



NORTH TEXAS S2000 OWNERS CLUB

November/December 2002 Newsletter

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

November 16 th	Saturday	Autocross – Mineral Wells
December 7 th	Saturday	Christmas Party/Highland Park Christmas Lights Drive – The Temming's
January	TBD	Director Elections

November 16th Autocross – make sure to pre-register on-line at www.S2000.org. Lunch will be available for a \$5.00 donation.

December 7th Christmas Party – please RSVP to jotemming@yahoo.com if you plan on coming to the Christmas party. You are more than welcome to invite a guest, just indicate the number of people that will be coming with you. Make sure to bring a warm jacket for the Christmas Light Drive!

January – we are looking for S2000 owners who are interested in a director role in the club! All positions will be available for election including Executive and Assistant Director, Membership, Communications, Photographer, Track and Social Director, as well as Treasurer and Secretary. E-mail David at dsmart@s2000.org if you are interested.

Events are subject to change – check the North Texas forum at www.S2Ki.com or the North Texas Club website at www.s2000.org for event details and/or changes.

EVENT REVIEW

Autocross – Mineral Wells, TX

We had a great turn-out and a beautiful day for the 3rd autocross of the 2002 season. 27 drivers participated in the 8-lap event. The course had a good mix of turns and slaloms, with enough straight-away sections to build-up some road course quality speed. The best lap time on R-compound tires was 1:14.31 achieved by Mark L. in his Black #1 S2000. David R. set the fastest time on street tires with a 1:16.86 in his Sebring Silver #20 S2000. The Miatas also had a good showing with a couple of drivers holding spots in the top 10. Pre-Registration for our November 16 event is going on now at www.S2000.org



Dinner Social – Buca di Beppo's – Dallas, TX

Buca di Beppo's is one of our favorite locations to meet. Not only do you get awesome family-style Italian food, you get one of the most entertaining and friendly atmospheres of any restaurant in Dallas. The slightly adult and more than slightly irreverent atmosphere along with the attentive wait staff ensures that we will make Buca di Beppo's a regular meeting location. For all of those who made it to the last dinner social at Buca di Beppo's, (you probably still smell like garlic) you know what a great time we had. For those of you, who didn't make it, make sure to join us next time!

EVENT REVIEW, CONTINUED

Morning Drive – Euless, TX

One S2K usually sparks a little attention. More than one S2K tends to create a spectacle. We had 7 S2K's and an Infiniti G35 participate in our first morning drive on October 20th. The course started at Grandy's in Euless, TX and followed a curve-filled route to R&K Café where we splurged on \$2.99 breakfasts. We knew that breakfast would be good when we saw all of the pick-up trucks in the parking lot. After breakfast, we took some scenic, twisted farm roads back to our starting point. It's fun to watch people stare and point as they count S2K's passing them on the road!

Tech Day – Todd's Garage

Todd invited us to descend on his garage for a lesson on valve adjustments. It was a fairly chilly morning as we gathered for some tech talk and donuts. First, Todd explained and demonstrated to us the importance of properly adjusted valves on a partially disassembled B-series motor. We also got a crash course on how VTEC works! Then, we moved over to an S2000 engine bay and Todd took us through the steps of making valve adjustments (See Technical Corner below).



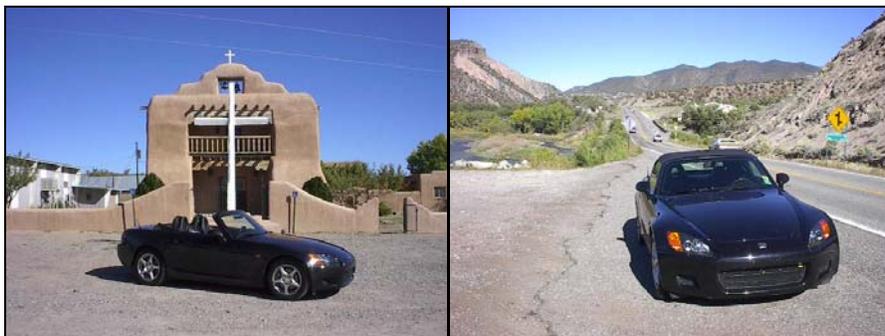
Dinner Social – Pappa's BBQ – Dallas, TX

Even though it was a cold and rainy night, we had a fairly good turn-out for the dinner social that we had with the 350Z group. The weather could have been better and made us thankful Papa's has covered parking. Two Z's brought their owners for a show and tell with the S2K group. We had a silver and a white Z show up with different color interiors and options. We had a peek under the hood, as well as inside, but didn't get a chance to do a road test comparison.

MEMBER STUFF

Pictures from Santa Fe - Submitted by Louis A.

The first picture is my S2000 in front of the mission at Abiquiu (Georgia O'Keeffe's hometown in New Mexico) and the other on the road north of Santa Fe. There are awesome vistas from many straight-a-ways, changes in grades, and lots of fun curves perfect for top-down driving. A comfortable, yet exhilarating 10 hour drive from Dallas to Santa Fe in my S2K.



CAR HUMOR

There was a middle-aged guy who bought a brand new Honda S2K. He took off down the road, flooring it up to 80 mph and he enjoyed the wind blowing through what little hair he had left on his head. "This is great," he thought, and floored it some more. He looked in his rearview mirror and there was a Texas Highway Patrol Trooper behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blasting. "I can get away from him with no problem," thought the man, and he floored it some more and flew down the road at over 120-mph. Then he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this kind of thing," and pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the State Trooper to catch up with him.

