

Rally News

* Raindrop (April 27) The start (and finish) will be near exit 76 off I-5. Tell your friends to come, for the scenery if nothing else.

About 45 minutes are included for a lunch break at Mossyrock. The break will allow checkpoint crews to relocate. The club checkout will be reported at the April meeting.

* Alcan (August 18-26) While the entry list seems to be settling down at 22 cars and 47 motorcycles, Jerry spends time wondering just how many will drop out. Rather important since he needs to line up trailers to get the motorcycles back to the States.

He is identifying entrants who need a mailing of paper documents – in this day and age most have a “digital” connection.

* Mendocino Rally: The revival of gravel TSD in California is April 12, using great roads that don't fit into the stage rally (July 25-27). It is running under SCCA rules. Ukiah, California is about 12 hours away from Seattle.

* The March 14th NWRC Friday Niter attracted 13 cars. RASC members Ron Sorem, Jim Breazeale, and Mark Nolte worked checkpoint 2, then checkpoint 3. This was at the river side parking lot near the Snoqualmie Falls fish hatchery.

* In an earthshattering break with tradition, the April 4th Portland Friday Nighter rally featured – wait for it! – gravel roads.

The True Story of No Alibi

By Marvin Crippen

If No Alibi was a person she would be a teenager now. Probably a sullen, eye-rolling, don't wanna hang out with the Rally Master and Route Master (they're boring), teenager. But more importantly, come June she'd be wanting to get her driver permit. Yes, that old. This June will be the 15th No Alibi.

Rainier's history stretches back much further than No Alibi, but I've always associated the club with the event. No Alibi was my first real rally and instantly hooked me on the sport. It's why I joined the club. Of course, I'm a tad biased since I've helped staff the event since 2004.

In honor of the 15 years of top notch, quality, fun events here's a bit of history.

Origin

In 1999, Paul Appel of Wenatchee approached Roy Ward with a story of having found a route between Wenatchee and Spokane on gravel roads. This evolved into a route starting in North Bend, over nighting in Spokane, and ending in Wenatchee. In the original route instructions (RIs), each TSD

section was named after an automobile, with a sub heading of an excuse for speeding or some such road comment, hence the name "No Alibi". Scheduled for November 13-14, 1999, the original event had to be cancelled because of family health issues. In 2000 Kirk Simons stepped in to help co-organize and the event was rescheduled for late June. The mid year date probably made a huge difference in attendance, removing it from competition with Totem, and opening up a much larger set of road options.

The Early Years (2000-2005)

13 teams competed (6 UNL, 4 SOP, and 3 NOV) in the first No Alibi on June 24 and 25, starting at Snoqualmie Summit and driving through and near Cle Elum, Quincy, Soap Lake, Reardon, and ended the day in Airway Heights west of Spokane. RIs retained the sections named after cars theme and at a mere \$100 entry fee (how did they do that?) it was a bargain. The event received high praise: Satch Carlson's review stated, "No Alibi proved a splendid romp through the rolling wheat-covered hills of eastern Washington, from high-plains desert to river-carved canyons, from twisty new-laid asphalt with no traffic in sight to new-laid gravel as slippery as ball bearings to a stretch of I-90 that gave us a genuine tough-to-make-it hillclimb section---when was the last time you had a cast of 69 miles an hour?!"

You can read the full review at

<http://www.rainierautosports.com/events/2000/2000-NoAlibi/comments-satch.htm>

The next couple of years would see incremental improvements and small variations in the format. The turnout doubled in 2001 and the Saturday Night Banquet was added, along with a featured speaker (Satch Carlson). The date was also moved up to early June. In 2002 the featured speaker was Bob Chandler. Also in attendance a little known relative novice team of Dan Comden and Marvin Crippen in, of all things, a '94 full size Chevy Blazer. You can read Dan's story at

<http://www.rainierautosports.com/events/2002/NoAlibi/2002%20No%20Alibi-Comden.htm>

2003 would see some big route changes, having exhausted Spokane, the overnight location was switched to Ephrata and the finish location to Cle Elem. This allowed some big loops in the route, cutting down on some of the transit miles required to get from Snoqualmie to Spokane. Gary Reid and Steve Richards spoke at the banquet and the turnout was fantastic with 36 teams entered and 34 starting. Low worker availability on Saturday resulted in the use of some Do It Yourself checkpoints, causing scoring head Steve Willey to smile through gritted teeth as he sorted through

every possible combination competitors used to fill in the DIY form.

