

The Wishbone Alley Gazette

March, 2009

Rainier Auto Sports Club

Rally News

* Thunderbird Rally 2009 article & photo by Ron Sorem



Merritt - Kelowna - Merritt, British Columbia. February 7 & 8, 2009. Rallymaster Paul Westwick, and staff from the West Coast Rally Association, presented the 38th running of their premier winter rally -- Thunderbird. Thunderbird is the mascot of the University of British Columbia, and the rally was originally a UBCSCC event. Forty-seven teams took the start in Merritt for Round One of the BC Rally Championship. Thunderbird's reputation as a premium event drew teams and staff from 3 of Canada's western provinces and 5 western States.

Road conditions varied over the two days -- dry paved, ice patches over paved, dry frozen gravel, smooth plowed snow, and Saturday night deep powder under a near full moon. Cold but clear weather hovered at freezing in Merritt for the start. Patches of left-over snow and ice lined the highway, turning quickly to solid "puddles" in the gravel, then snow-covered for the first Regularity, "Minnie Lakes", climbing from Nicola Lake, then winding along the plateau to Douglas Lake and the return to pavement -- covering 36km (22mi).

"Douglas Lake" Regularity, 44km, left the big cattle ranch, climbing northerly, passing Chaperon Lake, Rush Lake, Salmon Lake and its resort. A checkpoint and photo-op at the top of a ridge, then a gradual descent in snow along Salmon River to pavement and the farms in Westwold Valley. At Westwold, the rally turned east to a break in Falkland -- most of the checkpoint crews turned west then north to Pritchard and Chase, to get ahead of the rally.

Leaving Falkland, the 43km "Chase Creek" Regularity followed its namesake, passed Pillar Lake and the Basalt Pillars, to China Valley Road ("Ignore Road Closed") and the short run along Charcoal Creek before Acute Left at checkpoint ("No Thru Road"). Sounds confusing, but was all

very clear. Continuing north along Chase Creek 18km to Turtle Valley and on to Squilax at the Thompson River.

"Loakin Bear" Regularity climbed quickly in the snow, then meandered along the plateau. Nearly every pullout or cattleguard brought a checkpoint for 17km, then speed change down to 36km/h for the waiting hairpins, dropping to the river and the town of Chase, after 24km.

Rally and CP crews parted ways again. CP crews heading east on the highway while the rally climbed back into the hills for a 36km "Skimikin" Regularity -- a bit more twisty route to Tappen, before a Transit through Salmon Arm to Enderby.

Just 10km east of Enderby the rally turned south for 32km "Trinity Valley" Regularity and a mix of gravel and snow, becoming deep snow, then back to gravel dropping down to Lumby.

South of Lumby, the "Beaver Lake" Regularity was the longest of the day, at nearly 53km, in 1 hour 28 seconds, and presented a twisty climb at 55km/h then narrowing and tight at 45km/h. Opening up on the mainline, speeds are back to 60km/h. Toward Deer Lake, passing Beaver Lake, slower now, deeper less-traveled snow, then the snowplow! Good or bad depending on tire choice and skill levels -- but the track was wider and smoother. End of Section just short of Highway 97 in Winfield, then into Kelowna for the finish of Day One.

Thunderbird presented 27 scored controls on Saturday -- apparently too few for the Unlimited cars. Four teams tied with 2 points, and two of those tied with most zeroes. There were seven cars under 11 seconds, including two Historic Saabs. Wildlife sightings included coyote, wolf, deer, and moose (on pre-run -- just "size 10" fresh footprints at our CP location). The wildlife Saturday night at Earl's was impressive as well...

After a late night, enjoying the Kelowna night-life, or laying under a car in the warm parking garage, a brief check of the scores and everyone converged, on a "Common Route" out of town. Running south and west overlooking Okanagan Lake, then up into the residential areas, climbing out of Peachland, and twisting into the woods. Deeper snow greeted the teams for "Trout Creek Loop" Regularity on Peachland FSR, into the big hairpin at 50km/h, then climbing again, hard right, top of the hill, speeds increased to 65, then 72 -- still plenty of snow. Bear Left, onto Trout Creek FSR, at Headwaters Lake (anybody see the lake?). Just past the fourth checkpoint, speeds dropped to

65km/h, then two bridges for hard points, and two more checkpoints. 39km from Peachland the route turned back toward Summerland -- 60, 65, and 68km/h. Five more controls along the Kettle Valley Railway and Trans Canada Trail. Bridge, hairpin, hairpin, sharp climb, run along the ridge above the creek, hairpin, checkpoint, and pavement -- nearly 75kms -- longest of the rally, with 11 controls.

