



BMW CCA Buckeye Chapter 2022 NCM Drivers' School Orientation

The Buckeye Chapter of the BMW CCA and the Driving Events Committee welcomes you to our very first driving school at NCM Motorsports Park. You have chosen a great track and a safety-oriented organization for this experience.

This message is intended to help you be prepared to get the most out your weekend at our **High Performance Drivers' School**. Please note the emphasis on **School**. Most of you are already good drivers. The fact that you are interested in improving your skills shows you want to become a better driver. Most highway driving uses about 50% of the car's capability and about 50% of your potential driving skill. This school will raise your driving skill to 75 to 80%. The car is already much more capable than you realize, especially if it is a BMW.

This is our first year of the Buckeye Chapter conducting a driving school at NCM, but we have held 42 years of schools at Mid-Ohio, and safety is our priority. No one will ask or expect you to do anything that is beyond your comfort level. **Your safety and that of your car is our primary concern**. Beyond that we want this to be a learning experience, so you will end the weekend with a better understanding of both your capability and that of your car.

All Students

Preparing for the Drivers' School

- **Download and print all event information from the Buckeye Chapter web site.** This will include the NCM Drivers' School Info Packet, Safety Inspection and Helmet Release Form, and the Medical Information form.
- **Have your car inspected by a dealer or independent service shop**, using the Safety Inspection form. Sign this and bring it to registration. Note: It is not necessary to modify your car for high performance. The car must be SAFE: well-bled brakes and sufficient pads, good tires and tight suspension. We also recommend you drive a car with which you are familiar, so you can concentrate on learning the track, rather than the car.
- **Make a reservation at a local hotel.** Our headquarters hotel is the Hampton Inn, 233 Three Springs Rd, Bowling Green, KY, 270-842-4100. **Call no later than May 1.** Tell them you're with the Buckeye Chapter Drivers' School. Plan to be there by **7:00 PM Friday evening** for a final car inspection and event registration.

What to bring checklist

Your NCM Drivers' School Info Packet, Safety Inspection and Helmet Release form, and Medical Information form

These are on the Buckeye Chapter web site and need to be completed and brought to Friday night registration.

Clothing for all sorts of weather NCM is known for its quick-changing weather, so bring a selection of shirts, sweaters, jackets and rain wear. Shoes should be soft soled (not running shoes) to allow good pedal feel. Shorts are permitted in the paddock, but **not in the hot pits or on track**.

Large tarp or plastic sheet, plastic bags These will be for storing all the stuff you remove from your car.

Snell 2015 or 2020 helmet A few loaners are available, but it's best, and most convenient, to have your own.

Water or Gatorade, snacks Driving schools are physically and mentally demanding. It is very important that you stay hydrated, to keep your muscles charged and your mind sharp, and fed, to keep your stomach growls from drowning out your instructor. Alcohol is not permitted until the track closes.

Tire Pressure Gauge and Torque Wrench Proper tire inflation is critical, and something you will need to check periodically throughout the weekend. A good dial-type gauge is money well spent. A torque wrench is also important, as a loose wheel can ruin your day, but if you don't have one find someone at the track who will loan you theirs, so you can check your lug nut tightness several times a day.

Packing for the Drivers' School

- **Be prepared for all kinds of weather;** we run rain or shine. June weather should be wonderful, but it also can be chilly and damp, with strong winds. Bring layers of clothing, rain gear and water-proof shoes. Bring waterproof tarps and bags in which to put items taken out of your car. ALL loose items in your car must be removed before going on track. We will conduct a "clean tech" inspection before your first session each day, to make sure you haven't missed anything.
- **Bring soft-soled shoes.** Running shoes are designed to insulate your feet so you do not feel the ground. Here you must FEEL the brake and transition to the throttle smoothly. You don't have to buy driving shoes; a comfortable pair of deck shoes or sneakers will work.
- **Bring a tire gauge and a torque wrench** if you have them. If not you'll need to ask someone at the track to help you. Bring extra motor oil.
- **If you have a helmet it must have a Snell 2015 or 2020 label inside.** If you plan to rent one from the club they will be available at registration for \$40, but please let us know in advance, as we only have a limited number. If you buy a new helmet, make sure it is Snell 2020.

Friday evening at the headquarters hotel

- **This is Registration night!** (*Saturday morning registration is available only by prior arrangement.*) Plan to arrive around 7:00 pm. Have your completed forms and helmet ready for the registrar.
- **Take your completed forms to the registration desk in the hotel lobby.** The friendly folks there will have you sign a waiver, take your forms and give you your packet containing your car numbers, instructor assignment sheet, lanyard and schedule. **Remember, the outstanding Saturday Night Dinner,**

Track rules and procedures

Natural fiber shirts, closed shoes, socks and long pants are required in the hot pits and on the track Shorts are permitted only in the paddock and viewing areas.

