

Just the Basics -1- Introduction

Welcome to the “Just the Basics” series of articles. What we are hoping to do with these articles is give you some information to help you become a better driver. And should you decide to bring your Porsche out to the race track and play with us, all the better. It is the most fun you can have with your clothes on! Oh, yeah, one giant word of caution: This stuff can be *very* addictive.

Let me introduce myself: I’m John Myer. I am the Coastal Empire Regions chief driving instructor. I started autocrossing (parking lot racing with the SCCA) in the early ‘80’s. I have been doing high-speed track events since the mid ‘80’s. Over the years, I have picked up some good, basic information that I would like to share with people who want to get the most enjoyment out of their car.



The concepts here can be applied to the street as well as to the track. “Mirrors”, “Eyes Up” and “Get A Grip” provide some tips for street driving and should be required reading for all drivers. Since this is “Just the Basics”, I will strive to keep it simple enough for everyone to understand. No promises though. You will become a better and safer driver. If you have any questions, please let me know at yaller986@aol.com.

For those who may be curious about what a DE is or what is involved, keep reading.

What is Driver Education or DE?

It is a unique opportunity for you to bring your Porsche (or other performance oriented car you may have) to a race track and to learn to drive it the way the good Dr. Ferry Porsche intended. DE is NOT racing. There are no lap times taken, no winners or losers, no wheel-to-wheel competition. You will have a PCA instructor ride with you the entire time you are on the track. The instructor’s job is to teach you the line, keep you out of trouble and help develop your driving skills. PCA National DE Chairman, Pete Tremper, put together an informative podcast about DE’s and what to expect. It is worth a listen. <http://www.pca.org/Portals/0/Podcasts/DE%20with%20Pete%20Tremper.mp3> If you would like to see what happens at a DE, here is a good video narrated by our own Bob Woodman; <https://vimeo.com/99870507>.



Where do you hold DE’s?

Our events are held at the Roebing Road Raceway, in Bloomingdale, GA just west of Savannah. It is a 2.02 mile road course with 9 turns. It is a very safe and fast track.

What happens at a DE?

The fun starts on Friday evening with a pizza and beer get together at the host hotel, usually the Hampton Inn at the Savannah

Airport. We have a drivers meeting at the track on Saturday at 8 AM sharp! We have 5 ‘run groups’, based on experience, abilities & car. Novice and beginner groups have classroom sessions and all groups get 4 - 20 minute sessions on track each day. At the end of the day on Saturday, we usually have a BBQ dinner at the hotel. We do it all again on Sunday starting at 8 AM.

But I’ve never done anything like that before!

That is quite all right! Our Green run group is comprised of first timers. You will learn at your own pace and comfort level. The instructors have 2 way communication devices so you can talk to each other easily. We have loaner helmets, so you don’t have any expense beyond the registration fees. And you get a nifty tee shirt (or equivalent) out of the deal too!

You can get other information on our website, www.cerpcanet and at the PCA web site www.pca.org. You can register at www.clubregistration.net.