

WOTSNU405??

What is new for 2005? Lots of stuff and it looks to be a promising year. We have returning favourites as well as many exciting new developments. Some are of local interest while others are of national significance. Here in BC, the year 2005 brings some new faces to the executive positions of the West Coast Rally Association and Island Rallysport Clubs. The new leadership will face some challenges not experienced in recent years.

As reported at the end of last year, Subaru Canada have chosen not to function as sponsor to this year's Canadian Rally Championship. They have also withdrawn the Subaru Rally Team Canada from competition for the upcoming season and this helpful and highly professional group of enthusiasts will definitely be missed at rallies across the country. Despite the Subaru development, CARS has committed to a 6 round national championship even if no organization is found to sponsor the entire series. There is much speculation as to how rallying in Canada will cope without the huge support that Subaru has provided in the past but event organizers across the country have stressed that although some of the frills and flash may be diminished, the roads are as good as always and National calibre events will take place.

A key item of safety equipment on performance events is the helmet and when I tried to replace my aging crash-hat with a shiny new '05 model I found myself in a jam. No new helmets available. Normally, helmets must bear the Snell SA certification and the date of issue. This date refers to the age of the safety standard and not the date of manufacture and is good for ten years. As of Jan 01, 2005 all of the "old" SA 95 helmets would no longer be permitted and SA 00 or SA 05 would be required. Unfortunately Snell will not be issuing any of the new decals to the helmet manufacturers until June 30 2005 and none of the new helmets will be released until October 1st. With this in mind, CARS will permit SA95 helmets to be used on performance events for the 2005 calendar year. Look for confirmation of this fact in the 2005 CARS regulations when published.

WHICH ONE IS IN YOUR HELMET?



Snell SA95 certification decal

Away from the TV cameras and high speeds of the special stages, much quiet work has been done in the interest of improving safety on BC's TSD rallies. This discipline has always provided challenge and excitement to drivers of all abilities even while maintaining low average speeds during the event. We have avoided sensational headline garnering crashes but for years there has been a steady flow of competitor and organizer vehicles that have found themselves very much astray and in many cases terminally damaged. Fortunately to date, there have been no serious injuries to any of the occupants but the obvious concern is what happens when we do have an accident in any of the very remote locations favoured by these events. At the beginning of 2004 it was decided that a review of the safety measures in use at each event would be beneficial and a small group came together to formulate and trial recommendations throughout the year.



Snell SA2000 certification decal

New for 2005 will be a detailed minimum standard of equipment for the first aid kit carried in each vehicle. For details of this kit go to the TSD regulations area of the rallybc website. Further, in addition to the traditional Driver's Briefing at rally start, there will now be a Safety Briefing to remind everyone of their responsibilities and to provide specific information relevant to each rally. As well, there are now printed additions to the route book reviewing basic first aid techniques and establishing a standard protocol to use for controlling the rescue and evacuation of any injuries. It is hoped that the heightened safety awareness might make competition attractive to a greater number of enthusiasts.

by John McLaren

05 CLUB EXECUTIVES

West Coast Rally Association

Ken Kwong
Doug Tewnton
Chi Tsang
Dennis Wende
Kevin Holter

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary
Director at Large

Island Rally Club

Brian Carriere
Christa Monasch
Gil Stuart
Bart Vogelzang



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