



AT SPEED

Emerald Empire Sports Car Club

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April 28TH, 2010

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Upcoming EESCC Events

Monthly Meeting:	May 5th 7:00pm the Sizzler Postal Way and Gateway, Springfield
2010 Series, #3 & 4	June 5^h and 6th 90855 Roberts Rd Flyer Enclosed
Larison Rock Hillclimb	July 3rd and 4th Larison Rock Rd. Oakridge OR

El Toro Pro Solo 2010

Finally, I get to race. April 15th came on a Thursday, and I was on a plane Friday Morning to El Toro, a former Marine air base in Irvine California. Bonnie had left a day earlier to tow the car there. She picked up Lorin Mueller and Jen Pereira in the Bay Area on her way south.

They got to the venue a couple of hours before me, having survived the Bay Area, and LA traffic.

They did a few practice starts to get the rust off and then picked me up at John Wayne International.

For those of you who don't know much about a Pro Solo, let me give you a brief summary. First you don't have to be a "pro", and I'm the obvious example of that!

There are two "mirrored" courses, and they both start next to each other with a drag racing style Christmas tree between them. The starts are controlled by the tree, and the time starts when the green light comes on, so you want to be at the leaving so that you get to the start beam right as the light turns green, too soon and you get a red light and a DNF, and too late, you leave too much time "at the tree". A perfect light is .500, a great light is anything under .600 and a good light is anything under .800. Bonnie is really good at starts, she had 9 lights under .599 and 3 a little bit over .700.

So you launch, and after about 120' feed you go off onto your separate course. You get twelve runs over a day and an half, six on each side. The best two runs are added together for your total time. It is really an adrenaline rush. You do 4 runs at a time, very close to back to back, two on a side.

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These were long runs for a pro and it turned into a pretty good cardio workout!

Like any autocross there is a good cross section of drivers, but pros tend to have a lot more quality drivers than other events. You get to meet a lot of drivers from all over the country. The HS winner was from Newburgh, NY, and there were drivers from Colorado, Canada, and Texas for example. We meet a lot of really friendly people at these events. But you don't have to be afraid to enter one of these events. Sean Mueller's first autocross ever was a pro solo when he was 14.

There is one coming to Wendover, Utah, May 22nd and one at Packwood Washington, July 31st.

The weather was wonderful and the racing was great. The courses were a good combination of technical and fast.

Now about the Just Ducky Race Team: Bonnie and Jen were in Ladies 2, which is a combination of the faster classes, and it is a pax class, where the competition is paxed to equalize the competition. There were 11 in the class. Anyway she ended up in third, just .209 out of second. But this qualified her for the Ladies challenge, against the top 8 women drivers. She went out in the first round, and the challenge was won by Christine Berry, who Bonnie always seems to be paired up against. Bonnie's co driver, Jen ended up in 10th in her first Pro, and showed a lot of speed in her later runs.

Lorin and I were in FSP, and Lorin took first and I ended up in 4th. Lorin's time was almost 2 seconds faster than the second place driver and qualified him for 3rd best qualifier for the Super Challenge, good for a \$100.

The Gumout Super Challenge is a competition that pits the top 32 drivers (out of 216 this event.) Lorin was paired up against Stephen Yeoh in the first round. The drivers have a staggered start where you launch start based up the times of your class winner. You get one run on each side with the fastest overall time the winner of the round. Anyway Lorin won the first round, and then the second round against Ken Motonishi, and then the third round against Kinch Reindl. I'm going to let SCCA Media Services tell what happened next.

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El Toro Pro (continued)

“The Gumout Super Challenge paired Wong vs. D Street Prepared winner Brian Peters (2003 BMW 330i) in one semi-final, and F Street Prepared champ Mueller (2003 Ford Focus) and Super Stock winner and venerable ProSoloist Gary Thomason (2004 Porsche GT3) in the second semi-final.

Mueller edged Thomason in the first semi, and would face Peters in the final after an anxious Wong jumped the start to red light the win away.

In the finals, Mueller edged Peters to the stripe in the first round by 0.3-second on time. Peters clipped a series of cones at the finish gate, however, to add an additional 12 seconds to the lead. The large gap essentially allowed Mueller to take his first Gumout Super Challenge win with a victory lap on his final run.”

As you might guess Bonnie, Jen and I were super excited. It is really hard to win these challenges. Plus it meant 4 more Hoosier tires in addition to the 2 he already won for the class win. With the price of tires, this is about \$1600 he just saved me. In addition he won \$400 for himself.

If you haven't done a pro, please consider either Wendover or Packwood. Just be warned, it is addictive. If you want to try a more low key Pro style event, There is a regional one at Packwood this Saturday, and another one Saturday June 26th.

Jim Mueller

NEW SITE FOR THE NEXT AUTOCROSS!

Our next event will be at the old Guaranty RV I-5 Lot at 90855 Roberts Rd. Take the Coburg Exit #199 off of I-5, head west and then turn south onto the first road which is Roberts. Proceed to the site 4 tenths of a mile. You can see the lot from I-5.

There is lots of asphalt here. It will be a great site. See your there!