

# The Wishbone Alley Gazette

August, 2011

Rainier Auto Sports Club

## Rally News

\* SnoGit 8 (July 16, ORCA): 22 controls plus 8 DIY, 14 entrants: 4 each UNL, Calc, SOP, and 2 novices. Rallymaster Jack Heppes planned the route from Enumclaw to Lacey. Steve Perret/Kathryn Hansen placed 10th o'all, last in UnL, mostly due to the getting the highest single score of anybody on the rally: a 240e at a DIY! Max Vaysburd/Rennee Damm were 1st o'all with 15 points.

\* Mountains to the Sea (July 23) 29 entrants. (7 UNL, 8 LIM, 5 SOP, 1 MAS, 8 Nov). April and Marcus Song wrote the rally Cascade Sports Car Club.

Marinus/Rennee Damm ended up 3rd with 32 pts, losing to Russ/ Katy Kraushaar (10 pts) and Steve Roberts/Jack Heppes (30 pts). Steve Perret/Kathryn Hansen ended up 7th Unl/9th O'all with 270 pts.

Steve Richards and Gary Reid thought they were doing badly until the trophies were handed out; 263 points were good for 1st in LIM class, 8th o'all. Max Vaysburd teamed with Conrad Berg to win the SOP class, and 6th o'all at 175 pts.

### **\*Rallycross scene**

*(I asked Ed Rachner about rallycross. Here's his take-MN)*

Why do I run rallycross? A little personal history. I became interested in rally in the late 60's and got quite involved in TSD rallying as it existed then. Since I was a mediocre driver and because my wife got car sick on our first rally "date" I became a navigator and my wife my regular driver. I dabbled in all forms of rally including stage rally (not with my wife on those.) I became a typical "rent a navigator" and always wondered how the magic occurred in the seat on my left.

Jeanne and I moved from the east coast in 1988 to Woodinville, WA and since our three children needed our weekends, we elected to quit rally "cold turkey." Since no one knew who we were there were no requests to work a checkpoint, write a rally, drive or co-drive an event.

That worked fine until we attended the third West Coast Subaru Show at the Straddleline ORV park. A fine camping weekend among Subaru geeks that culminated in a Sunday rallycross put on by ORG. A fine idea I thought and entered (as a driver) in our '84 wagon. I didn't do very well but I was hooked and made an effort to seek out every rallycross event I could find within reasonable distance since then. After almost 10 years of rallycross, I've learned that there's more skill and less magic to driving well.

Of all the rally opportunity out there, it is the least expensive in terms of money and time.... and you don't need to involve a second person.

Can RASC make money on this? Probably. Only rallycross events I know about locally are put on by Oregon Rally Group based around Portland, but they've had venues as far north as Chehalis, WA.

Pacific Rally Group tried to get a start on a Washington series, but it didn't quite get off the ground. I ran a few of their events because they were relatively close but competitors dropped out and eventually PRG seemed to drop out of rallycross also.

There is money to be made with rallycross. Oregon Region uses its series of 6 to 8 events per year as a cash cow to generate cash flow funding for Oregon Trail and Mt. Hood events. The first event of the series is in March and with the long winter drought of RX events, the turnout has been as high as 130 entrants. By the end of the season, that falls off to 60 or so of the true "die hards." Myself included. At \$30 per entrant that's a significant income; especially when the entry can be doubled by offering a Time Only class. More on that later.

Primary need for doing a rallycross is a large, flat field of about 15 acres or more. I'll spare the details but a rallycross is just an autocross with less traction and fewer classes. The bulk of the workers come from the entry field; half the entry works, the other half runs; then the two halves switch. Any group/club wishing to present a RX will need an event chairman, a course person to lay out a fun and safe course, timing personnel, a safety chairman, and a tech inspector. Finding a venue is the first hurdle; getting the property owner to agree the 2nd, and then some form of insurance the third. The schedule of the event is to normally run AWD classes in the morning and 2WD classes in the afternoon; then on the next event swap the classes around so everyone can sleep in if they wish. The logistics are a little more complicated, but I won't bore you with the details.

