

Beginners Guide to Nord Stern's Annual Club Race

By Roger Johnson, updated June 2017

Have you seen all the information about the Club Race in the Nord Stern newsletter, but have never experienced the event? Not sure what you need to do to attend, what goes on, and how to go about taking it in? Here is a quick and dirty guide to attending your first Club Race.

Where? Brainerd International Raceway (BIR). 6 miles north of Brainerd/Baxter on Highway 371. If you don't dally, you can make it in 2 hours from Maple Grove. Enter at the main gate. You can't miss it.

When? July 28 - 30, 2017. Club members and others will be driving *fast* in DE (Driver Education) sessions all three days. Test 'n' Tune on Friday for the racers. Saturday features practice sessions, practice starts, qualifying and a sprint race. Sunday morning is another sprint race and after lunch a 90-minute enduro race.

How much? There is no charge for admission. You will be asked to sign a waiver of liability and that's it. If you are a Porsche enthusiast, there is simply no reason to miss out on this.

What do I do? The first thing you want to do is turn left after the gate and follow the road to the paddock area where all the cars are. Park anywhere outside the paddock, there's lots of space in the grassy area to the North of the garages. Don't forget to check out the Silent Auction in the Quattro garage. Be sure you get a schedule so you know what is going on. Then go check out the cars. Not just the race cars, but also the transporters, DE cars, and the other spectators' cars. There is a lot to see. Don't be afraid to strike up a conversation with anyone you meet. We're all enthusiasts and love to talk about our hobby!

Where do I watch the races? Feel free to go almost anywhere in the paddock and the infield. The exceptions are the hot pits and the track itself. Be sure to climb the stairs and watch a bit from the top of the main tower building. You'll get a great view of much of the track. Make your way into the infield. There are two ways to get into the infield. Next to the main tower is a pedestrian tunnel that goes under the track to the grandstands on the other side. From there you can go anywhere, but remember the track is 3 miles around so it's a pretty good walk to turn 3. The other alternative is to drive around the infield. Just go back toward main gate and when you get close to the gate you will see a bridge on your left. Go over the bridge and you're there. The top of the grandstand at turn 4 is an awesome place to watch because you can see much of the track.

What do I do after the races? Come back to the paddock and visit with the drivers. They will be excited about the race they just ran and will be more than happy to talk about it. The only stupid question would be, "Are you having fun?"

What do I need to bring? Bring your camera, sunscreen, an umbrella or raincoat, maybe food or drink but the concession stand is open. Alcoholic beverages can be brought into the track, but cannot be consumed until after the last checkered flag falls for the day. This includes all areas past the entrance at the main gate.

But **do not bring a drone**, drones are prohibited on the grounds of, and in the air above, the entire facility for the duration of the event.

Where do I stay? Rooms are tough in the Brainerd area at this time of the year. Start calling around now.

Can I camp? Camping is readily available next to the paddock and in the infield and is also free. There are showers available. Motor homes are welcome.

How can I spend my money? Check out the information table in the Quattro Garage.

On Saturday afternoon there will be a huge silent auction of Porsche and other stuff with all the proceeds going to charity. A live charity auction of the really cool stuff takes place at 6:00 PM on Saturday and is extremely entertaining. The auction alone would be worth the trip.

How can I get on the track myself? Simple. Buy a DE or race car! However, if that isn't in the cards, on Saturday and Sunday at lunch time we will offer parade laps of the track at a moderate speed, but you get the view the racers get. Only quieter. If you want to participate in the parade laps, go to the Quattro garage and pick up and complete the proper form. We ask that you make a cash donation to Courage Center and suggest \$20 as the amount, but of course you are free to give as much as you like. If you want to go a little faster ask anyone about Nord Stern's Driver Training and Drivers' Education programs.

See you at BIR!