"Summerland" Transit dropped down the hill (still twisty) into town and north on Highway 97 along the lake to Peachland and a repeat of "Trout Loop". Rallymaster Westwick questioned whether "scores will be better because they've seen the roads, or worse because the snow has been thoroughly polished". *Result for at least the first 15 cars was "better"*. At 37km, end of section.

"Osprey Lakes" Transit spanned the 47km to Princeton for a welcomed break.

Northwest from Princeton, "Otter Valley" Regularity followed the Tulameen River, below the rock formations called "hoodoos" and dodging rocks on the road, passing historic Coalmont (Canadian Pacific Railway's "mountain of coal"), with its three story Coalmont Hotel, then into Tulameen and the Otter Valley Road -- still 7km to gravel. An easy 18km to the hairpin, then smooth road past five checkpoints and a big medium right into long medium left. A long right with some ice in the shade led to a long sweeping left (dry this year) before ending at Highway 5A after 70km.

Just up the road to Bates, and the start for 17km "Kentucky-Alleyne" Regularity, shortest of the rally. The first checkpoint, at cattleguard, has had numerous "close encounters of the moose kind" over the years. Following a quick climb through an easy left-right-left, 5km into the regularity the rally drops to 18km/h through the campground -- Kentucky Lake on the right, Alleyne Lake on the left. Two more checkpoints, then under 97C and 2km to the end of section.

A 42km transit led to Boston Pizza in Merritt to round out 808.40km (502.29 miles) in 18-1/2 hours, with a total of 54 scored controls.

Scores took a bit of time as most of the logsheets arrived after the rally cars.

Presentations for the 2008 Pacific Coast Challenge (PCC) were held by R.Dale Kraushaar. Top honors again went to Steve Perret and Kathryn Hansen with 2 firsts, a second, and a third in the four-rally series.

Thunderbird 2009 saw several past winners: From 1963, 68, and 71 -- Tom Burgess; also from 1963 -- Bill Fane; from 1968 and 71 -- Jim Bowie; from 1972 -- Taisto Heinonen; from 1987 and 91 -- Gary Reid; from 1991 -- Steve Richards; from 1993,

98, 99, and 2006 -- Peter Hill; from 1994, 96, 97, and 2007 -- Satch Carlson; also from 1994 and 2007 -- Russ Kraushaar; from 1996 and 2001 -- Gary Webb; from 2000 -- Mark Nolte (checkpoint crew); from 2001 -- John Kisela; from 2005 and 2005 -- Glenn Wallace; from 2006 -- Geoff Hill; and from 2008 Jason Webster and Brandon Harer.

The field covered 10 Historic, 12 Unlimited, 8 Calculator, 3 Paper, and 14 Novice teams, with 42 finishers.

Congratulations to Satch Carlson and Russ Kraushaar in the Historic 1969 Saab Sonett II V4, with 6 points. First Unlimited to Jeff McMillen and Marvin Crippen with 8. First Calculator to Steve Richards and Gary Reid with 31. First Paper to Steve Perret and Kathryn Hansen with 165. And First Novice to Clarke Bayles and Maralyn Hope with 117.

Complete results and photos at www.rallybc.com

Club News

* Mark Weber is tweaking the Raindrop Rally (April 26). Its mostly measured, with arrangements for all the stops awaiting final decision. He's scheduled the checkout for the first weekend in April. Wants a good checkout.

Its currently 153 miles and 5-3/4 hours long.

* No Alibi: a goal is to have it centered in one city, with Moses Lake being evaluated -on the maps until the roads open up.

* The 2009 dues remain as in pre-inflation days: \$30 for families, \$25 single.

* Robert Gobrigh was a guest at the February meeting. Fresh from T-Bird, Jim and Cristy Breazeale joined us, then headed on home to Wyoming.

* 2009 club officers have been settled.

Trivia

* Congratulations! The McMillen/Crippen team were 2nd in the BC TSD championship and 3rd in PCC for 2008.

* Last year it was Route 66. This year Steve Richards takes a cruise ship to Skagway.

