

Muellers' and Their Hillclimbing History

By Bonnie Mueller

If anyone has results, old records, or articles on any of these hills that I am talking about, please contact me. I would love to see them!

Tim Steck put out the results of our 33rd Larison Rock Hillclimb, and I noticed that we had 18 new folks (to our hill) and many of those were new to hill climbing in general. Welcome to the craziness!!

Jim and I were first introduced to hill climbing at the **Keno Hillclimb**, outside of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Upon returning from our honeymoon in 1973, Jim was offered the chance to drive a friend's 68 Nova at the Keno Hillclimb, and we haven't looked back. Slowed down, but haven't looked back.

The **Keno Hillclimb** ran from 1967-1989. It was a fun and challenging FAST road, but we had to stop in 1989 when the road had deteriorated too much. All told, **we drove 13+ times** between 1973-1989. Some of my records are missing, so this old memory will have to suffice. We drove a 68 Nova, 72 Pinto, 72 Courier, 74 914, 76 Honda, 78 Fiesta, 82 Mustang GT, 84 Colt Turbo, 86 GLH Turbo, F 440 Red Devil, and a 68 Merlyn FF at Keno. We have a few records, but am proud of the last event, where we took King & Queen.

Freezeout Hillclimb in Emmett, Idaho is another of our most attended hills. The hill has run from 1967 to present. We started attending in 1982 and were there most years from 82' – 94'. We drove a F440, Colt Turbo, GLH-Turbo, Merlyn FF, Capri Turbo, and a Van Diemen FF-2. I was fortunate to be Queen a few times, again of which I am proud. They have a perpetual trophy and I guess my name is on that a time or two. **We drove that hill 7+ times.** Again, my records for a few years are missing.

Lord Ellis, was a great hillclimb, in the Coast Range of Northern California east of Arcata. Wonderfully fun and challenging, but the deteriorating access road did this hill in. It was run from 1973 -1984. We were fortunate to be **there 6+ times** from 1978 on. I was able to set a hill record (for my class) in my 84 Colt Turbo at the last event in Sept of 1984. We ran a Spitfire, F440, Datsun 2000, Mustang GT, Colt Turbo, and a 79 Capri Turbo.

Mary's Peak Hillclimb, outside of Philomath is another that has come and gone. It ran from 1978-1992. We were there most years, if not running – working. **We did run it 7 times** that I can account for, and Jim and I were King & Queen a few times. Very nice, challenging road, but the tourist traffic wanting to get to the top of Mary's peak became too much to handle and the hill was cancelled. We ran a Mustang GT, Colt Turbo, GLH-Turbo, Merlyn FF, and our Van Diemen at Mary's Peak.

Fish Creek Hillclimb outside of Estacada is one you probably haven't heard of. Run in 1984 and 1989 it was on a Forest Service Road, not too much of a climb in elevation, but fun. The pig roast was something to remember! We ran **both times**, once in our Colt Turbo (which I managed to land upon a hay bale and set it on fire- and once in our Merlyn FF, where we ran under a downed tree and decided to upgrade our roll bars for future events. 😊

Bogus Basin Hillclimb was located in Idaho, on the ski access road to Bogus Basin. Fun, fast road. First run in 1985. We attended that first one, driving our Colt Turbo, then again in 88-89' with our GLH Turbo. A turbo was a definite advantage on hillclimbs, as this was quite a climb. We also drove our Merlyn FF, a Neon, and our Van Diemen until its' demise in 1994. All told, we **drove that hill 7+ times**. I am not sure when the last Bogus was, or if they will ever be able to bring it back.

Honey Lake Hillclimb, outside of Susanville, CA. **ran one year**, in 1986. We drove our GLH Turbo in the one event. It was replaced the next year with Bucks Lake.

Bucks Lake Hillclimb, was near Quincy, CA. It ran **one year only**, 1987. We again ran our GLH-Turbo.

Hoopa Hillclimb is a gorgeous road located in Hoopa, CA on an Indian Reservation. First run in 1986 and last held in 2018 or 2019. It is actually the best road of any hillclimb I ever ran. We ran it the first year and the next three, then 1990-1994 also for a **total of 7+ times** for sure. We were able to snag King and Queen a time or two in our Merlyn FF and our Van Diemen. The most memorable time though, was when we drove our 1986 (new) GLH Turbo down there. We lost a tire out of our tire trailer (we were towing a tiny trailer) somewhere in I-5 on the way down, so we arrived with 3 racing tires. Decided to only run racing tires on one axle, had decent runs. BUT, then at the trophy dinner Sunday eve we unhooked our trailer to move it around in the lot and apparently, we didn't rehook it. A few minutes after leaving and heading north on a winding road, our tire trailer passed us and we proceeded to lose it down an embankment. We were able to salvage one tire of the 3 we had left. Lessons to be learned!!

Onion Mountain outside of Grants Pass ran from 1990-1994. We **ran the hill 3 times** in both our Merlyn and Van Diemen. The road was fairly rough, with a chip seal type surface that wanted to stick to our extremely sticky Avon tires. Seemed to have good grip though. Jim and I are proud of the fact that there are only 3 people in the sub-2 club and we are two of them, along with Cliff Wheeler.

Cascade Lakes near Ashland has run from 1996 to present. We have only **run it one time**, the first year, in our Ralt RT-4. We were able to snag King & Queen. Unfortunately, we have never run it again.

Bible Creek Hillclimb began as a replacement hill to the lost Mary's Peak. It is located on a Forest Service Road outside of Willamina, Oregon. First run in 1995, it has had an on again, off again history these last few years. We have never run that particular hill, but we were the timing crew a time or two.

Lastly, our own beloved **Larison Rock Hillclimb**. Started in 1988 and just finished its' 33rd year. We have attended all, but have not run every year. We have **only run Larison Rock 17 years**..... We have slowed down in recent years to where working it seems to satisfy the itch. But, after this fun year at Larison, there may be another run up it in my future. Maybe, just maybe.

Twelve different hillclimbs we have run. At least 72 separate events....FUN!
Bonnie Mueller