

Detroit Region SCCA Rally Newsletter

Year End-1997

This newsletter is intended to keep the people who participate in Detroit Region Road Rallies informed of results and upcoming events. If you have any information that you think would be of benefit to the readers, please contact the editor so he can include it in the next issue. Unless otherwise credited, all information/articles are the responsibility of the editor, Jim Mickle. 810-677-1667, JimMickle@juno.com. Permission is granted to republish any information in this newsletter if credit is given to the author and Detroit Region

NEW RALLY COORDINATOR APPOINTED

Jim Fekete has been appointed as the Detroit Region's new rally coordinator, replacing Bryan Murphy who has had the job for some five years. Jim will be stepping into some mighty big shoes, as Bryan has done an outstanding job. Please join me in giving Jim our full support. If you want to volunteer to help with or chair an event, need information, or want to give input to the BOD, you can contact Jim at 313-454-1498 or e-mail at 71207.1617@compuserve.com.

DETROIT REGION ROAD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Below are the results of the 1997 Detroit Region Road Rally Championship. Trophies were presented at the Region's annual banquet on January 18th. As usual, it was a close fought series. 1998 looks to be much the same.

EQUIPPED CLASS

1T Jim Mickle	46
1T Mark Henderson	46
1T John Puffenberger	46
2 Gene Henderson	40
2 Scott Harvey	40
3 Rob Moran	39
4 Rick Shue	33
5 Jeff Secor	21

LIMITED CLASS

1T Jim Shaffer	48
2 Jim Fekete	38
3 Scott Radabaugh	34
4 Marlena Baerkircher	24
5 Terry Palmer	23
5 Art Welch	23
6 Nancy Shaffer	16

STOCK CLASS

1T Richard Worden	50
2T Brian Mahnken	42
2T Jeff Wernberg	42
3 Bryan Murphy	38
3 Brian Scott	38

1997 CENTRAL DIVISION ROAD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

Once again, the Detroit contingent finished very well in the CenDiv Road Rally Championship. It was close to the very end. Four teams from the Detroit Region journeyed to Madison WI for the final two events of the season in chase of those final points. Congratulations to all that participated in the championship. Trophies were awarded at the Detroit Region Annual Award Banquet on January 18th.

Here is how it all worked out:

EQUIPPED CLASS

1T Scott Harvey Jr.	Detroit	50
1T Jim Mickle	Detroit	50
2T Mark Henderson	Detroit	48
3T John Puffenberger	Detroit	46
4T Rob Moran	Detroit	40
5 Gene Henderson	Detroit	38
6 Deb Secor	Western Mich.	33
6 Jeff Secor	Western Mich.	33
7 Dan Coughnour	WOR	30
8 Bill Secrest	River Cities	27
9 Rick Shue	Detroit	18

LIMITED CLASS

1T Greg Lester	NeOhio	50
2 T Jim Fekete	Detroit	48
2T Jim Shaffer	Detroit	48
3T Thomas Benham	NeOhio	44
3T Ken Swarm	NeOhio	44
4T John Hinkle	NeOhio	39
5 Terry Palmer	Detroit	23
5 Arthur Welch	Detroit	23

STOCK CLASS

1T Brian Scott	Detroit	46
2T Richard Worden	Detroit	44
3T Mark Kleckner	Detroit	30
4T Bryan Murphy	Detroit	28
5 Brian Mahnken	Detroit	21
5 Jeff Wernberg	Detroit	21

Crossing the Line Road Rally, October 11, 1997

Terry Palmer and Art Welch presented the second annual Crossing the Line tour rally on Saturday, October 11th.

The event was about 150 miles long and used both paved and unpaved roads. In some cases, it was difficult to tell which was which as the road people had been hard at work putting tar and stones on some of the roads, which made them seem like unpaved.

The weather was nice at the start, and stayed that way for the entire event, which made for pleasant driving, but also a bit of

extra local traffic, requiring the use of time delays by many of the competitors.

At the mid-point break, after 7 controls, Rick Shue and John Townsend were leading with just 5 points. Two points back, with 7, were Scott Harvey Jr. and Jim Mickle. Another point back, at 8, was a tie between Mark Henderson/John Puffenberger and Gene Henderson/Rob Moran. The closeness was to continue to the end.

In the Limited Class, Greg Lester and Ken Swarm led with 12 while Nancy and Jim Shaffer were right behind with 15 points.

The Stock Class was led Mark Kleckner and Bryan Scott with 225. Second was held by Carol Golanski and Joseph Buckner with 300.

