

# The Wishbone Alley Gazette

September, 2018

Rainier Auto Sports Club

## Rally News

\* Alcan 5000 (August 20-28, 2018) What can go wrong? 27 cars plus 6 staff cars/trucks and 27 motorcycles on a 5,000-mile rally. Make it 100 participants. The answer seems to be, not much.

There were a few DNF's. Brian Cary's Husqvarna developed a death rattle and completed the route on a trailer. Brian was very disappointed. To add more pain, a part was stolen off the bike while parked at a motel.

The yellow mini wagon suffered a death rattle, also. When the magnetic drain plug was removed to start diagnosis, metal pieces were attached, so it spent the rest of it's tour readying for a long trailer ride south. The other Mini (yes, there were two old "real" Minis) had a halfshaft failure, fixed by replacing the bailing wire.

Andy Newell's diesel truck chose to have a bad head gasket, resulting in an extended stay in Fairbanks for Andy while it got fixed. He ran out of "tourist things" to do after 2 days.

The closest to tragedy happened when Steve Perret/Kathryn Hansen parked their Subaru wagon alongside Highway 97 to walk into a TSD to watch the rallyists. They heard a bad noise, and when they got back to the car, the side window was broken and everything inside that wasn't bolted down was gone.

Instead of enjoying the company of old friends that evening, they foraged for a new laptop, healthy foods, and a complete wardrobe. There is a Costco in Prince George. Scoring the rally is usually a chore, this time made worse with the laptop replacement. Kathryn spent many miles of world-class scenery bent over the laptop.

The side window was fixed with a (clear) shower curtain and clear duck tape.

One motorcyclist decided this was a chance of a lifetime to get on an Alaska State ferry and do his own exploring. A neat thing about the ferries is that you can get off at one port, and then hop on the next one after sightseeing.

Paul Dubinsky (South Carolina) and Colin Stenhouse (W. Vancouver, BC) were known as Sweep 2 or "The Big Red Truck", hauling a U-Haul trailer full of the motorcyclist's bags. Paul needed to fly home immediately after the rally. The RCMP frown on a Canadian driving an American-licensed vehicle, something about illegal imports apparently, so Paul arranged for Jim Breazeale to drive the truck south from Fairbanks.

The daunting fire reports for British Columbia turned into reality as blowing smoke reduced visibly to zilch through transits on 2 days.

There were 11 classes, four for the motorcycles. The McKinnon/Putnam/Schneider team (very experienced) had a total error of 53 points.

Jerry sent out preference surveys months before the rally, and about half of the ones he got back were from entrants who later dropped out. He still had to arrange motels, usually 2 per overnight. He decided that 3 days would have two routes, just to satisfy all the requests. Not your usual rally by any definition.

Ron Sorem took on staffing duties, deciding who of the 6 "staff vehicles" would be where, plus nine checkpoint crews who went some of the way. Too many to list here, but special mention of those who made it a family affair: Troy Jorgensen and Cole, Tim Chovanak and Erin, and Matt Tabor and Haley. Matt also had his parents, Bruce and Janice, along in her Subaru.

<https://www.alcan5000.com>

The Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/261614507789/>  
for the pictures.

*(Assembled from interviews with a few participants by the editor. All were tired and /or giddy from the experience. Too many pictures posted to Facebook to select even a minimum for this WAG.)*

\* The Tour de Forest stage rally is fast approaching on October 6-7. RASC has supported stage rallies in the Pacific NW since before the current format was invented, even coining this name back in the '70's. Club members now fill many positions; proudly wearing their RASC T-shirts under layers of rain wear.

The two-day event has been elevated to an American Rally Association national this year. There will be four "roads" on Saturday, 3 on Sunday, all run twice.

The volunteer signup is again at <http://www.rallydata.com/default.cfm>, with a deadline of September 11 in order to assure you get a T-shirt. Even then, the recruitment could fill up by then.

\* Six entrants for ORCA's August NWRC Friday Nighter: 2 each in Unlimited, Masters and Novice.

## Club News

\*September commences the start of the RASC Election process. A Nominating Committee is selected to vet candidates for the November election. The group of 3 contacts likely candidates to assure that they will be members in 2019 and are willing to be on the ballot. Those candidates are announced at the October meeting.

Since the membership doesn't all reside in easy proximity to the November meeting, there will once again be "internet voting".

The election will be for four Board of Directors, who join the Past President and Treasurer to compose the 6-member RASC Board. Once elected, the new Board meets to divvy up the positions.

\* Rainier Auto Sports Club meeting minutes for August 2018 as recorded by Diamond Jim for the recovering current Club Secretary Dolores Ranhofer.

