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**AUTOCROSS SEASON IS ALMOST HERE,  
ARE YOU PREPARED? Part 2** by Kevin Koch

**DRIVER PREPARATION**



**Southern  
Colorado  
Corvette Club**

Mailing Address:  
9 Ibis Lane  
Pueblo, Co 81005

We meet every 4th  
Tuesday at the  
Pueblo Public  
Library,  
100 E Abriendo  
Ave. @  
7:00 P.M.

**Come join us.**

Get to the event site early. Give yourself enough time to complete any car preparations you need to do and walk the course at least three times. Walking the course is essential for almost every driver, especially those new to the sport. The first trip allows you to just learn your way around the course, to try to burn it in your brain so to speak. During the remaining walking laps you will want to try to determine the shortest and quickest route through each turn or slalom, and to pick turn-in and apex points for each section.

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**AUTOCROSS PREPARATION**, Cont.

Autocross is all about placing the car in the correct position at each section of the course, hitting the correct apex or straightening out a section to maximize speed. The key to always placing the car in the proper position is looking ahead. As you exit one corner you should be looking ahead to recognize your predetermined markers that will put you in the correct position for the next corner. This is where walking the course pays dividends. It is during the course walks that you will select certain cones that will help you in placing the car correctly for each section.

**Trivia #1**

In which year did Coupes outsell convertibles for the first time?



**Trivia #2**

During the production of the C1 Corvette, which year had the fewest convertibles made?

Be smoooooth at all times. Work towards firm steady brake application, and corner entry and exit that is progressive and measured not violent or abrupt. Smooth throttle application during corner exit is especially important because the tires are being asked to generate traction and cornering forces simultaneously. "Throwing" the car into corners or stabbing at the throttle and brakes increases dynamic weight transfer and encourages instability. Brakes should not normally be applied hard enough to activate the antilock system. It also best for beginners to use heavy brake application only when the car is running straight. Trail braking is a technique that can be used help the car rotate as it enters a corner but that technique is best left to the more experienced.

Cont on page 3

**AUTOCROSS PREPARATION**, Cont.

The tire contact patch can only generate a finite amount of traction force regardless of in which direction (or combination of directions) that force is required. The dynamics is based on something called a traction circle and exploration of that concept could also be the subject of a future article. Basically any Corvette is going to be traction limited, capable of overwhelming the rear tires on corner exit, especially in the lower gears.

Which transmission gears should be used? An automatic transmission is not necessarily a disadvantage especially for beginners. Best approach may be to put it into drive (not overdrive) and leave it there. Having an automatic lets you concentrate on steering and placing the car in the correct positions. For those with a standard transmission, most Corvettes will slip through most autocross courses in second gear without much fuss. There may be occasions where first or third would be marginally better in certain course locations, but most healthy Corvettes have enough torque available to pull well even out of relatively show corners in second gear. So if you have a standard transmission try putting into second as soon as practical after the start and leaving it there through to the end.

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**Trivia #3**

During the production of the C2 Corvette the color \_\_\_\_\_ was the most popular. White, Blue, Red or Black?

**Trivia #4**

During the production of the C2 Corvette the color \_\_\_\_\_ was the least popular. White, Blue, Red or Black?

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**MEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Jill Brake - 2 Apr  
Mac McNight - 2 Apr  
Matt Honner - 5 Apr  
Dan Duboy - 24 Apr  
Florece Noring - 25 Apr  
Robert Romero - 25 Apr  
Darla Duboy - 29 Apr

**MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Kevin and Jeannie Koch - 17 Apr  
Rick and Jill Brake - 25 Apr  
Dan and Darla Duboy - 26 Apr

**CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Robert and Carol Romero - Apr 02

**AUTOCROSS PREPARATION**, Cont.

Traction/stability control on or off? This is an interesting question and the answer is not necessarily straightforward. It depends somewhat on what kind of system the car has and the driver's skill level. Traction control can obviously be of benefit controlling wheel spin on corner exit because of the reasons listed above. Probably many new to the autocross world will find traction or stability control of some benefit. One important question to ask is: "Do I feel the system interfering?" If the answer is no then leave the system on. If the answer is "yes" then you might consider trying some runs with the system off. One example is on the later model C4's. When the traction control system senses the slightest amount of rear wheel spin, the throttle pedal actually pushes back against the driver's foot, decreasing power. This can be very irritating as you are trying to achieve that perfect amount of acceleration during corner exit. You just want to say: "Okay computer back off. I wanna drive this thing!"

Try to keep in mind that one sure way to get frustrated in the beginning is to compare your times with others in similar cars. Try to resist that temptation and just relax and have fun! That is really what it is all about, enjoying driving your Corvette.


**READY TO AUTOCROSS?**



April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>- the Colorado Springs Corvette Club is hosting a NCCC Sanctioned Autocross at the Pikes Peak International Raceway.

April 24<sup>th</sup> - Autocross Driving School

April 25<sup>th</sup> - Karen's Cone Zone Autocross



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## SC3 Calendar

### April 2010

|                              |    |                            |    |  |                                      |   |
|------------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|--|--------------------------------------|---|
|                              |    |                            |    | 1- Colorado Springs Vette Club Meeting | 2                                    | 3   |
| 4                            | 5  | 6                          | 7  | 8                                      | <b>9 – SC3 Sonic Night</b>           | 10  |
| 11<br>DTRC April Fools Rally | 12 | 13                         | 14 | 15                                     | 16                                   | 17-B-Fast Run to Mr C's in Canon City w/ Mustang Club |
| 18                           | 19 | 20                         | 21 | 22                                     | 23                                   | 24<br>CSCC Autocross                                  |
| 25<br>CSCC Autocross         | 26 | <b>27 SC3 Club Meeting</b> | 28 | 29                                     | 30 – NCCC National Governors Meeting |   |

### May 2010

|   |    |                            |    |                       |  |   |
|---|----|----------------------------|----|-----------------------|--|---|
|   |    |                            |    |                       |  | 1 – NCCC National Governors Meeting         |
| 2   | 3  | 4                          | 5  | 6 – CSCC Club Meeting | 7  | 8 – Fun In the Carshow @ Corvette Center    |
| 9 – CWC Autocross                           | 10 | 11                         | 12 | 13                    | <b>14 – SC3 Sonic Night</b>                | 15 – TORCA PC Car Show                      |
| 16 – TORCA Autocross                        | 17 | 18                         | 19 | 20                    | 21 – Friday Night Drags @ PMI              | 22  |
| 23 – CSCC May Pole Rally                    | 24 | <b>25 SC3 Club Meeting</b> | 26 | 27                    | 28 – RMR Reg Mtg, Friday Night Drags @ PMI | 29 – Big Sky Meet, DCA Car Show & Autocross |
| 30 – Big Sky Meet, DCA Car Show & Autocross | 31 |                            |    |                       |  |   |