

Supercars flex their muscles at PIR

By BOB HILL

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Portland International Raceway hosted a unique event last week, and Pro Drive Racing School created some really appreciative customers.

The school, headquartered at PIR, held a customer appreciation day, offering rides on hot laps in three of today's hottest supercars: the 605-horsepower Porsche Carrera GT, the 660-hp Ferrari Enzo and 550-hp Ford GT. Todd Harris of Pro Drive piloted the cars at speeds that exceeded 130 mph on the back straightaway. All three cars can top 200 mph.

The Porsche is powered by a 5.7-liter V-10 engine and can go 0-100 mph in less than 7 seconds. Its retail price is about \$440,000.

The GT, modeled on famous Ford racing cars of the 1960s, receives its power from a 5.4-liter supercharged V-8. Its retail price is about \$153,000.

The V-12 engine in the limited-edition Ferrari will propel it from 0-60 mph in 3.4 seconds. Its list price when it came out in 2003 was about \$550,000, but prices for a used one now exceed \$1 million.

The cars were supplied by a customer of the school.

Pro Drive conducts a variety of race-driving classes and a car-control and defensive-driving course for teens. The latter, which includes instruction on controlling a skidding car, takes half a day and costs \$249.