



The —Black —Crack —Report



The addiction you don't want to fight

Issue 23, January 2011

Happy New Year

2010 has come and gone, as well as all the track days. It is time to start getting ready for 2011 and even more High Performance Driving !!!!!



These are New Years Resolutions I posted last month but I believe they are worth repeating, with some additions:

- More Track Time
- I will be smooth and hit EVERY apex
- I will thoroughly inspect my car before every event
- SAFETY will be my priority
- I will drive within my comfort zone, slowly increasing the level of that comfort at each event
- I will set realistic and measurable goals for my 2011 driving
- I will be on time for the drivers meeting and bring all my completed forms to registration
- I will meet every person at every event
- When I need help in the paddock, I will ask for it, when help is needed, I will give it
- I will take my car home as shiny as it was when I brought it.
- I will convert as many non-track junkies to track junkies as is humanly possible
- I will have fun and enjoy this sport and the people who love it
- SAFETY will be my priority. We all drive pretty fast and this must be the highest priority we can set for ourselves



**Yet another 10/10^{ths} Race Car Upgrade
for 2011**

My competitors will hate to see me coming !!!! ☺

Check out the new 10/10ths Promo Video:

I have been wanting to put together a short video gives a good description of what 10/10ths Motorsports is about and finally found some time to work on it.

You can see it at:

http://1010ths.myphotoalbum.com/view_photo.php?set_albumName=album10&id=1010ths_2011_promo

Please feel free to forward the link to your friends, car clubs etc.



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10/10ths Tech Corner

SAFETY

I don't think there is any better way to start the year than talking about safety. It must be our highest priority at every event, at all times. We all understand there are certain risks associated with this sport, but they can be managed and they can be minimized. I don't believe they can be removed, but we must all work very hard at this aspect of the sport and never let it be put behind any other aspect !

The single biggest factor on track is no doubt the drivers. 10/10ths has been very fortunate to attract a very good, qualified group of drivers who have repeatedly shown the highest level of Sportsmanship and Smart Driving. All other factors aside, I believe these to be the main things that keep us all safe even before we start discussing the safety status of your vehicles.

Personal Safety

No matter what event you attend, it will be safer if you:

- Show up with the intention of demonstrating Great Sportsmanship.
- Leave the ego at home.
- Adhere to the event rules.
 - Know what they are and adhere to them, they are in place for very good reasons.
 - If you are not sure, ask.
- Drive within your comfort zone.
 - This does not mean you cannot try new things. After all, that is the ONLY way you will learn new driving skills but it can be done in a safe and controlled manner.
 - Remember that this is a sport of baby steps. You have heard me say that anyone of us can eat an entire cow, just not at one sitting.
 - You can become a very accomplished high performance driver, just not at one weekend, or year for that matter.
 - Have patience. This sport demands a lot of practice and a lot of seat time.
- If you have an instructor in your car, listen to what they tell you. Remember, they are in the same car that you are in and I don't believe they want to be in an accident any more than you do.
 - Follow their advice but if you feel uncomfortable with any of their instructions, simply tell them you want to step it back a notch. There is absolutely no shame in doing this and it will increase your level of safety. You have nothing to prove to them.
- Take time to meet and talk to more experienced drivers in the paddock. They can share a wealth of information and almost always will not hesitate to sit down and discuss things with you.
- Remember that at any HPDE, you have NOTHING to WIN and EVERYTHING to LOSE.
 - There are no prizes and no pro scouts watching you.
 - Your goal must be go home in the same condition you arrived at the track.
- Be patient on track.
 - Don't pressure the driver in front of you while waiting for a point bye.
 - They almost always know you are there. If you don't get a point bye, pit in and give the starter the signal you want some space. Also notify the starter that the car is unwilling to give a point bye.
 - At the same time, realize they may be a bit nervous. We all were first timers at some point.
- Practice getting out of your car in the paddock.
 - You may need to get out quickly at some point and previous practice will make it easier.





