

From: Keith Sannes [mailto:usd90@aol.com]
Sent: Fri 10/21/2011 5:51 PM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Subject: Re: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

Hi Cliff -

It was a great event last weekend...I had a blast!

I played in the golf tournament on Friday, and it was a very fun part of the weekend.

I can imagine how much work and coordination is needed to pull off an event like this.

I ran in the B run group all weekend. There were some complaints about the passing protocols. I don't have a problem with the protocols. I think the biggest problem with passing in our run group was that some people were not very good about turning on their turn signals early enough, which caused frustration because the passing zones are so short at Infineon.

The only frustrating part of the weekend for me was the first day. With the large number of people in the B run group and the different levels of experience, in addition to some people not allowing passes very easily, it was very hard to get into any kind of rythm. This improved alot on Sunday!

Hopefully this helps. In the big scheme of things these are minor because I had a great time and learned alot.

Keith

Sent from my iPhone

Cliff,

Overall another outstanding event (with special thanks to whoever it was you had arrange the weather).

A great tool was the digital photo of the track that let us (C/D class) zoom into the turns under discussion - very helpful.

The dinner venue was one of the best!

Since you ask for improvement areas, I thought about where I saw opportunities to work harder:

1) There is always a little confusion over where to meet/find instructors, esp with A/B students. If you could get a map of the garages and parking area and have instructors mark garage number or approximate paddock location, that would help. A small thing, but ACGG is doing so well elsewhere. This is especially useful if the instructors and students are in separate morning meetings as they were on Saturday. I know this was a function of group size, but it's helpful to have all in the same room to facilitate meet-ups between instructor and student). (And this may be more work than it's worth)

2) At Portland last year the paddock area used for exercises converted to an autocross space after the exercises were over. It looks as if there is enough space for that at Sears Point (maybe Thunderhill as well) It might be worthwhile seeing how many members would opt for an autocross at some of these events. I know I'd like to do it at some events. The Portland folks had a nice menu of options.

3) For the silent auction, it might help get more bids on the oil change/alignment/etc if they got a bit of pre-selling. Carol & I would lose out bigtime, but you'd raise more money. The A/B students don't realize the advantage of a Griffin or a Kovacs aligning so you get crisper handling, or the benefits of good brake treatment at a service. (I had one guy comment he could get his car aligned anywhere, so why bid)

Cheers,

And thanks to all of you for again doing a great event,

Paul

From: Mike Fallis [mailto:quattro4x4@hotmail.com]
Sent: Mon 10/17/2011 9:21 PM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Subject: RE: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

Hi Cliff,

It was good to see you at Infineon, I had a blast, rode with two of the best students that I have ever had the pleasure to work with and really enjoyed seeing Helmar again along with a lot of old familiar faces.

I am copying you on the email I sent Gordon and Terry earlier today so that you can see my comments.

With regards,

Mike Fallis

Hi Terry and Gordon,

I had a fantastic time at the Nationals and both my A and C students were amazing and were both a pleasure to work with! My A student was Pierre de Filippis and my C was Steve Ertzner. This was especially nice for me as this was my last track event until such time as I can devote money to a dedicated track car. My 4000 deserves to be preserved and that is what I am going to focus on (plus it is slower than a turd!)

Two comments regarding my experience(s) and observations; 1) There were two (no need to name names) A group instructors that were not paying attention to faster cars on the track. I am specifically NOT referring to the lovely lady in the blue A4. Although painful to caught behind at times, it is all part of what we do to bring new students along. My style is to be aware of what will develop two or three corners ahead and have my student put on his right blinker "entering" the turn leading to the passing zone and having my student gently come off the throttle to allow multiple passes if required. The two situations I was presented with were where there was no signal (especially in the 6 to 7 straight, the signal came beyond the track out point/cone and no appreciable reduction in speed. Even with an RS4 it was difficult to achieve the safe pass.

This should be revisited in the instructors meeting. I can tell you that our instructors meeting was far too brief and this type of information was not addressed. Personally, I believe that it would be a good idea to host a one day Instructor refresher course at T-hill once a year and made mandatory that you have to make one at least every other year to stay current (just my opinion and I would bring the 4000 out for that.)

