



Photos by Keith Brown

Northwest Region autocrossers Tim Irwin, Karl Coleman and Amy Olson and Oregon Region autocrossers Andy Howe, Michael Gatza and Van Havig walk the lawn at Knights Rest on the Cowlitz River near Packwood. Only one building, the garage behind the group, remained standing.

Autocrossers offer flood relief

Local contingent helps in hard-hit Cowlitz County

NORTHWEST SPORTS CAR NEWS STAFF REPORT

Sixteen people from the Northwest autocross community, including the Northwest Region, Oregon Region and Sand and Sage Sports Car Club, went to flood-damaged Packwood on Nov. 18 and 19 and helped Cowlitz River valley residents with clean-up efforts in the wake of record flooding on Nov. 7.

From Drew Hanft: “Four of us ended up in Randall helping people transport ruined items to the dump in

Morton. We hooked up with one of the locals who use to be a firefighter, and was out helping people. He had a truck with a 20-foot flatbed that we were loading stuff onto. In the truck bed, we put recyclable metals. The money for that was going to go to a local children’s charity.

“Anyways, we ended up moving about four tons of material. One load alone was just this nasty, soggy insulation. It’s surprising how heavy insulation and carpet get when they get soaked. One item we were asked to move was a charcoal grill. It wasn’t too big but it was really heavy for some reason. Finally, someone pulled the top and found that it was full of silty mud. I’m amazed that it stayed around the house.

“It was pretty unreal to see where the water level reached on some houses. We talked to one lady who had been

trapped on the second floor of her house and the rescue guys and to drive a boat up to her front door to get to her and her family.

“We also talked to another family that said the water raised from just below the garage to cover it in about 20 minutes. Once the water receded, they had to use a ladder and sled to create a ramp to move insulation from under their house.

“I’m glad to have been able to say I helped in some way, but those families have a lot more work ahead of them. I’m also glad that our club had people willing to go and help out how they could.”

From Keith Brown: “At the end of the day we stopped by Knights Rest, a cabin on the Cowlitz that a few of us rented this summer. All that is left is the front porch. The two cabins next door were also swallowed by the river. Judging by the debris, the houses were