

Dec. '96 "open exhaust"

THUMBS UP FOR RALLYISTS

by Jim Mickle

November 9, 1996 Imlay City, MI-- Marianne Mickle and her stalwart crew of organizers, including husband Jim who was rallymaster, presented the eighth annual Thumbs Up. From all reports, it was a successful event with 24 teams from as far away as Covington, KY and Milwaukee WI competing with the locals for 225 miles and 33 open controls.

Early in the week before the event, the area was inundated with heavy rain. As you could expect, the rain didn't improve the condition of the mostly unpaved roads. Fortunately, the rain went away and was replaced by relatively clear but cold weather.

The first car started the event at 1:01 PM from the usual place, the Burger King in the little town of Imlay City. Before returning to the Burger King the competitors had covered some 75 miles and had encountered 10 checkpoints. At this point, the local team of Jim Fekete and Rob Moran, in a 1996 GMC Jimmy, led with only 8 points. Because Jim and his regular navigator, Jim Shaffer were leading the Limited class in the Divisional Championship, Fekete elected to run in the hotly contested Equipped class using only limited equipment, making his overall leading score even more remarkable. Second, in a 1996 Saab 900 were Dave Parps from Milwaukee and Greg Lester from Akron, only one point behind with 9 points. Third at this point were the perennial Detroit Region champi-

ons Rick Shue and John Townsend with 17. First in the Stock class were the 1995 Stock Class champions Scott Radabaugh and Marlina Baerkircher with only 53 points. Just behind them, with 62 points were the Limited class team of Art Welch and Terry Palmer with 62. Second in Stock, only two places further back were Scott Harvey and Dreux Jacques with 81 points. A real story here. Scott's regular navigator suddenly had to work and Scott had sent out an open plea on the Internet for a navigator. None had arrived, but Scott came to the start anyway. Hope springs eternal! It so happened, one of the Hams from the USECA radio club Dreux, KB8YYA, was there, planning to help with registration and the radio net. With a lot of arm twisting, Dreux was convinced to give it a try. He and Scott ran totally SOP (seat of pants) with no calculating what so ever. They even took two zeros, the first that Scott has had all year!

At the second break, also at the Burger King, Parps and Lester had moved up to first with 22 points. Second were Shue and Townsend with 33, followed by Fekete/Moran with 48. Gene Henderson and Jeff Boris were tied with Jeff and Deb Secor, only another 10 points back. The top places were still undecided. Radabaugh/Baerkircher continued to lead Stock with Welch/Palmer leading Limited. Harvey/Jacques continued to hold on to second in stock, but not by much. The third section would decide it all.

The third section proved to be the downfall of Shue/Townsend. It started with a 100

point error on a time allowance. This was compounded by their skipping 7 instructions and going off course in a big way. By the time they found their way back, the controls were closing and they had run out of time allowance. Parps/Lester had the best score for the third section with 17 points, closely followed by Mark Henderson/John Puffenberger with 19, and Randy Wittine/Les Talcott with 20. Unfortunately for both Henderson/Puffenberger and Wittine/Talcott, earlier mistakes had them out of the running early.

When all the scores were totaled, the overall and Equipped Class winners were Parps/Lester with 39 points. Second overall and second in E running L equipment were Fekete/Moran who, by the way had never rallied together before. Radabaugh/Baerkircher won every section in winning the Stock Class with 164 points. A long series of CAST 24 cost a bunch of points in the third section, dropping them to third with 359, just behind Doug Pratt and Richard Worden who had 342. Limited was won by Welch/Palmer with 248. Mark Nowak and Frank Aiello won the Novice class with 593 points, having led from the start. This was their last run as novices and will now have to move up to the Stock Class for their next event. Second place in the Novice class were first timers Carol Golanski and Eric Zalewski, who averaged less than 50 points per control, a very good showing for first timers.

A large thanks goes to all the people who made the event possible, both competitors and workers. Without you all, we would have to stayed home and watched TV.

