to follow directions. Haha.

I got the results emailed to me from the PCA LPR AX at Marina Airport LAST weekend...and they got 13 runs!!! Maybe you guys should make a trip down to my neck of the woods next time. It was a smaller course....a lot of 45s and 50s.

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Re:autoX Saturday 7/19/2008 at Alameda Pt.

Posted by joepaluch - 2008/07/21 14:21

Litespeeds wrote:

For \$40 and only 5 runs, it was not worth it. I've been to other events and they have at least 7 - 8 runs and if time permitted, they would have about a 30 minute fun run at the end which we can probably do 2 or 3 more runs. Oh well, I guess I will stick with racing instead of autox.

I used to Autocross with the Arizona PCA all the time. That is where I started and where the car was built to run at when I first started this in 2000. That said years ago I gave up most autocrossing due to the limited track time. It was fun and all, and our PCA region actually ran flying laps so we would get 3 and 3/4 laps on around the cones per run. Heck we still would get something like 3 of those rotations before the day was done. Even so not enough track time considering loading up and towing down there. Plus the time away family was better spent at a track day.

Too bad as I was alot of fun.

The other issue I always had was the spec car drifted away from an autocross set-up to a big track set-up. The ideal autocross car is nearly unstable so that it can turn super easy with relatively low side loads. Most race track cars need to be build with more stablilty underbraking and at turn in since the speeds and side loads are much higher. What is crisp on the track can turn into dull around the cones. What is crisp arond the cones turns diabolical around big track. It is nothing that can't be tweaked, but that just adds to the autocross effort. Still if the spec cars is street legal and you have nothing better to do it can be fun time. Plus a nice way to promote the class too. Alot of us Az guys started in PCA autocross back in the day.

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Re:autoX Saturday 7/19/2008 at Alameda Pt.

Posted by Gary_44 - 2008/07/21 21:28

I would have loved to be there, if nothing else for the cool, fresh air. I spent Saturday in my hot garage getting drunk on Acetone fumes while finishing the gutting of my interior. But I'm ready for the cage, though!
wait,did I hear a UPS truck? c-ya

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