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## AT SPEED

# *Emerald Empire Sports Car Club*

P.O. Box 1204, Eugene, Oregon 97440

[WWW.EESCC.ORG](http://WWW.EESCC.ORG)

May 25<sup>th</sup> 2023

### 2023 EESCC Club Officers

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### **Upcoming EESCC Events**

- MONTHLY MEETING** 7:00 PM June 7<sup>th</sup>  
**Sizzler, Springfield**
- EESCC AUTO-X 3 & 4** June 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
**Hoodoo Ski Area**  
**See Flyer for Full Details**
- LARISON ROCK CLEANUP 9:00AM June 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**At the hill, Outside Oakridge.**
- LARISON ROCK HILLCLIMB July 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Oakridge OR See Flyer for Full Details**

### **CRAP CAN RACING THROUGH THE YEARS!**

**By Jim Mueller, Crew Member Forever**

The first 24 Hours of Lemons Event was held at Altamont Speedway in California in May of 2006. Lorin Mueller and his buds entered an '86 Toyota Tercel lovingly named Terrance the Terrible Tercel... which had an interesting

history which I will not go into here. The early events had a Peoples Curse Award where a vehicle was destroyed after a vote of the competitors. Thankfully this "award" has been dumped into the trash bin of history. The next year Lorin and the crew returned with a high miles POS '83 Celica. It promptly dumped its head gasket. Cedric the Celica was no more.

Lorin and the gang, which now included Bonnie and myself then turned a pretty quick \$200 Sentra SER into a "Japanese Zero" replica. The car went to Thunderhill Raceway where it competed on the two-mile course with about 170 other cars. It expired at a subsequent race with holes in the block in 2009. It's not wise to run an endurance race without occasionally checking your oil. This was the end for Seymour the Sensational Sentra.

Now it was time for Bonnie to enter the fray with Cara the Caravan. Bonnie and Lorin built her from scratch with minimal help from me for the May 2010 Thunderhill Race. (I was buried in tax season.) I of course was there for the

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race! The “Soccer Moms” as we called ourselves became quite well known on the west coast. Not many people expected her to be as fast as she was. Her massive 100 horsepower helped her defeat many surprised competitors despite 180k miles on the engine and the rings in pieces.

Cara subsequently raced at many different tracks on the west coast, including Sonoma, Laguna Seca, Buttonwillow, the Ridge, Portland International Raceway, Oregon Raceway Park and Miller Motorsports Park.

In 2012 and 2013 Lorin added a second car to the team with a 1983 Plymouth Scamp pickup. It used the same 100hp 2.5L engine as Cara as well as many common mechanical parts. It was themed “Hauling Ass” and featured a paper mâché donkey in the bed. We raced both cars at several events together. (Not recommended unless you’re a zookeeper with deep pockets.)

After being bumped to Class B after a Class C win, it was obvious that Cara’s 95 horsepower was not really cutting it anymore. In 2015, we converted her to PT Cruiser power, which netted over 50 more horsepower from the 2.4L DOHC. About this time the theme was changed to Go Van Gogh with new awesome graphics by Bonnie. This powerplant changeover job excluded me as we totaled our Escape on the way down and I spent the next couple of weeks in UC Davis Hospital in Sacramento. The work got done and she was racing in March in Sonoma, where she got a bit of crunched sheet metal. Sonoma seemed to be a curse for us as our last visit there was our first and only engine failure with a “tuned” 2.5L.

We raced her until 2018 when she retired. By this time, she had developed lots of cracks in the chassis and we deemed her unsafe. When she went away, we truly did feel sadness as she was a great competitor.

Now we pulled her heart out and put it in the Scamp so it and her could live again. We have won several races with the Caravan and the Scamp.

These included races with our great sponsor, **LUCKY DOG RACING**, also.

Our next event will be in October at the Ridge in the Scamp. Our driver lineup will consist of several of our club hot shoes, all ladies, Bonnie Mueller, Jennifer Mueller, Jamie Black, Jennifer Ocker and Dainelle Kober! Competition beware!

So, if you’re not doing anything, come on up to the Ridge Raceway in Shelton, Washington