

An Open Invitation to attend your first High Performance Driving School Sponsored by Buckeye Chapter BMWCCA

Okay! This is it—it's time for you to play too! Come join us at Mid-Ohio and drive your own car around a real world-class racetrack! You'll have an instructor who will sit in your car with you and coach you how to drive your car properly and safely. Drivers will have the unique opportunity to learn how to drive their car on a track at speed with no oncoming or cross traffic, nor radar traps. What more could you want, this is heaven!

But first let's make it clear—**this is not racing**, it is a school and safety is the most important objective of the school. There will be no lap timing and we will not tolerate any unsafe driving or behavior. Our instructors are familiar with high-performance cars and their unbelievable torque and speed and know how to teach the proper techniques for staying on the track and driving safely. This driving school offers student-specific classroom sessions as well as in-car instruction for all students. Instructors and students will communicate by way of a helmet headset system, no yelling or hand signals—all you have to do is listen, follow instruction and learn the techniques offered to you throughout the weekend and then do them over and over again!

We strive to make a positive impact on the lives of our students and their families by teaching proper car handling and defensive driving techniques, specifically for performance vehicles. The most critical aspects of our teaching cannot be obtained from textbooks or inside school cars that do not resemble your car in terms of power-to-weight ratio, throttle response, cornering attitude, etc. The most effective method of instruction is in your own car.

Buckeye Chapter BMWCCA High Performance Driving Schools take place at the world-famous Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio. The track is an hour north of Columbus Ohio, learn more at www.midohio.com.

Drivers are placed in one of four run groups depending on their track experience. There will be about 25 fellow students of similar capabilities on track in each group. 25 cars on a 2.5 mile course gives you plenty of room to learn and improve your skills. All students are required to have an instructor at all times and attend all classroom sessions.

The classroom is performance-specific with topics about seating position, hand position, eye position, track analysis and corner analysis (turn-in, apex, track-out). Restrictions on passing are strictly enforced. Professional corner workers are present at all flag stations. Professional medical and rescue personnel are always present. Run group size is strictly limited to assure maximum quality and quantity of track time.

The FAQs

Is this racing? No. It is a high-performance driver's education school (HPDE). The instructor will tell you when you can pass, what you can do, etc. No one keeps score or times you. The idea is to learn the "line" (the straightest line through the corner) on the track and for you to gain experience as you learn the limits of your car and yourself.

Is it safe? This isn't a race. Most tracks are very forgiving and feature big areas of safe run off. Plus you can't pass another car without the car in front of you signaling that its okay—and no one can pass you without your approval. You only pass on a straight, just like on the highway.

How fast will I go? Not as fast as you think, but Mid-Ohio has two fast straights. It does not require a lot of skill to go fast in a straight line. You will learn how to drive through some very interesting turns at speeds you will think impossible until you learn how to do it. Predominately the course consists of many fun twisting up-hill and down-hill turns that will slow drivers down. The emphasis is on driving well—not on going fast.

What safety equipment do I need? A helmet is required. It must have a Snell 2000 or 2005 label. Beyond that, you have to wear long-sleeve cotton shirts and long pants while on track. You will probably want to bring water

and sunscreen too. You will also be putting numbers on your car so we can identify you (included in your registration packet). You might want to learn the flags in advance, but they will review them at the track too. We will teach you everything you need to know to be safe and have fun.

Do I need a race car or exotic sports car? No way! Whether you are driving an old 2002, a vintage 328, a Honda Civic or a 2004 M3, you are going to have fun. Many people bring their daily drivers to these events. We encourage novice student/drivers to bring their everyday car just the way they drive it to work or the Mall. No special track tires are needed. You will see all types of BMWs and other everyday cars as well as some tricked out toy cars. Most driving school participants—especially in the Novice class—are going to be driving the same thing you are. You probably wouldn't want to drive a van or truck (and they aren't allowed), but basically anything else will be fine. Again, you aren't trying to race—you are trying to learn your car and the track.

The car will have to be inspected for safety before you come to the track, a checklist is included with your registration materials. Your car will also be checked at registration. The stuff in your trunk and glove box has to be removed while you're on the track. We call this clean tech, nothing loose in the car to distract you.

Am I going to wear out my car? No. You will put a little wear on your brakes. Expect the car to get dirty from the brake dust. Other than that, you aren't going to wear out your tires or anything like that. Stock BMW's with street tires and stock suspension are very capable and durable. Good brakes and tires are essential. Fresh fluids and a recent brake fluid change are recommended.

How much track time do I get? Don't be surprised if you are on the track for nearly 1-1/2 hours each day (spread out over 3 -4 sessions). That's plenty. Before each session, you will have some classroom review/training with the classroom instructor. Our goal is to have you on the track as much as possible, we call it "seat time". You can read about it but to learn it you must feel it.

I don't intend to ever race a car, why should I do this?

You will learn driving skills that you will use every day, skills that could possibly save your life and those of your family.

1. Driving well requires all your attention.
2. You have to have your mind ahead of the car. Anticipate before it happens.
3. Brake in a straight line.
4. Don't surprise the car.
5. Learn the feel of the car near the limit of adhesion.

SOOO !!!

If this has not convinced you to enroll in our next school come visit us at Mid-Ohio to see what it is all about and meet some really great like-minded car people. Take a ride with an instructor "at speed" to experience what can be done with a car and a knowledgeable driver. We think you will then be ready to enroll in the very next school.

Buckeye Chapter BMWCCA Driving Events Committee