

## Rally News

Pacific Forest Rally 2008  
*Car Zero Chronicles*  
Ron Sorem © 10-23-2008

Merritt, British Columbia. October 17 & 18, 2008. West Coast Rally Association presented Pacific Forest Rally. Round Five of the Canadian Rally Championship brought Canada's top teams to Central BC for two days of fast gravel forest stages and two very accessible Spectator Stages.

Team Fugawi's three-car Course Opening team began the weekend with Recce (reconnaissance) on Thynne Mountain and Brook Creek on our way into Merritt. We followed the tracks from the rally teams' Recce the previous afternoon. Midway into Thynne a shaded area brought a very "slippy" set of corners. Shortly after finding dry gravel again, we were forced to stop and cut away a fallen tree, before finishing the stage. Brook Start was relocated from its original, with more room for control crews, and led into a set of hairpins. Thynne takes the rally to its highest elevation on the loop, Brook gently descends back toward the valley. The stage was fast and generally smooth -- with the exception of the Flying Finish area, which was very wet, very soft, VERY slippy. The Car Zero Crew discussed this nearly to Merritt -- a brief mention that the "mud bog" had indeed degraded would suffice -- no driver bulletin needed.

Advance (000) Steve Perret and Kathryn Hansen, and Pace (0) Lee Sorenson and Walt Wendolowski, carried out duties in Merritt prior to the start, while Slow Pace (00) Ron Sorem and Max Vaysburd, did a Recce for the group on Princeton Cutoff stage. Noting the conditions, a particular imbedded rock, some new ruts, and a slightly rougher cattle guard -- Princeton was essentially unchanged from our last encounter. Helmer and Nicola should be no different. Comstock South has been run before, but not by any of our team, so the "new" configuration would be "cold" on our first run. The detailed stage book, with some input by stage crews -- "a big hole", and the regraded hairpin -- would be our guideline.

"Merritt by Night" was Day 1 of the National and the first of the Regional rallies. Twenty-five teams took the start for two runs of Comstock and two runs of Princeton before a service break in Merritt.

Antoine L'Estage and Nathalie Richard (2007 Hyundai Tiburon AWD) took both Comstock stages over Pat Richard and Alan Ockwell (2008 Subaru WRX Sti). These two split the Princeton stages with L'Estage's Tiburon taking SS2 and Richard's Subaru taking SS4.

Two more runs of the forest stages saw L'Estage taking Comstock over Norm LeBlanc and Keith Morison (2002 WRX). Richard, dealing with a tire issue, was 16-odd minutes on stage with a 1-minute late road penalty. It was L'Estage and LeBlanc pressing again on Princeton, with Gord Olsen and Todd Patola taking 3rd (2004 WRX).

Fast times on 6.13-km Comstock brought a 104.09 km/h average. On 9.20-km Princeton, narrow, twisty, uphill, 80.21 km/h was the average.

Railyard Mall spectator stage is a very compact parking lot "stage" -- paved to gravel to paved, two laps, under the lights -- only .57km. Richard took SS7, then Scott & Bob Trinder took SS8 (1995 Subaru WRX-RA), with identical times of 49.2 seconds.

"Helmer by Day" was Day Two of the National, and the second Regional. Twenty four cars started. The Thynne -- Brook loops were all Richard/Ockwell, with 7-seconds on SS9 over LeBlanc/Morison; then 24.3 on SS10 over Trinders; and 9.1 on SS11 over Craig Henderson and Lyne Murphy (2007 WRX Sti) -- forget about the two-minute "flyer" timing error for one competitor; finally 27.3 on SS12 with Henderson/Murphy again second. Top average speed on the 10.03-km Thynne was 84.86 km/h first time, 88.58 on the second run. For 11.75-km Brook it was 87.61 first run, 89.86 on the second.

A brief stop in Service, then Active Mountain Raceway for the 1.86-km daylight Spectator Stages affording great photo-ops for amateurs and professionals. L'Estage's Tiburon and Richard's Subaru traded honors at AMR, with LeBlanc 3rd on SS13 and Henderson 3rd on SS14.

The transit to Nicola Lake stages saw LeBlanc/Morison retire with a hole in the transmission, and Trinders retire with a broken rear strut tower.

Nicola is a gradual rise, with solid rock roadbed, covered by very packed granular stone -- it can be very fast. This year Nicola was a "turn-around" stage, dead-end, with a wait for everyone. Nicola North (uphill) saw L'Estage/Richard with 4:04.00 (108.295 km/h), over 7.34-km. Nicola South, set at 7.20-km, went to Richard/Ockwell with 4:03:40 (106.49 km/h).

While the Team Fugawi? Course Opening cars were split up in Nicola, "00" backtracked Helmer, spoke with the rancher about "her" cows, and met the Finish Control crew just into the stage -- assured everything was set up. "Everything" except some banner tape to block the sideroads, and key Marshals and Radios. This road closure exercise took the cooperation of several control crews, donating a supply of tape to be distributed further along the route. Several "civilians", including hunters in pickup trucks, were asked to exit the stage toward Helmer Gate (reverse course). With the Stage set up and workers on the way, Advance, Slow Pace and Pace converged on the start at nearly the same time, from different directions -- we love it when a plan comes together...

