

Driver & Navigator

The official newsletter of the Touring Club of New England

Volume L, number 4 – February, 2003



3rd-Friday-Night Rallies

by Nicholas Shectman

After a hiatus for the wintertime, TCNE is back with a vengeance with an all-new monthly rally series. Starting on March 21st, we will be having a rally the third Friday of each month.

Each rally will run in the early evening and be followed by an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner, hangout session, and TCNE meeting. The start/end location, general instructions and odometer check will be the same for each rally. Entry to the rally is **free for TCNE members**; non-members can join and run for an entire year for only \$18.

The tire warm-up/odometer check will be a loop back to the restaurant, to allow people to skip straight to the competitive portion of the rally. Latecomers who have previously run the odometer check, or who are running in class C or D and don't mind losing a little bit of accuracy, will still be allowed to register even if their start time has passed. Hopefully this will allow folks to compete who would not otherwise be able to make it to the rally from work. The odometer check will be posted on the TCNE web site for those who wish to go pre-calibrate their odometers or speedometers. For those who are only a little bit late, the tire warm-up will end very close to the exit from the highway, allowing contestants to run the odometer check before registering. Finally, we have calibrated the official mileage to the highway department's mile markers, so that those running in class A or B can get an odometer factor on their way from work.

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Minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at the Yangtze River Restaurant in Littleton, MA by Paul Gosselin at 8:00 pm on January 24, 2003.

Doug Hagerman agreed to take notes in the absence of Stephanie Gosselin.

Attendees were: Andrew Boardman, Andy English, Paul Gosselin, Doug Hagerman, Bill Hall, Jim Katz, Fred Mapplebeck, Nancy May, Steve McKelvie, Nick Shectman, Bill Shrader, Natalie Shrader, and Will Turano.

Natalie, treasurer, presented the Annual Treasurer's Report. The club has a current balance of \$3483.18. The largest expense is the newsletter, which cost \$116.56. The largest income is membership dues, which were \$398.62. The report was approved as read.

Fred, equipment manager, presented the Equipment Report. The club continues to maintain a number of checkpoint timing clocks and related equipment. A few of the clocks are malfunctioning, but we have plenty of working clocks at this time. The report was approved as read.

Nick summarized the currently planned events for 2003. They are:

- Essex County Ramble 3 (Nick)
- Big Lap (Scott)
- The Search (Mark Rerick)
- Annual Grand (Fred)
- First Day Out (Doug) (but see following discussion)

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Upcoming Events

Mar. 21: 3rd Friday Nighter
Littleton, MA (TCNE)

Mar. 22: **Globetrotter**
North Windham, ME (CMC)

Apr. 5: **Old Timers Rally**
Hyannis, MA (QSCC)

Apr. 18: 3rd Friday Nighter
Littleton, MA (TCNE)

May 16: 3rd Friday Nighter
Littleton, MA (TCNE)

May 17: **Big Lap**
NH (TCNE)

June 14: **Essex Ramble III**
Danvers, MA (TCNE)

June 20: 3rd Friday Nighter
Littleton, MA (TCNE)

July 18: 3rd Friday Nighter
Littleton, MA (TCNE)

Aug. 9: **Hurdle**
Southington, CT (FCSCC)

Aug. 15: 3rd Friday Nighter
Littleton, MA (TCNE)

Annual Meeting Minutes,
continued from page 1:

Nominees for the 2003 Board of Directors were listed as:

- Andy
- Natalie
- Doug
- Fred
- Nick

Nominees for the 2003 Officers were listed as:

President: Doug
VP: Jim
Secretary: Nick
Treasurer: Natalie

Elections will be held by mail.

This completed the regular reports. Paul called for new business items.

Nick presented a comprehensive proposal for a re-energized TCNE rally program. The program includes several features as follows.

We would have regularly scheduled monthly meetings with a short rally held in conjunction with the meeting. Meetings would be held on the 3rd Friday of each month, at the Yangtze River Restaurant. This schedule avoids other New England rallies and most holidays.

Each monthly meeting would begin with an odometer check starting at 6:30. The rally would begin at 7:00, and would be short enough (1.5 hours) so that everyone should be back by 9:00. The meeting would be a combination of dinner, rally scoring, and general meeting business, starting at 9:00 and running until the restaurant closes at 10:15.