RX tech inspection depends on the group and the tech person. Generally, it consists of making sure there's no play in any wheel/suspension point, nothing loose in the interior of the car, a tight battery hold down and a throttle that returns by itself when released. Helmets must be M2005 or more recent, seat belts are present, and the car is appropriate for the class it's entered in (i.e. Stock, Prepared, and Modified; further split into AWD and 2WD). If there's sufficient entry, 2WD can be split in to FWD and RWD. Simplified classes are Stock is

stock; Prepared is tires and some minor modifications; Modified means most anything is allowed. There is no attempt to class cars based on horsepower since the assumption is that the traction issues in mud or on grass present a reasonable equalizer. Some of the Regional and National events are much more stringent in their requirements. Most clubs use SCCA's guidelines and rules found at [http://cms.scca.com/documents/Rally%20Rules/2011\\_RXR.pdf](http://cms.scca.com/documents/Rally%20Rules/2011_RXR.pdf).

So can RASC put on a rallycross? Of course we can, we have the skilled people and maybe the desire to do so. I'd like to see it happen for purely selfish reasons.

Last weekend (July 30/31), was a double rallycross weekend with competition on Saturday and Sunday at the same location on land owned by the Port of Chehalis. Not the best field, but quite suitable. It was hosted by ORG as part of the Planes, Boats, and Cars weekend in Chehalis. ORG will no longer be able to hold events at the Hillsboro, OR fairgrounds since the field will be put to other uses which don't include rallycross. The search is on to find other venues for them. Hopefully last weekend will not be the end of this year's rallycross season for ORG. With luck they'll find other fields to get in a couple of events this year and continue in 2012.

Anyway, Jeanne and I were in Chehalis last weekend. After a long time away from driving, Jeanne has finally come around to driving with me at RX events. The weather was splendid and the course layout was pretty fast even though the field is smaller than optimum. We were the only RASC members there, but I was pleasantly surprised to meet a few other drivers from the Seattle area who don't normally venture as far south as Hillsboro. I was a bit off my game and didn't finish as well as I wanted, but Jeanne is finally getting more aggressive and showed lots of improvement over her previous runs earlier this year. Results from the two days could be found at [www.oregonrally.com](http://www.oregonrally.com).

\* 2012 Alcan (Feb. 23>March 2). Entry is up to 21 teams. An interesting and diverse group. Jerry is still getting calls, and hopes to get 25 entrants. <http://www.alcan5000.com/>

\*Wild West stage rally is scheduled (a week before Pacific Forest Rally) on September 24/25. The last effort got cancelled due to lack of entrants and workers. Rumors of night stages.

## **Club News**

\* June meeting notes (*by MN*): VP Cristy convened the meeting at 7:31, and quickly moved through the agenda. Lack of Treasurer, Secretary, President and the rest of the Board greased this. There is always doubt about what constitutes a quorum; not a problem at this short meeting.

Roy, with support from Ron, gave a rundown on what and where for the 2012 Nor'Wester revival.

This was followed by mention of the passing of Bob Sjodin, and how we're going to miss him.

The Treasurer sauntered in and since that topic had been glossed over earlier, no report made it to my notes. After a while, he left for more interesting things. The Secretary sauntered in shortly thereafter, but since his topic had already been glossed over, my notes don't record anything except that Jeff left for Europe the day after the last meeting, and he arrived home in time for this meeting.

Jerry's Alcan report recounted the challenges of planning the tour for deep winter. Past participants are keeping in touch with him from all over the world.

Rally reports consisted of just one item- next years' No Alibi. That consisted of (in it's entirety), "Yakima".

The meeting was concluded at 7:45; talk continued long after.

\* Ed Rachner volunteered to gather input for forming a RASC Time Declaration policy. You can submit your idea(s) to him at [e.rachner@comcast.net](mailto:e.rachner@comcast.net)

## **TRIVIA**

\* Jerry and Colleen Hines hosted a party combining Jerry's Birthday, Retirement and the "Last party at the house-on-the-hill in Kirkland". The July 31 shindig was well attended by RASC folk, many who don't know how many rallies were put together there over the years.