Meeting called to Order at 19:40 with 15 members and 2 guests in attendance. The July meeting minutes were approved with minor verbal corrections.

Madam Treasurer reported the club was in solid fiscal shape.

**Rally Reports-** No reports for the upcoming 2019 Raindrop Rally and the 2019 Nor'Wester as well as the Club's October contribution to the NWRC Friday Niter series.

With only days to go before the summer **Alcan 5000** event Rally Master Jerry Hines started the ball rolling with a flood of details. This year's event has a record number of entries with 29 cars and 29 motorcycles presenting him with some hotel challenges. Sponsor Nitto Tires are tardy on deliveries, but they are working on it. Discussion of radios and antennas led to several members volunteering to help with installations and bringing spares to ensure everybody had comms. Car Number 1 would be a phantom car as a tribute to 5-time winner Gary Webb. Pete Schneider will conduct a Novice class. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Learn from one of the best! Worker call for Tech and Registration on Sunday 12 to 4 pm at the Totem Lake Hotel. Event swag was debuted with cool embossed license plates, new hats, lovely green t-shirts with the route on the back, nifty hi-tech fabric vests and really nice luggage tags. Nitto bags and Starkist Tuna products will be distributed at Registration.

**Old Business-** July's NWRC Friday Niter presented by the ORCA club had only 6 entrants. Lowest entries of the season so far. Speculation leaning towards thin promotion.

The up-dated RASC By-Laws are coming soon.

The much-discussed Holiday Party had reports from members with the popular Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum priced out of our comfort zone. Suggestions of the club having the regular December meeting and the club picking up the tab were met with positive noises. More discussion to follow.

**Old Business-** The Election / Nomination committee will solicit volunteers for the next years

Board. Please volunteer, your club needs you and it is the right thing to do.

Final notes on Old Timers and Cancer..... remembrances of friends.

Call to Adjourn and seconding at 20:22 with more Alcan discussions following.

### Trivia

\* Steve Richards intends to return home mid-September, subject to the progress of his therapy to get his legs in shape for life away from the rehab center. He's spent most of the year bedridden. He says he can't use his right leg for very long before it "gets wobbly".

Using a wheelchair at home will be a challenge- the freezer is above the refrigerator, so no ice cubes?

\* Both Renhofers have right arm problems. The latest problem occurred when Richard slipped off a ladder, tearing a tendon.

\* Marinus Damm once again wrote about an experience (his Targa Newfoundland story is worth reading), this time about a Saab at Bonneville. <http://dammralliers.com>

### For Sale/Wanted

\* **1985 Saab 900E**, \$1100, the familiar green one that was built for TSD rallying by Dan Comden. Too many mods to list. Jerry is moving out of the Anderson Island house, hence the fire sale price. Comes with boxes and boxes of spares. Jerry Hines, [alcan5000@gmail.com](mailto:alcan5000@gmail.com)

### RASC Calendar

#### Washington TSD

September 14 - NWRC Friday Niter by NWRC

**October 12 - NWRC Friday Niter by RASC**

#### Pacific NW Stage rallies

Sept 14>15 - Idaho Rally (ARA), Placerville, ID

Sept 28>30 - Pacific Forest (CARS), Merritt, BC

Oct. 5>7 - Tour de Forest (ARA), Olympia, WA

#### Oregon TSD

Sept 8 - Saturday TSD (Cascade SCC), Milwaukie, OR (Last one of the season)

Sept 22>23 - Oregon 1000, Albany >Gold

Beach>Albany, \$225 includes Saturday dinner and Sunday meals.

Oct 27 - Ghouls Gambol (Cascade SCC), Portland, OR

# RAINIER AUTO SPORTS CLUB

RASC usually meets on the second Monday of each month. Locations vary as we try out all the venues.

**The September 10 meeting will be held again at the Olive Garden at 11325 NE 124th St, Kirkland, WA 98034 at 7:30 PM.** The restaurant is on the west side of I-405, on the south side of NE 124<sup>th</sup>. You can take the signal at 113<sup>th</sup> and turn in after that.

**Agenda: Looking for volunteers: many, many positions available. Otherwise, it'll be dominated by Alcan and all things Alcan.**

## **2018 Board Members:**

President: Charles Aggenbach: [charles@aggenbach.us](mailto:charles@aggenbach.us)  
Vice President: Marvin Crippen: [mandos@gmail.com](mailto:mandos@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Dolores Ranhofer: [d.ranhofer@gmail.com](mailto:d.ranhofer@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Cristy Breazeale: [blackholeracing@gmail.com](mailto:blackholeracing@gmail.com)  
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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](mailto:mnolte@blarg.net)

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