The rallies would have the following characteristics:

- Free to members.
- Trophies for first novice car only.
- Other trophies may be awarded at the end of the year, pending review of how this would work as a series.
- 12 points for being rallymaster, but rallymaster points only once per year.

- 8 points for working, with worker points for a maximum of 4 rallies per year.
- Question of whether driver and navigator get the same number of points. Perhaps best 8 of 10 scores count. This and other series issues remain to be worked out in detail.
- 3-4 controls.
- Usual TCNE classes.
- The odometer check would be the same each month, so if a contestant chooses to arrive at 7:00 it would be ok.
- Start and End are at the restaurant.
- NRIs might be handed out at start line, with a number sticker.
- Registration details TBD.

The following monthly schedule is proposed:

February: No rally
March: Nick
April: Doug. (Replacing First Day Out.)
May: TBD
June: Jim
July: Nick
August:
September:
October: Doug
November:
December: Probably no rally
January 2004: No rally, annual meeting.

The members discussed this plan and it was agreed that we would put it into effect on a trial basis beginning immediately. Additional discussion on open topics, and potential modifications to the program, will be considered as appropriate.

Doug described his proposal for an informal rally to Quebec: "Boston to Quebec the Hard Way." This would be a three day marathon trip through Maine, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, up to the East corner of Quebec. It would be held over July 4th weekend, and would have a total mileage of about 750 miles, with one or two checkpoints sponsored by the Atlantic Sports Car Club in Halifax. Please contact Doug if you are interested in participating in this tour.

Paul adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Douglas Hagerman

Team Övningskörning and the Touring Club of New England

present
the first rally in the new Third Friday Night Rally Series
and the last opportunity to work on your rally chops before Globetrotter

March Madness

A Straightforward Time-Speed-Distance Rally of approximately 40 miles
Starting and Ending at the Yangtze River Restaurant in Littleton, MA

Friday Evening, March 21, 2003

Registration limited to 30 cars.

Free for TCNE members or join and run for \$18

Schedule:

Friday, March 7: Odometer check and general instructions are posted on the TCNE web site (www.tcne.net).

Friday, March 22:

5:30 – 7:30 or until 30 cars have registered: registration and NRI distribution at the Yangtze River restaurant

6:39: car zero begins the odometer check

6:57: car zero returns to the Yangtze River restaurant parking lot

7:00: car zero begins the main portion of the rally

8:32: car zero returns to the Yangtze River restaurant for an all-you-can-eat buffet

9:02: last car arrives at the Yangtze River

9:30: trophy presented for first in novice class, and points announced for placement in other classes

10:15: restaurant closes for the evening. Convoy departs for Westbrook, ME (site of Globetrotter rally hotel)

Directions: The Yangtze River restaurant is located on Route 110 just west of the Littleton/Westford line. From I-495 take exit 31, route 119, east towards Littleton Common. At the traffic signal turn left onto route 110 east (if you go more than a couple of tenths without seeing the traffic signal you are headed the wrong way on route 119). The Yangtze River restaurant is located 0.38 miles down, on the left.

Philosophy: This is a night rally. Mileages will be given to every turn, and to some other instructions as well. Where possible, pauses and gains are used instead of speed changes. As with Essex Ramble, this rally takes place (except for the odometer check) entirely within the I-495 loop. That doesn't have to make the roads boring! The rally runs through some little-known state forests and state parks and down a number of very twisty little roads. Additionally, some of our roads are unmaintained, with rough or, if it has snowed, unplowed surfaces which may not be suitable for lowered cars (but no car breakers; the rally was laid out in a Honda Civic). I was pleasantly surprised to find a number of places on this rally where the CAS had to be lowered from the speed limit for safety reasons. Expect rural roads, few traffic lights, well-chosen checkpoint locations, and conditions generally chosen to make the rally feel longer than 90 minutes.

Third Friday Night Rallies, continued from page 1:

The main (post-odometer-check) portion of each rally will begin at 7:00 on the third Friday night of each month, from the Yangtze River restaurant in Littleton Common. Each rally will run between 90 and 120 minutes. The odometer check will be the same each month, and will be posted on the TCNE web site ahead of time. Rallies will not allow pre-registration or distribution of NRIs before 5:30 on the day of the rally.

