

WILD CATS

Learn what the R stands for in Jaguar R

(The following written by Mark Vaughn appeared in the March 22 Autoweek Magazine)

At the reception the night before the Jaguar R Performance Academy, the first person we saw was—wham—Davy Jones! We used to watch him beat seemingly everybody in IMSA GTP in the Jaguar XJR-14; he won Le Mans and Daytona and almost (should have) won the Indy 500 in 1996.

Next to him was Roberto Guerrero, Formula One pilot, another near 500 winner and the nicest guy you'll ever meet. It would have been worth the price of admission just to hang with those guys. Great driving instructor Mark Wolocatiuk (if you went to the Russell school when it was at Sears Point, you know him), sprint-car racer Adam Andretti (Aldo's son) and other talented guys were all part of this school, established in December 2009 to teach 2010-model Jaguar R owners how to get the most out of their cars.

The instruction is spot-on. It starts with a classroom session to introduce you to the basics of car control and cornering: Keep your eyes up and looking far down the track, turn your head before you turn the wheel, brake in a straight line, apply the throttle when unwinding the wheel, and all the stuff you should learn in a good driving school.

Then it was out onto the track, in this case the road course just outside Las Vegas Motor Speedway. With the above-mentioned racers r_____es, it would be an even greater opportunity out of their cool rides safely.

The school is free; you just pay to get there and for your lodging. All you need is a 2010 XKR or XFR, Go buy one now.

The school moves around the country. It'll be at Monticello Motor Club in New York in May, at Fontana in August and at Homestead Miami at the end of the year. For more details, visit www.jaguarperformanceacademy.com.

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