



# AT SPEED

## *Emerald Empire Sports Car Club*

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July 14th, 2005

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### Upcoming EESCC Events

<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of each month</b> <b>Time: 7:00pm</b> <b>Location: The Mission Restaurant</b> <b>Franklin Blvd. &amp; Patterson, Eugene, Or</b>
<b>Events # 5 &amp; 6</b>	<b>August 13th and 14th</b> <b>Willamette Pass Ski Area</b> <b>Flyer enclosed and on the website</b> <b>Other Events per Schedule Attached</b>

#### **WHAT A LONG STRANGE TRIP IT'S BEEN**

I used a Grateful Dead reference because as I am writing this, traffic is backing up to my driveway for the Country Fair. Way back in 1988 when Rindy and I first came to Larison Rock with our 2 kids, who were 7 and 4 years old, Nolan Scheid and I were standing at the start for the first run group ever to go up the hill. He and I were deciding who would be first. I let him take "Fang" up first. I still remember my first run to this day. It was exciting but not very fast. 2:35.790. My gas pedal was loose and I forgot to mention that to Rindy. It fell off on her run and she claims it slowed her down! Fast forward to 1998 and both Rindy and I are hovering in the 2:02 to 2:03 range but could never quite get over the 2 minute hump.

This year my son Evan decided to give the old hill a go for the first time. We spent a lot of time going over the

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#### **2005 LARISON ROCK HILL CLIMB, TRULY ROCKS**

Just ask Bonnie; I get a little grumpy when the hillclimb starts rolling around. She says we really don't do that much work to get ready. Sure... Bonnie works her you know what off, and in order to keep her from killing herself, well I seem to get sucked in as well. There are so many others that work their tails off. Thanks so much. I was going to thank all of them, and I promise later I will, but this article is about what a blast this year's hillclimb was.

It all started on Friday. You see the VW gang decided this year to stay at the Best Western. Bonnie added water balloons to the squirt guns (dumb idea) that we normally have, that coupled with the small liquor store these guys had in their room, and well things got lively.

Things were really hopping Saturday morning, getting the final preparations for the hill. Tim Steck and I set about setting up timing and scoring. Things went well, until I discovered the cable for the laser light was not around, then Tim looked and discovered that the serial cable to connect the timer to the laptop, was AWOL also. So we put up a table and set the timer up next to the laser light, and determined that we could have just enter the times manually. Later I got the right cable from Radio Shack and we were high tech again.

During the school the night before I told the drivers that I didn't want to see any records tomorrow! Just learn your lines and go for it Sunday. Well, just like my kids, they didn't listen. There were three new hill records in the first run group!

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hill on Friday. I was pointing out my line and showed him all the turn-in points, apexes and such. Well, it didn't take him long to get the hang of Larison. On his second run on Saturday, he got a 2:02.547. I managed a 2:02.518. on Saturday. The M-Technic was running awesome. The new tires were great, the suspension changes we made worked and the gearing was right for a change. I was working the finish as usual when Evan made his Sunday morning runs and we were shocked when he flew by at 1:57.088 on his last run. As his dad, I couldn't have been more proud. As a car builder, I was happy. As Evan's competitor, I was worried. So, the good news is I finally built a 2-minute car. The bad news is, I didn't do it yet.

At the lunch break I heard from at least 18 of my friends " You really have your work cut out for you now, Dave". Thanks for piling on a little pressure. My wife supported me like always. Andrew Hafner shook my hand and told me not to go out and get all crazy. I assured him I wouldn't. Now, I can run 2:02s without leaving my comfort zone. But, to get under 2, I was going to have to push that comfort envelope like I never have. Aaron Thien loaned me his camera and mount for the occasion. I was encouraged by Jim Daniels how to use the Kumho tires to their best advantage. I went for it and when I got to the top pits, I knew it was a good run because I was shaking so bad I couldn't turn off the camera by myself. Marc Johnson gave me my time slip and told me I was getting a pin like he was wearing. It said 119.144. I admit it, I started to cry. The elephant was finally off my back.

