

2026 SOC Track Day

Version 26.06.27

Welcome to Track Day! Our goal is to offer a day of hard driving in a controlled environment. Several experienced race car drivers have volunteered to assist as instructors. They will be glad to answer any questions to help make you a better driver.

This year Track Day will be at **Talladega Grand Prix Raceway** near Munford, Alabama (<https://talladegagp.com/>), also known as “Little Tally”. The course is tight and short, a mere 1.4 miles with several tight corners.

During the years that I was publisher of NINES (a.k.a. 9s) magazine, I would often get letters asking “How can I make my Saab go faster?” My response was, “Take a high performance driving school, then practice, practice, practice.” Once you have that knowledge, every car you own will be faster because you become a better driver. The SOC Track Day is a good way to improve your driving skills.

On track sessions are divided by experience – Novice, Intermediate, and Experienced. Experienced drivers are invited to assist as instructors to show Novices the safe way around a race track. For details contact tim.winker@saabclub.com.

Start planning now to have your Saab ready to take to the track by inspecting brakes, suspension, wheel bearings, tires, oil change, etc. A mechanical failure that shuts your day down early would be a big disappointment. Gary Lewis at Moose Proof Automotive in White House, Tennessee, has offered to provide a Safety Check on the Tuesday before Track Day. It is a convenient stop for those heading down to Alabama, about 270 miles from Moose Proof to the track. Call Gary at 615-636-6684 for details and to make an appointment.

The track is about two and a half hours from the SOC host hotel in Huntsville, and Track Day registration begins at 8:00 AM. There are many hotels in Oxford, AL, about 20 minutes from the track. It might be a good idea to book for Wednesday as well, then drive to Huntsville after a good night's rest. There are other attractions in the vicinity that could be explored on Thursday morning, as registration for the convention doesn't open until the afternoon.

Important rules and reminders.

Track Day is an event that is a part of the Saab Owners Convention (SOC). To be covered by insurance, entrants must be a member of the Saab Club of North America (SCNA), and registered to participate in the SOC. All participants must be 18 years or older.



All participants must sign a Waiver for Talladega Gran Prix Raceway, K&K Insurance, and the Saab Club of North America. Spectators who are registered for SOC are allowed, but must also sign the waivers. Participants will be issued a wrist band to define their status at the track.

Driving at the limit is demanding, mentally and physically. Make sure you stay hydrated. It is recommended that you have water before and after each track session.

This is not a race, but it is a high speed driving experience. Passing will be allowed in certain areas, but don't take unnecessary chances. You don't want to risk damage to your car nor the other cars on track.

Use of alcohol or recreational drugs is prohibited. Drivers may be required to take a breathalyzer test. Violators will be asked to leave the facility. Save it for later.

All participants must wear a helmet and safety belts while on the hot track.

- Snell SA 2015 or newer. SFI / FIA 8860-2015 or newer recommended. However, any full head vehicle safety helmet will be accepted. Full face recommended, but open face is okay.
- *You are responsible for furnishing your helmet.*
- OE metal-to-metal seat belts are acceptable and must be used while on track.
- If the car is equipped with 5- or 6-point racing harness, HANS or similar recommended.

Long pants required. No shorts, skirts, nor kilts. Long sleeve shirts recommended. No open toed shoes or sandals. Leather shoes recommended.

Any cars on track for high performance sessions must have ALL loose items removed. That includes trunk space, glove box, and under the seats. We recommend you bring storage bins for these items.

Passengers are not allowed during hot lapping sessions, with the exception of instructors offering one-on-one training. Passengers are allowed on Parade Laps.

Tech Inspection: Before you show up, make sure there are no loose assemblies on your car. Battery solidly mounted, wheel bearings, tie rod ends, ball joints, shock absorbers / struts. It is not uncommon to wear out a set of brake pads at a Track Day, so make sure the brake pads have plenty of material, the rotors/drums don't have excessive wear, and calipers/wheel cylinders are working properly. Check the seat belts for wear. Stock metal-to-metal 3-point belts are sufficient, but make certain they don't have signs of wear. Tires must have at least 4/32" tread, no sidewall or tread cracks, no belts or cord showing.

Convertibles allowed only in sessions led by a pace car unless they have sufficient rollover protection. Insurance companies frown on open top cars on a race track. A rollover would result in serious injuries or worse.

Three categories of driver:

- Novice: 3 track days or less
- Intermediate: 4 to 6 track days

- Advanced: 7 or more track days or wheel to wheel racing experience

Novices must have an Instructor for the first two sessions. A pace car will lead for these sessions.