In the Novice Class, Kevin Essenburg and Sarah Haveman held first with 215 points. Second was Craig Hall and Tom Henderson (no relation to Gene and Mark) with 306.

At the end, there were few changes in position. Shue/Townsend made a major mistake at the last of 4 DIYCs and took a double max., putting them way out of the running. They are still trying to determine what they did wrong. Harvey/Mickle were the overall winners with 16, closely followed by Henderson/Puffenberger at 17 and Henderson/Moran at 18.

Limited was won by Lester/Swarm with 24 to the Shaffers 48. Considering that this was Nancy's first rally in several years, this seems like an excellent score. They can only get even better.

Kleckner/Scott won Stock with 577. Golanski/Buckner, just out of the novice class, were second with 607.

Standings in the Novice Class also didn't change. Essenburg/Haveman finished with 437, a score good enough to have easily won the Stock Class. Hall and Henderson finished with 663, closely followed by Marnie Philips and Dan Reish.

The pizza and beverages at the end were enjoyed by all the 18 teams that participated.

FINAL RESULTS:

S. Harvey Jr./ J. Mickle	15	1, 1E
M. Henderson/J. Puffenberger	16	2, 2E
G. Henderson/R. Moran	17	3, 3E
G. Lester/K. Swarm	24	4, 1L
N. Shaffer/R. J. Shaffer	48	5, 2L
R. Wittine/L. Talcott	235	6, 4E
D. Lyon/R. Foren	277	7, 5E
R. Shue/J. Townsend	412	8, 6E
K. Essenburg/S Haveman	437	9, 1N
M. Kleckner/B. Scott	577	10, 1S
C. Golanski/J. Buckner	607	11, 2S
C. Hall/T. Henderson	663	12, 2N
M. Phillips/D. Reish	698	13, 3N
B. Miller/J. P. Miller	777	14, 3S
D. Shilke/J. Bialas	1023	15, 4N
M. Cutler/P. Lamotte	1109	16, 5N

B. Weeden/A. Georgiev	1812	17, 6N
T. Jacques/K. Jacques	2212	18, 7N

Thumbs Up 97, November 8, 1997

A total of 24 teams attended the 9th annual running of Thumbs Up, presented by Marianne Mickle, with the course by Jim Mickle and Tom Woodside. It was held on a beautiful fall Saturday. In fact, from an organizers standpoint, it was almost too beautiful as it brought many of the locals out to clean their lawns and ditches.

Unlike the past several years, this years edition of Thumbs Up did not return to Imlay city for the breaks, but instead stayed well east, near Port Huron. This allowed the introduction of many new roads, and roads that had not been used in quite a few years.

The story of this years event must be shooting yourself in your foot. Almost all of the teams seemed to make at least one major mistake along the way. With 33 legs, and almost 220 miles of competition, there was plenty of time to make mistakes.

At the end of the first section, Dave Parps and Greg Lester led with only 11 points for 11 controls. Only one point separated them from Mark Henderson and John Puffenberger who had 12. Third with 21 were Rick Shue and John Townsend and the leading Limited Class team of Scott Radabaugh and Marlena Baerkircher. Jeff and Deb Secor were next with 27. The leading Stock Class team of Richard Worden and Doug Pratt were next at 40. Art Welch and Terry Palmer were next with 91 points. Eric Jones and Harry Ward, in Eric's MGB led vintage with 139 while Gary Evans and Matt Decker led Novice with 383. Pete Padden and Jacob Singer held a slim second place in Stock with 252 as compared to the 256 of Matt Martinchick and Jeff Miller.

Scott Harvey Jr. and Bryan Murphy could easily have led the Equipped contingent were it not for the 200 point max. that they took after they left a transit with the CAST set at zero.

Unfortunately, Parps and Lester had to drop out at the break when the left rear outboard brake pad went metal to metal. Apparently the caliper slide was sticking, which caused the pad to wear out in only 10,000 miles.

At the second break, Henderson/Puffenberger were now leading with 24 points. The Secors were second with 59 while Radabaugh/Baerkircher had 68 for third overall and first in Limited. Stock was still led by Worden/Pratt while Martinchick/Miller and Padden/Singer had swapped places. Evans/Decker continued to lead Novice.

At the end there was little change in positions. Henderson/Puffenberger finished first overall and first in E with the only two digit score, 37. Jeff and Deb Secor were second with 103, after having come in contact with a small deer that ran into their car. Fortunately, the deer apparently was not seriously hurt as it got up and ran away after the impact.