2) Would there be any future benefit of using the IndyCar Turn 11 (?) It may save another person from going into the wall on turn exit, slow cars between 10 and 11 and remove the specter of someone blowing a late brake maneuver and hitting the tires at speed. There is also a lot of "maneuvering between faster/slower cars to make a pass/get-in-line, and braking in that zone. Possibly you could use two separate configurations from A,B and C students on the shortened corner and allow D's and Instructor's the full Turn 11. Just a thought.

Gordon, I want to thank you for all that you have done to move the Club forward. Not to over look anyone else as Ruddick busted his ass and Terry and others as well (I'll take a "pat" for what I contributed) but this chapter is operating on a high level and (I hope) is a bench mark by which National should measure other chapters!

It has been a pleasure working with every one and I will attend "other" chapter events and perhaps show up at T-hill or Infineon as a helper and keep the social candle burning!

With warm regards,

Mike Fallis

From: J [mailto:imsupergirl@att.net]
Sent: Mon 10/17/2011 9:43 PM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Subject: Re: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

I spent the morning of the first day working the exercises, specifically, the lane toss. It's always been my favorite exercise and the most important in my mind. Almost without fail, the students were not close enough to the steering wheel, didn't seem that they had been told what their arm position should be, and why. Most were driving with their arms almost all the way straight, and were, as expected, having a difficult time making the lane change.

The students also didn't seem to understand the reason for the lane toss, other than it was really tough for them to do. I explained to those that I could, that this exercise replicates the emergency move they would have to make to avoid an accident, if say, a car was coming at them in their lane. I was not with the students when they were briefed prior to the exercises, so I don't know what they were told, but I did hear Dave Ruddock explaining to one group what they were to do, and the minimal instructions left a lot of questions, and a lot of unspoken instructions that they could have benefited from.

Also, the remote that was used to give the signals failed at least 50 % of the time and no directional signal was given.

Also, the instructors who were at the side to talk to the students after they had made a run through the exercise were not even standing in a position to see if the students were hitting the brakes before they made the land change. The instructors should be far enough forward that they can see the rear of the car to see if brakes are engaged.

Now, I know it's very easy to pick things apart, and few are willing to put their efforts where their mouth is, but I would be happy to run the lane toss exercise. There seemed to be some confusion as to where the students would go after they finished one exercise, and time was wasted getting groups coordinated to move. My answer - walkie talkies.

I will not be available for the Thunderhill event in January as I will be in Spain for a month, but I will happily take over the exercises for any other event we do.

J9

From: Dave Parker [mailto:dwpmr@yahoo.com]
Sent: Mon 10/17/2011 11:49 PM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Subject: Re: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

Cliff,

I thought the weekend went very well indeed. And I shudder to think of the amount of effort you guys all put in to put it together, Just handling 160 drivers would be a stretch, but to add on the high-powered dignitaries, and film crew, and the other Friday events as well???? Sheesh. You are all to be commended, even the "non-power user" of your

elegant excel spreadsheet.

However, you know how picky I can be, so here goes. No offense intended nor implied.

First, the car control exercises rotation seemed slow - each instructor team should have one member jump into the lead student's car and direct him to the next start line with the rest of the group following. No need to have Marshall personally lead each group in turn.

Second, at least one of the exercise starters (lane toss) needed to be reminded they are not to offer any critiques - all critiques are to be given by the debriefers after each run. Offering more input at the start of each can be confusing and contradictory.

Third, we simply have got to find a way to encourage the scheduled instructors to show up for their assigner exercises on time. Some kind of carrot for them? Or maybe a stick if they don't? And perhaps a carrot for instructors who assist even if they were not on the schedule?

Fourth, the banquet was fantastic, and I know you did your best to move the program along. But because of all the speeches, the auction/raffle was very late starting, and it looked like half the folks left shortly thereafter. I don't know what can be done about this, but it may never be an issue again unless the bigwigs come back again for more speechifying.