Advanced drivers will act as Instructors. Run groups may be combined to provide more track time.

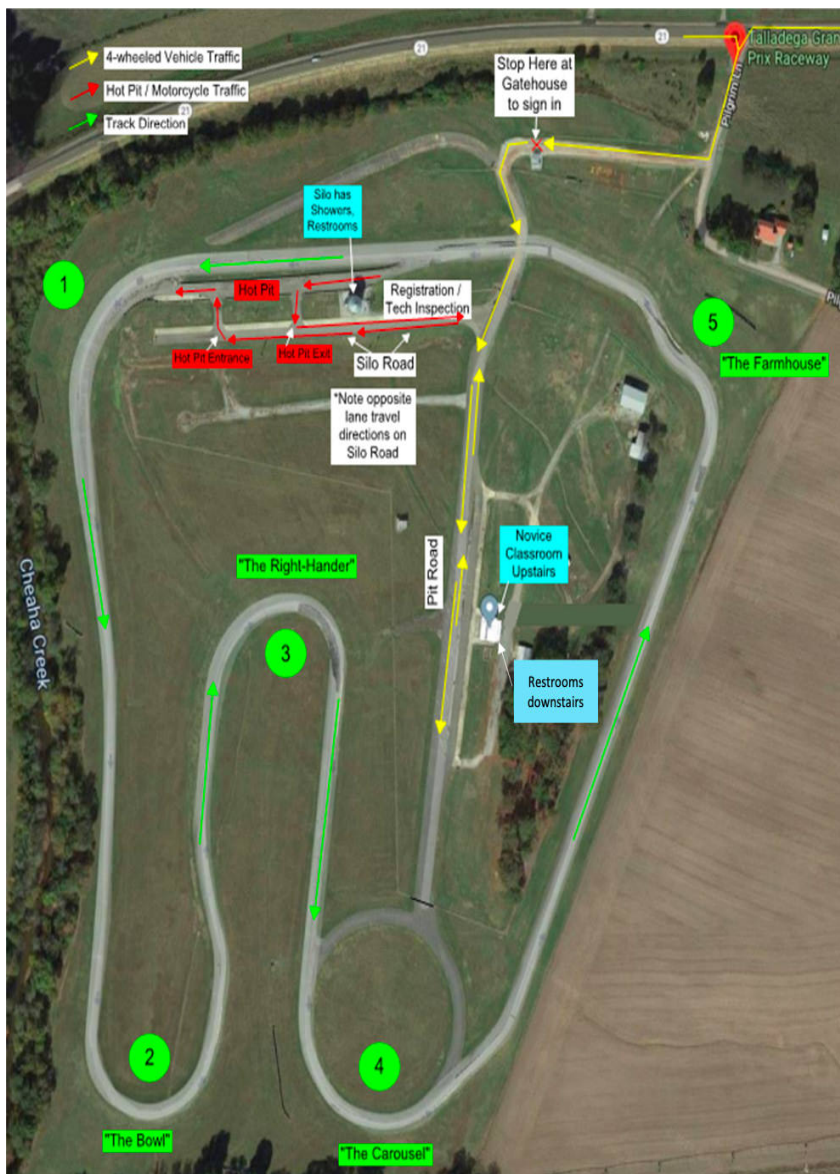
The first track sessions for Intermediate and Novice groups will be run at slower speeds behind a pace car to allow drivers to become familiar with high speed driving techniques and track configuration.

Schedule

- 7:30-8:00 Meeting for instructors and volunteers
- 8:00-9:00 Registration and Tech Inspection
- 9:00-9:30 Welcome and Classroom for all
- 9:30-10:00 Mandatory classroom for Novices
- 9:30-12:30 Track. 25 minutes sessions.
- Advanced at 9:30, 11:00
 - Intermediate at 10:00, 11:30
 - Novice at 10:30, 12:00
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch – Food Truck. Provided as part of the Track Day and Parade Laps Fee.
Spectators may purchase a lunch.
- 1:30-2:00 Parade laps and group photo
- 2:00-5:00 Track. 25 minute sessions
- Advanced at 2:00, 3:30
 - Intermediate at 2:30, 4:00
 - Novice at 3:00, 4:30

This schedule may be modified based on weather conditions or decreasing number of participants.

Tim Winker
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Directions to Talladega Gran Prix Raceway.

46 Pilgrim Lane

Munford, AL 36268

