

6-'91 OE

Great Northern Rally '91 by Tom Woodside

Saturday May 11 dawned warmed and a bit hazy, but soon proved to be one of those late Spring days that remind us of what Summer is about to bring. Sun, 80 degree temperature, and a light wind gave us perfect weather to enjoy a 125 mile tour of northwestern Oakland county.

Brewski's Restaurant opened early to allow us registration (by Karen and Tom Harris) and tech (by Greg Woodside, Richard Nix, and Bill Crocker) of the 18 competitors. Notable along with all the "regulars" were several new competitors with vehicles ranging from a pristine red Porsche Carrera (Katina and Bob Dart) to a very well broken-in 1981 Dodge Polara police cruiser.

The rally started with the first car out at 10:01 AM with an odometer check to just north of Oxford the first task. What followed were a selection of the interesting and yet lightly traveled roads to Lapeer and then Fenton. Fourteen controls were there to try to catch the unwary. When the dust (What dust? These were paved roads!) had dispersed, the Rood/Finnison and Shue/Townsend teams were tied for the first place class A spot with 33 points. Scoring dug out the rule book and applied the tie breaker procedures (which team won the most legs, greatest number of zeros, greatest number of ones, etc). On the FOURTH application of these tie breakers, Rick Shue and John Townsend became our class A winners.

The class B winners were Mark Carpenter and Mike Dekutowski who ran a very clean event. Class C winners Jerry and Gregg Seelhoff



Photo by Don Castle.



Photo by Don Castle.

showed themselves to be a real threat with a score of 139 points putting them into the position of third overall for the entire event. (Note to Gene Henderson: PLEASE don't sell these two a class A computer!)

Jim Muir Oldsmobile had graciously opened their showroom to us the night before as Marianne Mickle chaired another very successful Rally School. This introduced several new teams to the sport including Brian Reynolds and Roland Benke (the Dodge cruiser), who were one of only two teams to "zero" the bizarre checkpoint 13.

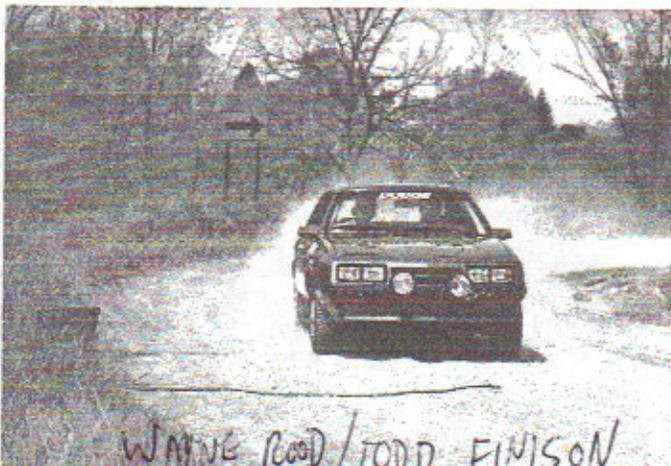
Checkpoints 1, 8 and 13 were run by Mark Henderson and "Mikey" Macklenberg who TWICE had to correct the rally master's layout map blunders to get to the right control location. Richard Nix and Bill Crocker took the heat at the only 3 controls placed on gravel (to get a degree of control safety over the paved road just before) at 3, 9 and 14. Richard also doubled as traffic cop at 14 to reroute people from the Palace traffic after

the Piston's gruesome loss to the Celtics. Ed Cicotte operated controls 4 and 12 with his son, Colin. These two never even complained when they found control 4 was placed alongside a mosquito infested swamp. Bob Martin did a solo act in running controls 5 and 11. The Rallymaster tried to get him a spot near his beautiful hillside home in Grand Blanc, but forced Bob into a long transit anyway because of the always dead-ending Irish Road.

Beth Kish, and Lynda and Dave Allen make this control thing look SO easy, they spent most of the afternoon working on their tans. Jim Mickle took care of all the other stuff that falls by the wayside (route card pickup, closing the start activity, and scoring with Jon Wickens), as well as bailing the rallymaster out with help on route pre-check, control workers, and general format questions.

Finally Chuck Padden and the 1990 Class B champion navigator Brian Murphy gave us the most experienced sweep team we've seen in a long time. Don Castle was EVERYWHERE taking pictures of the action (how does he get to so many places so effortlessly?)

Great Northern has a nearly decade long history in the Detroit Region. This rallymaster has enjoyed it immensely but needs to step down and answer some other needs. I learned from the best (Richard Nix and Jim Mickle to name only two) and I'd love to talk (phone 828-3438) to anyone interested in carrying on the tradition of Great Northern into 1992.



WAYNE ROAD / TODD FINISON

Photo by Don Castle.

Who ... Me?! Continued from page 7.

I know that there are members out there who are concerned about how the Region is operated. The question is are they concerned enough to volunteer to spend part of the time they devote to SCCA activities, to help keep things going in the correct direction.

If you need first hand information on Board member activities, you are always welcome to attend a Board meeting and observe us in action.

If you have an interest in any of these positions, please contact one of us:

Bill Derouchie - Chairperson
313 355-9484

Tom Crusoe
313 463-3807

Hal Goff
313 425-3354

Marian Merriman
313 268-5076

Jim Mickle
313 739-6565

Russ Theus
313 262-5147

WORKERS & CARS NEEDED

2ND ANNUAL PRUDENTIAL TOWN CENTER MINI GRAND PRIX FOR ARTHRITIS

SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH 1991

at

PRUDENTIAL TOWN CENTER,
SOUTHFIELD

- o Workers needed to man/woman the event.
- o Cars needed to show and parade between heats.

Help the Region help the Arthritis Foundation raise another \$25,000 to \$30,000 for a very worthwhile cause.

Contact: Linda Haslitt (313) 545-8562
or Liz Williams (313) 363-7983