

The Wishbone Alley Gazette

December, 2015

Rainier Auto Sports Club

The RASC Holiday Party. Saturday, December 12th from 5 to 10 pm at the Hydroplane and Race boat Museum, 5917 S 196th St, Kent, WA 98032.

A smoked Turkey and Ham will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. There is a liquor license so you may BYOB.

This is at the NW corner of the Boeing Kent plant. Taking Orillia Rd from I-5 down into Kent valley. Then L AT SIGNAL at S. 200th, which winds back to become 196th. The museum is just past the bridge.

Rally News

* Totem, by Marinus Damm

I figured Pablo was a hotshoe.

Once, on the Port Orford Rally, we were working a control on some little-traveled pavement west of Sutherlin, and he came around the corner and saw us about the time his navigator said, "six down". WWRRAAZZAZZAowowow said the Subaru and they took two. That was a hint.

When we took the Primitive Racing Rally School, at the convenient Hillsboro site, he and his team brought us novices up to 'Beginner' level through focused driving exercises. Then we faced the Final Exam, a full-sized rallyx course in the grass. After the students did some familiarization runs, the Professor demonstrated the correct technique. I was stunned at the speed he carried on that field. My supposition grew.

But now I know; and I know because of Hat Creek.

That's the name of the first section on this year's Totem rally. Totem runs in the lower part of the Cariboo Country, along the Gold Rush trail, through south-central British Columbia. The start is in a little desert town called Cache Creek, at the junction of the Trans-Canada Highway and the road that'll become the Alaska Highway. The road from the border to Cache Creek was dry this year, a rarity, so it was an easy cruise up the Frasier Canyon. But we knew it was the calm after the storm; the hills near

town showed frosty white, the lowest signs of some serious snowfall over the past two weeks.

Reports from test excursioners all sounded the same: very slippery up there. I try not to worry about conditions. Our equipment is good, and our priorities are right. (Remember TSD Rule #1, "Stay on the road.") We left Rally HQ Saturday morning and went straight to the start of Hat Creek Road.

It starts climbing immediately, long slanted sidehill runs between switchbacks, and by the time we crested the first ridge the gravel disappeared beneath packed snow. Over the next five K, we noticed that there were layers of snow, powder-to-mashed potatoes-to-packed snow-to-ice. Then the road reached the creek, and ran along its gully, near the top of the slope, high up in the trees.

The surface changed a bit; from bottom up, it was:

- a layer of rutted ice;
- another layer of ice with different ruts;
- a layer of packed snow with still different ruts;
- and then 3-5" of heavy but kind-of-wet stuff.

It was about one lane wide, with nooks and outcroppings and exposures and those damn ruts. And it carried on for quite a while, like a child who's repeating some silly song over and over, "La-de-doop a-boop ka-nilly doh-da-doh <repeat>". 25mph CAST is all t'was ask'd, but we were 20 seconds down. Another few K to the second control, and we went by it 39 down.

Turns out, that number's not that bad. Yukon Jim Bowie, scourge of the white roads, Lightning-in-the-Dark, was only 3 under us. I felt pretty good when I saw that later, 'cause Jim can really move on snow. But car #5, Pablo at the wheel, was just nineteen late.

Right now I'm trying to imagine myself running, say, ten seconds faster, on pace to be just 29 late. Now I'm imagining the recovery operation. Brrrr. And he was /twenty/ seconds faster. Res-pect!

None of the following sections were quite that bad, though there were many more clicks of roads too icy to walk on. Paul & Yulia led throughout, and finished well ahead of the rest of us.

Several cars on Saturday forgot Rule #1, including one that ignored Guideline A: Take snow tires to snow rallies. A couple cars forgot Rule #1 on Sunday, too. No serious injuries either day, happily -- not even the eagle.

