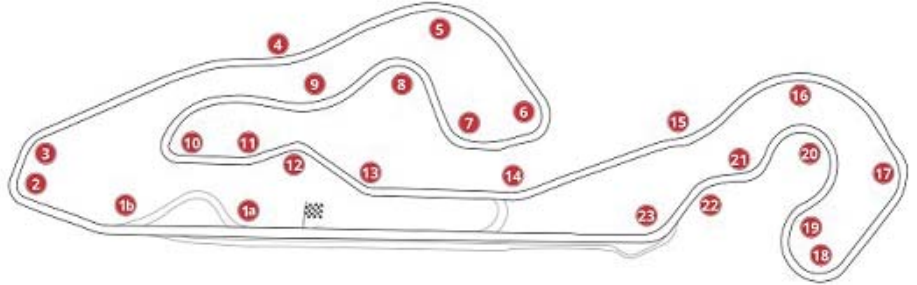


It's All About The Race

By: Zacherle Ketring

**OUR FIRST EVER
ZAKSPEED.US RACE!
DID WE START?
YES!
DID WE FINISH?
...MOSTLY...**



THIS IS OUR STORY ABOUT PREPPING FOR AN 8 HOUR RACE - WHAT DIDN'T WE TIGHTEN? WHAT DID WE FORGET? MAYBE THE NUT BEHIND THE OTHER CAR'S WHEEL GOT LOOSE, BUT LUCKILY WE JUST FORGOT JACK STANDS...



Months, days, and years of prep and we had no idea how we would do with a freshly-built car, just skimming off Spec E30 track times, but lap times are nothing if you don't finish.

Practice went as expected. We drove around with the old spec rear bar (19mm) and the new coil over setup. We knew we had this going in and a little loose car isn't so forgivable as a slightly understeering car, but with respect we knew how to keep it under us.

If you're just dealing with a minor handling problem, everything else must be ok, or maybe just other obvious problems lie opaquely waiting. Pre-race prep, in a perfect world, it is done at the shop and no need for a late night before the race. For our first personal event it all looked well; Everything appeared to be inline! Raceday! Car and team partner, Hayes Teague, took the green. Hayes was picking off cars and staying clean. All was going well.

He made it about half into his stint when an E30 nemesis (Miata) pirouetted in T16 and rolled back into us about full race speed...It always looks worse than it is. Maybe it just looks better once you digest the damage. For better or worse, the crash happened early in the day, giving us lots of repair time. We hit the road back to the shop, one and a half hours away! We swapped out the rear subframe and trailing arm to a used set we had laying around. The damage was into the subframe, unfortunately. Fortunately we had everything in stock to make it happen, including some wonderful helping hands! Thanks crew!



**"JUST A ROLL" WAS AN UNDERSTATEMENT...
SOME FINESSE WITH A TOW STRAP HOOKED TO ERIC PENNINGTON'S TRUCK, CLAMPS, AND A 2" DIAMETER BAR AND IT WAS GOOD! "ACTUALLY, NOT TERRIBLE."**

After a night of fix up and clean up, we loaded up and went back to the track! Eric Pennington got the first stint on Race 2. He had a clean start and things were settling back into place. We were excited that Kyle Tilley was able to make it for a stint after triple stinting his trip there! Ah yes, laps were ticking away and this felt more like clockwork! Stock subframe and a stock rear alignment meant the car was more loose. We kept our distance and managed what we had, driving some shorter than expected stints due to tune issues, but team partner Zach Ketring took the checkered flag in the end.

In summary - It's a race... A race for car prep, a race for getting your parts, a race for loading up, a race for event prep, a race for tools and spares, a race to class your car properly, a race to stay compliant, a race home, and a race to get ready to race for the next event. 🌐



*When you're racing, it's
life. Anything that happens
before or after is just waiting.*

-Steve McQueen



**WE DID IT!
IT REALLY IS A
RACECAR NOW!**