

SPRING RALLY 95

4-9-95

THE SPRING RALLY WAS PRESENTED BY THE SCCA ON APRIL 9, 1995. THE WEATHER WAS THE STORY, AND IT WAS MOST DEFINITELY NOT "SPRING" LIKE. ON MY WAY OUT TO THE LIVONIA STARTING POINT TWO HOURS BEFORE THE EVENT, A HEAVY RAIN BEGAN FALLING. THE MURPHYS WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE PERFORMING THEIR CHECKPOINT DUTIES FROM LAWN CHAIRS SET UP IN THE BED OF THEIR PICKUP AS THEY HAD LAST YEAR. THE RADIO WAS PREDICTING MORE RAIN WITH A CHANCE OF FLURRIES. AS JOHN AND I WERE GOING OVER THE MYRIAD FINAL DETAILS OF THE EVENT AT THE NEARBY MCDONALDS, THE RAIN CHANGED TO SERIOUS SNOW AS THE TEMPERATURE PLUMMETED. THIRTY MINUTES BEFORE THE START THE SEVERITY OF THE STORM (THREE INCHES OF SNOW AND WIND CHILL OF 10 DEGREES) BEGAN TO THREATEN OUR ABILITY TO PUT ON THE EVENT. MY REGISTRAR COULDN'T GET TO THE START FROM BRIGHTON. ONE OF MY CONTROL CREWS FAILED TO SHOW UP. SEVERAL OTHER CREWS WHO SAID THEY WERE COMING DECIDED NOT TO COMPETE, AND ONLY FOUR CARS HAD REGISTERED. FORTUNATELY BOB FOREN SHOWED UP WILLING TO WORK CONTROLS, AND A NUMBER OF COMPETITORS DELAYED BY THE WEATHER SHOWED UP DURING THE LAST HALF HOUR BEFORE THE START.

IT WAS DECIDED WE WOULD "PRESS ON" WITH THE EVENT, BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE RUN UNDER EMERGENCY SPEEDS 20 PERCENT SLOWER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED. EVEN WITH THAT PRECAUTION I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SAFETY. RALLY VETERANS LES TALCOTT AND RANDY WITTINE SHOWED UP, BUT DECIDED THE CONDITIONS WERE TOO SEVERE AND LEFT WITHOUT REGISTERING. TWELVE CARS STARTED, CONSISTING OF THREE EQUIPPED, THREE LIMITED, AND SIX NOVICE TEAMS.

THE RALLY WAS RUN BETWEEN LIVONIA AND ANN ARBOR. TOUR RALLY RULES WERE MODIFIED TO ACCOMMODATE BOTH NUMBERED AND LETTERED INSTRUCTIONS. THIS ALLOWED THE ORGANIZERS TO USE SMALL TIMING TRAPS ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNS AND LANDMARKS TO KEEP THE COMPUTER CLASS CARS BUSY, AND YET ALLOW THE NOVICE CLASS CARS TO PRACTICE FINDING TRAPS WITHOUT THE LARGE PENALTIES USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH MISSING THEM ON SERIOUS TRAP RALLIES.

CONVERTING ALL THE SPEEDS AND PAUSES INTO EMERGENCY SPEEDS WAS THE BIGGEST CHORE FACING THE NAVIGATORS, AND SIMPLY KEEPING THE CAR ON THE ROAD WAS ENOUGH TO KEEP THE DRIVERS BUSY. JIM MICKLE AND NEW DRIVER SCOTT KRAFT PROVED TO BE THE BEST AT FIGURING OUT THE EMERGENCY SPEED CORRECTION, TOOK THE EARLY LEAD, AND EVENTUALLY THE OVERALL WIN. GENE HENDERSON AND JOHN PUFFENBERGER FAILED TO APPLY EMERGENCY SPEEDS TO THE ODOMETER CHECK, AND ENDED THEIR CHANCES FOR A WIN. MARK HENDERSON AND JOHN WICKINS FIGURED IT OUT DURING LUNCH AND HAD BY FAR THE BEST SECOND HALF SCORES. CLASS L WAS NEVER IN DOUBT AS FEKETE & SHAFFER TURNED IN SCORES GOOD ENOUGH FOR A SUPERB SECOND OVERALL. I WAS GLAD TO SEE ALL THE NOVICES FINISHED THE EVENT IN SPITE OF THE WEATHER. THE TEAM OF JOE AND VERONIQUE BROWNE HAD THE LEAD UNTIL THE LAST CONTROL, WHEN THE KENT YOUNG AND MARLENA BAERKIRCHER CHEVETTE CHARGED INTO THE LEAD FOR THE CLASS WIN.

THANKS AGAIN TO OUR WORKERS BRIAN MURPHY, ED MAKLENBURG, BOB FOREN, AND MARY BITTEN. RICK SHUE AND JOHN TOWNSEND, ORGANIZERS

TOTAL TEAM		CAR	CARS	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL	#	S
SPRING RALLY, 4-9-95, Rick Shue DETROIT REGION SCCA																	
			C	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIM	TIME	TIM	TIME	TIME	TIM	TIME				
			L	5026	3589	2982	1651	698	947	1817	3167	1826	1064				
			A														
			S	LEG	LEG	LEG	LEG	LEG	LEG	LEG	LEG	LEG	LEG	LEG			A
			S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			S	
82	KRAFT/MICKLE	95 BUICK LESABRE	1	E	5	6	7	4	1	0	4	3	14	38	82	1	E
368	G HENDERSON/PUFFENBERGER	91 SUBURU	12	E	200	3	29	16	2	2	44	3	69	0	368	12	E
785	M HENDERSON/J WICKINS	88 SUBURU	2	E	54	174	128	200	200	2	6	6	10	5	785	2	E
181	FEKETE/SHAFFER		4	L	20	87	23	1	7	14	8	8	10	3	181	4	L
627	NATHO/ANDERSON	95 NEON	9	L	57	63	112	95	128	31	55	32	6	48	627	9	L
677	WELCH/PALMER	88 TOYOTA TURBO	6	L	132	39	100	15	144	3	36	116	57	35	677	6	L
637	YOUNG/BAERKIRCHER	84 CHEVETTE	8	N	98	200	58	96	23	10	40	39	51	22	637	8	N
699	BROWNE/BROWNE	94 VW JETTA	3	N	12	170	81	112	14	39	9	78	81	103	699	3	N
757	RADDABAUGH/BERNOCK	87 PLYMOUTH HORIZON	7	N	189	71	16	79	22	14	37	181	81	67	757	7	N
1071	YORK/ALLISON	94 FORD RANGER	10	N	166	137	200	200	110	1	80	171	1	5	1071	10	N
1127	MUZICH/MUZICH	92 TOYOTA 4-RUNNER	5	N	200	200	6	151	2	95	74	200	119	80	1127	5	N
1788	NATH/CHANIER	94 FORD F250	11	N	200	200	200	200	200	200	124	200	200	64	1788	11	N