



AT SPEED

Emerald Empire Sports Car Club

P.O. Box 1204, Eugene, Oregon 97440

Email: President@eescc.org

WWW.EESCC.ORG

January 29, 2021

2021 EESCC Club Officers

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
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| Treasurer | Jim Mueller Email: Treasurer@eescc.org |
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| Chief Safety Steward | Keith Olsen Email: SafetySteward@eescc.org |
| Chief of Timing | Tim Steck Email: ChiefofTiming@eescc.org |

Upcoming EESCC Events

MONTHLY MEETING 6:30 PM Feb 3rd h

**Please go to the Website for the Location
It will be online for sure**

**ICEBREAKER AUTOCROSS March 7th
Valley River Center**

**Please be aware that due to covid restrictions
this event is NOT a certainty. Check the
website for updates.**

**ADOPT A HWY CLEANUP 9:00 AM Apr 10th
Meet at the Gas Station Near Milepost 3
Highway 58**

Autocrosses 2021

Please be aware that this season, especially earlier in the year, is very much up in the air. As of now it is not feasible to host an autocross due to the State of Oregon's restrictions. We are hoping that they will be

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2021 EESCC Autocross Series Sponsor



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relaxed sometime soon., and allow our events. We ask for your patience.

Twas the Night Before Race Day

By Lorin Wamsley

Twas the night before race day, and all through the shop, The activity was teeming and could not stop; The owner had finally gotten off the dime, And hoped that the car would be finished

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on time.

There were car parts and tools all strewn about,
And the location of any was always in doubt;
Oil jugs and spray cans of all sizes and shapes,
And various rolls of various tapes;
There's hoses and brake lines and wires of all
sorts, And the short ones are too long and the
long ones too short; The wrenches within reach
are all the wrong size, and that "one size fits all"
thing, doesn't, That's no Surprise!

The work continues well into the night, When
the racer panics with a terrible fright! He's all on
his own with nowhere to go, Cuz the parts store
closed an hour ago.

He'll rely on the accuracy of that specialty kit,
And hope and pray that it will all fit, He tries it
this way, then that way, then ponders a bit, But
alas, we could have guessed, it just fidn't dit.
So out comes the hammer, the grinder, and drill;
Getting it together is done by sheer will. Put that
over there, and this over here, Then stop for a
minute to finish a beer.

The noise is horrendous and the neighbors are
pissed, Thing aren't going well and he's
pounding his fist; He'd like to give up, but
knows that can't be, He runs in the morning and
prepaid the fee.

He spent all that money for new tires and
brakes, So not getting it running would be a
mistake; Maybe an injector, a valve, or a wire,
or Maybe he could just set the whole thing on
fire.

The insurance would cover most of his cost,
And a non-running car isn't much of a loss;
Other ideas go through his head, Like taking up
basket weaving instead. But alas he's a racer and
pride plays a part, So come hell or high water
the damn thing will start. So, he tries what he
tried and then tries it again, and lo and behold
the crank starts to spin. The sound is like music
from Carnegie Hall, With the exhaust resonating
off all the garage walls. He tunes it and tinkers

with a smile on his face, knowing full well he's ready
to race.

Now he knows what we knew to always be true,
There are certain things that we racer must do. The
right combination of swearing and sweat, And blood
from the knuckles, and way too much debt, Will get
the results that racers strive for, A sweet running
engine and traction galore.

After many long hours at this common quest, He's
thinking it's time for some much needed rest. But
after a last sip from a cold coffee cup He exclaims
rather loudly "Oh Crap, the sun's coming up"!!

Our Early Days of Autocrossing by Jim Mueller

I'm going to attempt to go back into those unused
portions of my mind and try to give you an idea of
what autocrossing was like in the early seventies.

Then as now, sites were hard to get, but people were
more tolerant of noise and automobiles. My first
event was the 1972 Plaza II autocross at the Shasta
Plaza in Klamath Falls, Oregon. I drove a 1969
Mustang Fastback with a 305 V8 and an automatic. I
have no idea how I placed, but I loved it.

My next event was the 1972 Chargers autocross, at
the same site. Little did I know, Bonnie Bergstrom
was participating in her new 1972 Pinto 2-liter
hatchback. I don't remember how either of us did. I
didn't even know who Bonnie was.

Well later that summer I did meet Bonnie, and
because our club, Sports and Imports of Klamath
Falls was going to Eureka, California for an event,
she asked if she could tag along. Of course, I said
yes. They had a great site, Somoa airport, which they
still use. I actually drove Dan McKennie's Gremlin
X, which was a V8

powered beast. That car would smoke my Mustang and outhandle it as well.

This was actually Bonnie and I's first date. (I guess that worked out!) Winter came and went and the next spring we started racing again. I traded in the Mustang for a Ford Courier pickup, because I knew in June I would be marrying Bonnie with her Pinto.

We were always looking for more sites. We had one site that wrapped around Payless Drug Store. Part of the course was on one side, and the delivery access road connected it to the other side. Not super safe, but we had no problems. The stores even remained open for business!

Another site was the snowmobile parking lot near Lake of The Woods. Small but it did have some nice drop offs on three sides.

Then in 1974 something wonderful happened. Jackson County built a sports park, which included the go kart track that they still use today. We were at the first event there. The pits were on the opposite side towards the hill. We had a barbeque and slept in our sleeping bags on the ground. (Although if I had known there were rattlesnakes, that would not have been an option.)

I graduated in 1973, but Bonnie was going to college at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, but being frugal with our money(not) we bought a 1974 Porsche 914 in 1975. We autocrossed it for a few years. In one of my great regrets, we traded it in on a Honda Civic to go road racing.

Bonnie graduated (during the ceremony the Blazers won the championship.) and we moved to Eugene to continue our saga with Via Curris, now Emerald Empire Sports car club, but that is a story for another time.