

A Very Belated Thank-You

This year, on May 18th and 19th, EESCC once again sponsored an Evolution High Performance Driving School, and I am mortified that I haven't taken the time to recap the event and extend my thanks to the folks who helped make it possible until now...

We were back at Sanderson Field in Shelton, Washington. Three instructors were from previous years... Tom Kotzian, who has been with us every year, Danny Gross, and Brian Flanagan, who had been with us for the past two years, and Doug Rowse, who joined us for the first time this year. The instructor team was excellent and did a wonderful job of meeting each driver where they were and helping them move forward.

This was my third year participating in the school, and it was the magic "third time is a charm" experience! Had I heard the instructions and participated in the exercises in previous years? Yes! But this time, I FINALLY internalized the concept of "looking ahead" ... in a way that made me realize that you are doing so much more than LOOKING ahead...more to the point, you are PLANNING where to put the car and getting the job done efficiently so driving faster and more accurately is much more likely to occur. Of course, every driver came to their own personal learning points...such is the beauty of Evo, and it is why I will continue to encourage anyone interested in improving their driving skills to consider participating in one of our schools. No matter what your current level of experience and skill may be, you will come away with information and skills that will make a difference in your driving. We had a mix of students of varying experience levels, as usual, and a mix of students who were taking the school for the first time, along with those of us who had taken the school twice, or even three times. We enjoyed great weather for the most part, with one rather exciting exception. The short version is: nice, warm day, nice, warm pavement, sudden downpour of drenching rain, rising steam creating a thick fog bank that basically obscured the course for several runs... this was one time when looking ahead didn't really help that much! We just kept on driving! The rain stopped, the air cleared, and we all had a good laugh!

Every year that we have run the school I have had a list of folks to thank, and this year is no exception. The difference was that there were fewer club members who were actually attending the school, so I had fewer people to lean on as I was planning the event. Fortunately, several members stepped up to help... and I am forever in their debt... I had been cruising along on autopilot, doing what I usually do to get the event going, and hadn't really thought about the logistics of how the days would go when we were actually on site. Fortunately, Bonnie Mueller and Licia Schultz knew I would need a staff up there to run the event, and said they would join me! Whew! Alan Bowers and Dana Zimmer also donated their time and expertise, and Mary Richardson not only decided to participate, but hauled up our pop-ups and other necessary items, so we were able to put on an excellent event once again. BIG THANK YOU to Bonnie, Licia, Alan, Dana and Mary! I also want to thank two organizations who help us with equipment and support. Like last year, the Washington Viper Club provided us with fire extinguishers, cones, and flags, and the Boeing Employees Autosports Club provided us with the timing equipment. This is the second year these groups have helped us out, and we are fortunate to have their support!

I am already looking ahead to next year's school. Please stay tuned for information about participating, as well as an invitation to come up to help us continue to provide this valuable learning experience.

Paula