

# 2009 Turkey Tour Rallymaster Letter

Although we felt that we were off to a very late start, in actuality we had plenty of time to plan a successful rally. Our primary goal was to use as many twisty, tiny back roads that we could squeeze into two and a half hours with no major roads to be used as transit zones. A secondary goal was to have no traffic lights more than 0.1 miles from the start or finish. The rally traversed 66.3 miles of Westchester's (and snippets of Connecticut's) finest, and seemed to have met our goals.

There were dirt roads where maintenance was low on the funding list in these budget tight times. Sorry for the surface conditions. We noticed during pre-runs that when driven at a slightly faster pace, the suspension had a chance to work and helped smooth the ride.

We selected a lazy check point this Turkey Tour, the parking lot of Applebee's where the finish debrief was to take place. There were a substantial number of novices in this rally, so the selection of this parking lot was key... when a few calls came in for help in the rally, the map was readily available as a reference source and we got a couple of teams out of situations which without the map would have stumped us.

We didn't expect anybody to arrive early and that was the case. The finishers started rolling in with 2 teams of club members, cars 5 and 6, and the response to the route was good. A short time later cars started arriving at a steady pace. In all, 30 of the 37 teams that started came to the check point with an official time. Everyone that came through the checkpoint and talked about the rally seemed to enjoy the route and didn't notice any issues with the instructions. The results were interesting, the top 6 places all had less than 1000 points and were very close on the actual time. The fight for first was very close, but car #5 won out with better time and almost perfect "Turkey" sign points. Car #6, in third place, had a much better time, but missed or incorrectly identified 5 signs along the route. Only one team found all the "Turkey" signs, but they were assisted by an extra person which knocked them down from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> place.

In planning the rally, we got a lot of help from some of the other WSCC members. Many thanks to GJ for pre-running the rally at night, it was a lot of fun navigating for you. Thanks also to Frank for a Sunday morning run and for helping at both the start and the finish. Ken also was very helpful with start and finish help and for going out to pick up the turkey signs the day after the rally. Also, thank you to Debbi and Gary for helping with registration.

We hope that all the finishers and non-finishers at least enjoyed the route, if you didn't get far into the rally, we would strongly suggest going out in the day time for a beautiful drive and some practice with the rally rules before the Bunny Run Rally in late-March/early-April. We should have that event scheduled in January, so check our website and/or join the email list through the link on our home page. The email list is a very low volume list that just sends event notifications.

Thanks to all participants and helpers,

Jesse & Barbara

<http://www.wsc.org>