\* Jeff McMillan bought the Sube RX from Ron Sorem. He has yet to pick up all the spare parts.



\* Cristy: " We saw Robert on the 24th. He's still working in Alaska and still hating it. He said he'd gotten a check for his Raindrop expenses just the day before. Is this the last of the Raindrop bills?"

"My nephew, Max Neher, who was a teen when he serviced for us when we raced in the 90's, has bought a Rally Rabbit and will run it under the Black Hole Racing logo. Give him an extra cheer when you see him in the woods. "

\* Garage cleaning season: Both Jerry Hines and Ron Sorem are cleaning out their "odd stuff" inventory. Jerry reports that aluminum wheels are bought at the scrap yard for 80¢ a pound. Steel is about \$220/ton.

\*Ken and Sue Lingbloom just completed their yearly 3,000 mile summer vacation tour. They bought a black Prius for the trip. 47 mpg!

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

\*Nokian Hakkapeliita 185/65R15 13/32 new, have 9/32 now and good studs, on dual pattern steel snow wheels 5on100 (Subaru/Chrysler)/5on115(GM) --- 4 for \$250  
ronsorem@gmail.com

\*Microsoft "**Office 98**" for Macintosh, Upgrade Gold Edition, still in shrinkwrap! \$85. Mark Nolte, [mnolte@blarg.net](mailto:mnolte@blarg.net).

\* **15" wheels**, steel, fits Subaru OBS. Bolt pattern is 110mm (Subaru) and 112mm (fits ?). Black \$40 for both, \$25 each. Steve Richards, 425-337-0232 (Everett)

\***04 Volvo XC70**, lightly used, 113K miles, \$9500 (New lower price!) Jerry Hines, cell: 206-227-6343

\*HT 2-channel radios, used for Alcans, \$80 inc batteries/charger. Many available. Also **mobile Kenwoods** for \$100. Jerry Hines, cell 206-227-6343

**RASC Calendar** (The WAG staff includes TSD's and stage events; no rallycrosses, hillclimbs, Solo's, races, and restricts to somewhat reasonable driving distances)

#### **Events of interest**

Sept 10-17 - Targa Newfoundland, St. John's, NF

October 21/23 - US Road Rally Challenge, So. California. SCCA Nat'l.

#### **Washington and British Columbia**

August 6/7 -Heart of Darkness, Hope, BC to Hope, BC, FCO 9:30PM, finish 7AM RM: Jeremy Baxter

(jeremy@rallybc.com) 778-882-2832 (replacement for TRNT on PCC schedule)

August 12 -NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA

September 9 -NWRC Friday Niter by PSRC

October 1- Night on Bald Mountain by ORCA

**October 14- NWRC Friday Niter by RASC**

October 29- Monster's Revenge by Chuckanut SCC

November 11- NWRC Friday Niter by ORCA

November 12-13-Totem, B.C.

#### **Oregon TSD**

Aug 5 - August Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie

Aug 13 - The Road Not Taken, by TRRG, CANCELLED

Sept 9- September Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie

Sept.10 - Rally Against Parkinson's (Rally Round PIR), Portland

Oct 7 - October Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie

#### **Stage**

Aug 6 - Mendocino Rally, CRS, Ukiah, CA

Sept 24-25 - Wild West, Pomeroy, WA

[www.wildwestrally.org](http://www.wildwestrally.org)

Sept 30-Oct 1- Pacific Forest Rally, CARS Nat'l, Merritt, B.C.

October 22 - Mt. Hood, Oregon

**Rainier Auto Sports Club** will meet this coming Monday, August 8 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 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:** Maybe some sort of Treasurer's report and latest word on getting away from Chase bank. Jim Breazeale plans to navigate for Gary Webb at the "Heart of Darkness" around Hope, BC. He'll have stories. Jerry will have the latest update on his party, and maybe something about Alcan.

**2011 Board Members:**

President, Robert Gobright, Fundimech@gmail.com  
Vice President, Cristy Breazeale, blackholeracing@yahoo.com  
Secretary, Jeff McMillen, jeff@somepants.com  
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