



The best winter I ever spent was an April weekend in Packwood

STORY BY BRIANNE GREEN
PHOTOS BY SEAN GREEN
Contributing Editors

PACKWOOD — Yes, it seemed that Mother Nature never bothered to flip her calendar over to April this year, and the hardcore Soloists felt every bit of the oversight.

As the days counted down to the Tight-N-Tidy Regional Pro Solo (No. 1) and the Fordahl Motorsports Championship Series (No. 2) in scenic Packwood, the autocrossing e-mail list was abuzz with doomsday weather predictions. Had we ever canceled an event due to snow? We never have, and we

weren't about to start now.

Most who were running in the Tight-N-Tidy Pro would arrive in town on Friday night, and sure enough, on awakening we were greeted with a blanket of 2 to 3 inches of snow throughout the Packwood area, everywhere except on pavement. The streets were clear, sidewalks were clear, and most importantly to autocrossers, the parking lots were clear! Event Chair Jerry Lamb said we were "go" for an event, hooray! Quickly, the competitors began walking the fun mirror-image courses, laid out the night before by Bud Bohrer.

There was a shortened registration period for the Pro, due to needing to

find out who showed up before assigning run groups. Combine that with trying to balance multi-driver cars, knowing who had Ladies' class drivers as well as co-drivers in the open class, well, I didn't envy worker chiefs Keith and Kristi Brown at all. They did a marvelous job splitting the small turnout into two very well-balanced groups.

I also want to commend whoever made the decision to put our grid indoors. Yes, I'll say it again, that lovely covered parking at Packwood was large enough to accommodate an INDOOR grid.

The weather did in fact play a large role in the day's festivities. Flurries gave