

The

Panic Slip

May 2006

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Club News

MAY 13 - CRUZIN THE DRAG

MAY 25- CLUB MEETING

MAY 28-29 EXPO PARK



Test n Tune April 8th & 9th

SCCA Montana Region officially began the autocross season this past month with a test and tune/autocross April 8th and 9th. It was a joint venture with Southwest Montana Region that ended with plenty of members from both clubs ready for more this season. Spring time in Montana is a questionable time of year to plan any outdoor activity, but Mother Nature provided us with cool and dry conditions for both days of the event.

The Helena airport is a wonderful facility and its size allowed the clubs to construct two different courses for the test and tune on Saturday. More than 30 drivers participated on Saturday with the opportunity to dial in their vehicles for the season. SWMT set up a fairly tight course that utilized the skip pad area and the north section of the road course. The course was technical and allowed drivers the chance to work with their vehicles in tighter cornering situations. Meanwhile on the south and east ends of the facility, MT Region 105 laid out a course that generated more speed with its open lines and the big sweeper we all have come to enjoy. The shortening slalom and lane change areas of the course allowed drivers to set their vehicles for a different course set up.

Of course the Test and Tune wasn't just for vehicle setup, it was for the drivers as well. It was a great day for all of the drivers to get back into the seat after several months of cautious Montana winter driving. There were several challenging sections on each course. The designers did a terrific job providing the members with a variety of exciting maneuvers and locations to recalibrate their timing and fluidity.

Sunday was the first autocross of the season and the drivers turned out in force to begin the season. Between the two clubs, over fifty members participated. The course designers got busy after Saturdays session and combined the two courses into one. From all the excited chatter around the pits, it was plain to tell the autocross course was well laid out and challenging to drive. James Rowan began the season as he left the last one with fast time of day. A mere four tenths of a second behind him was Colby Christensen in his black Subaru STI. The course workers were kept on their toes resetting cones for the over zealous, but the autocross finished without incident for any driver.

Thanks to the members of both clubs for pitching in, working hard, and getting the season started with a very satisfying event for all those who attended.