

# The Wishbone Alley Gazette

March, 2012 *Rainier Auto Sports Club*

## Rally News

\* **2012 Alcan** One for the record books. Jerry spent a lot of time revamping his carefully made plans as the weather contrived against him.



### ***Alcan Rallymaster Jerry Hines cancelled Quesnel slalom-too much snow!***

Mother Nature heaped snow on the Dempster Highway to the point that it was closed for 3 days (and nights). Eagle Plains isn't a resort, but it can be fun. As it turned out, only one team did the entire planned route; the rest chose to skip non-scored sections; some had seen Inuvik once and that was enough under the conditions.

Eight days and 25 teams generates some stories (Duh!). Linking up by radio was the safest way to travel, often with the call "stuffed" followed by "I'll come back and help".



### ***#3 Richards/Reid on Day 2's aborted "11% Grade".***

The problems make the top of the list. When blizzard conditions made the Blackwater TSD on Day 2 unscorable, the guys in #14 led a small group through anyway until they tried a wide line through a corner, to be stopped by a stump. They rejoined the rally much later in a rental truck. Most heartbreaking was the ice-slalom-win-followed-by-dead engine of the Paul Eklund/R. Dale Kraushaar Forester. A long-suffering Impreza clutch gave up at the conclusion of that same session. Somewhat different results when the Audi ended up on its roof, only needing to cover the sunroof glass to continue once back on its wheels. The Valdez ice slalom was at least run- the Quesnel course was under so much crusty snow that the grader couldn't plow a course. The Valdez folk were experiencing snowfall in 2-foot dumps such that a road was blocked off and the course was up to one and back; grading an ice race course was impossible. Snow was so deep that painting their names in the tall vertical snow banks marked streets!

As a scoring contest, once away from the top three, the scores spread out. The 2WD Mini of Gary Webb and Alfa master Marc Goldfarb became the winners after the tight

contest with Eklund/Kraushaar was concluded with the frozen motor.



### ***Gary Webb and Marc Goldfarb, 2012 winners***

Overall:

- 1 – Webb/Goldfarb 38.7 pts
- 2 – McKinnon/Putnam 58.8
- 3 – Vaysburd/Beverley 61.7

Class 1: Flores/Flores 120.7

Class 2: Putnam/McKinnon

Class 1E: Vaysburd/Beverley

Class 2WD: Webb/Goldfarb

Class SOP: Townsend/Scheel 235.1 pts

Ice Race 2WD Getty/Fokkens 2:37.16

4WD no studs Simpson/Jorgenson 2:34.98

4WD studs Eklund/Kraushaar 2:25.88

Good blogs (and a gazillion pictures-of-gorgeous-mountains-through-the-windshield) found at <http://www.alcan5000.com/>

**Thunderbird** (February 11-12) Sixty optimistic entrants gathered in Cache Creek, B.C. to participate in the annual dead-of-winter tour. Half of them were from B.C., 12 from Washington, 6 Oregon, and 8 from Alberta.

Over the 15 hours of rally, about half was TSD's, with 453 miles covered. Nice weather, too. No blizzard. Lower elevations featured bare roads, while the upper elevations had old, hard snow.



### ***Early gravel became the expected snow for the McMillen/ Crippen Subaru RX. Their 36 points was good for 6th.***

There were only two DNF's, both older cars with engine problems that had them limping home rather than stranded.

Rallymaster Paul Westwick did away with tie-prone winter scoring, making the overall win by Satch

Carlson/Russ Kraushaar, in the light '69 Saab Sonett, all the more awesome at 15 points.



***Carlson/Kraushaar on Sunday***

Second overall went to Glenn Wallace and the senior Kraushaar in a more conventional Subaru Forester with 26 seconds of error over the 52 scored checkpoints.



***Marinus/Renee Damm's 3rd Place Quattro***

Since sophisticated Unlimited rally computers are allowed in the Historic class (cars older than 25 years), three of the five lowest scores were in that class. 19 Novice teams bravely tried out the winter sport.

A new variation on the pre-rally scramble when a fire in the power room of the Merritt Ramada Inn on the Tuesday preceding the rally caused a revamp of carefully made plans. The Nicola Inn was fully booked, mostly with rallyists. The rally buys the motel rooms of the workers, and with 14 of these staff crews to shuffle, Paul was a busy man.

Plus, with friends, Paul revived his Saab 96 in the weeks preceding the rally.



***Paul Paced with his Saab 96***

The bluish (depending on which side of the car you saw) car had alternator smoke on the drive up from Vancouver, remedied with a new one while everyone else was getting teched and critiqued in the motel parking lot. Paul's Celica was available, just in case.



***Erik, Steve Mats-Mats in the revived BMW, ended up 8th O'all.***

Three entrants were practicing for the Alcan two weeks off. Steve Perret/Kathryn Hansen, Jim and Cristy ("no h") Breazeale, and Gary Webb volunteered for checkpoints before doing the Alcan. With the Lingblooms, Ron Sorem/Nolte, Bob Chandler/Marc Clemmons also working, stateside checkpoint crews balanced the staff requirements.



***Max and Nicki in the Alcan-prepped Impreza***

The route was a predictable mix of past TSD's. The roads are graded for logging, with the ongoing pressure to rid the forests of the pine beetles that have decimated 60% of that "crop". Sadly, a large percentage is only suitable for making pellets for stove fuel.

It took me a while to figure it out: the lack of stumps. Ron pointed out big mechanical cutters that cut the trees off low to the ground. The logger must just set the blade apparatus on the foot of snow and pull a lever.

At the Saturday night Kelowna stop, Paul's scoring activity was interrupted for presentation of a special trophy commemorating 25 years of Thunderbird rally mastering.



