

Wotsnu4 Summer ??

In the Spring column we announced Merritt's Active Mountain developments were underway. The project to build a motorsport complex has moved into the early stages of construction with work begun on scraping the 2.6 mile racetrack into the hillside. There had been promotion of WCRA utilizing some of the new course for the recent Mountain Trials stage rally but it was decided that the incomplete foundation materials of the new race course would not stand up to the abuse of repeated exposure to rally cars. There would be significant repairs needed to restore the circuit before construction could continue so the decision to postpone a "maiden voyage" around the track was made.

At present it looks hopeful that the track may host spectator stages for this fall's Pacific Forest Rally by which time the track should be graded to near full 60' width. To this end AMR and WCRA manned a promotional display complete with rallycar during the recent Merritt Mountain Music Festival at which venue thousands of inebriated cowboys were exposed to the concept of driving sideways on gravel roads. There are also strong rumours circulating that PFR will incorporate a tarmac stage around the streets of Merritt

that would provide huge exposure for our sport. To make this a reality will require considerable organization and volunteer manpower so start canvassing your friends and families to work off the Thanksgiving turkey by marshalling some corners for us October 14-15.

WCRA has been offered the opportunity to promote itself and the Pacific Forest Rally at this year's PNE in Vancouver on Saturday, Sept 3 2005. There will be at least 4 (perhaps as many as 7) rallycars on display from 10:30am to 10:30pm to show the public what co-drivers have known for years. That the "Hellavator" is not the only way to generate screams and adrenalin! Volunteers are needed to talk to the public and answer questions.

Stage rally competitors should be aware that the opportunity to suggest rule changes to the CARS regulations has already reached submission deadline. Any ideas that were put forward by July 15 will be discussed at a meeting of the Rules Committee on Aug 15. After considerations and wording are finalized the sport in general will be able to read and reply to the new proposals as of Oct 1. Decisions will be made by the board on Nov 30 as to what will be implemented/amended for the 2007

season. Many competitors are waiting to see what is coming in the way of requirements for "stump bars" in roll cages. These are the pieces of tubing that run across the ceiling of the car and prevent intrusion of big things into the cockpit area during a crash. For cars that are being constructed from new it is "relatively" simple to incorporate into the building of the roll-over protection. On cars that are already built it is much more difficult to add to an existing cage as there is very little access for welding to existing joints with integrity. For occupants of very small rally cars there is also the concern of where to put your head after the stump bar has been added.

Armchair competitors are excited that Richard Burns Rally is finally emerging onto the Canadian video game market. This product (www.richardburnsrally.com) is highly touted as the most realistic experience of the rally simulation games and it shows Richard's famous attention to detail in every corner. Amazing visual effects and cars that behave like cars set a new benchmark. It is possible to drive demo versions online and Airtime is "working" on a review for a future issue.

Island News

Well it's a belated start to summer this year, but the rallies have been right on time.

On the Island in May, we saw a very successful **Coast to Coast TSD** run with a record 21 cars starting! Maybe the earlier date due to other events overlapping was a good thing. The rally took us as far north as Sayward and as far south as Duncan over 2 days. The top three cars all hailed from the USA with **Jeff McMillen & Marvin Crippen** taking top honors. The route was fast and exciting again this year, keeping it high on the list of recommended rallies to run!

In June was the **3rd Novice TSD** which attracted 9 teams this time around. Overall winners were **Shawn Harper & Donica Fischer** in a Subaru beating 2nd place **Matt Playle & Meaghan Johnston's** Toyota by one second! The 4th and final event in this series took place recently on August 14th starting in Campbell River, BC.

The final all-tarmac rally in BC for 2005 is fast approaching! The 3rd Annual **Tsunami TSD Rally** will be held on August 27th. Check www.RallyBC.com for details on all the above events.



Island People- Stage Rally
Todd Patola, Rocky Mountain Rally, AB
4th Overall, 2nd in G2 (by 2 seconds!)
Baie des Chaleurs, PQ
T-11th Overall, T-1st in G2
Christa Monasch- Mountain Trials, BC
10th Overall, 2nd in P3
Gil Stuart, Mountain Trials, BC
Co-Driver, Car 00 (Course Opening)

Island People- Ambassadors
Glyn Trafford & Bart Vogelzang
No Alibi TSD, WA
Golden West, CA
These events are part of the
"Pacific Coast Challenge" Series

Come rally with the IRC!
Brian Carriere
President, Island Rallysport Club