Fifth, if it is true that Dave unilaterally overruled the lifetime membership award winner, this should not be allowed without prior board discussion as to any restrictions or qualifications to be applied.

Sixth, I heartily endorse the idea of inviting communications from instructors to their assigned students prior to the event. I think it would also be worthwhile to provide the pairings to the instructors in advance.

Seventh, can we reinforce the idea that driver's meetings are not optional, especially for the first-timers? I know of one guy who was going to bail because he was late and didn't realize he was supposed to connect with his instructor that evening.

An effective paddock PA would also be helpful in communicating timing changes. I heard few announcements down in the second garage area.

And finally (whew!), congrats to all involved for a job very well-done.

Dave

From: Martin Grunthaner [mailto:mechee@gmail.com]

Sent: Tue 10/18/2011 12:18 AM

To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org

Subject: Re: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

Hi Cliff,

Audifest 2011 was my first track event, and I had a blast! If I could change one thing, it would be to have a higher speed slalom course during the car control exercises to really get a feel for how the car's weight transfers at speed.

Thanks,
Marty

From: garyjchanner [mailto:gary@channer.info]
Sent: Tue 10/18/2011 12:46 AM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Subject: Re: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

This was my first Audi event,I will be back it was a **FIRST CLASS !**
Gary Channer

From: Lewis, Brian T [mailto:brian.t.lewis@intel.com]
Sent: Wed 10/19/2011 11:45 AM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Cc: Lewis, Brian T
Subject: RE: Audi Club wants' your feedback about AudiFest 2011

Cliff,

AudiFest was a great event. It improved my driving and, above all, was fun. The only thing I'd suggest for the future would be to place the silent auction sign-up sheets in the same room as the meet and greet event so that more people would take advantage of the items being offered. That's all I can think of. Thanks to you and everyone who organized the event.

Brian

From: danalibr@aol.com [mailto:danalibr@aol.com]
Sent: Tue 10/18/2011 2:16 PM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Subject: Re: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

Cliff;

This was my second Audi Club event (Laguna Seca 2010), and I once again had a great time. Everyone involved in running the event did a great job, were very friendly, and helpful with a smile. Also, all of the members I had a chance to visit with were very friendly and seemed to be enjoying themselves, a good sign of a successful event. I do however have one complaint.....the blinker passing system stinks, and at a track like Infineon where you have to stay constantly focused on driving the car, is downright dangerous. It requires you to take your eyes off the road

for too long, looking for the turn signal and looking at it long enough to decide if it is flashing, is it a brake light, or is it the sun reflection. Then you have to remember to turn on your left blinker, make the pass, remember to turn it off, while maybe negotiating the next turn. Also, passing on the left is not always the most efficient and safe side to pass. I spoke to maybe a half dozen instructors, and another dozen drivers, and not one thought this is a good system. I have done a few events with Speedventures, NASA, Viper Club, all of which do point by passing. A point by is easy to do, easy to see, no guessing, and can be done to pass on either side. It is my understanding this is directed by Audi to make the event look more like street driving training as opposed to racing. We are not racing, this is drilled into the drivers constantly through the event, but you are on a race track, and some street driving techniques do not apply. I would hope the main objective for Audi is to be safe. This is not a safe system.

Sincerely,

David Sullivan

From: Bob Lewis [mailto:boblewis@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tue 10/18/2011 11:08 AM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Subject: Re: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

5's across the board. Great event. Thanks again for your coaching - I learned a lot. As importantly, I think I am more consistently applying on the track. I'll miss Thunderhill in January but am looking forward to May.

--Bob

Dear Sirs; Great event as I indicated earlier. A couple notes, and not complaints. FYI, My wife and I, and our 4 Audis{no kids unfortunately} love our Glacier lakes people and club. We are 62 years old. My concern over recent years is that we encounter so many "fast" cars and aggressive drivers that Beverly feels sometimes events get too "fast pace" for her drive style. Thus she has not attended as many events as I would like to share with her. She prefers the DE experience as well as the social, not the detail technical or "Race" atmosphere. She thinks my friends are "too addicted" to a faster car and perfection lap and competitive.

