

Blackhawk Farms Track Day Event

The invitation from the Alfa Romeo Club of Chicago was enjoyed by our members and everyone who attended. The drive into a rain storm from the Chicagoland area to Blackhawk Farms in South Beloit was a little inconvenient. However, the day turned out alright with partly cloudy skies, warm temps and slightly high humidity.

The day's activities included track lapping, solo track touring, track touring with a pro driver, lunch, spectating and corner working. Did I say working? Not corner working, corner signaling.

The North Shore Corvette Club members that enjoyed the day were Bob and Darlene Zeier, Wilbur and Pam Buckle, Jim Barnich and his son Jim Jr, Daryl Ullberg, my son Frank Jr and myself. Steve Ahlgrim (Speed Racer) was also there instructing new drivers. Steve's brother Doug also attended, tracking his Nissan GTR.



Darlene, Pam, Frank Jr. and I enjoyed being driven around by a professional driver in a new Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio. I was quite impressed as I rode in the back seat of the 4-door sport sedan. I believe it turned in lap times that were faster than my Corvette. I'm sure Darlene, Pam and Frank Jr have some testimonials as well. I know that Darlene and Frank Jr experienced the 2-seat, 4-cylinder, 340 hp, 2400-pound go-kart, I mean car.

Jim corner signaled for the day which was greatly appreciated by all. Bob, Darlene, Frank Jr and I did the track touring. Frank Jr toured in my car for about 45 minutes, although he got a little worried when the high-temperature tire warning light came on. He finished the day in his Ford Taurus SHO. His brakes needed replacement and he finished them off. I tracked my car for five sessions, logging in about 150 miles on the track (including Frank Jr's touring) using a full tank of fuel and averaging about 10 mpg. Not too bad.

A big thank you goes out to the fine folks at the Autobarn Alfa Romeo dealership in Evanston for providing a lunch and the professional driving tours. They served hamburgers, hot dogs and brats cooked on the grill with chips and water. They were more than accommodating and loved to talk cars.

It was nice to see old friends and meet a few new ones. If it wasn't for our cars, what would we do?



Frank Punzio

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