



## April Newsletter 2007

On March 31, 2007 the ACCO gathered at the Deschutes Fairgrounds to show the young drivers of Central Oregon a thing or two about driving cars in unsafe conditions. In a circle of elders and young they walked and plotted the course. Jack Gassaway was showering the ground with what appeared to be a fire hose. I was quite surprised that Jack didn't look like a cartoon character flying around in the air holding onto for dear life.

I stood there in bewilderment at all the positive possibilities of what was going on. Teaching young driver's how to drive. The way I saw it, it was an advanced driving education class. As I stood there I noticed a reporter from our local newspaper, mothers, fathers, and three beautiful Porsches.

I walked to the registration area to sign my name on the dotted line. There was a gentleman sitting there and I wanted to get another's thoughts on this whole thing. I grabbed a plastic chair and sat next to him.

His name was Thomas Robertson. As luck would have it he had all the answers that I needed. He was one of the sponsors for the TEEN SMART program. It turns out that not only the ACCO boys and girls are on the list for helping out on this one. There are the people from Carrera Motors, and the Central Oregon Porsche Club, which both are donating their time. It also turns out that the Bend Police department will be participating in teaching young drivers the consequences for driving unsafely. Such as driving under the influence, or just doing plane old stupid things behind the wheel.



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In talking to Thomas we discussed the finer points of teaching the youth of today how to drive in unsafe conditions properly.

He thought "Seeing how Central Oregon has some slick roads for to up nine months out of the year it would be a good idea to give them the basic know-how if they where to ever get thrown into a dangers skid drivers", and trust me young drivers I've been there and its not to much fun.

It was noon and time to move the young drivers and instructors to the dry course. I thanked Thomas for the great input and walked to the other side.



As I was taking my walk to the dry course I noticed a lady standing and watching one of the drivers fairly intently. She was watching her son in that car and he seemed to be doing fairly well on the course.



Her name was Lee Karuse, mother of Chris Karuse a local student from Bend, Oregon. This was perfect. I truly needed to talk to a parent of one of the young drivers involved in the program.

I asked her what her opinion on this program was. She was very enthusiastic about the whole thing.

“I believe giving these kids a chance to drive in unsafe conditions with instructors is a great idea. As we all know young drivers don’t listen to their parents for about 99% of the time. So putting them in a car with an instructor that knows how to drive in darn near any

conditions will help not only the young drivers, but help parents feel safer about their kids driving around without their parent or guardian in the vehicle with them.” Mrs. Karuse said.

I asked her what her feelings about the police getting involved with this program were.

“Any way we can scare or keep our young drivers away from driving under the influence is a great idea.” She said.

All signs in the short but sweet interviews point towards a great thing happening for parents and their young drivers.

The first “Teen Smart” advanced drivers training will be held on May 19, 2007 at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center parking lot “A”.