Remove all loose items from car before staging
Check visors, change holders, glove box, trunk, under seats.

Driver and instructor windows down when on track
Rain or shine; it's a safety thing.

If you have a full-face helmet, and air bags in your car, your helmet visor must be either down or removed completely.

When you enter the hot pits prior to your session pull to the wall on the right side and drive all the way to the front The Pit-Out person will wave you onto the track when it is safe to do so. Stay on the left while getting up to speed, as cars to your right are at full speed.

Pit road speed limit is 20 MPH! Be very careful entering the pits from the track, as there may be staffers in the lane.

Lap timing is discouraged You are here to learn the track and the capabilities of your car and you, not set a new lap record. Focus on smoothness and the line; speed will come.

In-car videos are allowed The camera must be firmly attached and safely positioned in the car. *Please do not post online or email any video or still photos of an incident, on or off track, even among friends.* Please respect the legal and insurance concerns of the driver, the Buckeye Chapter and the BMW CCA.

Watch for flags! Be aware of where the flag stands are located, and pay attention to the flags. They are there for your safety, and that of your fellow drivers.

No passing without a signal! The overtaking driver must wait for a designated passing zone, and the overtaken driver must give one clear passing signal to EACH overtaking car. The overtaken driver should slow slightly until passed.

If you spin, come in A spin is 90 degrees or more off the direction of travel. Off track is two or more wheels off the asphalt. If you go off completely, check for a corner worker to wave you back on track. If a spin occurs, and you can continue, come to the hot pits and talk to us. First time, we're nice. Second time, we talk slower. Third time, we send you home. Speed is good, safe speed is better. If someone spins in front of you, do not stop. Drive around them and continue. The corner workers will handle it.

If something feels wrong with your car Come in.

*held Saturday night at the headquarters hotel, is **included** in your registration fee!* Use a highlighter on the schedule to **note your track and classroom sessions and the times to be there.**

Tip: Insert your schedule in the lanyard upside down; it is easier to read that way when it is hanging around your neck.

- **If you are uncertain about how to get to the track, ask at registration;** we have some handy maps. You can usually find a BMW with numbers on the windshield to follow on Saturday morning. Hopefully they won't be lost, too.
- **Enjoy the rest of the evening, meeting new people, or old friends, who have a common interest.** If you tell people that you are a first-timer they will usually be happy to talk about their first time and share their experience at driving schools.
- **Enjoy a few refreshments, but remember,** tomorrow begins early and you need to be on your "A" game, and that is not "A" as in Anheuser-Busch.

Saturday morning at the track

- **The track opens at 7:00 AM; plan to be there close to that time.** When you arrive at the track there will be a check-in person at the main gate to have you sign the liability release form for the race track. They will give you a wrist band to give you access to the track. Put the wrist band on; this will also be used to access the track on Sunday.
- **Follow the road to the paddock,** on your right after you pass the karting area.
- **Find an open spot to park your car. The space directly in front of the garages is reserved** for the trailers and cars of those who have rented the garages. Most of your activities will occur between registration, the restrooms, the classroom, and the grid entrance to the track.
- **Unload ALL loose items in your car into plastic bags and cover them with your tarp.** Your car will be inspected for any loose items before you are allowed on track, so do it now.
- Check your schedule. **Saturday and Sunday morning start at either 7:45 or 8:00 AM (check schedule) with a MANDATORY Student Meeting.** This will be held in the large tent structure next to the karting area. **Be on time.** All run groups will be there, so the room gets crowded. **Attendance will be taken.**

Follow the schedule

- **You have paid for a weekend of driving, and we are committed to having you on the track as much as possible.** In order to do this you must be on time. Highlight your schedule and **listen to the PA system in the paddock.** First call is **10 minutes prior to your scheduled event;** final call is **5 minutes prior.** Line up early to allow your instructor to get buckled in and ready.
- **The staging area for going on track is located between the garages and the damaged headquarters building.** Your instructor will meet you there, unless you have made other arrangements.

