

Best '98 Open Exhaust

August Madness Results

Mark Kleckner

Sunday, August 2nd was the sixteenth running of the August Madness. August Madness was paired with Saturday's road rally school to give novices an introduction into road rallying. "PRO Rally" tulip style instructions were used, and plenty of mileages were given, making the course easy to follow.

It was a bright sunny day, with temperatures in the low 80s. Typical of Michigan summer, road conditions were good 'n dusty, with a few sections of washboard road for an added bonus. Some of the roads had been recently graded, and the dry conditions made them fun to drive on at the assigned CAST speeds.

Equipped class had three entries, and was tightly contested by all three until the usually masterful Townsend & Shue made a navigational error on leg three. They took a huge time allowance, but it was not enough. Later, they redeemed themselves, bringing only seven points over the next eight controls.

The Equipped teams of Spencer/Moran and Henderson/Walter battled it out all day, with Henderson/Walter leading by one point at the break. Leg 10 was thrown because of an incorrect CAST change, and the rally came down to control 12, which was an extremely short leg. While leading by one point, Henderson and Walter took a 1, while Spencer and Moran zeroed the leg. Thus, a TIE!

Limited class entries were nonexistent. Someone missed out on some 'free' championship points!

Stock class was won by the engaged-to-be-married couple of Kevin Essenburg and Sarah Haveman (Kevin proposed on the Grand Adventure rally). They cruised to an excellent 211 points over 11 scored controls. Second in stock class was Bialas/Giorgiev with 408 points.

Novice class was also tightly contested, with no one getting very lost. Only one max score was recorded for all three of the novice teams. First in class was the team of Hopeman and King with 354 points. Second in class was Ramsay and Sytniak with 378 points. Third in novice was Fellar and Hammer with 454 points, an excellent score considering they did not know what a rally was until the start of the event.

Mark Kleckner acted as rallymaster, with help from Jim Shaffer in the course layout. Scott Radabaugh was co-chair for the event, and assisted with course measurement and timing. Bob Martin presided over scoring. A crew of Kettering University/GMI students and graduates worked checkpoints, along with one novice (Michael Bennett) who could not find a driver in time. Thanks to all the workers for a great event!

History of August Madness

The original August Madness Rally was organized by Grant Wilcox of the SCCA in 1981. The first year, instructions were regular road rally instructions (non-Tulip). August Madness II was run with Tulip instructions (Mark Henderson/John Calhoun won overall in a Ford Fiesta), and has been ever since.

Grant Wilcox ran the event in the Milford area, and most or all of the events finished at his Veterans Post with a steak and roast corn dinner cooked on a huge grill outside. This made for an interesting finish to a grueling rally.

The event was previously organized by the "Jims" (Shaffer and Fekete), who ran the event from 1995 through 1997. They 'passed the torch' to rookie rallymaster Mark Kleckner for this year's August Madness.

This year, the duo of Mark Henderson/Jerry Walter won this event for the third time as a team (also won in 1985 and 1986), tying Herb Spencer and Rob Moran. Jerry Walter had not run an event or used a rally computer in ten years.

FINAL RESULTS - August Madness Rally - Sunday, August 2, 1998

Overall	Class	Car #	Description	Driver/Navigator	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	L9	L10	L11	L12	TOTAL
1	1E (tie)	1	BMW 325IX	Spencer/Moran	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	X	1	0	11
1	1E (tie)	2	Subaru Turbo RX	Henderson/Walter	0	1	0	2	0	2	1	1	3	X	0	1	11
3	3E	4	Ford Taurus SHO	Townsend/Shue	0	1	102	3	0	0	1	1	1	X	1	0	110
4	1S	3	Ford Escort GT	Essenburg/Haveman	24	6	3	42	61	2	7	9	22	X	30	5	211
5	1N	7	Ford Escort GT	Hopeman/King	54	7	37	34	26	140	5	17	19	X	14	1	354
6	2N	9	Volvo S70	Ramsay/Sytniak	28	1	7	16	20	200	3	31	20	X	8	44	378
7	2S	5	Ford Escort	Bialas/Georgiev	96	29	69	2	30	79	7	34	36	X	23	3	408
8	3N	8	Chevy S-10	Fellar/Hammer	35	100	64	33	91	28	4	80	1	X	15	3	454