



AT SPEED

Emerald Empire Sports Car Club

P.O. Box 1204, Eugene, Oregon 97440

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WWW.EESCC.ORG

December 9th 2014

2014 EESCC Club Officers

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
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| Vice-President | Tanner Berg Email: VicePresident@eescc.org |
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| Secretary | Bren Wamsley Email: Secretary@eescc.org |
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| Chief Safety Steward | Bill Randleman Email: SafetySteward@eescc.org |
| Chief of Timing | Tim Steck Email: ChiefofTiming@eescc.org |

Upcoming EESCC Events

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Monthly Meeting: | Jan 7th 7:00 pm The Sizzler |
| Poker Party | Date and Time TBD The Muellers |
| Scavenger Hunt | Feb 21st Time and Place TBD |
| Wine Tour | Date and Time TBD |

****Please check your email and Facebook for additional information on these events.**

Burnouts – The Story of My First Car

By Chris Pokorny

Most of my friends and family are constantly asking me “Why?”

“Why do you need *that* car?”

“Why is that part *so* expensive?”

“Why do you need to go racing *all* weekend?”

As you can probably tell, I did not come from a family of car enthusiasts and I don’t have too many friends who like cars as much as I do.

It all started when I was about 14, I had a neighbor who had an ’87 IROC Camaro. He was constantly working on it, and me being curious, I watched him. My neighbor noticed my interest and eventually took me on some rides in his car. These rides usually consisted of some pretty high speeds and a lot of burnouts – I was hooked.

When I turned 16 I had finally saved up enough money

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from doing yard work to buy my first car. A beautiful 1982 Pontiac Firebird – it was pink. Literally... painted pink. It smoked like crazy and didn’t turn very well. But on my income of collecting lawn trimmings it was what I could afford, and I was thrilled. The first thing I did was spray painted the car grey, I wasn’t man enough to drive a pink car living in southern California at the time. I had to get it registered as it had not been done in over three years, which meant it had to be smog tested. I took the car to have a ‘practice’ smog test performed. Guess what? It failed. It must have had something to do with the cloud of smoke that followed me when I drove it. After the failed test, I go into full on panic mode, I just dumped my life savings into this car and I can’t even drive the beast to school. I stop in at a local automotive store and buy a can of additive that is ‘guaranteed’ to make my car pass. Thirty dollars and another failed smog test and I was back to square one.

While telling a friend about my awesome problem, he said he knew someone who could ‘make’ my car pass, a guy that owned an auto shop. No dyno test, just a few clicks on the computer and \$200 of my money and a few minutes later he printed me out a passing smog sheet. How fitting that the name of his shop was ‘Honest Auto’. What did I care? I could finally drive the beast.

I had another friend look into the steering problem. I was just learning about cars and had no idea what I was doing. He informed me that the frame was broken where the steering box was mounted. The good news though, he knew how to weld. Probably not the safest way to repair a frame, but what did I know? Once that was fixed it was time for some burnouts! That little 305 could barely spin the rear wheels, but it could, and that was all that mattered to me.

About two weeks later the 200C transmission had enough of the burnouts and had stopped working completely. I had been informing myself about what kind of modifications I could do to my car and I knew what I eventually wanted.

I knew I wanted more power out of that 305, so I should put a turbo 350, knowing the 200C was a weak link. About three weeks later it had a new transmission. Time to do more burnouts! Nope, me and my all knowing misinformed self did not realize that a 200C had a lower 1st gear than the 350, so no more burnouts...

(continued)

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and in my 16 year old mind that was the best thing about having a car. Shortly after the new transmission was installed the steering started having problems again. Apparently the welds on the frame from the first attempt to fix it were not holding up. During those last couple of weeks I knew that there was not going to be a future for me and my once pink firebird. It wasn't long before I had come across my next victim, a 1970 Chevy Camaro – and I could see some pretty badass burnouts in my future.

The Speed of Light

By Chris Nunes

They say as you approach the speed of light strange things happen. Time and space bends around the traveler, and the measured time inside the vehicle actually passes slower than it does for those around it. Travelers exiting the vehicle will be exponentially younger than those who experienced their life at a slower relative velocity; paradoxically they could even be younger than their children.

Autocross speeds are nowhere near fast enough to produce as dramatic an effect, but if you consider the fact that all of us hurtle down the freeway during our daily commute at speeds that would have caused our ancestors to defecate themselves, you have to believe speed has some effect on our physiology.

I've always been into cars since I was a kid in the South, watching Knight Rider and consuming every edition of Hot Rod and Car Craft magazines I could get my hands on. My first car was a beat up 1987 Pontiac Trans Am T-top with a junkyard 350 swap topped with the stock computer-controlled Quadrajete. It didn't pass emissions easily and got starved for fuel if you floored it for more than a few seconds.

I moved to Oregon and fell in love with a 1975 Datsun 280Z, but it wasn't until I started to get into Autocross in 2007 that I feel like I truly began to learn about cars on a practical level. I thought I had a pretty decent magazine education, but I realize now that automotive technology is useless unless it is applied appropriately. For example, when I upgraded my sway bar, I didn't notice a dramatic difference on the street, but at the next autocross event, the Z transformed from a twitchy tail-happy death-trap to a predictable and manageable rear-wheel drive sports car. Installing the LSD made it even better.

Autocross is like meditation for me, taking all my concentration, and as I focus on balancing a car at the limit, all the stress of the rest of my life melts away. To modify a Fast and the Furious quote, "for those 50 seconds or less, I'm free."

