

The Wishbone Alley Gazette

May, 2015

Rainier Auto Sports Club

Rally News



Jim Breazeale's trophy design was better than last year. According to him.

* RASC's Raindrop (April 19) was a Sunday afternoon rally just like such events are supposed to be. Rallymaster Cristy Breazeale made secret arrangements with the weather gods to provide sunshine, resulting in lovely views of Mt. St. Helens and the green prairie surrounding Chehalis.

The 27-car entry was a relief in these times, with a great cross section; 5 SUV's and all-ages for instance.



Gary Reid/ Ed Millman cranked a Curta for 3rd Equ.

This included the famous Powerful Blue MGB and a few more modern sports cars. Five Oregon entries showed the wisdom of the "south" orientation of the rally.



The extremely shiny Alfa of Don Best/ Yulia Smolyansky at CP 2B. They won the 2nd Equipped trophy.

The tour totaled up to 131 miles, 60% of those in 5 TSD sections. Since there were comfortable breaks in the Transits, the 2 hours of TSD (42%) in the five-hour rally kept the pressure on to pass the 26

checkpoints on-time. That works out to an average of a checkpoint every 4:48 minutes (3 miles).

Scoring instituted a new solution written by Marvin Crippen. He passed out thumbdrives to laptop-equipped crews with a fill-in-the-blank form prepopulated with everything except arrival times. Since his app included a way to enter official time before cars arrived (sourced from the club's Alfa clocks) and another "enter" after the checkpoint was done, the laptop's drift could be corrected on the final form. Yes, the laptops don't keep perfect time.

The thumbdrives were gathered later and scoring was accomplished on schedule. With a total of 10 points, Teresa Davenport and Russ Kraushaar edged Tom Kreger/Cynthia Bushnell by 1 point. The third place trophy went to Pat Biggar/Jack Heppes (14 pts.).



Russ Kraushaar navigated an Overall win with Teresa Davenport. BMW 325IX.

Also typical was the class competition: 6 Unlimited, followed by 4 Equipped entries, the 6 SOP'ers, and 11 Novices. I'm generalizing here, since Peng Du/Jeremy Mi won Novice class by placing 9th overall.



Peng Du/ Jeremy Mi were top Novices with 111 points.

Steve Richards was volunteered to assign checkpoint crews. With barely enough bodies, he had to sweat using the "divided" crews best. This is where a "pair" is broken up, leaving a person as the ultimate hidden checkpoint while the car leaves to time at a different spot. The challenge is to get them far apart enough for a valid (rather than a repeat) score, yet not so far apart that they can't rejoin and hastily get to the next location. With Rod Johnson as the hider, Steve and Rod worked 6 checkpoints. Congratulations on all counts!

Being a typical Sunday afternoon rally, there was even a DNF. A Novice team discovered getting car sick after the first TSD and went home. (Article by Mark Nolte, pictures by Sally DeVore)

* Asked for news about the Alcan (February 25 to March 4, 2016), Jerry mentioned that entries are firming up toward the August 1 deadline. \$3000 is payable by Paypal, too.

*Oregon Trail stage rally (April 24-26) went very well. RASC members Ron Sorem & Jim Breazeale had it easy in the "00" car, Cristy manned an ATC and a STOP control. Steve Perret was in the "000" car while Kathryn Hansen co-drove for Mark Tabor.

* The Olympus stage rally is over the May 15-17 weekend. Of course they need workers. If you want to do HAM duties, get in touch with Lee Chambers, ki7ss1@gmail.com. Service is at The Ridge Motorsports Park, but the track itself won't be used.

* No Alibi news from Rallymaster Dan Comden:

In light of difficulty of moving workers we had to abandon Lyle as a finish location. It may appear as an option in future years as there are some fantastic roads in the area. But we could not make it work without skimming a number of checkpoints from other sections that deserve them.

Measurement was last weekend (May 2/3). Marinus and I had a pretty flawless drive with the route pre-set from the survey two weeks prior. Apart from noisy rattles and a disintegrating hatch latch, the venerable Saab 900 gave us no problem. Weather was mild and we didn't mourn the lack of A/C too much.

There will be dramatic and tasty climbs and descents, and the event will penetrate farther into Oregon than ever before. There are some fairly long TSD sections and some very terse transits. We have become charmed with Prosser and the event travels through that fine little burg a couple of times on Sunday, with a finish in a city park. Opps for food will be few on Sunday so worker crews should plan ahead with ice chests and plenty of beverages and snacks.

Trophy and sticker design is underway. BBQ dinner is arranged for Saturday. We have a complete slate of workers lined up, including sweep being run by none other than Steve Mats Mats in his fancy new Jeep. Entries are coming in at a rate that has me breathing easily about the budget.

In other news, during the mileage checkout, we had a very close look at some bouncy pronghorns on the southernmost Saturday TSD section. Other wildlife spotted includes coyotes, owls, eagles, numerous mule deer, and one very lucky groundhog!

