

# The Wishbone Alley Gazette

September, 2011 *Rainier Auto Sports Club*

## Rally News

\* HOD (August 6-7) by Jim Breazeale

The WCRA's 2011 edition of the Heart of Darkness rally started with a modest field of 10 entries in Hope, B.C. on a fine August Saturday evening with FCO at 9:30 pm. The course ran 5 scored sections, with a mid point break in Merritt, B.C. on a mix of familiar TSD and stage roads, with the survivors finishing on Sunday morning back in Hope.

New Rally Master Jeremy Baxter did a great job, assisted by the usual cast of experienced checkpoint worker crews. The evening started out with a brisk and rather rough run down Britton Creek with the first couple of cars enjoying a clear run while the rest of the pack wallowed in the hanging dust. Seemingly familiar roads like Missezula and Brookmere were a true test in the dark and dust with Brookmere being rough enough to wreak havoc on several oil pans. Relishing the memories of her spirited drive on No Alibi, Lada Gorlenko cracked the sump on her red VW Beetle. She withdrew from competition at the mid point break in Merritt. The checkpoint worker's VW Jetta fared worse, shattering its sump and offering dust mitigation for about 100 meters until the oil ran out.

After the caffeine and junk food break the run back to Hope took us down Otter Creek with little dust and under starry skies. The final section down Lawless Creek was run as the sun rose. A final transit back into to Hope to Prolly's Restaurant, whose staff were gracious enough to let us monopolize their parking lot for both the start and finish and put up with us.

Scoring went quick enough and lovely etched beer glasses were awarded. RASC members swept the podium with Marinus and Renee Damm 1st over all and 1st in Historic driving the mighty Ur Quattro with a score of 7. Max Vaysburd and Marvin Crippen finished 2nd overall and 1st in unlimited with a score of 8. Steve Perret and Kathryn Hansen were 3rd overall and 2nd in Unlimited with a 29. Finishing 4th overall and 2nd in Historic were Gary Webb, who flew up from Arizona, with Jim Breazeale navigating. All who attended said they had a good time and would love to do it again. Heart of Darkness replaced the cancelled Road Not Taken rally on the Pacific Coast Challenge series.

\* 2012 Alcan (Feb. 23>March 2). *February 23 - March 2, "Dawson, Tuktoyaktuk and Valdez!"*  
<http://www.alcan5000.com/>

\* Nor'Wester 2012 -- Course Survey, by Ron Sorem

*In a Galaxie far, far, away... Actually it was an Edsel in Winchester Idaho, but that's another story.*

The original 1967 Jack Deno Nor'Wester was "basically an event incorporating long distance touring, closed sections and navigational sections". It left Bellevue on Saturday Sept 2, crossed Snoqualmie, climbed and dropped, passed Cle Elum, Teanaway, Red Top, and Blewett to overnight in Wenatchee. Returned over Blewett on Sunday to Lauderdale Jct., Bettas, Hayward Hill, brushed up to Thorp, jogged a bit getting to Ellensburg and back into the woods for a remote Ellensburg Pass run to Yakima, then Pasco and on to Pomeroy and Clarkston, with an overnight in Coeur d'Alene. Day Three, Labor Day, ran through north central Washington to finish in Wenatchee. The rally was listed as approximately 1000 miles, with 70% paved and 30% "good to excellent dirt and gravel".

The 30th Anniversary 1997 Jerry Hines Nor'Wester faithfully re-traced those routes, followed as closely as Roy Ward could duplicate the roads, some of which had just disappeared. Bellevue to Clarkston to Coeur d'Alene to Wenatchee in three days.

In 2004 Jerry expressed an interest to do another Nor'Wester, for 2005, going north. Ron passed along several drafts of segments from Kirkland to Williams Lake -- some worked, some surveyed out too rough this time... Williams Lake to Bella Coola became a course survey for Alcan roads.

In early 2006 the club expressed an interest in a 2007, 40-year Anniversary Nor'Wester. Ron did extensive Blue Mountains survey for that -- then support fell away.

