



First Quarter 2008

Upcoming Events

- April 12—Women Only Tech Session
- April 26—MirrorWorks Auto Detail Tech Session
- May 17 & 18—**Matt Ammon Memorial Driving School & Teen Driving Clinic**
- June 22—Annual Meeting and Picnic, LeMay Museum, Tacoma
- July 4-6—Audi Car Corral, SOVREN Historic Races, Pacific Raceway, Kent
- August 16 - Matt Ammon Memorial Tour
- September 12-14 - Maryhill Loops Road Tour and Wine Tasting
- November 1-2 - Quattrofest at Portland International Raceway

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- Audi Winter Driving School
- A First at Portland Int'l Raceway

Audi Club Northwest
 P.O. Box 193
 Mercer Island, WA 98040
 www.audiclubnw.org

The Matt Ammon Memorial Driving School

May 17 & 18
 Bremerton Motorsports Park

Audi Club Northwest is honored to host **The Matt Ammon Memorial Driving School** on May 17-18, 2008 at Bremerton Motorsports Park. It is a great opportunity to gain better skills as a driver while learning more about your car in a fun and educational environment. Participants will perform exercises in accident avoidance, emergency braking, and slalom culminating in an exciting autocross and lapping course.

Who is Matt Ammon?

In May, 2001, Matt purchased a Nogaro Blue Audi S4. Subsequently, he became very active in local chapters of the Audi Club North America on the east coast. In the summer of 2006, Matt brought his enthusiasm, skill and knowledge to the Pacific Northwest, quickly becoming integrated with the local Audi community and Audi Club Northwest. When asked what modification one should make first, Matt would be quick to answer, "The first mod should be driving school." Tragi-



cally, he was taken from us in November, 2006. Join us May 17-18, 2008 to honor Matt Ammon. Parents are encouraged to bring teen-aged drivers (see below) as well as friends, spouses and/or significant others.

For more information, contact Doug Cerratti at cerr5000@yahoo.com or 206-816-0567. Sign up at: audi-clubnw.motorsportsreg.com

Teen Driving Clinic

In conjunction with the Matt Ammon Memorial Driving School, Audi Club Northwest will conduct a Teen Driving Clinic on Saturday, May 17.

Teen Drivers will participate in car-control exercises to build skill & confidence, learning about their cars, their car's capabilities, themselves and their own capabilities. Topics specific to teen driving issues will be presented.

For more information, contact Doug Cerratti at cerr5000@yahoo.com or 206-816-0567. Sign up at: audi-clubnw.motorsportsreg.com



Women Only Tech Session

Ladies, would you like to learn more about maintaining your car in a testosterone free environment? Audi Club Northwest and University Audi will be hosting a Technical Session **for women only** on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 10:00 am at University Audi, 4701 11th Ave NE, Seattle. Session will include: Checking and

refilling vital engine fluids, jacking up the car, changing a tire and general care. Come socialize with other female Audi owners. You must sign up to attend at

www.audiclubnw.motorsportsreg.com.

Questions? Carrie Stewart at 206-523-9108 or Stewart.carrie@comcast.net.

Wastegate Chips

Pat Martin, President

Audi Club Northwest is coming off what I think is our best year ever!. We held a myriad of different events and some of our most successful events to date. Your ACNW Board is working hard to make 2008 even better.

I, along with seven other ACNW members, had the opportunity in mid-January to participate in the Golden Gate Chapter's 2-day event at Thunderhill Raceway Park. It was a long trip and everyone had a great time meeting other club members and spending tons of time on a great track. We learned a lot about what other chapters are doing for their events and plan to borrow a few of their ideas! It was a large event with well over 100 participants. The sheer number of volunteers involved in operating the event was astounding!

Our activities so far this year have included

- Board meetings. Remember that board meetings are open to all members.
- Instructors Clinic at Bremerton Motorsports Park on February 24,
- Son of Quattrofest at the NEW Portland International Raceway on March 1.