I want to thank Evan for pushing me out of the comfort zone I was stuck in. If there were tires this good 10 years ago, I wouldn't have had to wait this long to break 2 minutes. Brad Moffett filled in for me at the trophy presentation because I was still emotional from the run. He handed me my run card to save. That was cool! Typical Dave move was to leave the card in my back pocket and toss my jeans in the hamper. You guessed it, the run card couldn't survive the washing machine and is now pocket lint. Bummer! I have the memory, if not the card and can't wait for next year. My new goal is to bring the "Streetfighter" back and break 2 minutes with it. No 2002 has ever gone that fast and I want to give it a shot. Thanks Bonnie and Jim for all your hard work.

This Larison was extra special. It would have been a perfect result if my buddy Bruce was still with us to witness it, but I think he was watching anyway. Evan and I were talking about him while setting up the hill and I could feel his presence. No one was more fun to pick on than Bruce. He and I always set up the hill together. On Saturday after all runs were completed, we would move the cones and corner signs off the road and set them up again on Sunday morning. I always made a point to toss one of them down deep in the ditch. Sunday morning, Bruce would always jump back in the truck cursing the SOB who did that to him. For several years, he had no idea it was me. One year I was sitting there laughing while he was in the ditch fishing out the sign and he noticed it. He looked me right in the eye and said "[F#@\\* You Lumbra](#)" He knew!

by David Lumbra

The day ended with Bill Cooper holding a slim lead over Tim Steck for King and Peggy Steck with a good lead over Dale Schulte for Queen. I was the proud Dad with Lorin now the STS record holder and Sean going 4 seconds faster than the year before. But I knew that tomorrow was going to be very interesting!

We had the Saturday night party, the planned one at the Pizza Parlor, and the unplanned one with the water balloons, so I knew the night was going to be a hoot. We had tons of door prizes, and a 50/50 raffle. Kala shook off her exciting day and sold a whole lot more 50/50 raffle tickets. The pot ended up with \$462 to split, and Tye Smyth getting his number pulled for the \$231. (Guess he traded Phil Akins for the ticket!) Doh.

Brad Moffett was an awesome emcee handing out the door prizes. Thanks to the members (especially Jerry Akins) and the businesses who contributed.

Sunday, the day started off great. The first car up the hill was at 8:58AM. But in the afternoon, especially in run group 2, things really heated up for King of the Hill. First up was Tim Steck, laying down an awesome, 1:52.706, a new door slammer overall hill record. Then just a couple of drivers later, Russ Schulte did and blazing 1:52.050, taking Tim's 3 minute old record. Well, just a couple of runs later, Bill Cooper pulled a 1:151.904, capturing King of the hill and taking Russ's 3 minute old record. Oh well, easy come, easy go!

In the meantime the ladies were heating it up for Queen of the Hill honors. Peggy, as we noted, held the lead for Queen at the end of day one. However, Dale Schulte served notice that was not going to hold as she turned a 1:59.687 to become the first woman in a door slammer to break the magic two-minute barrier. Well, Peggy didn't take it lightly, and laid down a 1:56.898 to reclaim top honors. As you might guess the competition was hot by now and Dale wanted the crown. Unfortunately, she found that at those speeds, using your brakes at "safe six" is a must and she ended up in the pucker brush. Fortunately, she was OK and the car can be easily repaired.

Lots of new hill records this year and I want to congratulate those that accomplished that feat. First was Bill Cooper with the new ASP record of 1:51.904. Jim Daniels took the ES record down to a 2:07.205. ESP was lowered again to 1:52.706, as was ESPL to 1:56.898. OGPU was taken by hill rookie, Evan Lumbra at 1:57.088. SM was lowered to 1:56.426 by Brad Moffett. SM2 went down to a 2:01.106 by Dave Kipperman. SPO went down to that 1:52.050 by Russ Schulte, with SPOL lowered by Dale Schulte to a 1:59.687. And last but definitely not least, Lorin Mueller dropped the STS record to 2:09.166.

Also, we had several new members in the "Sub Two Club", including Dave Lumbra, whose article, you must read, Bill Cooper, Peggy Steck, Gary Healy, Ryan Wamsley, Sonny Smith, Evan Lumbra, and Dale Schulte. Congratulations, this is not that easy folks. Just ask David.

Another great hill, see you next year. PS, Bonnie and I are both thrilled with the "Hill Founders" jackets. Thanks

by Jim Mueller