

The Wishbone Alley Gazette

March, 2016

Rainier Auto Sports Club

Rally News



The Eklund Forester in action. (David Fox photo)

* The Alcan Winter Rally (February 25-March 4) was another epic adventure. Facebook probably had 50,000 views over the nine days.

With 50 checkpoints, plus the Yellowknife ice track session, Paul Westwick/Yulia Smolyansky won with a Curta.



Yulia Smolansky's Forester on ice. The license plate reads "MBCU" (David Fox photo)

Very close second was Paul Eklund/ R. Dale Kraushaar with a Timewise. Both in Subaru Foresters. Top SOP was Simpson/Jorgensen in 7th O'all.

There are at least three pages of stories for each of the 27 entrants, so the WAG can't do it justice. Umpteen entrees on the Alcan Facebook page. And more on various other websites.

There are tires: roughly half didn't run studded tires. Everyone had his or her own reason. Once outside freezing temperature, studs don't make a lot of difference? Looking at the ice race scores, the top 3 were studless. Other good news is that tires are tough, with only one flat amongst the group.

There were five DNF's. The Saab 900 (Topal/Carr) discovered a failed axle seal after topping it up, then the car screeched to a halt outside Fairbanks. Probably a transmission failure, so it was headed to be junked. Only the junkyard wouldn't take it! On the wrecker, the real problem was evident: a loose brake caliper jammed the wheel. New bolts got it fixed and the car arrived very late in Anchorage for the finish.

The Graf/Uhler Audi 90 (ex-Breazeale) went off on the Blackwater TSD. Once it regained the road, everything seemed fine for a while until it decided to

steer "oddly". A bent suspension and radiator issues made it unwise to continue. A noisy transmission parked the Xie/Cao Jeep Wrangler rather than hazard a total failure where the tow bill gets into big numbers.

The Du/Du Subaru ran badly after the Yellowknife ice race. Theory is that a valve seal didn't take kindly to the extreme heat-cold cycles, so the car may still be in Yellowknife awaiting a long haul.

After awards at Anchorage, three cars went back to get pictures north of the Arctic Circle. Hardcore.

* Raindrop rally (April 17) – The Whidbey Island touring TSD will start at the Mount Vernon visitor's center and finish at a restaurant about 10 miles west on Highway 20.

Rallymaster's Jim and Cristy Breazeale have finalized the route, saying it should avoid traffic problems.

* No Alibi (June 4-5) – The 2016 version will overnight in the Tri-Cities, with Kennewick Red Lion being the chosen motel. Consideration of northern Washington was shelved because there isn't enough "thawed" time in the spring to choose roads not destroyed by last year's record forest fires.

Rallymaster Mark Nolte is delighted that Marvin Crippen is lending his vast experience with the area to choose great, scenic roads.

Club News

*RASC Meeting Minutes from the February RASC meeting, as recorded by Secretary Brian Cary:

VP Troy Jorgensen started at 7:31pm with January minutes read and accepted. Treasurer reports \$5427.73.

Rally reports:

Alcan- Jerry brought show and tell! Pics of trophy art were passed around. The sponsorship of the event by Nitto Tires is finalized. Tires designated for the competitors were sold off by accident but some quick action and replacements were found.

ACP is finally confirmed to make it to the rally after missing it last time, and with a few others including Paul Dubinsky they are doing the drive to Tuk after the Alcan.

Sadly the Quesnel school where the rally stopped in years past is closed due to budget cuts.

Plenty of Alcan gear for rally volunteers.

Raindrop- Jim and Cristy are confirmed as rally masters! Steve and Jim scouted out some good roads on Whidbey and they are fast with light traffic. Start will be at the Mt. Vernon convention center.

Dash plaques are ordered and the route is 90% measured still need awards though.

No Alibi- Mark says "no ideas" and says he will have to draft people to make it happen. Eric recommends reusing more recent "old routes" as any of the Evergreen State routes might no longer connect. Douglas county told us that gravel roads are default 25mph making them not very appealing. Omak roads are 35mph, and Ellensburg might be a good start location.

Nor'Wester- Ron and Roy had a sticky adventure on the Myers Ridge road in Asotin county with 3ft deep mud bogs blocking the way. Probably need a different road.

Old Business:

Eric brought un-engraved plaques, and a tub of assorted Rainier shirts. Troy grabs the 20-year-old bounty!

New Business:

Steve's new GPS rally has been named "Garmina Shrugs" Fairly solid date 24th of July, starting at the Eastgate park and ride and finishing in Bothell. Entry fees will be the same as Friday Niters and the prizes are old gift cards from Steve's pockets. So far lots of interest and more details will follow in May.

NWRC Meeting:

Insurance will remain the same at the moment, along with entry fees. Non-trap rallies are gaining strength but there are some who still want them to continue. New events are being discussed to drum up attention for the sport. March, June, and August are the NWRC rallies that need volunteers from the clubs. Rainer still dominates the field in amount of events, ease of entry, and social media presence.

NWRC has hemmed and hawed about event price increases, which will be necessary to make profits and pay for increased insurance.

Announcements:

Thunderbird: 44 checkpoints with a lot of volunteers from the US. Saturday evening provided much entertainment with delays and slick roads.

Jim and Cristy have "Cat Herder" shirts for sale and can order more.

The Global Rally Cross is coming to Monroe in September.

