



# Audi Club NW Newsletter October 2006

## Upcoming Club Events

### Driving Events

QUATTROFEST @ PIR

### Date

Nov. 3, 4 and 5

Winter Driving Event

TBD

### Social Events

Christmas Party

TBD

To learn more go to [www.audiclubnw.com](http://www.audiclubnw.com)

## Audi Club Northwest Premiere Sponsors



After a fabulous summer, the Fall brings ACNW QUATTROFEST '06 with its accompanying TEEN DRIVER CLINIC. In this Newsletter, you will find extensive information regarding this. We are also looking for volunteers to help at this event, so if you want to help please contact any of the Board members. An essential part of car ownership is maintenance, so we have included an excellent overview of the role of engine oil. This is provided by Matrix Integrated. Pat Martin, President of ACNW also has a message for you. We hope to see you at QUATTROFEST and the TEEN CLINIC.

Audi Club Northwest,  
Matrix Integrated, and Sunset Imports are pleased to present the 13<sup>th</sup> annual  
**Quattrofest at Portland International Raceway**  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Come attend the premier driving event in the Northwest, ... Quattrofest 2006. This is the most enjoyable way to increase both the performance of your car and your own safety while driving. Quattrofest is 2 days and 2 nights of intensive instruction coupled with hands on activities, all within the controlled environment of one of the best facilities in motor sports. Our talented instructors supervise all of this training.

The event venue is once again Portland International Raceway, home to world class racing events and perfectly suited to our needs for instruction. Located minutes from downtown Portland and a little over 3 hours from Seattle, PIR has been a wonderful host to our club for 13 years.

Quattrofest is more than just a driving school, it is an event. It includes a banquet on Saturday night that is always the highlight of everyone's experience. So come and have some fun and learn to be a better driver while doing it. You WILL have fun. I insist.

Please help us promote the event by talking to your co-workers, friends and family about it. They do not have to own Audi's to attend the event. Those people who refer people to the event will receive an event bonus at the Banquet, so make sure your friends tell us that they were referred by you so that you can take advantage of the bonus. And the more people you refer, the greater bonus you will get, so sign up as many as you can. I will have an event flyer available to those who might want them to distribute wherever they see fit. You can modify it so that they can include your name when registering.

Registration can be done at [motorsportreg.com](http://motorsportreg.com); links are available from our club website [audiclubnw.org](http://audiclubnw.org). Please call me with any questions regarding the event. I can be reached at 425-844-9609 or [mardkins@msn.com](mailto:mardkins@msn.com). If you cannot register via the website please contact me and we can try and make other arrangements to get you registered.

If you would like to volunteer to help at Quattrofest please contact me.

Pat Martin

**Quattrofest Teen Driver Clinic**  
November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
Portland International Raceway Pro Pits

We are happy to announce that a Teen Driver Clinic will be held at Quattrofest this year. If you have a teen or know one that you would like to be a safer driver, encourage them to come out and have a good time learning the basics of car control and driver skills.

This clinic goes way beyond the basics of the drivers education they have already learned. We will not be reviewing signs or basic rules of the road; this is about learning how the car works, how the driver works, and how to drive more effectively. The Clinic will give them the tools and the opportunity to learn and practice how to be a proactive driver rather than a projectile driver in their own car. The clinic will mirror our already-excellent Quattrofest program and include additional teen only material that will give them a full day of experience behind the wheel.

Cost is \$100 and includes the student's entry into the banquet on Saturday night. Registration is limited to 15 so sign up early to get into the event. Membership is not required for teens ages 16-17. Extra tickets to the banquet for parents can be purchased online with the registration.

Our activities will start Friday night with a chalk talk session at 7:00pm. This talk will focus on the basics of high performance driving and how it applies to safe street driving. The chalk talk will be held at our hotel for the event, The Residence Inn North Harbor, which is near the parking lots of Portland International Raceway where the event gets going Saturday morning between 7:00-8:00am for car inspections, 8:30am for the driver's meeting, and 9:00am for the morning program.