Howzatt? Well, Sunday morning, transiting back to 100 Mile House from the first section, we saw some crows dining on roadkill. They flew off as we approached. Three minutes later, an eagle had joined the feast, and when car #6 approached, he took off. But he misjudged his power, or the car's speed, and plowed into the driver's side windshield. The safety glass got a thorough fracturing, but stayed on the job. The eagle took a minute to clear its bird-brain, then flew away.

There's some metaphor there that I really don't want to explore, because of what it might suggest about us ralliers. But do you think the eagle went back to the feast?

The Thunderbird rally is the first weekend in February. If we're lucky there'll be snowbanks.

* Ten of the 24 entrants were from the states, with a lot of checkpoint workers from stateside. RASC had a good representation.

The Jeff McMillen/Pete Buckley WRX found a rock hiding under the snow. Things bent. By creative use of the jack, Jeff was able to make it drivable.

The Audi TT of Bob Chandler/Mark Clemmons wedged a rock between the skid plate and oil pan, with the oil pan relenting under the pounding. The car returned home on a trailer after Mark went stateside to get a truck.

Steve Brown bought a D50 Volvo (wagon) the day before Totem and decided to take it up as a checkpoint worker. The M&S tires got scary, so he stopped by the Cache Creek Cal Tire store and they were happy to fit him with Hakka's. Steve says the price was pretty good, too.

14 Unlimited, 4 Calculator, 2 Historic, 1 Paper, and 3 Novices. -MN

* Troy Jorgensen is doing a pre-Alcan shakedown on his Subaru by volunteering to be fast sweep on Big White stage rally. Jim Breazeale will navigate.

* Alcan Winter Rally (Feb 25>March 4) still has 36 entrants. What a party!

Club News

Rainier Auto Sports Club meeting minutes for November 9th, 2015. Recorded by Diamond Jim, club secretary.

PORASC Marvin Crippen presided over his penultimate meeting, banging the meeting to order at 8:05 pm with 14 members in attendance.

Previous meeting minutes were accepted as read with the amendment of Cristy Breazeale included in the up coming RASC board.

Madam Treasurer reported a current bank balance of \$6,955.36. then promptly began writing checks for outstanding receipts.

Guest Dallas Van Wyk and new member Kyle Rosenlieb prompted a round of introductions of those present.

RALLY REPORTS-

Raindrop Rally 2017- Steve Richards suggested rally master mentoring and offered up several past events along the west side of Puget Sound. Cristy made vague noises about being the rally master.

No Alibi Rally 2016- Marvin re-iterated the rally masters tasks vs. route finding. Rally master mentoring is mentioned again.

Alcan Winter Rally 2016- Troy visited Jerry in Las Vegas during the SEMA show. No real updates, just steady progress.

Nor'Wester Rally 2017- The fires in eastern Washington may have reduced the chances for easy hidden checkpoints. Seasoned check pointers laughed. Rod Johnson reported scorched earth on his recent tour.

Voting took place.

Old Business-

Timing lights were brought up since we have the last Friday Niter and we work in the dark. More hot air was spent. Shirts and hats were revisited.

Friday Niter rally expenses were discussed with a reported \$4.00 profit. The rally brought in \$420 and cost \$416. Conversation turned to membership and recruitment.

New Business-

The counting of votes by an impartial group resulted in Charles A., Brian C., Troy J. and Roy W. being elected to serve on the 2016 RASC Board. Congratulations.

World of Speed Museum in Wilsonville, OR is open and is worth the adventure.

Dirtfish is hosting some form of rally cross/sprints on Dec12th.

Collector's Choice restaurant in Snohomish rumored to be open until 1 am. Must be summer hours. Website indicates 9 pm closing.

Holiday Party- Troy secured the liquor license, Cristy confirmed the smoked Turkey, Jim confirmed the smoked ham, those attending should bring a favorite side dish and/or dessert. Members can BYOB and not have it in a paper bag.

Meeting was brought to a close at 9:08 Gossip begins again.

* The RASC Board election is at the November 9 meeting. This is the last chance for nominations from the floor and other characteristics of modern voting.