Rest in peace Dave Mirra.

Meeting Adjourned 8:43pm.

* Club annual Inventory- A big order to get car numbers is being placed. Only 4 of the 8 RASC checkpoint signs have been located. Despite attempts to reuse old (ancient) dash plaques, many

pounds of them haunt us. With 145 2x2" "place plaques", the club is ready for 8 more rallies.

Too many T-shirts to list, but if you want an L from 2014,2015 No Alibi, have we got a deal for you.

Trivia

* Garmin has purchased DeLorme.

DeLorme pioneered the inReach series of affordable two-way satellite communication devices for the consumer market. These GPS-enabled devices allow the user to send and receive satellite text messages or trigger an SOS for emergency help, anywhere in the world. In addition to inReach, DeLorme has an extensive library of digital cartography and enterprise GIS software, as well as traditional mapping.

Garmin will retain most of the DeLorme associates and will continue operations at its existing location in Yarmouth, Maine.

For Sale/Wanted

*New lower price! **2001 BMW 330ix**. Silver, black interior. automatic transmission, 18" wheels. Recent head work and revamp to sell at \$3600. Car is near San Diego, CA. Jerry Hines, 206-227-6343

*Brian Cary bought snow tires for Thunderbird last year. 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 (He's talking about buying a car to match these wheels)

* The 1987 Subaru RX known to owner Jeff McMillan as **Roxanne** is going back up for sale. Turnkey stage rally car. jeff@somepants.com

* **1993 Legacy Super Sport** turbo sedan (Rare-maybe one of 25 imported). Burgundy, 5-speed, 153,000 miles. Set up for TSD with wiring and goodies. "Alcan proven". \$5000 Car is fine, just running out of parking spots. Steve Brown, 206-954-4267

RASC Calendar

Not of the rally world: The Republican Convention is July 18>21 in Cleveland, followed by the Democratic Convention, July 25-28 in Philadelphia.

Washington, Oregon, British Columbia TSD

The Oregon Friday Niters are the first Friday each month, except for June (not to conflict with No Alibi, and September to avoid the Labor Day holiday. The season is March to September.

The NWRC Friday Niters are the 2nd Friday night of each month, March to October. When a club doesn't volunteer to hold a rally, the NWRC chair puts it together, with volunteer workers supplied by each club- this year in March, June, and August.

May 14 brings the revival of EESCC after many many years.

Mar 4- Cascade Sports Car Club Friday Niter, Milwaukie, OR

Mar 11- NWRC Friday Niter, Bellevue, WA, by NWRC

April 1 - Cascade Sports Car Club Friday Niter, Milwaukie, OR

Apr 8 - NWRC Friday Niter, Bellevue, WA, by PSRC

April 17 – Raindrop, RASC

May 6 - Cascade Sports Car Club Friday Niter,
Milwaukie, OR

May 13 - NWRC Friday Niter, Bellevue, WA, by ORCA

May 14 – “Revival Rally”, Eugene, OR, Emerald Empire
Sports Car Club

June 4-5 – No Alibi, RASC

June 10 - NWRC Friday Niter, Bellevue, WA, by NWRC

June 10 - Cascade Sports Car Club Friday Niter,
Milwaukie, OR (Moved away from No Alibi)

July 1- Cascade Sports Car Club Friday Niter,
Milwaukie, OR

July 8 - NWRC Friday Niter, Bellevue, WA, by ORCA

**July 24 – “Garmina Shrugs: A GPS rally”,
gimmick, Bellevue, WA, RASC**

Aug 5 - Cascade Sports Car Club Friday Niter,
Milwaukie, OR

Aug 6 - Mountains to the Sea, Portland, OR

Aug 12 - NWRC Friday Niter, Bellevue, WA, by NWRC

Sept 9 - NWRC Friday Niter, Bellevue, WA, by FOOTZ

Sept 9 - Cascade Sports Car Club Friday Niter,
Milwaukie, OR (Moved to avoid Labor Day)

**Oct 14 - NWRC Friday Niter, Bellevue, WA, by
RASC**

Oct 22 – possible touring TSD by ORCA

November ? – Totem, B.C.

NW Stage rallies

April 22-24 – Oregon Trail, Hood River, OR

May 14-15 – Olympus, Shelton, WA

June 4-5 – Rocky Mountain-, Invermere, B.C.

July 9-10 – Mendocino, Ukiah, CA

Sept 24 – Wild West, Montesano, WA

Sept 30-Oct 1 – Pacific Forest, Merritt, B.C.

Oct ?? – Hood River, Oregon

Nov 12-13 – Radium Hot Springs, Alberta

Dec 3-4 – Big White, Kelowna, B.C.

Rainier Auto Sports Club will meet this coming Monday, March 14, (π Day) at 7:30 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: Starting **at 7:30** seems to work. Stories from Alcan, with some actual participants reporting. Raindrop news. Rumors about Oregon Trail and Olympus.

Dues will be the same in 2016: \$25 single, \$30 family. Club policy is to accept money anytime, even three months into the year.

2016 Board Members:

President: Roy Ward: roy.ward@frontier.com

Vice-President: Troy Jorgensen: Troy@Waflracing.com

Secretary, Brian Cary; bcary461@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Cristy Breazeale: blackholeracing@yahoo.com

At Large: Charles Aggenbach; caggenbach@alum.ups.edu

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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

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