A few teen only event rules: Parents must be present to sign the teen waiver for their child and are encouraged to stay the day. A parent must be present if the student attends the banquet on Saturday night. If the parent is planning on attending the Quattrofest school on Saturday they will need to bring a separate car for the teen. The teens will be separated for at least part of the day. Our suggestion is to bring the car that the teen is currently driving the most. It need not be a prepared track machine but simply a safe car that is street legal. It will be inspected the morning of the event.

A more detailed event description will be posted on the [www.audiclubnw.org](http://www.audiclubnw.org) website soon. Registration can be done at [www.motorsportreg.com](http://www.motorsportreg.com). Hotel reservations are available for the event at either the Residence Inn North Harbor website [www.marriott.com/property/propertypage/PDXPH](http://www.marriott.com/property/propertypage/PDXPH) or you can call 1-503-285-9888.

Event Master is Pat Martin, [mardkins@msn.com](mailto:mardkins@msn.com)



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#### Engine oil; The lifeblood of your engine

Your vehicle's engine is the heart of your automobile and the oil that is pumped through your engine is the lifeblood of that heart. Just as with blood in a human heart, contaminants in your engine oil can lead to premature engine damage and/or engine failure.

The key to prolonging your engine's life in regards to engine oil is to change it frequently, use a good quality oil, and also use a good quality oil filter.

Let's first discuss what your oil actually does. In simple terms, your engine oil's job is to lubricate the metal reciprocating components inside your engine and keep those metal surfaces from grinding together. However, among other things, engine oil dissipates heat associated with the friction of those surfaces touching each other as well as gathers contaminants in the engine created by metal-to-metal contact, combustion, etc.

Once the engine oil's chemical properties start to break down due to excessive heat, age, contaminants, etc, the oil loses it's ability to fulfill the tasks above. Moreover, the oil changes in regards to viscosity (how thick or viscous the fluid is). Now you don't want oil with low viscosity like water nor high viscosity like whipped honey. You want something in the middle, like a light maple syrup consistency. Once your oil's chemical properties start to breakdown and solidify, the oil will become too viscous and will take on more of the thick, whipped honey consistency. This oil state is known as oil sludge, a [black] tar-like oil condition.

Many of the earlier 1.8T Audi/Volkswagen engines experienced detrimental sludge issues which arose from oil change intervals that were too lengthy (10,000 miles), too small an oil filter, and cruddy oil. Many 1.8T engines to this day are still experiencing sludge related reliability problems if they were not fixed properly (remedies were a new oil pickup tube, maybe oil pump, perhaps an engine de-sludge). To keep your engine oil from becoming too viscous, we recommend changing it every 5000 miles when using a higher quality synthetic oil or every 3500 miles when using a lower quality mineral (dino) oil. If you drive in harsh and/or dirty conditions and/or if your engine is getting a bit tired and is plagued by leaky piston rings (ie blow-by), then you may want to change your oil a bit sooner. All in all, if in doubt, you can't do any harm by changing your engine oil sooner than later.

For most of the Audi's we service, we use a quality Mobil1 0w40 synthetic oil. One reason we use this oil over other brands is because it's one of few U.S. oils that meet the stringent 502.00 standard that Audi has set for 1.8T oil quality. If you are not using an oil that meets the 502.00 oil requirements and you have an sludge related issue outside of warranty, it is our understanding that AoA will not help if you cannot prove that you have been using an oil that meets the 502.00 standard.

Some of you may be wondering what 0w40 really means. 0w40 is a type of multigrade oil. Multigrade oils have added polymers which allow the oil to have different weights (ie viscosities) at different temperatures. Oils need to be thinner (less viscous) when cold so they can still flow well, yet thicker when warmer so they don't flow too well (remember no whipped honey, no water). So, with multigrade oils, an oil's cold performance is noted with a number followed by a "W" for winter; 0 weight when cold in our example. The second number is the weight of the oil at operating temperature; 40 weight when warm in our example. Technically speaking, multigrade oils can be both a 0 weight when cold and 40 weight when warm as the polymers inside continually "unwind" into longer molecular chains as the oil gets warmer, therefore serving a dual purpose.

