

D2D Takes Driver Sa



Sandy Rose Bauler talks to a group of the Marines who were on hand for the Driven2Dare presentation at MCAS Yuma.

representing Driven2Dare (D2D), Inc., a team of race-car drivers and car experts who are on a “military tribute tour,” giving classes on driving safety and telling how to get the most out of your car. They are visiting various military installations around the country.

The two-hour class includes an electronic slide-show presentation, personal anecdotes and experi-

By LCpl. Robert L. Botkin, USMC,
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Every so often, you meet an extraordinary person—one who personifies honesty and hard work, embraces the community and family spirit in everything she does, and sees the potential in herself, as well as others. National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) driver (late-model sportsman division) Sandy Rose Bauler is such a person.

She has faced adversity head on and persevered. A serious racing accident in 2000 nearly cost her family, business and life. Doctors said she never would walk again, but she proved them wrong; she’s back in the sport she loves.

Marines at MCAS Yuma recently had the privilege of meeting Sandy, as well as 30-year car-industry professional Dave Stall (“the Car Guy”) and stock-car driver (elite division) Eddie Bryans. The three were

experiences, and a display of two teams’ cars used in races across the nation. “Some of the things we learned in racing—things that nobody ever taught us—are very valuable,” said Sandy. “They’re the same things that cause wrecks on the freeway.”

Some of the lessons learned go beyond driving techniques...into the technical aspects of car maintenance. Tire pressure, for example, is an important part of car maintenance that often gets overlooked or handled wrong, noted “the Car Guy,” who incidentally has a radio program, TV segment, and newspaper column in California.

“You should check the tire pressure of a vehicle at least every week, especially before long trips or if the car has been sitting idle for an extended period of time,” he said. “Temperature changes also can affect the tire pressure, so seasonal maintenance is a must for cars and motorcycles.”

“The Car Guy” explained that the tire pressure listed in the owner’s manual usually is lower than the

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Marine Corps photo by LCpl. Robert L. Botkin



Cpl. William Drake, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 aviation supply clerk and native of Hogansville, Ga., sits in one of the Driven2Dare race cars.

safe level prescribed by tire manufacturers to give a smoother ride. He encouraged drivers to follow the pressure listed on the tires themselves.

The Driven2Dare trio stressed the importance of motorcyclists wearing all the proper personal protective equipment and replacing it once it is damaged. They also offered money-saving tips for automobile owners (e.g., the importance of factory and after-market service contracts, finding the value of your vehicle once it comes time to sell it, how to get the best price for your vehicle, and common misconceptions about maintenance performed by service technicians).

“There is no such thing as a tune-up on cars built later than 1985,” said Dave Stall. “Taking such a car in for a tune-up is just an expensive way to get a new air filter installed.”

Establishing these classes was a challenge, according to Sandy Rose Bauler. “Because of our background in racing, there was preliminary apprehension about having us teach driver safety, but now that we’re established, things are going well. The classes are met with enthusiasm, and we enjoy giving them.”

When asked his thoughts about the class, LCpl. Bret Bronken, travel clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and native of Concord, Calif., said, “I liked it. Some of the stuff, I already knew, but some of it was new to me.”

“I love the interaction with the troops,” said Eddie Bryans, “especially when we start talking about the things that really upset them on the road. Many of their pet peeves are what we warn them against, such as trying to do multiple things while driving.”

The most important piece of advice the Driven2Dare team hopes to convey is awareness of one’s surroundings while driving. As noted by Sandy, “A simple thing like looking 15 to 20 cars ahead on the freeway can mean the difference between a safe trip and disaster.” ■

A similar version of this story first appeared in the Sept. 1, 2005, issue of Desert Warrior, base newspaper for MCAS Yuma, where the author is a combat correspondent.

To find out more about Driven2Dare—who they are and what they do—go online at www.d2dracing.com.