

# The Wishbone Alley Gazette

June, 2010 *Rainier Auto Sports Club*

## Rally News

\* No Alibi, (June 5-6) Rallymaster: Eric Horst assembled a great team to present the 30 entries with a great weekend. Marvin Crippen was looking over maps and sorting routes through the winter. As is becoming a tradition, he and Marvin were looking over roads when it was snowing. Dan Comden ran it two weeks before to make sure it was clean.

Ten checkpoint crews spread out over central Washington to achieve 29 scored controls on Saturday, 25 on Sunday (total 54).

The route covered 538 measured miles, only 45% Transits. The 7:45 PM finish on Saturday was sort of late, encouraged by a request by the banquet host, Michael's on the Lake, for a later arrival to accommodate the rally crowd.

Sunday's 3:15 finish at the lakeside park drew raves as Michael's caterers laid out a great spread. The scores were posted just about when everyone was full, and trophies followed quickly. This is how it's supposed to work. Congratulations (mixed with relief) to Steve Mats-Mats and his friend Kevin Tower for somehow managing to collect all the rally logs, get pictures, and have scores ready for time-dec adjustments at the finish.

The Saturday route went west through Ephrata to get to the favored tracks near the Columbia River, with gas and food (?) at Chelan. Then across the north Douglas County plateau to Grand Coulee (dam and city sights). It took about 2 1/2 hours to rally back to Moses Lake.

If Saturday went north-northwest, Sunday went north-northeast. Popping out of gravel roads to get as far east as Davenport, the fabled swooping scabland gravel avoided state highway 28 where possible, then south.

Brian Cary (#27, '83 Volvo, with Julie Guthrie): "There were some nice roads that I remembered from last year, but the real great ones came after lunch, weaving in between tall rock pillars that looked like they had fallen from the sky. I had no idea that eastern Washington had such incredible roads!

"The second day was much better when we finally figured out how to calibrate our computer, leading to a little better times but still suffered with wheel probe issues from time to time. One of my favorite roads of the day was a set of switchbacks up a narrow paved road with a posted speed limit of 50! Had to take the challenge, and I think we did quite well in a 25 year old beater. From there on the roads got better with more twists and turns on excellent gravel. Had a bit of a scare when taking a hairpin and encountering a truck doing the same thing! Lots of room though so no real worries, it was only the 3rd vehicle that we saw going against rally traffic on that section. The only downside to second day was the rain that kept washing off all the hard-earned mud coating on the car.

Lots of great views, roads, and mud puddles made this a great rally."

Jay Shukla (2010 Subaru Legacy # 32, with Hope Meinert) was one of the 5 Novice-class cars. He was happy with the car, relieved that the tires worked well on the gravel. Being late in the pack, he had the advantage of being able to follow the fresh tracks of the other cars. Although a missed turn let them get 15 miles off course and the only reference, a speed limit sign, worked on the off-route! Using all the time-dec allowance made the scores look better than they expected, and a 15-minute break at the end of that TSD put them back "in place".

Steve Richards and Gary Reid had a great time, enjoying new scenery these old-timers hadn't seen before. Steve said that they were happy with their scores until they ended up 4 points away from Jason and Vanessa Stokes, who won the Equipped class with 52 points. "It's hard to do much better than that", said Steve.



The CP crews perhaps got to see more scenery. Ron Sorem, when asked about the scenery, responded, "I mostly saw the Timewise readout." Nolte/DeVore arrived at the top of Rock Island Grade (where these pictures were shot) with time to look at the distant Cascades. Later, a local guy showed up "to see what was happening". He was pleasant, and straight from central casting, wearing a straw cowboy hat and a revolver was prominent on the dash. He said they didn't get any snow this winter.

Hal Dittman/Susan Everett took the "hide the CP" mantra to heart at their Strahl Canyon location, parking out of sight and climbing the canyon wall to time cars. Great view!

The guys familiar with the layout split up, so Hans Adomeit must have had a lonely feeling as Dan Comden drove off to work another CP. Marvin Crippen was found behind some bushes, not even a wide spot, in full faith that he'd get a ride to where Jessica Fleenor was parked.

Congratulations go to the winners in each class- Dean and Adam Clees in Novice class with 481 pts. SOP class winners Mike Dyrland/Candy Galindo got only 250 pts. To beat Joel McLaughlin/Chris Ringhofer by 2 seconds.

Perpetual Equipped class winners Steve Richards and Gary Reid were awed by Jason and Vanessa Stokes 52 points over their 56.