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- Invest in safety equipment
 - Safety equipment will be the biggest waste of money you ever spent, **THAT IS IF YOU NEVER USE IT !!**
 - If needed, you will have then spent the best money of your life.
 - Some basic items I suggest for all drivers.
 - SA2005 or above helmet. Most clubs still allow SA 2000 including 10/10ths
 - Fire rated driving gloves.
 - You DO NOT want to burn your hands in a fire.
 - Fire rated driving suit.
 - Fire extinguisher for your car, properly mounted.
 - Cage or at least a roll bar installed in your car. A few bucks but a great safety upgrade.
 - Harness and Head/Neck restraint.

Sportsmanship

So you are following that guy who just will not give you a point bye. What should you do? (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Perform a Police type Pit Manuever via a slight tap to his rear quarter panel while in a turn.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Just take the pass, deep in the corner anyway.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flash your headlights and lay on the horn.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Glue your front bumper to his rear bumper.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Throw your beer bottle out the window to get his attention.

I have to say that this sport brings out the best folks going but there are occasionally situations where drivers get a little miffed at each other and it seems to usually center around passing situations.

Before you get out of whack about a situation like this, remember:

- It may not be intentional. It may be that the driver is not as experienced as others on the track and is simply in a situation he is not proficient at yet. (The event organizer should be aware of this and make the appropriate move to a less experienced group)
- Mistakes are made and this could be one of them; again, not intentional.
- And of course, it could be that the driver simply has his head up his ass and is not paying attention or is too proud to give a point bye. (I do believe there are a couple of em out there)
- Pushing that guy will only make him nervous if he is less experienced making the situation worse.
- Pushing that guy puts both of you in a situation where you no longer have a margin for error, Not Good.



“That” guy

I can't speak for other event promotors but I can tell you this:

- 10/10ths Motorsports DEMANDS a very high level of driver sportsmanship. Any of you that have attended our drivers meetings have heard this and guess what, it works very well.
- We will be paying close attention to each session and monitor how things are going.
- We won't hesitate to bring somebody in to the hot pit to discuss any issues or problems.
- We hope you will come to us with any issues that need to be addressed.



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Some Things to Think About For 2011

We all come to the track with the mindset of having fun and improving our skills. I could not agree more. From my own experience however, I feel that there are aspects of the sport that are often overlooked, and if given just due, will improve your experience and you overall level of safety and driving skills.

With that in mind, I would like all our drivers to consider the following:



SELF IMPROVEMENT:

- At each event, give some serious thought about where your skill level is at, where your weaknesses are and how to improve upon them. I have found that by actually setting very specific goals for myself at each and every event, I have improved at a rate I would not have otherwise done. And remember this; it is possible to eat an entire cow, just not at one sitting. It is also possible to become a very good high performance driver, just not at one event. If you have an instructor, share your goals with him, he can help you along and give you some good, non-biased feed back. By setting sharp, clearly defined goals, you can measure and take pride in the achievement of those goals. You can see forward progress in what might previously have seemed a long pointless grind. By setting goals, you will also raise your self-confidence, as you recognize your ability and competence in achieving the goals that you have set.
- By taking your time and focusing on specific goals, I believe your learning curve will increase and you will become a better, safer driver than many others.
- I have a long way to go myself but I feel that I have made measurable improvements over the past year, not just in lap times, but in my confidence and ability as well. Goal setting WORKS, try it this year.

Check out the 10/10ths 2011 Event Schedule at:

www.1010thsmotorsports.com

We have added Mid Ohio to the list of tracks this year !!



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Did You Know

10/10ths Motorsports, LLC is a Hawk Brake Distributor. I can get you some great brakes at a great price. With your 10/10ths driver discount, I can almost always provide you with the best pricing. They can be shipped to your house or brought to the track at our events. Email me or call if you have questions or need to order. Thanks !!!!! Your support will no doubt help 10/10ths Motorsports in providing track days for all our drivers.

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