

An Outstanding Two Days!

On July 2nd and 3rd I had an opportunity to attend a two day High Performance Driving Event organized by the National Corvette Museum at Virginia International Raceway. This was my first ever track experience in my C6 Z06 and my first time at VIR so I signed up for the green (beginners) group. The school consisted of classroom time and seven track sessions that each lasted twenty five minutes. I have been to other track events with my 1995 Impala SS but this was by far the best HPDE that I have ever attended. The NCM did a terrific job of organizing the school. As I learned, the focus of the school was based on four critical parts: Safety, Safety, Safety, and Fun. All four parts were expertly delivered. Here is a picture of my car at speed on the course:



I cannot say enough about the quality of instructors. In two days I went from not understanding the correct line around the track and being VERY uncomfortable in some of the corners to being able to take the back straight at 162 MPH and then enter a nasty set of downhill twisties that they call the Roller Coaster.

It wasn't all work however and we had time to walk around and visit with the other students and NCM staff. One aspect of the school that made things very interesting was that many GM folks from Michigan and Bowling Green also attended as students. It was a rare opportunity to spend time not only with design engineers but with zone staff. They even fed us well! On Monday evening the NCM had a catered dinner for us at the track. Here is a plate photo of one of the many GM cars at the event:



VIR is one of the most beautiful road courses in the country. The NCM insures that everyone, regardless of their experience, has a wonderful time. Most of what you learn on the track can also be applied to driving on the streets at legal speeds so the school is very worthwhile even if you don't have a goal of driving the 24 Hours of Le Mans. The NCM has already reserved the first Monday and Tuesday in July 2008 for the next HPDE at VIR. If you have never experienced driving on a road course this is a fantastic way to start. I'll be there again if I can get registered. You need to be alert because registration filled this year in the first three hours after the announcement on the NCM web site.

This next shot does not do justice to the beautiful facilities at VIR but it may help give you an idea of what the place is like. More information is available at the VIR web site:
<http://www.virclub.com/vir/>



If you have any questions about the NCM HPDE at VIR please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope to see you there next July. It really is a tremendous amount of fun whether you are a beginner or an expert.

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None this month



*For those members who would like to shop for a new or used car at Criswell, the person to see at Criswell is **Neil Kopit**. Ask to speak to Neil and let him know you are a CCA member.*

CCA 1956 - 2007

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**CCA Meeting
Schedule**

BUSINESS MEETING at Red Hot & Blue, Shady Grove Rd Gaithersburg, second Tuesday monthly at 7:00pm to approximately 9pm.
Next Meeting Tuesday Aug 14th 2007

SHOP NIGHT at Criswell fourth(*) Tuesday 7pm 'til 9pm. "Food Frenzy" afterward at TBD (Joe's Pizza is now closed).
Next Shop Night Tuesday Aug 28th 2007

* Shop Night is the **THIRD Tuesday in November and December** due to Holidays.