Working with your Instructor and Group Leader

- **SPECIAL NOTICE:** If your car is equipped with driver assist features such as Active Blind Spot Detection, Active Driving Assistant, or Active Cruise Control, these must be turned off before entering the track. If you do not know how to do this, **please consult your manual** beforehand.
- **The success of your weekend is greatly dependent on the relationship between you and your instructor.** Our instructors are highly experienced drivers, and they were also chosen for their communication skills. **Take advantage of this opportunity;** your instructor is anxious to share his or her experience. They want you to have fun and leave this weekend a much better driver, and with a strong desire to continue to attend our Buckeye High Performance Driving Schools.
- **Try to meet your instructor before your first track session.** Ask the folks at registration if you don't know your instructor. Find out what they drive, and check in with them.

- **Discuss your objectives for the weekend with your instructor.** For most, learning the track is first and foremost. But after that, is it simply to become a smoother driver? Improve your car control? Work together to get the most out of your weekend. In addition to your Instructor, each student group will have a Group Leader, who will be on the track during your session observing and making mental notes.
- **The best instruction will often happen just as you come off track.** Park your car and shut it off, leaving the car in gear if it is a manual, and do not set the parking brake, as the brakes are hot and may warp. Your instructor can now review your performance in much greater detail than is possible on track. If your instructor has a student in the run group following yours, set a time to get together when the schedule permits. After you have finished, your Group Leader will be available to go make recommendations or to discuss issues that arose during your session.
- **If your Instructor or Group Leader does not offer a ride with him or her during an instructor session, ask for one!** This is a valuable part of the school experience. (**WARNING!** Do not skip your classroom sessions for this; **attendance is required.**) Also ask other instructors for rides. **When riding, don't look at the speedometer, watch their hands and feet; see how smooth these movements are,** and how their eyes are up and aware of the track ahead.
- **Even after you are signed off by your instructor, we recommend you ask another instructor to ride with you.** You're here to learn, they're here to teach, so put them to work!
- **It's rare, but if for some reason you just don't hit it off with your instructor, let us know!** We will switch assignments to make sure you get the most out of your weekend.

Sunday morning at the track

- **The track opens at 7:00 AM, again.** Plan to be there close to that time, as you will likely have more to unload from your car. You will be clean teched again; don't make us work too hard.
- **Check your schedule for any variations from Saturday.**
- **Sunday morning can be dangerous. Remember it took all day to get to the speed you were driving at the end of the day Saturday.** You now have cold tires, cold brakes and cold synapses; build back up to speed gradually.

Between sessions

- **Check your oil level and lug nut tightness.**
- **Check your tires for excessive wear on the outside ribs.** Too much wear on the shoulder indicates the need for more air, or you may be overdriving the car. Not enough wear may indicate you can remove a pound or two, or that you are not pushing your car too hard in the corners. See if that changes over the course of the weekend.
- **Check your brake pads, front and rear.** Traction control can accelerate rear pad wear.
- **When everything is checked, and you are not due in class, find a good vantage point for watching the action on the track.** Note the lines being driven, and who is being smooth and who is not.

Sunday afternoon

- **At the end of the day, please fill out your Instructor Evaluation.** Our instructors are graded based on your input, and we want to know what they do well, or not so well.
- **Find your instructor and go over the Student Evaluation** they fill out. The eval will list areas where you excelled, as well as areas for future improvement. Your instructor will discuss these points with you, and will make run group recommendations for your next school.

The Buckeye Chapter recommends, but does not require:

- *Bring a second set of brake pads*, just in case.
- *Excessively loud exhausts impede communication between driver and instructor*, and can do the same to surrounding cars. NCM has a limit of 103 dBA, measured 50 feet from the track, so please muffle your hot rod!
- *“R” compound tires are not recommended for novice and intermediate students*. Their grip can mask bad technique, as well as building false confidence, leading to a higher speed “moment”.
- *If you have FIA approved belts and seats we recommend following the five-year replacement protocol*. We will not reject older equipment as long as it is in good condition.
- *Equal seat belts for driver and instructor ARE required*, but we also strongly recommend equal seats. It's hardly fair to be snug in your race seat while your instructor is sliding around on a stock seat.

The Buckeye Chapter requires:

- *All race-prepared cars must be approved by the Chief Instructor and/or Tech Chief prior to the event*. It is the car owner's responsibility to contact us no less than one week prior to the Drivers' School. This will allow time for any necessary repairs. Any Chump or LeMons cars will need to submit current photos of their car.
- *Any roll cage structure within 12 inches of the driver's or instructor's head must be padded with high density foam* meeting SFI 45.1 or FIA 8857-2001 Type A standards. *Cars failing this standard will not be permitted on track*.

Thanks again for choosing a Buckeye Chapter Drivers' School. We hope your experience is a great one, and that you'll make our schools a regular part of your school season.

– The BMW CCA Buckeye Chapter Driving Events Committee