* Lucas Hines returns to civilian life in mid-April.

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
E-mail Ron Sorem: ronsorem@gmail.com

* Goodyear Wrangler LT215/75R15 Tire (fits a Jeep Comanche), worth every bit of \$10. Will deliver for addn'l \$60. Mark Nolte, (425) 226-3155.

*For sale: A collection of Car and Driver and Road & Track magazines dating from 1956 to present. Low price of \$500. The Peter Eagan columns alone are worth that. Contact Ken Lingbloom at: (360) 733-8897 or klingbloom@comcast.net

For Sale (continued)

* '07 Audi A3 (wagon), 27K miles, 17" wheels, \$19,500. Also found a '99 Ford SuperDuty hidden at Mom's house. \$3000
Jerry Hines, 206-227-6343

* **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

RASC Calendar to July 2009

British Columbia & Washington TSD

March 7- ORCA TSD rally school, Redmond, WA Debbie Sjodin: Debbie.Sjodin@clearwire.net Or Rem Remington: remremington@hotmail.com

March 13- Friday Nighter, by ORCA, Bellevue, WA
April 5- The Flapdoodle Express, gimmick rally/poker run, ChuckanutSCC, \$30, \$5 discount for early registration. FCO 10AM, Skagit Subaru (Burlington). Finish Bellingham.
April 10- Friday Nighter, by PSRC, Bellevue, WA
April 26- **Raindrop TSD, by RASC, WA**
May 8- Friday Nighter, by ORCA, Bellevue, WA

June 6-7- No Alibi TSD by RASC, eastern Washington

June 12- Friday Nighter, by ORCA, Bellevue, WA
July 10- Friday Nighter, by PSRC, Bellevue, WA
July 18- Sno-Git VI, TSD by ORCA, Marysville, WA
July 25-- Gold Digger TSD, Whistler, B.C.

Rallycross

March 21- Oregon Rally Group 2009 Rally Cross, OR
April 17- Primitive Rally School, Hillsboro, OR
April 19- Oregon Rally Group 2009 Rally Cross, OR
May 3- Oregon Rally Group 2009 Rally Cross, OR
May 29- Primitive Rally School, OR
May 31- Oregon Rally Group 2009 Rally Cross, OR
June 26- ORG & SCCA National RallyX, WA

Oregon TSD

March 13- Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie, OR
April 3- Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie, OR
May 1 - Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie, OR
June 5- Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie, OR
July 3- Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie, OR
August 14- Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie, OR
Aug 22- Mountains to the Sea, CSCC
Sept 4- Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie, OR
Oct 2- Friday Night Road Rally, Milwaukie, OR
Oct 31- Ghouls Gambol, Portland

Stage Events

March 7-8- Doo Wops, Aberdeen, WA
April 17- Olympus International Rally, WA
May 15-16- Oregon Trail, Hillsboro, OR
June 13/14- "Mountain Trials, Merritt, B.C
July 9- Idaho Rally/ RallyMoto, Mountain Home, ID

Other events of interest

March 7- M&K (Ham) show and flea market, Puyallup, WA
April 17- Defrost Kickoff, SOVREN races, Pacific Raceways, Kent
April 25- Great Race 2009: New York to Paris
May 23-28 -Targa Canada West; www.targacanadawest.com
June 20- Columbia Gorge Classic Rally & Tour, Portland, OR
July 3-6- Historic Races, Pacific Raceways, Kent, WA

Rainier Auto Sports Club will meet this coming Monday, March 9 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: Nailing down some more helpers for Raindrop. Last chance to pay dues before April.
Some stories from the weekend of Doo Wops.

2009

Board Members:

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

Vice-President: Steve Richards, smrdcatman@comcast.net, 425-337-0232

Secretary: Dan Comden, dan@comdens.com.

Treasurer: Steve Willey: willey@selby.com

At Large: Jeff McMillen, jeff@somepants.com

At Large: Roy Ward, roy.ward@verizon.net

The Wishbone Alley Gazette is published for the members and friends of Rainier Auto Sports Club. Subscription price is \$10 per year (paper), free e-mail.

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

Rainier Auto Sports Club, P.O Box 25574, Seattle, WA 98165



The Wishbone Alley Gazette

% Mark Nolte

2108 NE 12Th St.

Renton, WA 98056-2916