SPEED 101

The student engineers of Formula SAE had double the fun in 2006

BY SHAUN BAILEY   PHOTOS BY MARC URBANO & STEVE SAYOVITZ

FORMULA SAE, the collegiate design series that challenges students from schools around the world to build small race cars, has become so popular that it has become two U.S. events. In addition to the usual and often rainy-cold Detroit, now comes a sunny Southern California location. The number of competing teams is limited to 130 in Michigan and 80 in California.

We've been covering this event every year since 2001 because we support the thousands of students who undertake the immense challenge of building their own cars. With more than 200 teams competing each year, it is impossible to give each team and car the respect it deserves. Instead, we invite the five best-performing teams to compete in our Road & Track Triathlon. This Triathlon is a test of a car's...