The Trooper pulled in behind the car and walked up to the man. "Sir," he said looking at his watch, "My shift ends in 30 minutes and today is Friday the 13th. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding, that I've never heard before, I'll let you go." The man looked back at the Trooper and said, "Last week my wife ran off with a State Trooper, and I thought you were bringing her back." The State Trooper said, "Have a nice day."

JUST FOR FUN

Honda S2K Owner Acronyms...
Hang On, Not Done Accelerating
Happy Owners Never Drive Anything else

Not that we need another reason to own a Honda S2K, but consider this...
Children in the back of the car causes accidents. Accidents in the back of the car cause children.

ASK THE EXPERT

Question: How can I keep my Honda S2K looking great between washings?

Answer: If you are like me, you like to keep the S clean. As I don't use the S as a daily driver, it often gets very dusty as opposed to dirty. A little while back I purchased a California Duster from Sam's Club for somewhere around \$8. Now instead of washing the car weekly, I typically can just dust it using the CA Duster. Granted, after dusting it doesn't look as good as if I washed the car but it definitely leaves it presentable.

Question: How can I get a spot-free finish when I wash the car by hand?

Answer: When I do wash the car, following the rinse cycle, I use the Absorber to remove the water and eliminate spots. The Absorber is a super absorbent type of micro-fiber sponge towel that won't scratch the paint. This device is dramatically better than a chamois or towel and facilitates fast drying of the surface. The Absorber can be purchased at Wal-Mart stores or online.

If you have a car care question, please submit to jotemming@yahoo.com. Your question and an answer from a car care expert may make it into the next newsletter!

TECHNICAL CORNER**Valve Clearance Adjustment**
Submitted by: Todd Marcucci

A normal maintenance item for most Hondas that is often overlooked is the valve adjustment. Also known as setting "valve clearance" or "valve lash," this adjustment is an important maintenance item to insure lengthy, proper, and efficient operation of your engine.

The valves in your engine open and close to allow intake air to flow into and exhaust gases to flow out of your engine. The method that Honda uses is a rocker/follower that rides on the cam lobe (with the crankshaft and timing belt/chain turning the cams) that actuate the valves. The cam has a "lump" for lift and a "base circle" for the duration of the engine rotation where the valve is closed. In order to insure that the valves close completely the "valve clearance" or "valve lash" is set so that there is a known clearance between the valves and the rocker arm.

The valve adjustment is important for two reasons. One, if the valves do not close all the way, you can lose a substantial amount of power since the intake mixture will be "squeezed out" during the compression cycle (hence less mixture burned, less energy resulting from combustion). This might also result in burnt valves as the exhaust valves depend partly on contact with the valve seat (head) for cooling. Second, if the valves do not open all the way you will get poor flow through the head (less mixture) and again lose power.

As the engine ages and more miles are put on it, the valve clearance can change. Repeated thermal cycling of the mechanism as well as mechanical wear will alter the adjustment slightly, resulting (typically) in increased clearance. This increase in clearance is usually characterized by an increased "ticking" at idle. While Hondas generally run wide clearances and tick some at idle, if you notice a more pronounced ticking noise you should probably consider having this adjustment performed.

The normal service interval for the adjustment has changed wildly over the years. In the late 80's, Honda recommended it every 15,000 miles. In the late 90's Honda changed that interval to every 30k miles. Now, with the S2000, this has been changed to 90,000 miles.

The adjustment typically takes 1-2 hours on a typical Honda. Since the adjustment needs to be done with the engine cool, there is usually at least a 3-4 hour cool-down period that must preface the actual adjustment. Most dealers and service stations will only charge for the work done (and not the wait time) or simply charge a flat fee. Regardless, this is typically a job that costs in excess of \$90 or \$100.

For more information, or if you are interested in learning how to do the adjustment yourself, please see our article at http://www.s2000.org/articles/valve_adjustment

If you have a car modification that you would like to share, please submit to jotemming@yahoo.com. Your submission may make it into the next newsletter!

CURRENT DIRECTOR LISTING/CONTACT INFORMATION

Position	Name	E-mail
Executive Director	David Smart	dsmart@s2000.org
Assistant Executive Director	Todd Marcucci	todd@s2000.org
Membership Director	Mark Lang	elistan@elistan.com
Communications Director	Jo Temming	jotemming@yahoo.com
Photo Director	Molly Woolridge	mwoolrid@swbell.net
Track Events Director	Mark Lang	elistan@elistan.com
Social Events Director	Dave & Jo Temming	jotemming@yahoo.com
Treasurer	David Smart	dsmart@s2000.org
Secretary	Molly Woolridge	mwoolrid@swbell.net

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- Membership is effective January 1 – December 31st. Membership dues are \$35.00
- New members who join between April 1st and September 30th can join for \$20.00 for the balance of the year.
- New members who join between October 1st and December 31st pay the full \$35.00 but roll-over to the next year's membership.
- Renewals are due by the end of 1st quarter each year.
- For questions regarding membership, contact the Membership Director – Mark Lang

Note: We're always looking to add to the membership family. If you would like club information cards to leave on S2K's you see out and about, please contact Mark Lang and we will get cards to you. Be a membership booster - Spread the word!

ODDS & ENDS

- If you have questions or a contribution for the newsletter, please e-mail to Jo Temming at jotemming@yahoo.com
- Make sure to check out North Texas S2000 Club website at www.s2000.org
- Also, check out the North Texas Forum on the National S2000 Website at www.s2ki.com