

Westchester Sports Car Club Halloween Rally 2012

Rallymaster Notes - Jim Voros

First, a big thanks to Debbie, Gary, Frank and Ken for their assistance with the rally, before, during and after. Rally teams should know that it takes a lot of effort to put these on and having good support for pre-running, putting up and taking down signs, working registration, start and checkpoints is huge. We manage to pull the rallies off with minimal people.

The concept of this rally was to see how far I could get into Connecticut, my home state, while still starting and finishing in Westchester County. There are great rally roads in Westchester, but after participating in and writing rallies for 13 years or so, I wanted to see if we could chart new territory. I knew of several great roads in Wilton, Ridgefield and New Canaan and I wanted to find a way to sew them together.

Ketchawan, Pea Pond, Silver Springs, Godfrey, Huckleberry and Old Kingdom, to name a few, were on my list of must drive roads. In between I found other cool roads to connect the dots. Hopefully everyone enjoyed them as much as I do.

The other thing I wanted to ensure was that everyone had a good time, finished the rally, and whoever won would win based on their rally time, speed and distance calculation skills. The instructions weren't intended to be overly challenging. Teams make mistakes without the rallymasters trickery, and the signs were mostly visible. Thirty-two signs were posted (I thought it was 31 but I miscounted). Only two were never seen by any team. The total rally distance was 66.3 and I was surprised at home many teams got this right or very close even after saying they did 80+ miles. 0.3 points extra go to Mike Carroll's team for using hundredths in their answer. He couldn't help himself, nor could I.

We had 12 teams finish at the checkpoint, 3 stopped in at Applebee's to turn in their answer sheet and 4 were lost to the windy back roads of Fairfield County. At least we hope they made it into Fairfield County. About 12 miles into the rally you crossed the border into Ridgefield on Ketchawan Road. The top few teams were separated by very little time or signs, so rally skills and experience really played a big part.

At the drivers meeting we made that correction on instruction 75 to say '25MPH'. Interestingly several teams stated they forgot to correct this instruction and got lost. This was only 2 instructions from the end of the rally so it caused them some delay until they figured it out.

We had a couple teams concerned with the instructions. One was #19 with the "Right at T" on Silver Springs road. This is clearly a T intersection, I drive it all the time and when we went to pick up the signs on Sunday it was easily verified. Not sure why anyone would get confused here but maybe I will hear the full story at the next rally. Next, "2nd Left" #30. The first left was clearly there but there was a relatively small road where it went downhill away from the road you were on. It certainly could be missed, however between executing the right in instruction #29 and taking that second left #30, only 0.2 miles existed. So it *should* have been an easy correction. Sorry to the teams that drove all the way to South Norwalk, likely using up more than our 4 mile max between instructions.

Final Note. The two homes behind the checkpoint (Twin Lakes Rd in Pound Ridge, NY) are for sale. You can live on a nice 4 acre property in a 6600sq ft home for only \$2.5Million (See Zillow.com). During the entire event, the only cars that drove through were rally cars - definitely a low traffic area.

See you at the next rally!

(EDITORS NOTE: Car #16 (Rick Cipiani/Jesse Brody) won the \$25 gift certificate to ROCKAUTO.COM raffled off at the Drivers' Meeting.)