To check your oil level, make sure that the vehicle is on a level surface and has been sitting with the engine off for at least 30 minutes. Optimally, check your engine oil after the vehicle has sat overnight. Pop your hood, simply pull the dipstick (usually yellow or orange in color) out towards you, wipe it with a clean rag, insert it back into the dipstick tube, pull it out again and look at the level. You want to be in between the hash marks on the dipstick. If you're at the minimum level, open the oil cap at the top of the engine and pour in about ½ quart or so to start. Check the level again and see your progress, continually checking and filling until you're near the top of the dipstick. You don't want to be at the minimum level as below it, your engine's oil pump doesn't have enough oil to supply the top of the engine with oil while also keeping some reserve oil in the oil pan to lubricate the reciprocating parts in the engine's bottom end. If you have overfilled your engine with oil, you'll want to volunteer yourself, a friend, or your local Audi specialist to loosen the drain plug (located in the oil pan) to allow some of the excess oil to drain out.

When you change your oil, or have it changed by a facility other than a "Speedy Lube," it's best to have the oil temperature hotter than colder. This helps to allow the contaminants to flow out versus keeping them trapped in the oil system. Remember to also replace your oil filter with a good quality OEM brand filter like a Mann, Mahle, or Bosch unit. Your oil filter's duty is to trap dirt and particulates floating in the oil, and to keep them from recirculating through the engine. The reason your new, straight out of the bottle, golden-hue engine oil turns black is because of these contaminants. So, don't be scared if your oil is black when you change it as the oil is fulfilling it's intended purpose.

The filtering media of an oil filter is typically constructed of paper, however it can be of a synthetic material. The open side of the filter has a threaded center for spinning onto the oil filter adapter located on the engine block, and also has holes spaced around the threaded center. Oil passes through these holes, through the filter media, and back out through the threaded center of the filter. Most good oil filters have a valve that prevents contaminated oil from draining back into the oil pan/sump. For technical data on the Mann, Mahle, or Bosch filters, check out; <http://minimopar.knizefamily.net/oilfilterstudy-german.html>

Once your old oil has been drained from your oil pan, make sure to dispose of the oil properly. If in doubt as to where to take your used oil, contact your local recycling center.

For those of you who are performance oriented, an external oil cooler kit is a great way to reduce the thermal stresses on your engine oil, therefore freeing up lost horsepower. We have seen decreases in oil temps of 40-50deg F or more with our own external oil cooler kits during spirited driving and driver education days.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [info@matrixintegrated.cc](mailto:info@matrixintegrated.cc). For more details on our Audi external oil cooler kits, please visit our website at [www.matrixintegrated.cc](http://www.matrixintegrated.cc)

Fellow Audi Club Northwest members:

I am happy to chat at you regarding the future and present of your club. Presently we have our largest event of the year coming up which is Quattrofest. If you are planning on going you should register soon as spots are filling up fast. It will be as fun as ever and we hope to have a few surprises up our sleeves.

Also I wanted you to be aware that this is actually our 3<sup>rd</sup> newsletter. Many of you did not know that since we have not been mailing them out but have been publishing them on our website. As you may or may not know it costs the club a fair amount of money to mail these newsletters out so this is actually the first one being mailed to the membership in quite a few years. Our present plan is to only mail out a newsletter once or twice a year with the rest of the newsletters getting published on our website. Please, Please, Please check our website out for upcoming events and information. It includes all of our calendar for next year as well as archived newsletters and sponsor information so you can help the club fund its future. [www.audiclubnw.org](http://www.audiclubnw.org)

This is also a call to arms. For a number of years now there has been a disproportionate number of events v/s the number of people who are willing or able to run them. This has lead to burnout by many of our clubs most ardent supporters. In an effort to quell this I offered my services to the board of directors with the stated intention of creating a more proportionate schedule. Our schedule next year will have fewer scheduled “track” days and more fun and social type events. The schedule for next year has not been finalized so if you have opinions on any of this please feel free to let me know your opinion. [mardkins@msn.com](mailto:mardkins@msn.com)

Also if you are interested in running an event of any type feel free to contact anyone on the board and ask for help. The club is willing to use its resources to help you with whatever type of event you want to run.

Pat Martin  
President, Audi Club Northwest.

**Newsletter assembled by Mel Trenor**

**Please send comments or suggestions for future articles to [mtrenor@hotmail.com](mailto:mtrenor@hotmail.com)**

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