Mike Daily's event summary can be found at <http://www.rainierautosports.com/events/2003/NoAlibi/post-mikedaily.htm>

In 2004 the route again underwent big changes. Loops were out that season, hemlines down, and big bold long TSDs to cool places were back in fashion. The route that year started in Ellensburg and went out through Yakima and the hop fields, through Ward Gap & the Horse Heaven Hills, down Weber Canyon and through the Tri-Cities to have lunch at one of the parks along the Snake River. The second half of Saturday went through Prescott and Dayton before ending in Clarkston for the night. Sunday's route had us climbing the hills outside of Clarkston, again through Dayton, and on to Lyons Ferry and Odessa before ending back in Ellensburg. Along the way we hit some now classic sections such as Ward Gap, Skyrocket, Peola Rd, and Royal Slope. The dinner was held at the Tomato Bros Italian Restaurant in Clarkston and the speaker was Russ Kraushaar (I think).

2005 went back to the small variations/improvements. The core Ellensburg to Clarkston (well Lewiston actually) back to Ellensburg was kept, along with some of the great roads. And, of course, a bunch of new roads/sections were added, such as Frenchman Hills, Hardesty Coulee, Eckler Mountain (with the infamous school bus road), Tatman Gulch, and Steptoe Canyon. The dinner was held at the Red Lion Hotel with a rather subdued talk from R. Dale, discussing many of the rally greats who had passed on that year. It was a fantastic event overall and a great way to end the tenure of Kirk and Roy at No Alibi's helm.

Next Month Pt 2, Changing of the Guard

Club News

* March meeting notes by Jim Breazeale

Meeting called to order by President Marvin Crippen at 20:05. 11 members attending.

Secretary's reading of the previous month's meeting minutes was accepted as read.

Madam Treasurer reports a bank balance of \$4772.41 She was pleased to collect dues from several members and vows to wage a pledge drive for those who have not yet paid.

Rally Reports - Raindrop Rally report by Jeanne Rachner. The route and scenery are nice! Pretty close to 140 miles finalized route. The rally master expressed thanks for all the help and support, especially Ron Sorem for his spreadsheet wizardry. 10 am FCO from Kit Carson Restaurant. FCI 15:30 same location. Second or third call for workers from the logistics coordinator Steve Richards.

No Alibi Rally- No new news to report despite prying some information out of Marvin. Starts in Moses Lake, overnights in Spokane and finishes in Wenatchee. Motels were cursed and discussed.

Friday Nighter- Eric said yes, but iffy. Not till October anyway, so.....Plea for workers begins. Some mention of conflict with the Oregon 1000 rally which starts the next morning.

Alcan Summer Rally- Minor gossip by group, entry list still holding strong.

OLD BUSINESS- Confirmation of the P.O.Box rental payment.

NEW BUSINESS- Lucky Lotto winner Ron Sorem presented the group with Rainier Auto Sports Club business cards. They are perfect for the spring membership drive.

Rally Cross event at the Evergreen Speedway on March 18th.

March Friday Nighter Rally is a NWRC group event and Ron Sorem, Mark Nolte and Jim Breazeale will work a RASC check point.

There will be a Global RallyCross event in the Seattle area in September.

For Sale- Motorola 100 watt trunk mount radio. Able to leap tall buildings and keep a pizza warm. \$100 bucks.

Meeting suggested for adjournment and quickly seconded at 20:36

* Dues for 2014 will be accepted at the meeting. \$25 Single, \$30 Family. Bring cash or check. Or send to the underutilized club PO box.

Trivia

* Ed Rachner has been exploring "modern medicine" at the U of W medical Center for nearly 2 weeks. He's weak, but recovering.

