

Rally News

* Grand Canyon Rally 2006

Ron Sorem © 1-20-2006

Jan 13-16, 2006. Laughlin Nevada, to Peach Springs, Cottonwood, and Seligman Arizona.

The **Arizona Region SCCA** and Atlantic Driving School of Mohave Valley AZ presented a four-day "Rally Vacation" Tour in the Sunshine State.

Friday odo calibration was through remote high desert scenes with "balanced rock" geology and petroglyphs; and the historic Ghost-Town Mining-Camp, of Oatman Arizona.

Saturday morning brought an early-dawn start. Silver Creek Regularity was one of the Laughlin area stage roads, gravel turning to coarse desert sand, with exposed solid rock in places. Grand Canyon Rally provided ample spots for unofficial photos, as Steve Perret pointed out: "This is the first rally I've been on that my navigator told me to stop on a timed section." Navvie Kathryn Hansen added that it was worth the shot, and "he had great fun making up time."

Turning onto Historic Route 66, on the first of only two paved Regularities of the event, teams climbed Sitgreaves Pass, dropped to a Transit through Kingman, then a 38-mile Regularity of smooth desert road filled with cattlegaurds and water-crossings.

Diamond Bar Road provided a 20-mile brisk Regularity, leading to Grand Canyon West, the tourist destination for the million-acre Hualapai Nation, and the rally's break for lunch and sightseeing. Five years ago, the buses were old school (literally). The income stream from 500,000 visitors a year has brought a fleet of luxury air-conditioned tour coaches and development of a soon-to-be opened glass bottomed Sky Walk, 4800 feet above the Colorado River. At the moment, only one's courage limits access to great views – no guardrails -- watching helicopters and eagles both fly below our position.

Leaving West Rim, Buck and Doe Road, used extensively as stage roads for other events, provided a 42-mile brisk and twisting challenge, before a short transit to Peach Springs.

Sunday's route began pre-dawn, to start the first Regularity. Ten miles of gravel led to the pavement of Route 66. Breakfast was provided by the High School in Seligman, billed as the heart of the rebirth of "Historic" Route 66.

Leaving Seligman, the route turned due south for gentle rolling gravel in the Prescott National Forest, on well-used stage roads, and the sharp Arizona gravel had taken its toll on one competitor. Running on the rental car spare donut, the inevitable took place late in the Regularity, and Kenai Alaska's Jim and Christy Breazeale were found, a bit lopsided, at the MTC in the town of Chino Valley. Cell service, AAA, and full insurance on the rental, assured they would be alright, with Jim jovially commenting he'd not been able to "run on a rim" for a long time. They rejoined the event at Dinner.

The next Regularity began in flat ranchland and climbed steadily into the Prescott Forest stage roads.

The route dropped through several washes and paused for photos, before climbing sharply, then following an old railroad grade to a very narrow pass and "dropping" into Jerome. The little mining town -- fifth largest in Arizona in 1899 -- turned tourist attraction, was our lunch break.

Down in the valley, at 3500 feet, teams were directed toward Sedona and a glimpse of the Red Rock areas bathed in sunset hues. A smooth run along the Verde River narrowed to a steep 20mph climb over a rough rocky trail, then gradually increasing to 35 on fine desert rock, then freeway into Cottonwood. Sunday's results were very competitive: Unlimited A (experienced computers) saw 65, 66, and 69; Unlimited B (new to computers) saw 57 versus 58, and SOP was tight at 65 versus 67.

Monday began with a short Regularity toward Sedona. Pauses for photos of the imposing geology were timely and well placed, covered by three scored checkpoints.

The Transit from Sedona back to Chino Valley, through Jerome, and Prescott Valley totaled 60.76 miles, including the 7023-foot Mingus Mountain Pass, then onto the valley floor highways. A second run into the Prescott Forest seemed quicker, minus the pauses for photos. The route turned westward into Drake Canyon, with one very deep water crossing (fortunately dry) and several subsequent washes and cattlegaurds.

A short Free Zone led to the paved Historic Route 66 West Regularity, containing five checkpoints including the "final straw" less than a mile from the Awards and Dinner at Seligman High School.

The rally covered 539 miles. Holding onto their day two lead, driving down from Portland, Paul Eklund and Vicki Vohs earned First Overall with 127. Second were Arizonans Bill Laitenberger and Debbi Segall, with 139; Third, Oregonians Satch Carlson and Kelly Kirkland with 142. First in Equipped were Steve Mauger (NJ) and Larry Richardson (CA) in a rally rental SUV. First in SOP, nipping closely at the heels of the computer teams were Arizonans Dave Jameson and Karl Broberg with only 179.

"A good time was had by all" as they say. This is an SCCA Tour that should be added to everyone's list of "must see" events, whenever it may be held again. ...More rally stories and links at www.tsdroadrally.com

***From Tom Palidar:** The 2006 NWRC Friday Nighter season begins...February 10th!! That's right, the new NWRC rally season is upon us.

There will be an updated scoring platform for the 2006 SOP & Monte Carlo/Tour Championships. It's purpose is to encourage participation throughout the year.

