



DEFENSIVE CAR CONTROL

While many of us were still sound asleep, on Sunday, 22 February 2009, 25 driving enthusiasts were at the Singapore Turf Club Coach Bay attending the Defensive Car Control Course organised by SMSC.



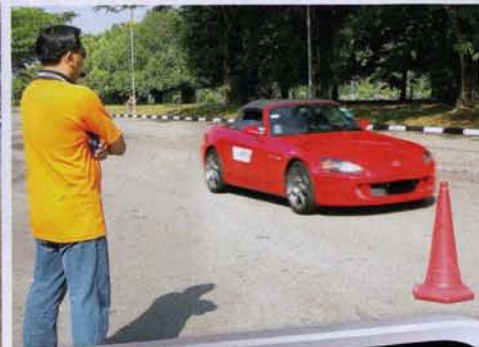
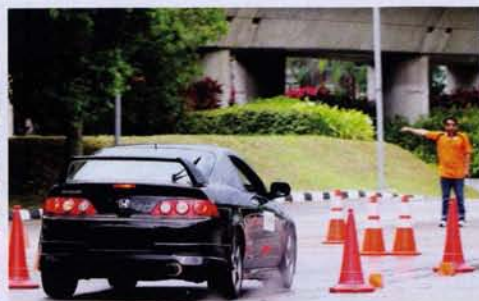
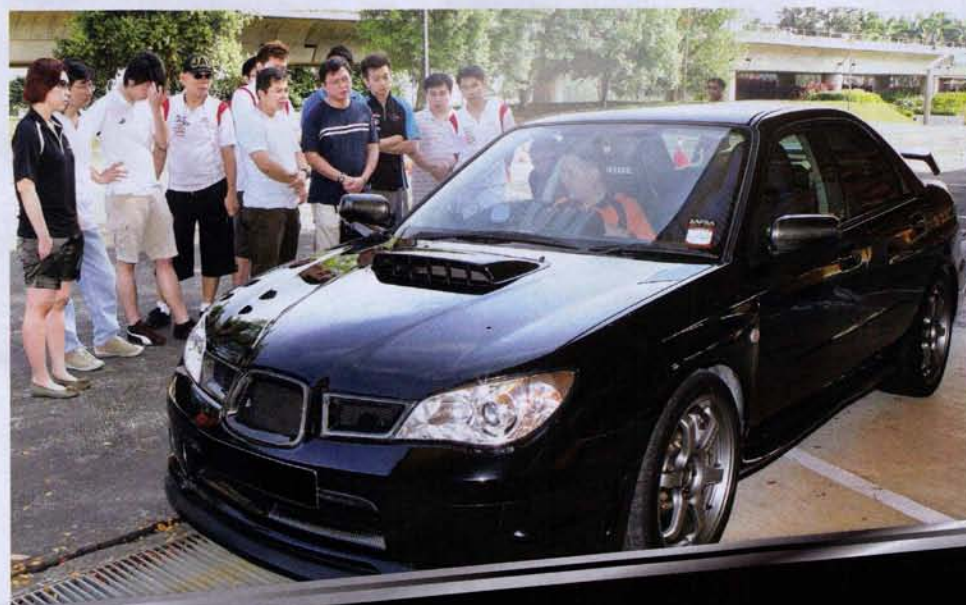
Organised by SMSC in conjunction with online car forums Integra.sg and K-Series.sg, the course included a theory session held at SAFRA Mount Faber Club the day before. Topics covered included proper seating position, steering, braking, under/oversteer recovery, and handling techniques. Participants were also given an overview of how to deal with adverse driving conditions and emergencies. While the theory session was informative, it

was the practical session at the Singapore Turf Club that really provided participants with a taste of how to react in dangerous situations. Through the practical lessons, the participants were given the opportunity to experience how their cars would handle when they engaged in emergency manoeuvres. There was ample practice, with participants performing close to 30 exercises. To maximise exposure, they ran through a variety of patterns to simulate emergency situations at different road

speeds. They experienced emergency braking, emergency lane change, as well as brake and avoid exercises. In addition, participants practiced skid recovery exercises. They also sampled some emergency evasive driving techniques such as the Handbrake Turn and the J-Turn. SMSC Chairman CPT (NS) Darion Lim's vision for the DCCC, was for it to cater to drivers of all experience levels, driving a variety of cars. Indeed, the 25 participants ranged in age from 23 to 42, with between 3 to more than 20 years of driving



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experience. The cars they drove were similarly varied. They included high performance cars like the Honda Integra Type R, Civic Type R, S2000, and the Subaru WRX STI. There were also "regular" cars such as the Honda Civic, Mitsubishi Colt and Suzuki Swift.

CPT (NS) Lim told HotStuff that SMSC had been founded to, among other things; promote safer and more responsible motoring. He was very encouraged that Integra.sg and K-Series.sg had been so receptive to jointly organising the DCCC.

He said, "On the streets, there is little time to think. You need to develop muscle memory and reflexes to handle emergency situations effectively, by training in a safe and controlled environment." He added, "My aim was to make this course as comprehensive as possible, while remaining affordable and accessible."

Judging by some of the participants' comments, the SMSC DCCC definitely made a difference. Posting on the forum, "Sze ping" said he "knocked down a few cones and (got) a good reminder that

those plastic could well be human or a kerb that could have flipped me on my head ... I'm humbled yet thrilled by the new experience acquired today." Another participant, "Defstar", echoed this, adding that "The experience gained today has made me more aware of the limits of my car."

The SMSC DCCC can be organised for a group of 25 cars or more. For more information, please contact Ms. Chan Shuling at cshuling@safra.sg. 