Cost is a factor---Our Glacier Lakes had our fall DE for \$200 for early sign ups. 2 days at BIR.

Respectfully,

Hope to bring my wife to a California event in 2012.

I will Email Gordon about his car soon.

Bradley Baron

Sales Representative

From: Jarettms [mailto:jarettms@aol.com]
Sent: Wed 10/19/2011 11:09 PM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Subject: RE: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

I did get the 1:20 in the D, and I did enjoy the reasonably uncrowded track...the social aspect did offset the track time. I had heard that at some events the A and B go out on track at the same time, thus increasing track time...true?

thanks
jarett

Jarett Smith

Clifford,

It was a great event --Thanks to all who put it together.

I suggest that someone might review the lunch vender's ability to deliver large a numbers of orders quickly. My student and I both had to skip lunch after standing in line for 30 minutes and were still not going to get served within an hour from arriving. Maybe they should have a set menu that would not involve preparing orders one at a time.

Thanks again,

Jim Bruce

From: John Insinger [mailto:john@mail.gggattorneys.com]
Sent: Wed 10/19/2011 1:39 PM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Subject: RE: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

Once again, a very nice and well-run event.

My only request would be to somehow consolidate Groups B, C and D into two groups so there could be more actual driving time. 6 total run groups made for a lot less track time.

John Insinger

From: Paul Thompson [mailto:crash@mac.com]
Sent: Wed 10/19/2011 11:52 AM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Subject: Re: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

Hi Cliff, thanks for soliciting feedback. I always have a great time at the Audi events, and have brought more friends into the club regularly (5 so far).

I do have some constructive criticism regarding this last event:

1) my instructor did not have a communicator, and I found this really diminished the benefit of having the instructor, as I couldn't hear well. Honestly I think the club should mandate communicators, or at a minimum make them available for a fee.

2) For some reason passing was a bigger problem in the B group than usual. This was a topic in the classroom sessions, but not much seemed to be done about it. Often the problem lies with the behavior of a small number of drivers, and I would have hoped the instructors would make sure their students pull over. Also the initial grid position makes a big difference, it would be great to make some efforts to get the faster drivers out first. Perhaps the instructors could recommend what lane they feel their student should line up in.

Finally, the awards ceremony got really long, though I presume it was because of the nationals.

Thanks again,

Paul

From: Zeke Woolley [mailto:ewoolley@san.rr.com]
Sent: Mon 10/17/2011 10:49 PM
To: cliff@audiclubgoldengate.org
Subject: RE: Audi Club want's your feedback about AudiFest 2011

Cliff

I think the issue with the silent auction being silent then live is a dead one though I wanted the Toyos as well as the Recaros...and all you got was another \$75 from both combined.

Other than that there was too much speech making at dinner. Andre deserves a big hand as he kept the hounds in the pen until they let the hare out. In fact, if you send me his address

I will send him some good cigars.

Zeke

From: "Martin Grunthaner" <mechee@gmail.com>
To: "Gordon Sanderson" <sanderson.240@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 3:55:16 PM
Subject: Re: Audifest Wrap Up

I had an amazing time! Thanks Gordon.

Marty

From: "George Hansen" <gtroup3@hotmail.com>
To: "sanderson 240" <sanderson.240@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 4:59:47 PM
Subject: RE: Audifest Wrap Up

Hi Gordon,

Thanks very much to you and all of the people who either in front of or behind the scenes organized another superb and fun Audi Driving Event. With each event the "bar" seems to get raised but you always seem to be able to exceed the previous "bar" with every new event.

Take care and look forward to next year,

George

From: Don Rowley <racings_fan@sbcglobal.net>
Date: October 18, 2011 7:04:51 AM PDT
To: Gordon Sanderson <sanderson.240@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Audifest Wrap Up

Gordon,

I wanted to thank you for another incredible weekend with the Audi Club. I believe Audifest 2011 was a complete success.

I had a great time and I know that it is due to you and every one involved with the events hard work. There is alot that we don't see that goes into the planning and organizing of such a complex event and you guys pulled it off flawlessly.

Thank you again for a wonderful weekend and we will see you in January,
Don Rowley