

The Wishbone Alley Gazette

April, 2012

Rainier Auto Sports Club

Rally News

"As April draws near you may be wondering when details of our venerable spring rally, Raindrop, will be posted. It is with great difficulty that we must announce that Raindrop must take a hiatus this year and will not be held April 15, 2012.

Rainier Auto Sports Club takes great pride in organizing quality events and feels a sense of duty in maintaining a regular schedule of events year in and year out. Raindrop has been our season opener since 1984 and it is painful to have to put it on hold for a year. Despite having invested in laying out a quality route on some refreshingly enjoyable roads we have run out of human resources. The demands of a new job have taken our rallymaster, the demands of organizing No Alibi, our flagship gravel rally, in the early summer, and the 45th anniversary running of the classic Nor'Wester rally in late summer is taxing our usually optimistic, can-do membership.

We hope that you will consider running one of those fine events this year and keep a spot in your calendar open for Raindrop in 2013. Visit www.RainierAutoSports.com <<http://www.RainierAutoSports.com/>> for the latest news and info about our club and upcoming events."

Marvin Crippen, President, Rainier Auto Sports Club

*No Alibi Survey Run - Marvin Crippen

Dan and I completed our No Alibi survey run a couple of weekends ago, assisted by the incomparable and ever helpful Marinus and Renee Damm. For the most part the route is set with the exception of a couple of small things that will have to wait till the measurement run for final determination.

If you like wind turbines, stunning vistas, and/or "MP 1", you're in luck because we've managed to squeeze at least 50% more of those into the same No Alibi package you've come to know and love (warning, contents may settle during shipping).

The 2012 No Alibi will be based in the Tri-Cities (start location, overnight, and finish). A considerable amount of the route -- around 80% -- will be all new, never before used roads. And not coincidentally, we'll spend a good portion of Saturday in Northeast Oregon in the Pendleton area. Patchy snow dotted the ground on the old highway over the Blue Mountains, and during our lunch break we were able to chat with the Damms on simplex about 75 miles away on the other side of the Columbia where they were checking out the Sunday route.

As usual, the meal arrangements continue to be a struggle to organize. Two days after the checkout we secured park reservations for our tertiary location choice. Our first choices were snapped up in the meantime due to high demand during graduation weekend when the rally takes place.

You may wish to get on the hotel reservations as soon as registration opens.

If you are interested in working let Dan know as soon as possible as we will be limiting the number of crews, unless we have unusually high turnout.

* The Olympus stage rally (September 21-23) is set to come back to the wonderful roads we grew up on, now owned by Green Diamond Resource Company. The papers need to be signed off and details worked out.

Club News

* The RASC banking affairs have been transitioned from Chase (who was charging \$15 a month for the privilege) to BECU.

* March meeting notes by MN. Meeting convened at 19:34 with reading and acceptance of the February minutes. The Treasurer was absent and excused.

Rally Reports - Friday Niter- nothing new to report. Discussion of a No Alibi dinner (banquet). Notifying the entrants where the rallymaster was eating seemed to be the plan. And warning the restaurant that maybe 80 hungry people would be showing up, all at once.

The upcoming Raindrop needs help, since Rallymaster Jeff has accepted a new job. He'll be traveling a lot up to -and- including- the rally.

The Alcan report supplied a lot of trivia, such as how the elementary school north of Quesnel opened its doors and the kids were let loose to see the rally cars and people.

A short, touching ceremony acknowledged Marvin's induction into the Rainier Air Force. Jerry even had medals!

It was pointed out that if a RCMP ticket is paid the same day, there is a discount.

Jerry recounted how the impassable road to Inuvik wasn't going to stop some entrants from getting there somehow, and others went back to Whitehorse, which had rooms available since it was off-season.

After the Quesnel ice race was snowed out, the unprecedented snowfall put the Valdez course in jeopardy. Some creative course layout solved that. Speaking of creativity, a reindeer at the Iditarod start in Anchorage sported a web cam on its antlers!

Jim Elder's report was slated to be in Autoweek within a day or two. It had already appeared on the Web.

After Jerry sold some fleece sweaters and long sleeve T's, the meeting concluded at 20:29. The members dispersed to the parking lot to look at the post-Alcan cars, despite the cold drizzle.

