



# AT SPEED

## *Emerald Empire Sports Car Club*

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February 18, 2022

### 2022 EESCC Club Officers

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### **Upcoming EESCC Events**

**MONTHLY MEETING** 7:00 PM Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Sizzler, Springfield**

**TIMING SCHOOL** 11:00 – 3:00 Feb 27

**Preregister Online**

**ICEBREAKER AUTOX** March 13

**Valley River Center, Eugene**

**See Flyer Online**

**ICEBREAKER EARLY CHECK IN AND ANNUAL TECH**

**1- 3 March 12<sup>th</sup> Pre-reg only** **VRC**

**BLIND AUTOCROSS** April 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Bald Knob Site, Creswell**

**See Flyer Online**

**HIGHWAY CLEANUP** 9:00 AM April 10<sup>th</sup>

**Chevron Station Mile Post 3 Hwy 140**

**Pleasant Hill**

### **Dates Set for Autocross Series**

We have set our dates for the 2022 series. These dates have been confirmed. Icebreaker Autocross is of course confirmed for March 13, Events 1 and 2 will be back at Valley River on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Events 3 and 4 will be at the Douglas County Fairgrounds June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Events 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> will

be at Willamette Pass on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Events 7 and 8 are back to \*Valley River Center. \***Be Aware that we will be attempting to have an event at Hoodoo in August or September.**

### **Blind Autocross is a Hoot**

This is one of the most fun things you can do behind the wheel of your car. There is a fairly simple autocross course set up for you to navigate. The driver is blindfolded and is guided by the navigator.

Then, you can switch driver and navigator and see who can give and take better instructions.

Sounds easy right? There is absolutely no need to have a fast car. I recommend driving your street car (smaller the better 😊) Believe me 10 miles an hour feels like you're flying. Anyway, fastest time wins.

All proceeds will go to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

### **Driver Profiles For February-March**

In this newsletter are two more profiles (in their own words) of club drivers. These are #4 and 5 of our 28 coasters we made for the 2020-2021 Season. Enjoy!

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### **When and where did you get into autocrossing?**

I believe I discovered autocrossing in 1996 and ran my first full season in 1997. I can't remember if my first event was in Portland with the Oregon Region or if it was with EESCC. EESCC is where I realized I wanted to run as I began to learn more about the sport.

### **When did you first enter events with EESCC?**

#### **How did you find out about us?**

I believe my first EESCC events were in 1996, I think I learned of the club by running in Portland and learning about EESCC from other participants. Good old LCC parking lot...

### **How long have you been into autosports? What other forms of racing have you done or are a faithful follower? (Lemons, Lucky Dog, Hillclimbing, NASCAR, F1, Indy, drag racing, drifting, off road racing, radio controlled, dog sledding 😊 etc)**

I bought my first vehicle (a 1956 Chevy Pickup) when I was 14. I believe that was my first true dive into the world of automobiles and an interest in motorsports. Starting in 1997 I began working with Bill Wilson Motorsports out of the Portland area supporting open wheel racing. At first, I primarily worked on Club Ford and Formula Ford open wheel cars. That grew to support Formula Continental cars and we even ran a few Formula Atlantic cars from time to time. As my knowledge and experience grew, I began handling the engineering and data acquisition for the Pacific F2000 Semi-Pro open wheel series and would support up to 6 cars and drivers during a race. **Continued on next column**  
My specialty grew into car repair and set-up following crashes and incidences on track. Those were the good

old days, I'd fly out on a Wednesday night after work out of Portland, arrive at the hotel for the weekend Wednesday night, be at the track by 7am Thursday and spend full days at the track until 7pm or later through Sunday when we'd pack up and I'd fly back home until the next race weekend.

I was fortunate enough to be flying and doing trackside support for about 6 years and I miss it more than I would have ever imagined. Anyone have a very large budget they want to make small? Let's go open wheel racing!

As for television and other racing series, I primarily follow the F1 season. I'll normally catch about half the indy car races and then turn on a good old Nascar circle track race on a Sunday afternoon if I need a good nap.

### **Do other members of your family autocross with you? When did they start and why?**

#### **(Please answer all these questions for them too)**

No longer, I had many a good years co-driving with my dad. I can't begin to explain the positive feelings and impact this club provided for my dad through all of our years of racing together.

I will never forget the day my dad rode passenger with me at a track day at PIR. There were times the car was coming off the back stretch and into what was turns 7, 8, and 9 at the time (10, 11 and 12 now), and the back of the car would get a little loose under braking at 80+mph entering the corner, the back would start to come loose, then you caught it and slid it into the next braking zone. Not a peep out of my dad the entire time, he was a trooper strapped into that passenger seat. We finished that day with what I thought were warped rotors, but as it turned out, I had 14 radial cracks (all the way down to the hat) in my passenger front rotor and 11 radial cracks in my drivers side rotor. How they didn't come apart while on track I have no idea.