RoZe (as I've come to affectionately call the car) has seen a lot of modifications just to keep up with the newer coupes in grid, but maybe I like being the underdog. Honestly, I may not be the fastest racer out there, but I am proud of what I've learned through my years of participating in this sport. With the help of other club members, I've done repairs I would never have dreamed of, and every project I tackle expands the horizons of what I am capable of. I even taught myself to weld and fabricated my own front suspension links to provide camber and caster adjustability.

The people, however, are what really keep me coming back. My family has grown along with my autocross experience, and there are close friends within this club who have watched our daughter grow from infant to toddler to the little girl she is today. I trust these folks, and I admire their heart and generosity. Autocross is a community, and although speed and competition brought us together, we all help each other, sharing tools, insight, even cars. Racing is fun, but getting to know the people here is what truly brings me joy. In that way, maybe autocross is indeed a bona fide fountain of youth.

2014 Awards Banquet Highlights

By Bren Wamsley

What a fun evening we spent at Valley River Inn. We had 105 people register this year. It began with a social hour with appetizers followed by a wonderful buffet and dessert table. Licia Shultz setup a photo booth with props for everyone to have their picture taken. What a hoot! I even got my picture taken with my Bestie Licia. Lots of people used the assortment of fun props Licia provided. Be watching for pictures on our website. Also, much appreciation to the photographer, Brittany Clowers and the hat girl, Sydney Angel. Great job girls!

Lorin Wamsley began with an introduction to the evening events. Ruben Cruz followed with presenting sponsor and venue awards. A huge thank you to all our **Sponsors** and **Venues**.

Tanner Berg, our MC for the evening and his side kick Vanna White aka Nathan Korstad presented trophy awards to our outstanding drivers. Our trophies this year were high quality embroidered black jackets. Thank you Tanner Berg and Vanna White for all your work on these. Jeff Childers created and presented IROC. It was a hilarious presentation! Love You Bruce! What a star ☐ Ha! The top 5 drivers were: 1st Doug Drouet, 2nd Alex Paraskevas, 3rd Ryan Wamsley, 4th Cat Rice, and 5th Andrew Hafner. Awesome Drivers!! Thank you Jeff for all the time you put into this presentation. Everyone can see this video on the EESCC facebook page.

Ruben Cruz provided a synopsis of what we have provided to our community this year. A total of \$1,112.00 has been dispersed to Food for Lane County. Oakridge Volunteer Fire Department who provided our medical and fire support during our hillclimb received \$1,100.00, and all proceeds from the Blind Autocross, \$600.00, have been donated to the Dogs Federation for the Blind.

Over the holidays a few more donations will be made. In addition, we are doing road cleanup 3 times a year on a 2 mile stretch of highway 99 in Goshen resulting in many man hours of labor for the adopt a highway program. Ruben mentioned we will have some winter non-racing events going on so watch for them in emails, newsletters, or facebook. I'm hoping for a Scavenger Hunt, Bonnie

Mueller does an awesome job putting it together. Also I bet there will be a wine tour and Poker Tournament. Other suggestions are encouraged.

I personally would like to thank you Licia. Your help with the banquet was grrrrreatly appreciated girlfriend.

Bonnie Mueller followed with a number of other special awards. The Where The Hell Am I (Compass) award was given to Jerry Shultz, 16 gates. Way to go Jerry! Cat Rice placed second with gates at 14 and 30 cones for another 60 penalty points. Less gates, lots of cones! Go Cat Go!! The Cone Killer award went to Jason Braunberger for the 5th time. Gosh Jason, you've held this title more than anyone in the club. Ruben presented the "Gear of The Year" award to a very deserving individual, Licia Shultz, a non-racer. Maybe you should mount it on your hood as a reminder. And the Most Improved Driver award went to Torie Mollison.

Bonnie Mueller provided the entertainment this year, similar to the trivia game we played last year. She and Jim came up with Do you Recall?. All of the questions related to cars and they were not easy. Matt Boatman and Tony Chilton split the 120.00 prize.

Our awesome MC, Tanner Berg, and his partner Vanna White drew door prize tickets and distributed the gifts. We had a number of really nice door prizes. Several of our sponsors donated door prizes including; Bert Jacobson -All Rite Roofing, Lorin and Bren Wamsley - Lorin's Home Team Real Estate Lending, Danielle Zimmerman -the Josh Cooley team Keller Williams Realty, Tim and Peggy Steck - TBS Consultants, DaWayne Kerbs - ALSCO, Aaron Ponciano - TireSport, and Eric Hoffman - Chameleon Painting. Dean and Bettina Higginson with Custom Audio won Valley River Inn's "Date Night package" which included a Room, Dinner, Breakfast, and Regal tickets worth \$200.00 and Scott and Terri Wamsley won the \$75.00 gift certificate to Sweetwaters. We give many thanks to Valley River Inn for hosting our event and providing such nice door prizes. I really enjoy working with Roxane Butler, Director of Catering, Valley River Inn. She is so fun and accommodates our needs in any way she can. Their servers were very attentive and welcoming to our group. I have one more thank you and that is to David Mills. He continues to provide a DVD with footage of our events. I do know the editing takes a lot of hours. Much appreciated David. You're the best!

Ruben Cruz closed by thanking everyone for making EESCC such a great club. He also thanked the Banquet Committee (Bren, Lorin, and Ryan Wamsley, Danielle Zimmerman, Licia Shultz, Tanner Berg, Rachel Cruz and himself) and the banquet presenters, Bonnie Mueller, Jeff Childers, Tanner Berg, and Vanna White. We would love to see more of you become involved in the club. Attend our monthly club meeting 7:00 pm, the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Sizzler. It's fun to eat and chat among friends prior to the meeting. If you would like to write a news article for the club, let me know and I'll assign a month.

I'm already looking forward to the 2015 banquet. If you have any suggestions, please send them my way.

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