



# AT SPEED

## *Emerald Empire Sports Car Club*

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

March 15, 2006

### 2006 EESCC Club Officers

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<b>Chief of Timing</b>	<b>Tim Steck</b> Email: <a href="mailto:ChiefofTiming@eescc.org">ChiefofTiming@eescc.org</a>

### Upcoming EESCC Events

<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of each month</b> <b>7 :00pm Track Town Pizza, 2454 10<sup>th</sup> St.</b> <b>Springfield, OR-10<sup>th</sup> &amp; Hayden Br. Rd.</b>
<b>Test &amp; Tune Autocross</b>	<b>April 1st</b> <b>Valley River Center</b> <b>See enclosed flyer &amp; website</b>
<b>Autocross Series Events 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>April 8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 9<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Coca Cola, Chad Drive</b> <b>See Flyer Enclosed</b>

### **2005 Series Trophies!**

If you haven't picked up all your trophies from last year, they will be available at the 1<sup>st</sup> series event. After that they will be sold.

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### **\*\*\*TEST & TUNE\*\*\***

The event is now at **Valley River Center!** As always, you must pre-register! **Please read the enclosed flyer carefully.** No registrations before 9:00 am March 18<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot make the event after you register, please contact Bren. You cannot give your spot to your friend. It will go to the next person on the waiting list.

### **NEXT MEETING AT TRACK TOWN** **IN SPRINGFIELD!**

Our next club meeting will be at Track Town Pizza at 10<sup>th</sup> & Hayden Bridge Rd. in Springfield. This is on a trial basis. If it works out this will become our new permanent location. Check next month's newsletter for May's location.

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## Ramblings of a Conehead

Tick...toc...tick...toc....tick....toc

Ringggg.... Ringggg..... No need for the snooze button today. We are going autocrossing!!!. Quick, get up. No time to lose. Is the car clean enough? Does not matter, no time to clean it any better anyway. Are the tires loaded? Yes! Is the jack loaded? Yes. Are the car numbers loaded? Yep. So excited! Too much to do. What next? Oh no, should have checked tire pressures. All tires out of the car, good thing, 2 of them are low. Now what is next, where's my helmet? Why didn't I do some of this last night? It's soooo cold out here. Good, found the helmet. Oh no, I forgot to charge the impact wrench battery. Quick, plug it in for a charge. Hope it will be charged enough. Must get to the event, I am ready to get to the first event of the year!!!!

But I must take it slow for I do not want or need to have a chat with Oregon's finest!

Finally I arrive. Oh good, there is a parking spot. Quick, time to change tires so we can check in and walk the course. Pull everything out of the car, jack it up. Where did I put the lug nut lock? Oh, there it is underneath all my stuff. Got the wrench out and start taking off the lug nuts. Here we go on a rabbit trail. Why do they call them lug nuts? Should wheels be called lugs? Mag lugs instead of mag wheels? Instead of steering wheel should it be steering lug? OK, mind is starting to wander. What about shocks? I have never even felt a tingle when I touch them. You would think they should be hooked up to the ignition system. Whooooo, stop it! Focus on the task at hand. Finally finished changing the tires and now it is time to check in and walk the course.

Ok, all checked in. I have a map and, now we are walking the course. Focus, focus, focus. I wonder if anyone would notice if some cones got super glued to the asphalt? Stop it!!! Focus, focus, focus. Relax, check out the corners. Where are the brake points and turn in points. So excited that I find it hard to focus. I walked the course 2-3 times and I think I know it well enough not to get lost.

OK, now we need to get the car thru tech. Everything checks out ok and we are ready. There are 15 minutes to the driver meeting, which leaves enough time for one more course walk. I want to get that one tricky part in my head. I hope I remember the course.

"Everyone to the drivers meeting" is heard over the loud speaker. OHHHH boy, now we are getting close. The first run group people are headed for their cars and starting to get lined up for grid. Get to grid! Now is when the mind really starts playing with me. Are the

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Continued from left side

wheels tight? I mean lugs. Are the tires in their proper spot? Do they have the right pressure? I hope I get that tricky part right. The first car is out on course.

Now we are at the start line. Ready to go, helmet on, traction control off and the mind focused. Off we go. Everything feels good. Get to the tricky part and all of a sudden the autocross aerodynamics kick in. I know almost all of you who have autocrossed before have experienced this phenomenon. Let me explain what is happening to others who do not know. When a car brakes and turns into a corner at the same time the front end of the car generates a vortex. This vortex generates a low-pressure area that immediately sucks a cone under one of the tires. Now I know some of you will not believe this, but let tell you it is true. I have felt it several times and have seen it happen to others often. I have even read about it in the Readers Digest. If you don't believe me, just ask Jason or Jerry because it seems Camaros are more prone to this than other cars.

Ok, now the first run is over and the butterflies have flown away. The next runs get easier and I feel more relaxed and comfortable. I am one with the car. Before I know it we are done.

Autocrossing is a great way to spend a day. It is fun to see everyone enjoying themselves and being together.

Icebreaker will be a memory by the time you read this and hope everyone had a safe and fast time!

See ya next time at the finish cones.

Mike Sharp