Early this year Roy Ward proposed a 45th Anniversary Nor'Wester for 2012. The route, starting in Ellensburg, will be cut to two days not three. This will be a tribute to the endurance TSD rallies of the 60's and 70's, with long TSD sections -- twisting enjoyable pavement and certainly lots of gravel... The Blue Mountains survey work, from 2006, with side trips while returning from the Idaho Rally in 2009 and 2011, have been incorporated.

Sections of 1967 and 1997 have been over-laid with some newer roads on the way to an overnight in Lewiston, Idaho. Some of the collaboration of Roy & Mark, then Roy & Kirk, will be apparent, but not identical. Survey of the new sections has been a grin -- ask Diamond Jim. The roads are great, if anything a burden of riches -- we may need to

streamline, or as Satch might say: "Just raise the CAST".

Oregon brought surprises -- the connector through the Blue Mountains is part gravel freeway, with a section of "backroad" -- smooth enough, narrow enough, more than scenic enough, with an appropriate CAST for the occasional waterbar or pothole. RASC's 1995 Evergreen State 1000 found this same "only" route.

We've had great club discussions around satellite maps versus paper maps -- and missing bridges or locked gates. Aerial imagery doesn't show the newly lowered speed limit to account for years of residential growth. "Road Closed" signs for bridges and gates presented a couple of challenges to the route.

Idaho brought some cuts from 1967 and 1997 routes and stitching together shorter yet challenging sections of gravel brought more surprises -- pavement or low limits replaced higher CASTs on the old gravel. Running through the draft version, we found reason to reject, review, and revise, with some found pleasantries -- a more compact route with less pavement and more gravel. Hillelimbs and drops, at prudent yet challenging CASTs, within political limits, will keep steering loose and brakes warm. Views (if you dare) are spectacular. We did find "no left turn" and "Speed Limit 20" spots to reject. Brief local inquiries brought new grades and exposures -- deemed locally "horrible" and translated to rally-speak as "SWEET"!

Returning to Washington confirmed some great gravel, lots of deer, great views, a locked gate -- and darkness! We ran out of time on Survey #1. Survey #2 will only need a short day-trip to complete the routebook. The "new" Day Two roads in southeast Washington haven't been seen on a TSD by Ron (since 1968) or Roy (since 1976).

While survey was turned back in June by snow, it was 103 in Clarkston on the way back in August... Be sure your cooling system is in good shape.

RASC tradition will be upheld -- stay tuned for Episode Two... -

(The rally is tentatively scheduled for September 15-16, 2012)

\*Wild West stage rally got cancelled. Maybe in 2012. The county commissioners turned down the plan, over insurance concerns.

\* The "Mendocino Red Tail" CRS stage rally on August 6 had 14 entrants, 10 finishers. Northwesterners Adam Crane /Sean Medcroft placed 3rd after the 7 stages were tallied.

## **Club News**

\*August meeting notes (by MN): VP Cristy convened the meeting at 8:37 by calling for a reading of minutes of the July meeting. Her hubby, Jim, read something that sounded fairly accurate, so it was accepted.

The RASC bank account stays with Chase (rather than BECU). Chase isn't charging the club for having an account there. It was pointed out that changing banks is a hassle.

Someone thought it would be a good idea to set guidelines for reimbursing expenses for rally layout, as well as criteria for Board approval of a rally budget.

The meeting was closed at 8:10.

With a Board vacancy to be filled, a quick nomination and election was held. Jim Breazeale was the chosen one.

Meeting resumed at 8:12.

No decision about a Christmas Party yet, although dates were tossed around so a rally-like conflict doesn't happen.

No rush to renew the RASC radio license with the FCC since the present one doesn't expire until after the Winter Alcan.

Plans for the 2012 Nor'Wester were thrown out. No Saturday night banquet, instead the day will be long. Reasoning that rallyists would rather rally than party, current plan is for a 13-hour day.

Jerry passed out some Alcan Rally T-shirts (found while cleaning house? - MN) then said he's got 23 entrants for the deep winter tour, and hopes to add two more.

Discussion of the upcoming Friday Niter. Mostly about trophies.

Second adjournment at 8:42.

\* Ed Rachner volunteered to gather input for forming a RASC Time Declaration policy. You can submit your idea(s) to him at [e.rachner@comcast.net](mailto:e.rachner@comcast.net)

## **TRIVIA**

\* Jim Breazeale's Red Audi is no more. He did the deed himself over Labor Day weekend. He now drives a white (with blue pearl overcoat) Audi.