Club News

Meeting minutes for April 2015. Recorded by club secretary Diamond Jim Breazeale

Meeting called to Order at 20:00 by our benevolent Overlord, Marvin Crippen with 8 members in attendance.

The minutes for the March meeting were accepted as read.

Madam Treasurer reports a current balance of \$3,947.31 after paying for insurance.

Rally Reports-

Raindrop Rally- Rally Master Cristy told final route check-out stories.

Rally veterans Ron Sorem & Rod Johnson had a nice drive and made final notes just a couple of days before long distance members from Bellingham, Steve Perret and Kathryn Hansen made the long drive down to run behind the RM and her driver. There was printing show and tell with Steve Richards showing his worker plans and the RM showing the final route book. Checkpoint clock discussions and final worker assignments with a total of 24 or 25 scored checkpoints. Looking forward to a nice event.

No Alibi Rally- un-official source reported the route is 80% reliable. Final survey on Raindrop Sunday. Finish location unknown at this time. RDS chimed in with the best low cost option of Motel 6 instead of the Red Lion host hotel.

Friday Niter Rally- No Eric, no report, no volunteers and no arm-twisting ... yet.

Alcan Winter Rally 2016- Entry list is "full" with 38, and a growing waiting list.

Nor'Wester Rally 2017- No updates at this time.

Old Business- T-shirts, No Eric, no news, no ... progress

New Business- Thoughts solicited for embroidered patches, enameled pins of the club's "snow flake" logo

Rally Announcements- Oregon Trail Rally needs workers, especially HAMs. The same holds true for the Olympus Rally in May.

Heart of Darkness Rally- The mid summer Canadian classic dusk to dawn rally will run the roads around Merritt, BC in July. This year's Rally Masters, Tom Burgess and Jim Bowie (2015 Thunderbird Rally winners) promise a challenging, brisk gravel event.

Motion to Adjourn and seconded with the meeting ending at 20:31

Post Script: Marvin previews his very cool checkpoint app to an appreciative group and plans to test it on Raindrop.

More about the Raindrop Scoring and CP Logger by Marvin Crippen

Last WAG I wrote an article about the death of paper checkpoint logs and the plan to replace them with an electronic product called CP-Logger. This is the follow up, after action report if you will. A “What I learned about the process.”

The first thing I learned was you need more than a week notice for this kind of transition. We ended up getting buy-in from about half the workers. Which, given the time frame, is more than reasonable. Others indicated they would be interested in using it in the future, especially if there was some help available for training and setup.

Secondly this served as a very good beta test of the software. I got a lot of valuable feedback from workers for improvement, most of which has either already been implemented (easier time entry) or is in the process of being added (better color choices, especially to deal with high sun situations).

So how did it perform? Was it faster or better than the current scoring system? To answer that it might be useful to outline the scoring system we've previously used. For a number of years (about as long as I've been involved in RASC probably), we've used a chase/sweep score solution. A scoring car drives the full route behind the last car. It picks up logs and enters those times into a big spreadsheet while driving the route. For the sake of speed the times are entered as 4 numbers (MMSS). Hours are auto-entered based on perfect time and changed when needed. Given a sufficiently long finish transit, the scores are all entered by the time the scoring car arrives at the finish. Then it's just a matter of entering Time Decs. Which, of course, takes a while. To say that Time Decs are the scourge of the scorer, is to seriously understate the problem!

That system works pretty well; it has its advantages and disadvantages. But it's kind of hard on the scoring team. Especially as the number of checkpoints has

grown to a large extent over the last 6 years or so. Since I have a big chunk of the responsibility for that growth, I suppose I can't complain too much (but that really won't stop me).

The use of CP-Logger simply replaces the paper log files with an electronic version. Checkpoint workers do the data entry. Either directly into the software as cars come in, or by transcribing a paper log at the end of the checkpoint. This produces an electronic file that can be given to the scorer, either by USB drive or emailed. The scorer opens this log file, copies the data, and pastes it into the scoring program. The scorer doesn't have to shuffle a bunch of paper around (okay they do have to shuffle USB drives), doesn't have to figure out potential math errors, and they don't have to deal with messy handwriting.

This could be used with the same chase/sweep car system or by positioning the scorer at key points to collect the files. For Raindrop we went with the later.

So back to the question, “How did it perform?” Very well I think. While it was not any faster than manual log entry, I didn't expect it to be. However, it also wasn't any slower. And even with only 50% buy in, the scoring workload was significantly reduced. I am looking forward to exploring this method with No Alibi, a much larger and stringent test case.

Trivia

* Jerry Hines has '65 Ford Ranchero as his garage project. It essentially has Mustang running gear from that era. Blue.

* Tim Chovanak is going to the Canadian National “Radium Hot Springs Rally” over the US Memorial Day weekend. He suspects he'll be the only stateside volunteer there. He was at the Cochrane stage rally March 15-16.

* Ron Sorem cleaned some old garden chemicals out of storage, then took them to the Factoria recycling center. Knowing that bureaucracy could make this a bad experience, he was ready to have a bad time.