Chairman: Marianne Mickle
Rallymaster: Jim Mickle

Thumbs Up VIII Divisional Tour Rally
November 9, 1996
Detroit Region, SCCA

Length of Event: 224.932 miles
Number of Scored Controls: 33

Car #	D/N	Name	City, State	Vehicle	Region	Class	Score	O/A	Cls
3	D	Dave Parps	Cedarburg, WI	96 Saab 900S	Guest	E	39	1	1
3	N	Greg Lester	Akron, OH		NEOhio				
2	D	Jim Fekete	Canton, MI	96 GMC Jimmy	Detroit	E	72	2	2
2	N	Rob Moran	Westland, MI		Detroit				
6	D	Gene Henderson	Pinckney, MI	Subaru Outback	Detroit	E	91	3	3
6	N	Jeff Boris	Grand Rapids, MI		WMR				
7	D	Jim Muir	Sterling Hts, MI	97 Bravada	Detroit	E	102	4	4
7	N	Bruce Taylor	Traverse City, MI		Guest				
1	D	Randy Wittine	Rochester, MI	91 Chev Caprice	Guest	E	118	5	5
1	N	Les Talcott	Rochester, MI		Guest				
8	D	Mark Henderson	Dearborn Hts., MI	91 Subaru Legacy Tur	Detroit	E	133	6	6
8	N	John Puffenberger	Bloomdale, OH		Detroit				
5	D	Jeff Secor	Hudsonville, MI	88 Mazda 323 GTX	WMR	E	134	7	7
5	N	Deb Secor	Hudsonville, MI		WMR				
4	D	Scott Radabaugh	Milford, MI	95 Ford Contour SE	Detroit	S	164	8	1
4	N	Marlena Baerkircher	Perrysburg, OH		Detroit				
15	D	Dick Foster	Covington, Ky	1985 Audi	Guest	E	234	9	8
15	N	Bill Secrest	South Shore, Ky		River Cities				
12	D	Art Welch	Albion, MI	88 Toyota All-Trac	Detroit	L	248	10	1
12	N	Terry Palmer	Somerset Ctr, MI		Detroit				
22	D	Doug Pratt	Memphis, MI	1996 Chevy Pickup	Guest	S	342	11	2
22	N	Richard Worden	Sterling Hts., MI		Detroit				
16	D	Scott Harvey Jr	Waterford, MI	91 Eagle Talon	Detroit	S	359	12	3
16	N	Dreux Jacques	Detroit, MI		Guest				
21	D	Brian Scott	Flint, MI	91 Ford Ranger	Detroit	S	473	13	4
21	N	Matt Martinchick	Southfield, MI		Detroit				
11	D	Cappy Murphy	Waterford, MI	85 Chev C10 Pickup	Detroit	S	481	14	5
11	N	Bryan Murphy	Waterford, MI		Detroit				
13	D	Tom Bell	Traverse City, MI	88 Mazda 323	SVR	E	571	15	9
13	N	Andy Bell	Traverse City, MI		SVR				
23	D	Mark E. Nowak	Hunington Woods,	97 Ford Escort	Guest	N	593	16	1
23	N	Frank J. Aiello	Livonia, MI		Detroit				
17	D	Dan Kirby	Farmington, MI	75 MG Midget	Guest	S	606	17	6
17	N	Jon DePentu	Canton, MI		Detroit				
24	D	Brian Mahnken	Pinckney, MI	97 Saturn 4dr	Detroit	S	633	18	7
24	N	Jeff Wempera	Rochester, MI		Detroit				
9	D	Mark Rinkle	Hinckley, OH	89 Ford Thunderbird	NEOhio	E	655	19	10
9	N	Donna Rinkle	Hinckley, OH		NEOhio				
14	D	Herb Spencer	Portage, OH	88 BMW 325iX	Guest	L	743	20	2
14	N	Mark Hainen	Lambertville, MI		Guest				
20	D	Rick Shue	Dearborn Hts, MI	95 Mercedes VIII	Detroit	E	751	21	11
20	N	John Townsend	Rockwood, MI		Guest				
10	D	Bert Miller	Midland, MI	95 VW Jetta V-6	Guest	S	865	22	8
10	N	Jerry Pat Miller	Midland, MI		Guest				
19	D	Carol Golanski	Washington, MI	Turbo Sprint	Guest	N	1521	23	2
19	N	Derek Zalewski	Sterling Hts., MI		Guest				
18	D	Pete Padden	Sterling Hts, MI	Geo Metro	Detroit	L	4102	24	3
18	N	Betsy Padden	Sterling Hts, MI		Detroit				

