

# Let's Go to the Track!



## Willow Springs International Raceway – Streets of Willow

Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

This event is for everyone at PCC who owns a Corvette, which is everyone, and who wants to drive it on a real racetrack in a SAFE, organized, supervised event where you will learn basic racetrack rules and etiquette, improve your driving techniques, and have an **ABSOLUTE BLAST!**

This will be a Speedventures event. They have been a sponsor of PCC for several years (since the first year we started the sponsorship program) and have been putting on High Performance Driving Events (HPDE) for over 20 years. They always run a great event and really know how to make it fun and safe for everyone.

For those of you who have never participated in an event like this, here is what you can expect:

- We will get there early in the morning for registration, orientation, and a driver meeting. The first groups out are more advanced so we will also have an orientation class put on by me or another Speedventures instructor to enhance your experience and prepare you even further before you go out onto the track for real.
- When our turn comes, we will line up in grid together to get on to the track. This group will be first time drivers only. Every 4 cars or so will have an instructor in a lead car. We will go out onto the track in a lead follow configuration with the instructor in the lead. You will enjoy several laps behind the lead car at a brisk but very safe pace well within the abilities of both you and your Corvette, no matter what model or year you drive. During this first run you will learn the track and we will show you the proper lines. When we come back in after about 20 minutes and around 10 laps, we will have a download meeting to answer questions and the instructors will tell you what they observed.
- After this we will do another “ground school” to teach you proper point-by techniques so that you can learn to pass or be passed safely. The next time we go out, you will still

have the instructor leading you, but this time we will be practicing the point-by techniques in a controlled manner, taking turns doing controlled passes only on the straightaways. This is an important skill. It helps keep us safe out there. Even the most advance drivers often use point-by on track. There will be another download meeting at the end of this session.

- After lunch we are out on the track two more times, this time without lead car instructors. You will be allowed to drive as fast (or slowly) as you feel comfortable but not allowed to pass except by point-by on the straightaway. Any PCC drivers who have track experience and will be in attendance that day will be available to ride along with you and enhance your experience even more.
- In my case, and I'm sure I speak for any other PCC driver attending with track experience (and maybe a few of my other track friends too) you will also be welcome to jump into our cars and ride along for a, shall we say, brisker trip around the circuit in the more advanced, open passing run groups. Seriously, riding with an experienced driver in an open passing group can really be an eye opener to show you what our cars can actually do if pressed to the limit, although our fully prepared race cars are capable of cornering at speeds far in excess of your street cars, except perhaps a C7 ZR-1 or C-8 Z06. It's quite the experience to ride shotgun in a well prepared C5 like mine. Ask Moe or Marker.

The cost of the event is \$179 and will be discounted from there depending on how many PCC drivers sign up. Contact me by e-mail to get on the list and I will let you know how many we get and what the cost will be before you actually register on the Speedventures website after they give me the discount code.

A note about Willow Springs: The main track was built in 1955 and is still known as the "Fastest Road in the West". The main track is definitely all of that but not where we will be driving. Streets of Willow is a shorter, more technical track on the property at 1.6 miles with 16 turns and much shorter straightaways. It is also on the side of a hill and has some really fun elevation changes. It's a great track to practice your driving skills and get familiar with road course driving at lower speeds.

Other fun stuff:

You have choices regarding how and when to get to the track. It's about 145 miles from south OC to the track, which is in Rosamond just passed Lancaster. Depending on traffic and the route you take (through LA and the 14 or the 15 through the IE to the 138) and the time of day you leave it will take you about 2 ½ hours. Plan on being at the track at 7:00am Saturday morning so that would mean getting up at a stupid early hour. Or....do what we usually do and head out Friday afternoon before rush hour. There is a brand-new Fairfield Inn and Suites just off the 14

at W. Ave. J that goes for around \$119/night. There are a couple of other Marriot properties nearby and lots of other hotel choices too. I'll be at the Fairfield. Once we have a driver count, and we know who is coming out Friday, I'll make reservations at the Broken Bit Steakhouse, a local dive with amazing steaks at good prices and always worth the trip.

What do you need? You need to make sure your car is safe. We will provide you with a self-check tech sheet before the event. No oil leaks, loose parts or corded tires. Your brakes should be in good shape. You will need a Snell 2015 or better helmet, but you are in luck, your awesome PCC car club happens to own several (I have custody of all of them). Once I know who is coming, I will allocate helmets. If we do run short, Speedventures has them for rent at the track.

Warning: Track days are addicting. Once you do it, you may never look at your Corvette the same way and start looking for HPDE's every weekend. We go to Streets of Willow, Big Willow, Buttonwillow, Sonoma, Laguna Seca, Chuckwalla Valley, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Spring Mountain, and have even been known to organize a trip to Phoenix Motor Speedway and Circuit of the Americas in Texas. If it happens to you don't say you have not been warned, but also know you will always be welcome, we all started with our first track day 😊.

To sign up or have any questions please e-mail me at [bobhaswings@yahoo.com](mailto:bobhaswings@yahoo.com).