

2005 Coast to Coast Rally

Courtney, British Columbia. May 14 & 15, 2005. The **Island Rallysport Club (IRC)** presented **Coast to Coast 2005**. First Round 2005 **Pacific Coast Challenge** (Vancouver Island-WA-CA-BC Mainland), Round 3 **BC TSD Rally Championship**, and Round 1 **Island Rally Series**.

The weather was perfect Saturday morning as 21 teams take the start. The Odo Check went 36km north, then "Duncan Bay Main" quickly moved to 72km/h, setting the pace for the weekend: Brisk. "Sayward" continued, at 70, then 68 and 63 through some twisty corners, then 45km/h hairpins. Up to 58 for lots of single lane bridges and a few "Rough" callouts, but mostly smooth, flat, and twisty. A recent rain shower turned the dust to mud, more "slippy" than expected. "Tlatlos", was a loop on logging company owned roads. 83km into the Reg we are sliding through a checkpoint in an Acute Right... where was he timing? That was the question for those who did it right. Taking a dotted-line shortcut shown on the alpine, thus missing the acute, caught about two-thirds of the cars. The shortcut offered a quick way through the corner, but the island of trees in the triangle hid the CP, so those who followed the dotted line weren't scored at the control—more on following tracks later.



Photo by Kevin Marzan

"Upper Adam Main" climbs over the ridge to remote and spectacular scenery, with more primitive roads now, some very narrow, with big exposures. "Mohun Lake" brings more areas of active logging: Big log stacks and slash debris piles along and in the road. Speeds cut to 15km/h IF you got the connections at the drivers meeting... If not, 59km/h was do-able, a little rough, but as Car 3's Peter Ryce dryly pointed out: "It's only wood..."

A break in Campbell River, then 68km "Port Alberni" began smooth and brisk, interrupted by tight double-90 turns over bridges, "Caution! Blind Crest into KL", a

recovered "a little way down the road", and took 37 at the hidden control. Car 2, also all zeroes, dutifully followed Car 1's tracks, missed the Acute, recovered earlier, but still took 19. Car 3 followed Car 2's tracks, for 15—sound familiar? The TIE was broken!

"Bamfield", started just off the Island Highway and an Acute Right put us onto the "logging highway". We'd been following the progress of a couple of "off-road" logging trucks. These rigs are much larger than "normal" big-rigs on the highway, and our only option was to get off his road. The topic of conversation with most of the rally became meeting the "off-road loggers".

"Cowichan" included some of the most enjoyable "driver" roads of the weekend. Sweeping lefts and rights. Tight corners, into and out of bridges at 70km/h. A narrow steep hill climb, hairpins and exposures, topping out over the ridge, into a valley and smooth flat running at 72, then more hairpins before the finish after 68.89km. We are both smiling; a very good sign.

8.88km "Duncan", returns us to the gravel we all want, along a popular scenic park, then a Transit to the finish, after a two-day total of 867.77km (542 miles).

Congratulations to **Jeff McMillen** and **Marvin Crippen** who took **First Overall** and **First Unlimited** (moving up from Calculator last season, but continuing their string, as PCC Champions in 2003 and 2004). Second: **Lee Sorenson** and **Larry Richardson** from California. Third: **Ron Sorem** and **Max Vaysburd** from Seattle. Fourth Overall and **First Calculator** to BC's own, **Doug Tewnton** and **Brian Carriere**, with a very competitive 90. **First Historic** went to BC's **Gil Stuart** and **Arnie Lang**. **First Novice** to **Matthew Glade** and **Kevin Boothroyd**. And **First Paper (SOP)** to **Steve Perret** and **Kathryn Hansen**.

Complete results, links, schedules, and photos at www.rallybc.com

Check www.tsdroadrally.com for more rally stories and a rally search.

HPL for a change of pace, then a triple-caution reconstructed bridge: Big drop in, and bump out. Then back up to speed for more twists and turns.

A 10km Transit to Port Alberni brought a close to eleven hours and 583.92km of beautiful roads.

Day two began with three cars tied for First, with only 12-seconds penalty after 29 controls.

Sunday's opener, "Macktush Creek", ran along Alberni Inlet with great views of rock walls right, water left. Cresting a ridge, now overlooking a lake, with waterfalls all along the route, typical of the views on the western slopes of the Island. The peaks were still snow-capped. The weather was warm, and an occasional shower kept the roads nearly dust-free.

Running two-thirds of Reg One with all zeroes, Car 1 missed an Acute Right,