Trivia

* It's graphite lube season. Why graphite? It doesn't get affected by wet weather. A puff on the

door locks keeps them working. The popular oils retain dust and dirt, so are detrimental to lock mechanisms.

* "Public Service Announcement"

Coming south from the November meeting I encountered the construction zone at Kirkland/Redmond exit. Big reader sign states "All lanes open". I resisted for a bit until the right side of the car urged again and again to move left out of the traffic into the hot lanes... Reluctantly I did.

Bad move, as today I received the pay-by-mail envelope for \$2.75 complete with time date and approximate address. Now I can't prove the VMS reader board, and I can't prove the first spot I could get out of the toll lanes, so I'm sending them a check.

And no matter how urgently the right seat says "It'll be fine", I won't be going there again.

(Cleaned up for print-MN)

* The I-405 fiasco forced Nolte to get a car with an automatic transmission. A slightly used (6000 miles) 2015 Mazda 3 fit the requirement.

* The Breazeales' home (RV to the rest of us) is getting its roof fixed. A new panel is involved.

For Sale/Wanted

*New lower price! **2001 BMW 330ix**. Silver, black interior. automatic transmission, 18" wheels. Recent head work and revamp to sell at \$3600. Car is near San Diego, CA. Jerry Hines, 206-227-6343

*Brian Cary bought snow tires for Thunderbird. They came on Ford Focus 15" (4x108 mm bolt pattern) **alloy wheels**. The wheels are for sale for \$200, or make-an-offer. 425-445-7195

* The 1987 Subaru RX known to owner Jeff McMillan as **Roxanne** is going back up for sale. Turnkey stage rally car.

* **1993 Legacy Super Sport** turbo sedan (Rare-maybe one of 25 imported). Burgundy, 5-speed, 153,000 miles. Set up for TSD with wiring and goodies. "Alcan proven". \$5000 Car is fine, just running out of parking spots. Steve Brown, 206-954-4267

* **Want 'Em?: 4 225/60-16 Firestoned PV41** radials, about 50% tread. These are the original police pursuit radials that came on the Impala when I bought it. One tire is mounted on an Impala wheel. Look 'em up online, they ain't cheap. Roy Ward roy.ward@frontier.com (425) 485-6225

* FOR WHATEVER: 1 set of police-style taxi-chic Setina 12" **pushbars**. Mounting brackets to fit 2000-05 Impala. Other mounting brackets available through Setina. Would look great on your Pontiac Aztek or Checker Marathon. Adds that special touch to your Crown Vic. Makes a great conversation piece for the life-impaired. Hold doors open in the strongest of winds. Make offer (that's offer, not comments, not jokes....). Roy Ward, 425-485-6225, roy.ward@frontier.com.

RASC Calendar

For 2016, RASC has chosen April 17 for Raindrop and the June 4-5 weekend for No Alibi.

December 12 –Dirtfish Rallycross (SCCA sanction) <http://nwrallysprint.com/rules/>

December 12 – RASC yearly X-mas party, Kent

February 25>March 4 – Alcan 5000 winter rally. Yellowknife and points between.

<http://www.alcan5000.com>

NW Stage rallies

Dec. 5/6 – Big White, Kelowna, BC

Rainier Auto Sports Club will forgo the usual business meeting in favor of a Party. Besides getting to sit in a real, historic hydroplane, there will be food and drink, depending on what you bring. In a short, respectful ceremony, Charles Aggenbach, Brian Cary, Troy Jorgensen, and Roy Ward will be inducted into the 2016 Board.

2015 Board Members:

President: Marvin Crippen: mandos@gmail.com

Vice-President: Troy Jorgensen: Troy@Wafracing.com

Secretary, Jim Breazeale: blackholeracing@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Cristy Breazeale: blackholeracing@yahoo.com

At Large, Roy Ward: roy.ward@frontier.com

At Large, Eric Horst: erich@quavy.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

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