

## ON RALLYING

### ROADRALLY

BY JAMES HEINE

#### FOUR IN A ROW

After the eighth edition of the Detroit Region's Son of Sno\*Drift Rally on Jan. 7, Central Division teams might be forgiven if they wonder whether anyone but **Ron Johnstonbaugh** and **Jack von Kaenel** can win the wintertime trek over the rural roads of the Wolverine State.

Johnstonbaugh and von Kaenel won the 2006 edition of the rally in convincing fashion, accumulating just 11 penalty points for the event's 20 controls. It was the fourth victory for the pair and the fifth consecutive Sno\*Drift title for von Kaenel.

Not a bad accomplishment on an event whose roads tend to be unpaved and either wet and sloppy or snow and ice covered.

Early on, because of a warm spell and plenty of rain between Christmas and New Year, the Son of Sno\*Drift outlook was for wet and sloppy rather than snow and ice, reports rallymaster **Scott Harvey Jr.**

Fortunately, Mother Nature stepped in at the last minute, and the weather turned cold on rally day, which, of course, created some icy conditions. Midway through the rally it also began to snow.

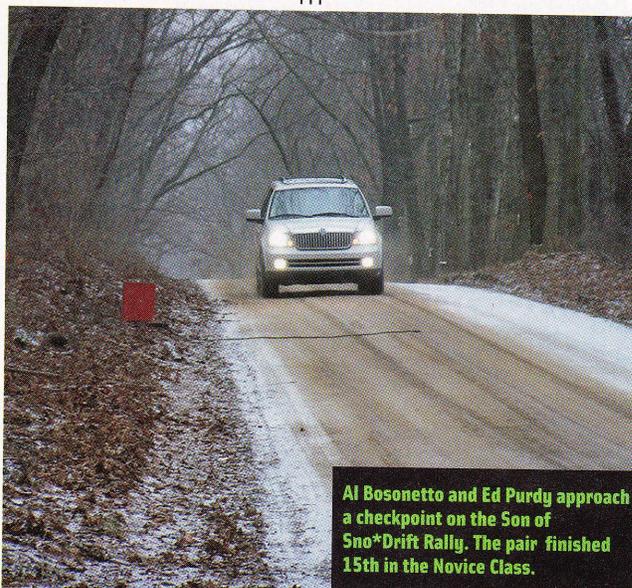
"This did help to make things a little more interesting," Harvey notes.

Of the 38 teams entered, 37 made the start, and all but one (who retired at the end of the odometer calibration run) finished the Central Division contest.

As in past years, the rally again featured a strong Novice contingent—21 cars—with seven Equipped Class cars and four Limited and four Stock Class cars rounding out the field.

"Hopefully, we can keep some of them coming back after they've used up their 'amateur status' as novices," Harvey says about the newcomers.

In Equipped, **David** and **Daniel Harkness**, with 27 points, finished second in class and



Al Bosonetto and Ed Purdy approach a checkpoint on the Son of Sno\*Drift Rally. The pair finished 15th in the Novice Class.

second overall to Johnstonbaugh and von Kaenel. **Mark Henderson** and **Aaron Conner** claimed third and **Tom** and **Matthew Bell**, fourth.

In Limited, **Brian** and **Kevin Line** claimed top honors, while **Bruce** and **Matt Fisher** edged out **Dennis** and **Ken Wiedbusch** by eight points to finish second. The scores of the top three: 59, 120 and 128 respectively.

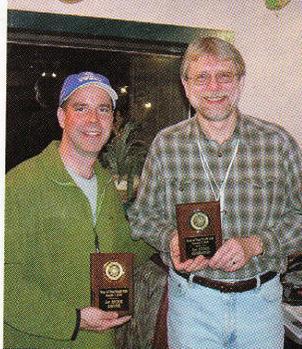
"Stock was dominated from the outset by **Bob Kay** and **Mike Bennett**," Harvey reports. The team's score of 106 was also good enough for sixth overall.

In the large Novice Class, **Seth Miller** and **Cameron Hanover** collected top honors with a score of 292.

While they didn't record a podium finish, few teams were more pleased with their performance than **Dan** and **Jenny Hudson**, Harvey notes. Jenny, age 10, navigated her dad to eighth in the healthy Novice field.

#### Mid-Atlantic Notes

After successful seasons in 2004 and 2005, the Mid-Atlantic Series of regional road rallies will again offer a strong program for 2006. **Kevin** and **Nancy Agnew** and **Eric Salminen** report that the season will include nine events. As in the past, the principal organizing and administrative body is the Philadelphia Region. The Washington, D.C., Northern New Jersey and South New Jersey Regions will contribute rallies to the series.



(ABOVE) Bob Kay (left) and Mike Bennett dominated the Stock Class. Jenny Hudson, age 10, navigated her dad, Dan Hudson, to an eighth-place finish in the rally's 21-car Novice Class (BELOW).



"The Mid-Atlantic Series was brought about in large part by Wendell Green, who started the series to re-establish road rallying in the Philadelphia Region," says Kevin Agnew.

In both 2004 and 2005, Green was the driving force behind the series. "In 2005, the series really

stabilized and came into its own," Agnew says.

For 2006, the series has expanded to include an executive board comprised of a coordinator, secretary, publicity chair and Web master. Rallymasters this year include Salminen, national veteran **Dave Teter**, **Jim Wakeman**, **Mark Haas** and **Clyde Heckler**.

A number of marque and independent sports car clubs affiliated with the organizing regions also contribute to the series, Agnew adds, and in the case of South Jersey, the series has led the region to offer six local touring events for 2006.

For more information about the series, visit the Philadelphia Region's Web site and click on RoadRally.

#### Topeka Preview?

The Midwest Division launched its 2006 RoadRally Championship March 11 with the Meet in the Middle Rally. Organized by the Kansas Region and helmed by **Rich Bireta** and **Albert Weaver**, Meet in the Middle featured concentration runs from Topeka and Wichita to a common start near Emporia, with the end of the rally also scheduled for Emporia. An all-tarmac contest, the event was also scheduled to offer an optional unpaved section for teams who miss the sound of gravel rattling around in their wheel wells.

The Kansas City, Wichita, Northeast Oklahoma and St. Louis Regions will also offer division-wide contests this year. For more information, contact **Bruce Bettinger**, Midwest Division RoadRally steward ([bbetting@southwind.net](mailto:bbetting@southwind.net)).

Finally, **Mark Henderson** reports that the organizers of Rally America's Sno\*Drift on Jan. 27-28 recognized his late father, **Gene**, by renaming the rally's Avery Lake Stage in his honor. **Travis Pastrana** and **Chris Edstrom** (Subaru WRX) posted the fastest time on the "Gene Henderson Memorial Stage," averaging 50.81mph for the 5.05-mile section.

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