Nope: the nice lady at the guardhouse cheerfully pointed him to the right place (No Line!), where an efficient fellow rolled a cart up and unloaded the bottles with No Effort (!) on Ron's part. Then he grabbed a clipboard (Wait For It here comes bureaucracy!). All he asked was “What ZIP code?” [Sometimes things work!]

For Sale

*2001 BMW 330ix. Silver, black interior. automatic transmission, 18" wheels. Recent head work and revamp to sell at \$4500. Car is near San Diego, CA. Jerry Hines, 206-227-6343

* Diamond Jim's **1990 Audi 90 Quattro 20 valve**. Built for the 2014 Winter Alcan. You've seen it everywhere. ALL the major maintenance items have been done. Comes with a literal ton of spares including another complete engine, 2 more sets of tires and wheels, way too much to list. Buy it and drive anywhere. Sanity forces sale.

Exclusive RASC member price \$5000, all others \$3500 firm. blackholeracing@yahoo.com

* Uniden BCT-7 radio scanner. Pre-programmed for police, fire, state patrolies. NOT Trunking or P25. Includes DC power cord, mounting bracket, inside-the-windshield antenna. \$30.00
roy.ward@frontier.com

* Motorola Maratrac VHF 99 channel 100-watt trunk-mount two-way radio. Ham radio repeater frequencies programmed in for most of Washington State. Some WSP (receive only) frequencies. Complete with main body (trunk mount unit), control head, speaker, mic, and control cable. No valley too deep, this radio bores holes through mountains. Make offer. Roy Ward, (425) 485-6225.
roy.ward@frontier.com.

* **For Free:** One 6" three-jaw wheel puller, new, never been used. Bought in a fit of wildly enthusiastic self-delusion to remove a front spindle bearing from a 2000 Impala. Front spindle nut dashed all dreams of recaptured youth. Took the car to a shop with air tools, car is better now. Still have the 3-jaw wheel puller. Free to a good home. Roy Ward, (425) 485-6225. roy.ward@frontier.com

*Brian Cary bought snow tires for Thunderbird. They came on Ford Focus 15" (4x108 mm bolt pattern) **alloy wheels**. The wheels are for sale for \$200, or make-an-offer. 425-445-7195

* From Dan and Nicki Lachapelle: Selling 2003 Subaru WRX; "Amazing car, ready to run with lots of spares and very well suited to winning! (Would be Alcan ready!) Looking for 15k CDN or \$11750 USD (has parts worth way more than that!)"

- Primitive Racing front and rear skid plates (2012)
- Rally Armor mud flaps (2012)
- **Compomotive** 15 inch Rally wheels (2012)
- KYB AGX raised suspension with King springs (2012)
- Primitive Racing light bar (2013)
- **Timewise** A Box computer (2013)
- 20 inch Wolf LED light bar with 2 **Hella** spots (2013)
- OMP map light (2013)
- Hawks HP+ brake pads with Quiet slot disks (2013)
- New timing belt and water pump (2013)
- Terra Trip intercom with headsets (2013)
- Yokohama A034 Winter Rally tires (New)
- Yokohama A033 Gravel Rally tires (50%)
- **Nokian** Norman 4 Winter tires on OEM 16 inch wheels (85%)
- New windshield and battery (2014)
- 122 000 miles (US model)

\$ 15 000 call Dan at 250-315-7302

RASC Calendar

> Thanks to Ron Sorem for compiling a big list from which events of interest to RASC members are picked.

Other Events

Aug 28 – Global Rallycross, Snoqualmie, WA

September 19 – Mendocino Gold, TSD, Ukiah, CA

Classic Car Rallies

May 15 -17 – Hagerty Silver Summit Classic, Denver, CO

May 29-31 – Rush to Gold Bridge, Vancouver B.C.

May 29-31 – Cascade Classic, Carson, WA

July 23-26 - Monte Shelton Classic

Oct. 12 – Sea to Sky, Vancouver, B.C.

Washington & British Columbia TSD

May 8 - NWRC Friday Niter by PSRC

Jun 6-7 – No Alibi, RASC

June 12 - NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA

July 10 - NWRC Friday Niter by NWRC

July 18 - Heart of Darkness (HOD), B.C.

Aug 14 - NWRC Friday Niter by PSRC

Sept 11 - NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA

Oct. 9 - NWRC Friday Niter by RASC

Nov 14-15 – Totem, B.C.

Oregon TSD

June 12- Friday Night Road Rally, CSCC, Milwaukie

July 10- Friday Night Road Rally, CSCC, Milwaukie

Aug 1-2 - The Road Not Taken

Aug 7 - Friday Night Road Rally, CSCC, Milwaukie

Aug 15 – Mountains To The Sea, Portland

Sept 11 - Friday Night Road Rally, CSCC, Milwaukie

NW Stage rallies

May 15-17 – Olympus, Shelton, WA

May 24 - Radium Hot Springs Rally, Calgary, AB

June 13-14 – Idaho Rally, Boise, MT

Oct 2-3 – Pacific Forest Rally, Merritt,