



AT SPEED

Emerald Empire Sports Car Club

P.O. Box 1204 Eugene, Oregon 97440

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WWW.EESCC.ORG

February 9th, 2005

2005 EESCC Club Officers

President	Jerry Braunberger Email: President@eescc.org
Vice-President	Lorin Wamsley Email: VicePresident@eescc.org
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Secretary	Bren Wamsley Email: Secretary@eescc.org
Chief of Registration	Bonnie Mueller Email: Registrar@eescc.org
Chief Safety Steward	Ruben Cruz Email: SafetySteward@eescc.org
Chief of Timing	Tim Steck Email: ChiefofTiming@eescc.org

Upcoming EESCC Events

Monthly Meeting	1st Wed. of each month Time: 7:00pm Location: The Mission Restaurant Franklin Blvd. & Patterson, Eugene, Or
Winter Nationals Pinewood Derby	Feb.26 225 East 4 th , Mueller's Office See Flyer attached
Icebreaker XXXIX	March 6 Valley River Shopping Center See Flyer Attached
Test and Tune	March 26 Lane Community College Info at Icebreaker and on The Website

Other Events per Schedule Attached

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- And much, much more!!

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Autocross Past and Present

I started autocrossing around 1973. My friend, Steve and I joined a car club and we went RACING! The only problem was that Steve's car was a beat up 1965 Corvair and my car was a 1972 Vega. For those of you that don't know anything about Vega's, lets just say that most of them (including mine) used more oil than gas. GM did agree to fix my car and my brother and I towed the car to the dealer with a garden hose to get a new engine, but that's another story.

Steve and I wanted to fix up our cars so that we could win! We were so naïve. I cut the springs on the Vega

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An Anxious Autocrosser

How about the 2005 Ford Mustang? Like everybody else, I see it as a step forward for Ford. Now that I've broken the ice, I think it's time to talk about how much less there is to do in the winter. I guess the days are starting to get longer, but we've still got a good three months of cold and rain before we hit spring.

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about 2", put disc brakes on the rear, installed a positraction differential, installed sway bars, put a huge cam in it and got some special TRW 12.5 to 1 pistons. I ran some Michelin tires and I just knew I was going to clean up. Bubble burst time! There was a guy with an Opal Manta in the class I was running that was bone stock but he had racing tires. When he ran the course he was so smooth that he looked slow. I was amazed that he could beat me! After all I had all the trick stuff. That has taught me a valuable lesson that I still adhere to today, it is better to improve your skills and technique than to throw parts at your car (cheaper too).

I had great times in the Vega and Steve's Corvair. Steve wanted to lower the Corvair and since we always lowered our cars by cutting the springs (no money for race springs) he asked me how much he should cut them. I jokingly told him he should probably cut them in half. He took me seriously and proceeded to have the lowest Corvair anywhere. I don't think the springs were even compressed; the car rode like it was always on the bump stops.

Started autocrossing again at the end of 2003. Robert, my son, told me that there was an autocross at Valley River, I went and was hooked again! It had probably been 15 years or so since the last time I autocrossed. I got some autocross tires the beginning of 2004 and had an absolutely great time. It sure seems like the street tires of today are better than the race tires that were being used in the 70's.

It has been a great joy watching my sons and their friends make their own stories. They are learning so fast. They are getting so smooth and fast that I worry about next year. Especially Tom, he wants to do a better time every run, and usually does. I am so proud. One of the best things I have noticed this past year is the many families involved in the club. What a neat thing watching parents and their kid's autocrossing together and having a great time, too. I know I appreciate the time the boys and I share autocrossing. Now all I have to do is get my wife and daughters out there, with the latter probably being a whole lot easier.

Mike Sharp

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Next month is Icebreaker, I think (and hope), which will be a blast this year. Last years Icebreaker was my first autocross ever. I learned a lot in that race, including how to beat my dad, and it's a nice way to kick off the season. Last season the event was held at Valley River Center and we'll be using the same venue this year.

I've been staying busy with the help of my Playstation 2, and Need For Speed Underground 2. I've been working a lot of hours lately too. I don't try to think about that though. I just started driving my latest vehicle, a 1976 GMC 3/4 ton, 4 wheel drive with a four speed. It's nice for bangin' the gears.

I've been hoping to get a little better when it comes to controlling the car. I know I can cut if I brake later, and if I work corners more smoothly it would also help. I have watched a few of my runs from last year's events on video. It's always fun though.

I have told a few people my age about autocrossing since I've started, but I never invited any of them to come and try it out. The nice thing about it is you don't have to be rich to be competitive, if you have a solid car; it comes down to the driver. Sure you might not run as fast in an 85 Celica with no suspension mods, but a little work can bring big results.

Today is the last day of football for around 7 months, and it's Philadelphia facing the boring Patriots. I'm rooting for the Eagles by all means. It should be a good game. To the best goes all the splendors.

I'm going to have to end it at that for this article. I'm finishing it on the 6th and it was due on the 4th so I might be aggravating somebody. Procrastination is my thing, what can I say? Have a nice month.

Tom Sharp