Helmer, 22.77-km, ran twice. Pat Richard and Alan Ockwell took both runs, with a 13:13.9 and 13:33.3, roughly 7- and 14-seconds ahead of L'Estage. Top average speed was 103.25 in the dark. Cattle were not a problem this year. Spectators refusing to obey the guidelines, and drunks trying to drive around the Marshals, seem to be the norm on Helmer. Road condition was damp but grippy in most spots, with one or two slippy corners.

Attrition saw one crash, on AMR, several mechanical failures, one quickly extinguished fire between Thynne and Brook, and a couple of minor "offs" contributing to more mechanical failure. Twenty five PFR starters became twelve finishers.

Overall winning time for Antoine L'Estage and Nathalie Richard 1:47:22.3, followed by Gord Olsen and Todd Patola with 1:50:45.7, then Pat Richard and Alan Ockwell with 1:52:29.9.

Pat and Alan's third place at PFR sealed their Canadian Rally Championship for 2008 (four wins and a third).

Complete results, links, and photos at [www.pacificforestrally.com](http://www.pacificforestrally.com) and [www.carsrally.ca](http://www.carsrally.ca)

### Friday Niter, October 10, 2008

28 cars showed up for the RASC Friday Niter, not doubt drawn to the last fun for the year, and a little bit because Jeff McMillen promised a good event. It was also the last chance for the young Novices to gather points for the series award.

All 4 checkpoints were scored. There was some grumbling from the old timers about use of non-NWRC terms common to most other rallies in the NW.

Jeff wants to thank his checkout crews who approved his route, and the workers who kept the thing together. -MN

### Clubs news

\* Elections: The Rainier way is to elect four new members to the RASC Board each year. The Past-President and Past-Treasurer remain on the Board, for a total of 6 members.

A nominating committee is preparing a list of candidates, to be presented at the November meeting. Its possible that the election may be held soon thereafter, since the number of active members is about the same as in 2007.

### For Sale

\* Winter tires. You can't be ready too soon ! : Nokian Hakka Q's. NEW, never mounted, one never out of the bag... 205/55-16. Fits Subaru Impreza RS 2.5. Two for sale, perfect for 2wd car. Studless snowtire. \$100 for the pair

\* 1987 Subaru RX 3dr, caged, log-booked. 1.8Turbo, 5spd dual-range, locking center diff, Limited Slip. \$3000 (long list of spares for a price)

E-mail Ron Sorem: [ronsorem@gmail.com](mailto:ronsorem@gmail.com)

\* Goodyear Wrangler LT215/75R15 Tire (fits a Jeep Comanche), worth every bit of \$10. Will deliver for addn'l \$50. Mark Nolte, (425) 226-3155.

\* **FOR SALE: HOT ROD RELIC!** One "Moon" cast aluminum gas pedal, just like the ones they used in the 60's muscle cars, the one with the heel cup and side rail to hold your foot. Waffle pattern surface, with "MOON" cast right in. Heel hinged, with spring. New, never installed in anybody's GTO or Chevy SS396. \$50.00, Roy Ward. 425-485-6225 [roy.ward@verizon.net](mailto:roy.ward@verizon.net)

\* **FOR SALE: PRECISION ODOMETER.** Nu-Metrics Nitestar 60 <http://www.aboutus.org/Nu-Metrics.com> Distance Measuring Instrument with RS-232 interface for connection to laptop. Includes two speedometer pulse transducer boxes (interface with modern vehicle speedometer wire). Used by DOTs, Forest Service, military, etc. Has storage for four different factors, and infinite split/event log when connected to laptop, includes library of notations (for intersection, bridge, sign, etc). Unit cost \$500, transducer boxes \$130 apiece. Asking \$300.00 O.B.O. medical event forces sale. Compact, used for course checkout 2008 No Alibi, reliable and accurate. Roy Ward 425-485-6225, [roy.ward@verizon.net](mailto:roy.ward@verizon.net) .accurate. Roy Ward 425-485-6225, [roy.ward@verizon.net](mailto:roy.ward@verizon.net) .

### 2008 RASC Calendar

\* Check out the on-line magazine for local rallyists. Its part of the NWRC website.

<http://www.nwrally.com/>

#### WASH and BC TSD

Nov 8- Monsters Revenge -Chuckanut SCC, Burlington, WA, <http://www.chuckanutsc.org/>

November 22-23 - Totem, Cache Creek, B.C. 2>8:30 Sat, 8:30> 3:30 Sunday, \$45

**Rainier Auto Sports Club** will meet this coming Monday, November 10, 7:30 pm, at Canyon's Restaurant, 15740 Redmond Way in Redmond, 425-556-1390.  
<http://www.canyonsrestaurant.com/locationsredmond.html>.

Agenda: Maybe some discussion of RASC election process. Jerry will announce the latest Alcan entry list (just the numbers, no names).

Afterwards, discussion of tires for Totem.

**2008 Board Members:**

President: Eric Horst, [erich@teamd.org](mailto:erich@teamd.org), 206-363-9752  
Vice-President: Steve Richards, [smrdatman@comcast.net](mailto:smrdatman@comcast.net), 425-337-0232  
Secretary: Dan Comden, [dan@comdens.com](mailto:dan@comdens.com),  
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**The Wishbone Alley Gazette**

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