### **How many cars have you owned and autocrossed? What was your first car? Your first "race" car?**

I've owned the following cars:

1956 Chevy Pickup

- Bought it when I was 14
- Still own it

1985 Honda Magna V30 motorcycle

1985 Camaro Z28 (Current Autocross car)

- Purchased at night around 1991 in LA
- Didn't make it home under it's own power
- Realized in the morning how bad the Earl Scheib paint job really was
- Discovered 3 bullet holes in the door when the car was repainted

1999 Ducati ST4 motorcycle (Still own)

2008 VW Jetta TDI (never autocrossed, but ran a Grass Valley track day in it)

2012 VW CC (never autocrossed or anything)

2008 Cadillac Escalade (Tow vehicle)

2018 Cadillac CTS (ran at a Viper club event and did way better than I should have)

1986 Camaro Z28 (inherited car, may be a future CAM car)

**What current car are you autocrossing and / or expect to run in 2022? Any changes you are doing? Class change?**

Still running Old Faithful for 2022. I have a watts link and a tubular front k-member on order and I am hoping they arrive in time for the season. I also am working on changing from 16x10" wheels and 275/45-16 front tires to 18x12" wheels running 335/30-18 front tires. I have aspirations of widening the front track of my car by 1" and removing the 1/2" spacer on each side. Oh yeah, new front brakes, full rotor and hat assembly tear down and rebuild, replace a harmonic balancer, repair bearings and seals in the rear end... Just a few things.

**What wins or awards are you most proud of and why?**

I'm proud of any win I can get these days, but I'm probably most fond of my Iroc trophy from 2000, I hadn't been involved long enough to feel that I was ready for something like that, but I was pleasantly surprised. To drive it in a rear wheel drive Caprice was awesome!

Of course there's the Cone Killer trophy, there is a level of pride that I carry for that award also. To look back and see how long I've been autocrossing and to see how many times in the past few years I've had that trophy says a lot about growing competition. It has reached a point where running in CP means that you have to give everything you and your car have to be

competitive. Staying within the comfort zone of the car and driver is no longer going to get wins in our class.

To those of you working course when I'm on a dirty cone day, I apologize. And to those of you that get wide eyed and start to panic if the car starts to get a little out of sorts? I see you, I see all of you, I just gather it up, giggle inside a little and keep attacking the rest of the course. Thank you for paying attention.

**What is the most fun about autocrossing? Our club?**

First and foremost, it about the people. None of us would be doing this if it wasn't for the other competition. I've met some of the greatest friends over the last 26 years of Autocrossing and have gotten to see the progression of a lot of cars and the progression of a lot of people.

Secondly, for me, it's about the adrenaline, there aren't many things that I can do on a regular basis that can give me the adrenaline shakes in 40 seconds.

**Other comments .**

I truly appreciate EESCC and everything that it does as a club. I feel bad sometimes as I don't feel like I have the opportunity to participate more with the club, but living in Portland makes that challenging at times. There are many choices of clubs to run with here in Oregon, I feel that EESCC is the best and most active of any of the clubs in our area. It truly feels like you are a part of a family.



### **When and where did you get into autocrossing?**

My brother, Ken, introduced me to autocross many years ago. He raced his rather famous 240Z, and was quite competitive. He let me drive it a few times, and I loved it, but had horses and couldn't take on another expensive hobby.

In 2017 I retired from teaching and had retired my horses as well, so I had time on my hands. When I showed a picture of a Toyota 86 to my mechanic, Doug Drouet, he said "you can drive that right off the showroom floor and autocross it"... It didn't take long for me to talk myself into it!

### **When did you first enter events with EESCC? How did you find out about us?**

Doug introduced me to the EESCC and I entered my first event that year at Willamette Pass! I was hooked, but it was the last event of the season, so sad! 2018 came around soon enough, and with some good tires on the 86, I was off and running.

I love autocross because it is so intense, and such a great way to learn car control... I can't get enough of it, so I always try to run in my class, but also in NFT... for double the seat time! This club is full of encouraging and supportive people... I felt welcome from the very first day!

Continued on next column

### **How long have you been into autosports? What other forms of racing have you done or are a faithful follower? (Lemons, Lucky Dog, Hillclimbing, NASCAR, F1, Indy, drag racing, drifting, off road racing, radio controlled, dog sledding 😊 etc)**

Because I have always had a lead foot and enjoyed speed, I guess I could say I have always been into auto sports, but technically, it's been only four years. Doug also introduced me to hillclimbing, and I entered my first one at Larison Rock in 2018... I also ran twice at Maryhill that year. I guess I wasn't busy enough, so Doug suggested trying a track day, and oh-oh, hooked again! An unfortunate but lucky 'off road' experience at Maryhill in 2019 convinced me that I should have a safer car. Doug helped me find my current race car, a '94 Mustang GT that is an ex-Bondurant race school car. It is fully prepped...all I have to do now is learn to drive it!

### **Do other members of your family autocross with you? When did they start and why? (Please answer all these questions for them too)**

My brother started me out autocrossing...

### **How many cars have you owned and autocrossed? What was your first car? Your first "race" car?**

See earlier paragraphs 😊

### **What current car are you autocrossing and / or expect to run in 2022? Any changes you are doing? Class change?**

I am mostly running the Mustang now, in CP. I feel very grateful that the 'guys' have been so kind and helpful... I have so much to learn, and they never make me feel bad or foolish about my skill level...

Continued on page 7

**What wins or awards are you most proud of and why?**

Probably the most prestigious award I have won was the 'Cone Killer'... that I won this year due to my inability to control my car! I'm gonna get there one of these days!

I'm looking forward to a full season of autocrosses, hillclimbs, and track days... as many as I can schedule!

**What is the most fun about autocrossing? Our club?**

See earlier paragraphs 😊

**Other comments .**

It is fun looking back on my time with EESCC!