\* Steve Richards got a skidpan from Paul Eklund for his Subaru OBS. Steve Perret helped fit it, which took a wee bit of mods since the Alcan ride has an automatic transmission.

\* The north Renton shopping mall, The Landing, has a 4-story parking garage next to the theater. It features 4 electric car recharging stations at prime parking spots. Unlike gas stations, no prices are posted.

### **For Sale/Wanted**

\*Nokian Hakkapelliita 185/65R15 13/32 new, have 9/32 now and good studs, on dual pattern steel snow wheels 5on100 (Subaru/Chrysler)/5on115(GM) --- 4 for \$250 ronsorem@gmail.com

\*Microsoft "**Office 98**" for Macintosh, Upgrade Gold Edition, still in shrinkwrap! \$80. Mark Nolte, [mnolte@blarg.net](mailto:mnolte@blarg.net).

\* **15" wheels**, steel, fits Subaru OBS. Bolt pattern is 110mm (Subaru) and 112mm (fits ?). Black \$40 for both, \$25 each. Steve Richards, 425-337-0232 (Everett)

\***04 Volvo XC70**, lightly used, 113K miles, \$9500 (*New lower price!*) Jerry Hines, cell: 206-227-6343

\*HT 2-channel radios, used for Alcans, \$80 inc batteries/charger. Many available. Also **mobile Kenwoods** for \$100. Jerry Hines, cell 206-227-6343

**RASC Calendar** (The WAG staff includes TSD's and stage events; no rallycrosses, hillclimbs, Solo's, races, and restricts to somewhat reasonable driving distances)

### Events of interest

Sept 10-17 - Targa Newfoundland, St. John's, NF

October 21/23 - US Road Rally Challenge, So. California. SCCA Nat'l.

### **Washington and British Columbia**

September 9 - NWRC Friday Niter by PSRC

October 1 - Night on Bald Mountain by ORCA

**October 14 - NWRC Friday Niter by RASC**

**October 22 - Midnite TSD, Vancouver Island, B.C.**

October 29 - Monster's Revenge by Chuckanut SCC

November 11 - NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA

November 12-13 - Totem, B.C.

### **Oregon TSD**

Sept 9 - September Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie

Sept.10 - Rally Against Parkinson's (Rally Round PIR), Portland

Oct 7 - October Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie

### **Stage**

Sept 24-25 - Wild West, CANCELLED

Sept 30-Oct 1 - Pacific Forest Rally, CARS Nat'l, Merritt, B.C.

October 22 - Mt. Hood, Oregon

December 4 - Big White, Kelowna, B.C.

**Rainier Auto Sports Club** will meet this coming Monday, September 12 at 7:30 PM at Café Veloce at the Totem Lake shopping center. Best way I can think of to get there via north on I-405, take the "NE 124th" exit, then keep right under NE 124th and straight at the signal. This puts you on Totem Lake Blvd, not whatever the frontage road is next to I-405. Then right first pass, with the Café on your right at that point.

Monthly meetings are *usually* the second Monday of each month. Past Members, visitors, and spectators are welcomed.

**Agenda: A month to the October Friday Niter. There might be a review of our checkpoint resources.**

**Obviously a resolution to move the December meeting date off the calendar since it would conflict with the Seahawks game on national TV.**

**Politics will be avoided, if possible.**

**2011 Board Members:**

President, Cristy Breazeale, 360-318-3320  
Vice President, Marvin Crippen, mandos@gmail.com  
Secretary, Jeff McMillen, jeff@somepants.com  
Treasurer, Steve Mats Mats, willey@selby.com  
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**The Wishbone Alley Gazette is published for the members and friends of Rainier Auto Sports Club. Subscription price is \$10 per year (paper), free e-mail.**

The editor is Mark Nolte, ph. (425) 226-3155. View back issues at <http://www.rainierautosports.com/wag/default.htm>

Contributions and paid/unpaid advertisements eagerly sought: e-mail: [mnolte@blarg.net](mailto:mnolte@blarg.net)

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