We are changing the point spread to reflect less of difference between first place & second place. In addition, this change will also include scoring down

to 8th place now. I think it's fair to say..."we will be expecting an even closer competition this year".

Here is how it works: 1st Place....10pts, 2nd Place... 8pts, 3rd Place... 6pts, 4th Place... 5pts, 5th Place... 4pts, 6th Place... 3pts, 7th Place... 2pts, & 8th Place...1pt.

The hosting NWRC club for the February Friday Nighter is none other than **Puget Sound Rally Club**. This rally was written by one of their seasoned rallymasters Jeremy Stewart. Jeremy has promised a very nice 'warm up' for everyone. He says..."It's an easy route that anybody can follow so it'll be enjoyable for newbies to run." Which means ...'follow the instructions & you will get to the end'....there will be no course altering traps...so have fun. It will end at the Monroe Alfys. See you all in a few days.

This event will still start at the Eastgate Park-n-Ride location.... & will meet at the back of the lot under the overpass. Go to <http://www.teamhightower.com/nwrc/eastgate.htm> for further updated info. Registration opens at 6:45pm & first car out at 7:30. Cost remains \$15/car with a \$5.00 discount going to NWRC Club members.

Club News

*** Dues can be paid at the February Meeting.** (see below)

Membership dues have increased to a rate of \$25 for individual and \$30 for family membership. This is the first dues increase in a decade and attempts to bring dues more in line with our club expenses.

RASC has to submit a membership "number" soon, so that NWRC can get it's insurance certificate.

* Thanks to Dan and Louise Comden for hosting the RASC Christmas Party.

* 2006 RASC Club Officers

President: Marvin Crippen

Vice President: Dan Comden

Treasurer: Ed Millman (gave notice this would be his last year as treasurer)

Secretary: Eric Horst

Member at Large 1: Jerry Hines

Member at Large 2: Mark Nolte

TRIVIA

* "Top Gear" was a strikingly irreverent British TV show that had a short appearance on cable TV's "Discovery" channel. It didn't stay long. Popular rumor was that it was just too "British-centric" for US audiences, or that Discovery Channel had decided to try for an American version, still being put together.

*From Walt Kammer:

"Old friend and rally driver Bob Hourihan passed away on Christmas day at the age of 60.

Bob had his small intestine rupture, and initially thought it was only a stomach ache, but by the time they hospitalized him it was too late for an operation."

(Bob ran NW events in the late '70's. Usually in a fast Volvo. A genuine nice guy - ed)

FOR SALE / Wanted:

2005 Mitsubishi Outlander AWD. Pearl white with 11,900 miles, \$15,800. This is based on the Lancer platform. Very similar to the Forester, CRV, and RAV4 except less common, cheaper, and less ugly. If you're not ready now just wait a year - the Turbo Forester has kicked everyone's butt so new engine options are on the way :>)

1990 Subaru Legacy AWD wagon. 5-speed, new clutch, 16" alloy wheels. 190k miles but runs well, yours for \$1500 before we put it on Crain's List...

Jerry Hines 425-823-6343

Calendar

* SPEED Channel isn't carrying the WRC this year. Have yet to find a reason, but maybe Subaru isn't buying as much advertising time.

*Primitive Enterprises (sometimes known as Paul Eklund) is sponsoring driving schools in Oregon.

* I note that Island Rally Club (Vancouver Island) the fullest rally calendar of any club.

* Too many dates are still "slippery", so NW listing only goes to mid-June.

* The Thurston County ORV Park may get funded for 2006, which opens it up as a Rallycross venue again.

WRC

Feb 3/5 - Swedish Rally

Mar 3/5 Corona Rally México

Mar 24/26 -Rally de Catalonia – Espuma

Apr 7/9 Rallye de France – Tour de Corse

Apr 28/30 Rally Argentina

May 18/21 Rally Italia - Sardinia

Jun 2/4 Acropolis Rally of Greece

Aug 11/13 OMV ADAC Rallye Deutschland

Aug 18/20 Neste Rally Finland

Sep 1/3 Rally Japan

Sep 22/24 Cyprus Rally

Oct 13/15 Rally of Turkey

Oct 27/29 Rally Australia

Nov 10/12 Rally New Zealand

Dec 1/3 Wales Rally Great Britain

Rally America National Series

Feb 24-25 100 Acre Wood, Salem, MO
Apr 21-23 Oregon Trail, Hillsboro OR
Jun 3 Susquehannock Trail, Wellsboro, PA
Jul 28-29 Maine Forest Rally, Rumford ME
Aug 25-26 Ojibwe Forests, Bemidji MN
Sep 23-24 Colorado Cog, Steamboat Springs
Oct 20-21 Lake Superior, Houghton MI
Dec 1-2 Reno Rally, Reno, NV

UR Rally Championship (NASA)