Additional events are scheduled, with some popular events returning to our calendar. Check the calendar on the club's website for updates: www.audiclubnw.org

Just two months away, the Matt Ammon Memorial Drivers School promises to be the largest ever. After last year's success we plan to follow it up with an even more spectacular event with a huge number of members coming out to see what our world class driving schools are all about.

Over the winter, PIR (Portland International Raceway) was repaved and reconfigured to make the track safer and slightly longer. Audi Club NW was honored to be

the first club to hold an event after the grand reopening. Many people were able to participate in the great new experience at PIR. This fall, we have our traditional November 1-2 Quattrofest at PIR date again!.

For those of you who have never attended one of our events, please let us know what we can do to help you get more out of your club experience. Do you want a different type of event? Let us know and we will see what we can do to help make it happen. This is YOUR club so please consider an **active** role in making it happen. Whatever type of event you think would be interesting to you can be considered, and the club will actively help to make your event successful. The club has great resources and people to help, so please utilize them to bring more events to the calendar.

Audi Club Northwest draws participants from an area wider than our official Idaho, Oregon, and Washington range. The Board wants the club to prosper everywhere in its range. Recently, Audi Club Northwest events seem concentrated in the Puget Sound area. In large part, this is simply because so many of the people working the events are from that area. For this 2008 season, let's get some active Portland members working on events in the Portland area. This is Portland's club too, and the Portland folks can help make things happen there. Bend and Spokane are also places where we have ACNW members who might take the reins to organize an event locally. Again, we are here to help. Just ask.

**I look forward to meeting you at events this year!
Please participate, volunteer, and have fun.**

Auto Detail Tech Session

Presented by MirrorWorks and Audi Club Northwest



Come out to **MirrorWorks Detail** Magnolia location at 4220 Gilman Place West, Seattle on Saturday, **April 26, 2008** from **11 am - 3 pm** to learn about proper car, techniques and products. Meet other car enthusiasts and the **MirrorWorks** staff. Lunch will be served followed by the tech session at 1 pm. Be advised that Audi Club North America members receive 10% off for detail services.

The Audi AG Winter Driving School

Seefeld, Austria, January 13-16, 2008

by Doug Cerretti



My trip to the Ice Driving School began with a flight to Munich's Franz Josef Strauss airport. A train ride on the S-Bahn (the S8 line for 8 Euro) transported me from the airport to the Hauptbahnhof (main train station) which is located in the center of Munich and across the street from the Le Meridien Hotel which served as the gathering point for the school attendees. Don't tell anyone from the Audi Club, but on Sunday I took the subway to the BMW Welt (World) located next to the BMW factory, a very impressive facility. Festivities for the Driving School began Sunday evening with cocktails and dinner where I had the chance to meet my 18 classmates. In past years, ACNA has had 20 to 40 attendees. The Audi Driving Experience started Monday morning with a bus trip to the Audi Forum which is located at the airport. Normally the class would have gone to the Audi factory in Ingolstadt but it was closed to the public. Instead we met with Marco Werner, Audi's R10 champion driver, winner of the 24 hours of Le Mans and the 12 hours of Sebring and many ALMS races, and he briefed us on the 2008 racing season for the R10. After lunch we took a 2 hour bus trip to the Dorint Sofitel Vital Royal & Spa in the village of Seefeld, a five star ski resort.

After a 90 minute class instruction on Tuesday morning the fun really began when we went to the hotel garage where the silver Audi B8 A4 3.2L with 6-speed manual transmissions were stored. The A4s were fitted with studded Michelin X-Ice tires. They were gorgeous inside and out. These A4s were preproduction models as they are not on sale yet in Europe. Since we drove the cars almost exclusively on ice, I could not judge how well they handled nor was I able to fully utilize the 265 hp engine. I can say that the traction control was useless on the ice. With it on, it was difficult to induce skids on the ice and thus was no fun. Everyone had it off during the ice school. Of course on the road with ice and snow, I guess it would be useful to have on. For a day and a half, the class went through several exercises including over-steering and under-steering and how to recover, high speed lane change, accident avoidance, slalom and the infamous Scandinavian Flick. This exercise is hard to explain but it was very difficult and no one in my group did it well. I should note here that I was self taught in ice driving. When I was in high school in Davenport, Iowa, I took advan-

tage of snow covered streets to practice over-steering and recovery. (I didn't know it was called that, I was just inducing skids). I was doing rather well until a telephone pole came out of nowhere and hit the left fender on my 1963 Ford Galaxie. My Dad was not happy and that ended my self teaching.