Trivia

* Lessons Learned, by Marvin Crippen

Now that the insurance check has been cashed I feel a bit freer to talk about my recent off road experience working on Alcan.

A few of these points were brought up in the last WAG, but are worth repeating. The primary lesson was don't skip on preparation, even if "you're only going for one day". While it may be just one day, it could be one really bad day. Especially if you decided not to worry about taking heavy gloves and boots (luckily a heavy coat was packed).

Cash is king; plan ahead and either get a good stash before you leave or hit an ATM as soon as you enter Canada. I received a significant discount on the tow truck by paying cash and keeping it off the official radar.

The corollary to that is plastic hates you. Last time I ran Alcan I alerted both my credit card and bank about the dates and itinerary and had no problems. Since it was "just one day" (there it is again) I didn't bother with it this time. Having your credit card stop working on the middle of the trip back isn't fun. But even the alert is no guarantee, Renee did that for Totem and still had trouble getting money out of the ATM (again cash is king).

I'd like to thank everyone who gave us a hand. It was very comforting to get so much support before, during, and after the tow. Not to mention getting an escort all the way back in case trouble developed.

* \$20,000 per foot -From Wash. DOT: "Starting later this spring, WSDOT and contractor crews also will resume work on the \$551 million project that builds a wider, safer and more reliable stretch of I-90 from [Hyak to Keechelus Dam](#). As part of this five-mile project, crews will begin rock blasting again along the slopes east of Snoqualmie Pass. Drivers will need to plan for hour-long closures that will start an hour before sunset. Ultimately, the work will allow crews to widen the highway from four to six lanes."

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

* Presently there are eight hillclimbs sanctioned by the Northwest Hillclimb Association for 2012. They are Cascade Lakes (Ashland, OR), Freeze Out (Emmet, ID), Larrison Rock (Oakridge, OR), Hoopa (Willow Crk. CA) back again this year, Bible Creek (Sheridan, OR), Bogus Basin (Boise, ID), Pioneer Mountain (Polaris, MT), and MaryHill (Goldendale WA). (The Maryhill hillclimb is a week before the SOVREN event)

* Make your plans:

July 27-Aug 12 - The London Summer Olympics

Aug 27- 30 - Republican National Convention

Sept 3-7 - Democratic National Convention

Washington & British Columbia TSD

April 13 - NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA, Bellevue

April 15 - Raindrop TSD, by RASC -Canceled

April 21 - "Tulip Rallye" (gimmick) by MG Car Club (last year's entry was about 200 + cars!), Mount Vernon

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

May 11 - NWRC Friday Niter by PSRC, Bellevue
May 11 - Targa Canada West, Vernon, B.C.
June 2>3 - No Alibi, RASC, Kennewick
Jun 8 - NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA
July 13 - NWRC Friday Niter by NWRC
July 21 - SnoGit 9 by ORCA
Aug 10 - NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA
Sept 14 - NWRC Friday Niter by PSRC
September 15>16 - Nor'Wester (Lewiston)
Oct 12 - NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA
Nov 9 - NWRC Friday Niter by RASC, Bellevue

Oregon TSD

April 6- Friday Night Series, Milwaukie,
April 14 - "Spring Rally", MGA club, Portland
May 11- Friday Night Series, Milwaukie
June 8 - Friday Night Series, Milwaukie
July 6 - Friday Night Series, Milwaukie
Aug 3 - Friday Niter Series, Milwaukie
Aug 11 - Mountains to the Sea, Portland
Sept 14 - Friday Niter Series, Milwaukie
Oct 5 - Friday Niter Series, Milwaukie
Oct 6 - Oregon 1000, Wilsonville

Stage events in Pacific NW

May 4>6 - Oregon Trail, The Dalles, OR
June 9>10 - Idaho Rally, Boise, ID
June 15>16 - Mountain Trials, B.C
September 21-23 - Olympus, Shelton

Rainier Auto Sports Club will meet this coming Monday, April 9, 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 few more Alcan stories. The Treasurer can stop hounding everyone to pay dues.

No Alibi update, as well as worker recruitment.

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

Rainier Auto Sports Club, P.O Box 25574, Seattle, WA 98165

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% Mark Nolte
2108 NE 12Th St.
Renton, WA 98056-2916