The Unlimited class scores are almost a crapshoot, since a mere bobble or slight error by a CP crew could spread the scores. The Damms get boasting rights, with 28 seconds over the weekend. Satch Carlson/Russ Kraushaar with 34 squeaked by Marc Gattman/Brandon Harer by 1 second.

The lone Vintage class entry, Gary Webb's '82 Celica, toted up 77 points.

Results and pics of this and past RASC events at <http://www.rainierautosports.com/events/2010/noalibi/default.htm>

\* No Alibi 2010- by Marinus Damm

Scary Don Siewert used to make the outrageous claim that you can't *pull* on anything; you can only *push*. He countered my first attempt, "tugging on a rope tied to a wagon", easily: the rope was looped around some part of the tugged wagon, and so passed behind some part of it -- and on that backside the rope was *pushing* on the wagon. More of my attempts and more of his counters followed... such was the sort of discussion we'd get into over the third pot of coffee or the second half-rack of Animal Pops. I think I finally got him, though, with magnetic attraction. He must have slept through that part of Physics, so it didn't occur to him to say that the field lines behind the magnets pushed them together.

I'm reminded of Scary Don's claim because of the curious assemblage of E30 325iXs at the "No Alibi" rally in Eastern Washington (first weekend in June; don't miss it next year). Larry LeFebvre and Zack Grant drove all night Friday in a black '88. Five-time winners of the event, S. Carlson (yes, that one) and Russ Kraushaar brought another '88.



The Widner brothers had an '89, white, with fetching blue sport stripes notched above the front wheelwells. And we dammralliers arrived in a brilliant red '90. In a flood of Subaru's, the BMWs stood out like a rocky chunk of basalt poking above the waters.

Did some force /attract/ these cars? Or did something like magnetic field lines press on their slab-sides, turning them inexorably toward the Palouse? Now it's true that the rallymaster measured the course in his own iX, and no one can deny that matching the rallymaster's equipment is a nice aid to matching the rallymaster's measurements -

- and matching those measurements is precisely one-half the goal of the TSD perfectionists (the other half being, as Russ K. puts it, "matching the math"). In that sense, bringing an iX to No Alibi is smart.

Bringing an iX is also fun. On heavy-duty tires, with functioning suspension, the car can be tossed sideways on the gravel chicanes, drifted over crested sweepers, hustled through sinuous gullies at CAST, and yet it snaps back to attention and responsible behavior when necessary. The Horst-ism of the weekend: "The car will do tricks for you, then when you say, 'Okay, go straight now', it just does."

So we went out, us smart fun-seekers, and rallied all the livelong day on Saturday. Nine timed sections sent us from the plateau of the Palouse down to the Columbia River, up the Rock Island Grade, curving up the gorges and long sets of roller-coaster hills, to Chelan and back. Rainer Auto Sports Club shaved away the standing-around time and filled that space with gravel miles.

At the banquet on Saturday night (it's a two-day rally), preliminary scores showed the usual tight squeeze in the Unlimited class, with a Toyota? Camry?! inexplicably sitting between iXs in first and third.

Those guys in the Toyota were good, very good; but with front wheel drive and street tires, they brought a knife to a gunfight. By the end of Sunday, the iXs in the Unlimited class were one-two. Modesty prevents me from telling you outright who won, but I'll reprise that line uttered so well by Michael Gambon in a BBC miniseries, "I'm not saying that Russ and Satch were in second place, but one Unlimited iX team was in second place, and it wasn't us."

\* Alcan (August 16-24) news- The last look at the entry list showed 43, about all the motels along the course can handle. Jerry is eagerly prepping his Volvo wagon for course survey in June.

He mentioned that his youngest son, Cameron, got some valuable right-side seat time with Gary Webb on No Alibi, and thinks he may have a "contender" in the household.

### TRIVIA

\* Took the 2005 Tacoma in for its first "sniff test" today. Brought a thick, unread magazine, and scheduled it while there was good stuff on the radio.

I pulled into the lot and a gal waved me up to a freestanding ATM-like thing. It's the new sniffer! She was enthusiastic as she checked to make sure the records were correct, then plugged an OBD-II reader into the socket under my dash. She returned the little thing to its cradle and pressed a couple of buttons. The machine spit out a sheet of paper that said I passed!

She said the state is considering having one freestanding in the future, open 24/7.

Never even looked at the magazine! I was out of there in 15 minutes. -Nolte

\* I was in my Ballard Schwab yesterday getting a cracked valve stem fixed (for free). I had found the van with a flat and filled it with my new compressor, then

realized I could keep it from deflating by wiring the stem to the steelie. So I made it to Schwab without resorting to the spare.