Mar 17-18 Cherokee Trails International Rally
Chattanooga TN
Apr 7-8 Rally New York, Monticello NY
Apr 28-29 Subaru Rim of the World Rally,
Lancaster CA
May 18-21 Olympus International Rally, Shelton
Sep 2-3 International Rally Tennessee,
Linden TN
Sep 8-10 Wild West International Rally,
Shelton
Sep 22-23 International Rally New York, Monticello
NY
Oct 6-7 Prescott Rally, Prescott AZ
Nov 9-12 Laughlin International Rally, Laughlin
Nov 10-11 JAOS Adventure (GPS Navigation Rally)
ARSG, Laughlin NV

Others of interest

Jun 8-11 13th Annie & Steve Norman Classic
Motorcar Rally, Lk. Crescent Lodge WA
Jun 16-18 Champ Car Grand Prix 2006 @ PIR
(workers info) Portland OR
Aug 10-13 Monte Shelton North West Classic
Motorcar Rally Portland OR
Aug 6-11 Porsche Parade Convention, Portland OR
**Aug 14-22 - Alcan5000 2006 (Kirkland-Dawson-
Anchorage) www.alcan5000.com**
Sep 9-16 Targa Newfoundland Tarmac Rally
St. John's Newfoundland
Sep 20 - Oct 1 American Adventure Historic Rally
(8 states) Long Beach-San Francisco
www.americanadventure2006.com
Oct 1 Maryhill Loops Hillclimb (SOVREN) Goldendale

Northwest to mid-June

Puget Sound TSD

Feb 10 Friday Nighter, PSRC
Mar 10 Friday Nighter, NWRC
Apr 2 Flapdoodle Express by Chuckanut SCC,
Gimmick, Bellingham
Apr 14 Friday Nighter, ORCA
Apr 23 Raindrop by RASC (Whidbey Is)
May 12 Friday Nighter, ORCA
**Jun 3-4 No Alibi by RASC, (Wenatchee-North
Central WA)**

Jun 11 (to be named) CSCC, Bellingham WA
Jun 9 Friday Nighter, PSRC
Jun 17 Sno-git, ORCA, Marysville

British Columbia TSD

Feb 18-19 Thunderbird 2006 by WCRA, BC
Regional, Merritt BC
Feb 25/26 RallyX in Ice, Bairnes Lk.
Mar 11 Island Novice TSD #1, by IRC, Victoria BC
Apr 8 TSD Rally School by IRC
Apr 9 Storm the Island (STI) by IRC, paved night
TSD by IRC, Victoria
Apr 9 Novice TSD #2 of 4, by IRC (first 4hrs of
STI), Victoria
Apr 29-30 Heart of Darkness, WCRA BC Regional,
Coquihalla region
May 13-14 Coast To Coast by IRC, PCC, Port
Alberni
Jun 4 RallyX, #1, Courtenay BC
Jul 8 Novice TSD by IRC, #3 (of 4) Duncan BC
Jul 9 RallyX #2, Courtenay, B.C.
Jul 22 Gold Digger WCRA BC Regional TSD
(may move to late Aug/Sept) Pemberton BC

Oregon TSD

Mar 11 CSCC TSD Rally School & Rally Cascade
Sports Car Club, Tigard OR
Mar 17 Friday Night Road Rally, Portland OR
Apr Friday Night Road Rally, Portland OR
May 13 The Oregon Trailblazer, Cascade SCC,
Course, (location tba)
May 26 Friday Night Road Rally, Portland OR
Jun 16 Friday Night Road Rally, Portland OR

NW Stage

Feb 25-26 Doo Wops (C2, C2), PRG, Reg'l Stage
Rally, Aberdeen WA
Mar 31-Apr 2 Performance Rally School w/RallyX
Washington County Fairplex Hillsboro OR
Apr 2 "Fools Play" Primitive Rallycross
Washington County Fairplex Hillsboro OR
Apr 21-23 Wagons Ho / Oregon Or Bust / Trails End
Reg'l (5 coef. over 3 days) Hillsboro OR
May 20 John Nagel Memorial Rally, Regional Stage
Rally, Shelton WA
May 21 Gene Nielsen Memorial Stages, Regional
Stage Rally, Shelton WA
May 26-27 Rocky Mountain Rally, CARS National
Stage Rally CRC, Calgary AB
Jun 16-17 Mountain Trials, BC Regional Stage Rally

Rainier Auto Sports Club will meet this coming Monday, February 13 at 7:30 PM at Café Veloce at the Totem Lake shopping center. Best way I can think of to get there is 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 the second Monday of each month. Past Members, visitors, and spectators are welcomed.

Agenda: Bring money. Dues are \$30/family, \$25/individual. Fill out the 2006 Membership Form, being sure to tic the "e-mail only WAG" if you find the paper issue cumbersome.

Talk of upcoming snow frolic, aka "Thunderbird".

Steve Richards may have more on Raindrop.

2006 Board Members:

President: Marvin Crippen, mcrip @ drizzle.com;

Vice-President: Dan Comden, dan @ comdens.com,

Secretary: Eric Horst, erich @ teamd.org ,206-363-9752

Treasurer: Ed Millman, edm @ adservices.com 206-361-7389,

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<http://www.rainierautosports.com/wag/default.htm>

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