All of the ice driving exercises culminated in an autocross Wednesday afternoon. The best time was 1:36 minutes. Mine was a bit over that. A highlight of the school was Wednesday night before the banquet. The instructors Jan Becker and Markus Firchtl-Kerschvier took us out on the ice course. They utilized the entire course of about a mile and drove through it at speeds of up to 80 to 90 km/hr hardly ever with the A4 going straight. The control Jan and Marcos had on the ice was amazing. I am sure their skills on ice were enhanced by their part time jobs as rally drivers. This could be a definition of an E-ticket ride. The adventure for many of us ended at 5 am Thursday for the bus ride to the Munich airport for the trip back home.

Why I was able to go!

Each year, Audi Club North America holds a yearly membership drive contest. As new members join the club, they can name the person who recruited them. For each new member you recruit a ticket is allocated which will be entered into drawing for prizes. The more members you recruit, the more tickets allocated. An impressive list of prizes includes tires from Toyo, Pirelli and Tire Rack, as well as wheels from Ronal. Six super Grand prize winners receive a place in Audi AG Winter Driving School in Seefeld, Austria. I won this prize in the 2007 membership drive contest.

What a fantastic experience that we all should have the opportunity to enjoy. If Europe is a little too far for you to travel, the Audi Driving Experience has Ice Driving Schools in the states as well. For non-contest winners, the cost of the school is about \$2200 which does not cover airfare and the nights at the Le Meridien.

Or you can recruit new members to the Audi Club North America and have a chance to win the Ice Driving School. The 2008 ACNA membership drive has started. Go to audiclubna.org for more information.

This could be your opportunity to have this great experience.

A First at Portland International Raceway

By B. Hess

I was among the lucky persons able to participate at Son of Quattrofest at Portland International Raceway (PIR) earlier this month. Quite frankly there are not enough words to explain the experience but I am going to try. I arrived in Portland on Friday night and turned in early as car inspection started at 7 am. (I could not sleep!)

As a beginner, I did not realize that I should bring a container of some sort to keep my equipment dry. The rubber maid storage containers do a great job. Everything must be removed from the trunk, glove box, back seat and under the seats for safety. Tires must be inflated properly and all equipment must be in working order, headlights, tail lights, brakes, turn signals etc. I also had to have an approved safety helmet. ACNW has some helmets available to borrow during events. I held my breath until the inspection was complete even though I had done a check and completed the vehicle tech inspection sheet prior to getting in line.

Due to my limited exposure with ACNW events, I was assigned a personal instructor who was with me the entire day. After the driver's meeting and the wait while the instructors ran the course, I got into the passenger seat as the instructor drove the course in my car; all the

while talking to me about course. At the end of two passes, he pulled over and changed places with me. What a thrill! I probably was going 40 miles an hour around the track. (And yes, I am sorry that I held others back until the passing lane.) Each time around we worked on a new turn or the one I was not comfortable negotiating. At the end of each session, the instructor discussed my performance and answered my questions. By day's end, I was driving the course smoothly at a good rate of speed while braking effectively at the proper places. I was mentally and physically exhausted; yet, still riding high on adrenalin. What a wonderful day!

Thank you, Reiner

The drive back north to home gave me a chance to put to use the skills I had gained , giving me more confidence behind the wheel.

I am planning to participate in **The Matt Ammon Memorial Drivers School** as well as attend any and all club opportunities to learn more about my car, how it will react, and how to keep it running well. Perhaps I will have a chance to meet you.