* Nolte changed the struts in his WRX. Now looking for confirmation that not only did Subaru use locking nuts, but also applied (back-breaking) thread locker during OEM assembly. Application of a torch freed those !@\$! up.

Ordered from Paul Eklund's Primitive Racing, the KYB's arrived via FedEx the next day.

* Pacific Raceways (Kent) is repaving Turns 7 to 9. That may be original 1964(?) blacktop. Turn 8 was famous for its highly polished rocks, which acted like ball bearings with the least addition of any lubricant, usually rain.

For Sale

*For Sale: **BMW limited slip rear diff**, 3.91 ratio. Fits E36 (325I, 328I,M3). \$250. Ed Rachner 206-499-8271

* For Sale: Some of you know her as Rocket. She's a 2002 Subaru WRX. She's won most every TSD rally in the NW and she is for sale. The Good- lots of tweaks, spares. The Bad: Leakdown test on cylinder 3 shows a need for a valve job; slightly noisy bearing in the transmission (reported by Smart Service). Crack in the windscreen. Interested? Let's talk. Jeff McMillen: Jeff@somepants.com

* Four Sail: External USB DVDRW drive, works with PC or Mac. Requires 2 USB ports (one for power, one for data). \$10.00. If your computer doesn't play DVDs, well, here's your answer. Roy Ward, (425) 485-6225, roy.ward@frontier.com



For Sale : Four "Raceline" 7x15" gravel wheels, 5 x100 fits WRX. Silver paint flaking off in large sheets, exposing epoxy base. Price includes 2-1/2 cans of silver paint. Fifth wheel available when I find a new wheel for spare tire use. \$200 Mark Nolte, mnolte@blarg.net

RASC Calendar

No Rallycrosses or races listed.

"Other"

April 19 – Tulip Rally by MGCC, (Skagit Valley)

April 12 – Mendocino Gold, TSD, Ukiah, CA

Classic

April 25 – Spring Thaw classic, B.C.

May 30 – 21st Cascade Classic, Olympic Peninsula

Washington & British Columbia TSD

April 11 – NWRC Friday Nighter by ORCA

April 27 – Raindrop by RASC

May 9 – NWRC Friday Nighter by PSRC

May 17 – Sno-Git by ORCA, Arlington, WA

June 7/8, No Alibi by RASC

June 13 – NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA

June 21/22 – Heart of Darkness, Hope, B.C.

July 11 – NWRC Friday Niter by NWRC

Aug 8 – NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA

Aug 18>26 – Alcan 5000, Kirkland, WA

Sept 12 – NWRC Friday Niter by PSRC

Oct 10 – NWRC Friday Niter by RASC

Nov. 22 – Totem, Cache Creek, B.C.

Oregon TSD

Portland Friday Nighters are first Friday of the month.

May 4 – AROO #3, Portland, OR

June 15 – AROO #4, Portland, OR

July 19 – Mountain to The Sea by Cascade SCC

Oct 11/12 – Oregon 1000, Wilsonville, OR

NW Stage rallies

May 2 –Oregon Trail, Portland/The Dalles

May 31 –Olympus, Shelton

June 21 – Idaho Rally, Boise

Jul 26 – Mendocino, Ukiah, CA

Oct 3/4 – Pacific Forest Rally, Merritt, B.C.

Oct 18 – Mt Hood, Odell, OR

October 31 – Rocky Mountain, Invermere, B.C.

Dec 6 – Big White, Kelowna, B.C.

Rainier Auto Sports Club will meet this coming Monday, April 14, at 8 PM at Café Veloce (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: Pay your dues, please. The treasurer may name names...

Fresh news from Raindrop checkout. Fresh news from No Alibi course exploration.

2014 Board Members:

President: Marvin Crippen, mandos@gmail.com

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

Secretary, Jim Breazeale, blackholeracing@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Cristy Breazeale, 360-318-3320

At Large, Ed Rachner, e.rachner@comcast.net

At Large, Eric Horst - erich@quavy.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

 **The Wishbone Alley Gazette**

☎ Mark Nolte

2108 NE 12Th St.

Renton, WA 98056-2916