

## 2022 Here We Come

By Mike Glass

Well, another season has closed, and we are now post banquet, so things have settled down to the point where it is possible to sit down and write a bit about the past season and perhaps a few other things...

As everyone knows 2021 was a ridiculous year (as opposed to 2020 which was a truly crappy year!) and it currently looks as though 2022 will be similar, at least the first part of it. The virus situation has further complicated the planning and organization of events for many of the regions auto clubs and appears to have brought a substantial growth period to a close with lower participation levels for the first time in several years. We witnessed the destruction of several vehicles belonging to folks in our circle and endured various weather-related adventures, like the first event after changing to full slicks taking place in near freezing temps. With the added features of snow, hail and rain! Weather also necessitated the cancellation of one of our favorite Hillclimb's in the area. Was it all 'doom and gloom' though? Well, did we have fun? Heck yeah!!!

We all got to participate in a full season of events in our cars thanks to the work of those behind the scenes that continue to run some of the best, most sorted events in the region. Most of us know who these people are, so I won't try to name everyone here, but we all owe these people more than an entry fee for what they help us do, so next time around, pitch in and help!

So, let's talk about some new adventures! Did you know that EESCC has a road rally? Many people are unaware of the existence of this particular type of fun with cars and it is a great way to put your brain to use while enjoying a fabulous country drive! Put simply, these events consist of a wonderful drive on country roads with the route determined by a set of instructions which must be interpreted according to a set of rules. The object of this exercise is to arrive at a certain point at a certain time without knowing where you're going or when you are supposed to be there!! Great fun and a great excuse to go for a drive! Look for this event in the spring...

Another way to enjoy your drive time, especially your fast drive time, is to consider entering a Hillclimb! EESCC runs one of the oldest continuously held Hillclimb events in the country! The Larison Rock Hillclimb is Emerald's own, thanks to the work of Bonnie and Jim Mueller along with a crew of dedicated volunteers. This event is what we usually only dream about...screaming up a country road as fast as you please with no worries about oncoming traffic! This opportunity only comes along a few times a year in the region and does require a bit of travel to run more events, but the fun level is much higher than many other speed events! Also true is that the level of risk is higher than both autocross and even many track events, so a higher level of safety equipment is required unless you are driving a true street car. Speeds are lower than most track events, as is the cost of entry. These events are usually attended by only a small portion of a club's driver/members with EESCC member participation perhaps the highest with roughly a dozen competitors in area events. The point here is that there is plenty of room and these events are available to everyone, as an entry or as a volunteer so please consider giving it a try...the 2022 season will be upon us before anyone is ready, so we'll see you soon!!