Pretty fancy, featuring an otherwise usable Heuer Sebring



stopwatch donated by Steve Norman via Satch, on a carbon fiber frame that was heavier than it looked. The collected fans heard enough testimonials to make Paul blush.



***The Comden/Adomeit Saab 900 tied, at 30 pts, with the Damm's. Here, all heeled over 5 feet beyond the timing mark.***

Scores were tight for Sunday's start, as the roads weren't presenting the huge challenges of some past years. No unclimbable hills, nor were cars scrabbling on polished ice. So it ended up pretty much as Saturday had gone.

Stateside entrants had 7 of the ten lowest scores: 9th place to Trinder/Dobric/240Z with a mere 44 points winning Calculator class/9th O'all. Lee Sorenson/ Norma Woods/Impreza were 14th with a usually respectable 80 points. Rod Johnson (remember him?) teamed up with Don Gibson for 34th, after arriving at the border to remember that his passport was on the kitchen table.

### **Club News**

\* February meeting notes-by MN. Minutes read without violent disagreements. Jim Breazeale recounted his experience at the annual NWRC meeting; the pizza was good. ORCA named the months they wanted for their Friday Niters, and everyone else filled in, with the NWRC taking the leadoff March rally.

Starting with the farthest-out rallies, President Marvin tapped the Nor'Wester organizers first. They'll have an update for the web page as things get settled.

There being no new developments concerning No Alibi, Raindrop rallymaster Jeff McMillen said he was working on it.

The Alcan being just a few weeks away, Jerry presented a short fashion show of shirts, jackets and assorted clothing with the Alcan logos.

He also lined up tech inspectors and got some more volunteers to make sure all the rallyists were properly prepared for the adventure.

Cristy (no "h") recounted her adventures with BECU. It was much easier to remind everyone to pay their dues.

### **Trivia**

\* Cash has a place still. The tow truck guy said, "its \$160 paid with plastic and you get a receipt. Cash is \$100, no receipt". A lesson in practicality we should all prepare for. -MN

\* Canadian CB? While waiting for traffic to clear on Hwy 97, I had the HAM radio tuned to 154.100 where the truckers seemed to be. Eventually a guy claiming to be RCMP came on and advised that it might be hours before the road was opened. Add it to your "scan list". -MN

\* Rainier Auto Sports Club is on Facebook. In the case of the Alcan, one link led to another to the "Team D" page.

### **For Sale/Wanted**

\* Very special: **Chrysler 2.5 Turbo** motor w/ automatic transmission. The deal includes the Mopar ECU that is good for additional 30 horsepower. Make offer, and then bring a trailer. 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

\* **1991 Subaru Legacy Sport Sedan 2.2 Turbo 5-speed**

Sale will support a new build with cage. Car has all the wiring for lots of auxiliary lighting (lights vary and one set will be included); HAM and Business radios (radios not included); wiring and senders for rally computer (computer not included); includes 6 studded Hakkas on rims, 6 Silverstone gravels on rims, and 4 street tires on the car. Includes Primitive Enterprises underbody armor for engine and the LSD rear differential. There is a long list of spares that are negotiable, including drivetrain and hood and trunk.

This is a turnkey rally car NO CAGE. Serious inquiries at \$4000.

Email ronsorem (at) gmail.com

### **RASC Calendar** (to June)

#### **Washington & British Columbia TSD**

March 9 - NWRC Friday Niter by NWRC, Bellevue

April 7 - ORCA rally school

April 13 - NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA, Bellevue

**April 15 - Raindrop TSD, by RASC**

April 27-29 - "Spring Thaw Classic", Hope, B.C.

May 11 - NWRC Friday Niter by PSRC, Bellevue

**June 2>3 - No Alibi, Kennebec**

**September 15>16 - Nor'Wester (Lewiston)**

**Nov 9 - NWRC Friday Niter by RASC, Bellevue**

#### **Oregon TSD**

April 6- Friday Night Series, Milwaukie, OR

April 14 - "Spring Rally", MGA club, Portland, OR

May 11- Friday Night Series, Milwaukie, OR

June 8 - Friday Night Series, Milwaukie, OR

July 6 - Friday Night Series, Milwaukie, OR

#### **Stage events in Pacific NW**

From Mark Tabor, Volunteer coordinator, Oregon Trail Rally, May 4-6, 2012. If you have not signed up yet, but wish to volunteer, go to [www.rallydata.com](http://www.rallydata.com) and check the Oregon Trail Rally box, then login to sign up. We'll be doing some random drawings every Friday, until the event, to give away some past year's goodies, as well as some special items that we have hanging around the office. The final volunteer drawing will be for 5 lucky volunteers to have a ride in one of the event's top rally cars at the Press Stage, on Thursday, May 3rd!

May 4>6 - Oregon Trail, The Dalles, OR

June 9>10 - Idaho Rally, Boise, ID

June 15>16 - Mountain Trials, B.C

**Rainier Auto Sports Club** will meet this coming Monday, March 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 poss, 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: Just-completed Alcan stories, some very educational. Jerry has memorabilia to sell, too.**

**Perhaps discussion of making the Raindrop, No Alibi, and Nor'Wester General Instructions all alike.**

**The Treasurer will keep collecting:** Membership dues remain \$30 for family and \$25 for single.

**2012 Board Members:**

President: Marvin Crippen, mandos@gmail.com

Vice-President: Steve Richards, smrdcatman@comcast.net

Secretary, Eric Horst - erich@quavy.com

Treasurer, Cristy Breazeale, 360-318-3320

At Large, Jim Breazeale, blackholeracing@yahoo.com

At Large, Steve Mats Mats, willey@selby.com

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

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% Mark Nolte

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