While I was at Schwab, a young couple in their late 20s were picking up a set of 4 steelies that they had dropped off for powder coating. Like \$115 for the whole deal. That seemed pretty good. Les offers 8-10 different colors and 1-week turnaround. I might have to get the van's wheels done in gloss black.

Who'da thunk? - Jim Hogan

\* Ed Millman says he and Jack Healy are planning to take the BMW to Targa Newfoundland again. Besides learning a lot about how the rally works last year, the car will be shipped to Newfoundland. The long tow last year was just too far. It may go by rail.

\* The Maryhill Hillclimb, October 2-3, may include a class for vintage rally cars. There are a few old Group B cars in the NW, and might meet the safety standards. SOVREN hasn't made their maximum entry (about 35 cars) in the last two years.

\* The Breazeales moved from Snohomish to Arlington.

#### **For Sale/ Wanted**

\* **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)

\* **1987 Subaru GL Turbo Wagon** pushbutton 4wd, \$990 flexible... E-mail Ron Sorem: [ronsorem@gmail.com](mailto:ronsorem@gmail.com)

\* **2001 Audi Allroad** All the luxury and bells and whistles. Waterpump and timing belt done, negotiate for the studded Hakkas. New low price: \$7200, more details at [blackholeracing@gmail.com](mailto:blackholeracing@gmail.com) (Jim or Cristy Breazeale)

\* **For Rent, Las Vegas house**, \$400 week. Car available. Jerry or Colleen Hines, 206-227-6343.

\* **FREE:** Are you a home brewer? Or do you know a home brewer? I have at least 12 cases of empty, 12 ounce bottles looking for a refill. \* **FREE:** I have a Bruning drafting machine. Come and get it before the recycler does.- [kslingbloom@comcast.net](mailto:kslingbloom@comcast.net)

\* These tools belonged to Sue's dad. He was a dedicated woodworker and made good use of them. They have remained silent for over 10 years. Need to find a new, and caring home:

Vintage Craftsman 5" joiner. Model 103 0502 **\$50**;  
AMT 4" joiner w/ manual **\$25**; Dremel 4" bench saw w/manual **\$35**; DeWalt 10" radial arm saw w/manual. Model 740 on stand **\$100** Contact Ken or Sue Lingbloom (360) 733-8897 (Bellingham) [kslingbloom@comcast.net](mailto:kslingbloom@comcast.net)

\* Terratrip 202, w/ wheel sensor. \$175 (Gently used) Tom Palidar 206-890-6799

#### **RASC Calendar**

Rallycrosses not listed, but happening.

#### **Stage in PNW**

June 12 – Mountain Trials, CARS Nat'l, Merritt, BC

July 14: Idaho Rally (w/ RallyMoto) - Boise, ID area - Rally Drift

September 18-19: PRG Pomeroy County Fair RallyCross - Pomeroy, WA

Sept 23 – Wild West, Pomeroy, WA

Oct. 23: Mt. Hood Rally - ORG

Dec 3-5: Big White Rally and SnowX - Kelowna, BC

#### **British Columbia & Washington TSD**

June 11: NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA

July 9: NWRC Friday Niter by NWRC

July 17 - Sno-Git TSD, Marysville, WA

July 24 – Gold Digger, Kelowna, BC

Aug 13: NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA

**Aug 16-24: Alcan 5000 by RASC**

Sep 10: NWRC Friday Niter by PSRC

Oct 2 – Night on Bald Mountain TSD by ORCA

**Oct 8: NWRC Friday Niter by RASC**

Oct 30 – Midnight TSD, Parksville, Vancouver Island, BC

#### **Oregon TSD**

July 2- Friday Nighter, Milwaukie, OR

July 31 – Mountains to the Sea, Milwaukie to Pacific City

August 31 – Friday Nighter, Milwaukie, OR

Sept 11 – Rally Against Parkinson's, Portland Int'l Raceway

Sept 17 – Friday Nighter, Milwaukie, OR

October 1 – Friday Nighter, Milwaukie, OR

**Rainier Auto Sports Club** will meet this coming Monday, June 14, at 7:30 PM at Café Veloce at the 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 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:** No Alibi stories. (Five club members entered) The much-anticipated reading of last meeting minutes. President Jeff McMillen can talk about the Canadian F1 grand Prix.

**2009 Board Members:**

President- Jeff McMillen, [jeff@somepants.com](mailto:jeff@somepants.com)  
Vice-President: Steve Richards, [smrdcatman@comcast.net](mailto:smrdcatman@comcast.net), 425-337-0232  
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