Rallies will take place regardless of weather. Rallies will take likely conditions into account. Winter rallies will run entirely in the dark and be able to be run in the snow. The June and July rallies will end before nightfall (but after sunset). Other rallies will be day-into-night affairs.

The Yangtze River restaurant has a \$12.00 all-you-can-eat buffet on Friday night. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the buffet. The restaurant closes at 10:15.

Rally style will be up to the individual rallymasters. Simple trap rallies may be included in the series. Rallies may include dirt roads (yes, there are some within range).

This series is designed among other things as a rallymaster development series. If you are interested in running a rally but don't want to commit to a lot of work, please contact Nick Shectman at "phi@tcne.net". Many of the difficult parts of putting on a rally are taken care of – the odometer check is written and a factor chosen for it, publicity is already done, the dates are set, and the start/end location is the same every time. I am available to pre-check and/or work any rally, and there are other checkers and workers available. You don't need a lot of checkpoint workers, and because it's not an SCCA rally you don't have to take care of SCCA paperwork (though if it makes you feel better, I and most of the other TCNE checkers are SCCA safety stewards). It's pretty easy to get to Littleton to scout out roads, and there are lots of good roads nearby to play on. If you don't finish in time, it can always run the next month.

For more experienced rallymasters, you should expect to be able to write the NRIs, set checkpoint locations, and get preliminary mileages in a single 4-5 hour trip. Beginners might expect to spend some time reconnoitering roads before laying out the rally in two trips (or one longer trip) in order to examine checkpoint locations in daylight (to check for nearby houses) and also check landmark visibility at night (since most rallies will run at least partly in the dark).

The rallies will be part of a series, and trophies will be awarded at the Annual Meeting in January for best overall placement in each of the four TCNE classes (A, B, C, and D). Class equipment rules will be the same as NER rules, as usual for TCNE rallies.

Participants earn points for placement in class according to the usual schedule: 10 for first, 8 for second, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and finally 1 point for eighth place or below. Points are earned without regard to position in the car (driver or navigator).

The rallymaster of any rally earns 12 points for up to one rally per season. Workers other than the rallymaster, and rallymasters who have already earned rallymaster points, earn 8 points for up to four rallies per season. For example, someone who is rallymaster three times and works on two other rallies earns 44 total points (the most possible) for working. There is no worker requirement to earn a year-end trophy. The philosophy is to encourage working and rallymastering by giving generous points for it, but not giving so many points that the diehard workers have the series completely wrapped up.

Points from the best eight of 10 rallies are counted towards the final series total for each contestant. For example, someone who has worker points for four rallies and wins the other six rallies would have 76 total points.

Two contestants who compete as a team for more than half of the events for which either of them earn points, and each of whom has more points than any other contestant in that class, will share the trophy for that year even if the number of points they have is not identical.

2002 TCNE Board of Directors

Andy English	181 Littleton Rd. #302, Chelmsford MA 01824	AEngli622@aol.com	(978) 256-7285
Paul Gosselin	75 Castle Hill Rd., Windham NH 03087	higgsrally@msn.com	(603) 880-1620
David Lewis		wd.lewis@verizon.net	
Fred Mapplebeck	147 Millville St., Salem NH 03079	DerfRally@aol.com	(603) 898-4778
Natalie Shrader	144 Harvard Rd., Stow MA 01775		(978) 897-3058

2002 TCNE Officers & Chairpersons

President:	Paul Gosselin	75 Castle Hill Rd., Windham NH 03087	higgsrally@msn.com	(603) 880-1620
Treasurer:	Natalie Shrader	144 Harvard Rd., Stow MA 01775		(978) 897-3058
Secretary:	Stephanie Gosselin	75 Castle Hill Rd, Windham NH 03087	sgosselin@yahoo.com	(603) 880-1620
Membership:	Karen Logan	5 Boulder Circle, Nashua NH 03087	lkarangel@aol.com	(603) 886-6550
Equipment:	Fred Mapplebeck	147 Millville St., Salem NH 03079	DerfRally@aol.com	(603) 898-4778
Statistician:	Max Logan	5 Boulder Circle, Nashua NH 03087	max_logan@psdi.com	(603) 886-6550
Newsletter:	Nicholas Shectman	75 Lexington Ave., Somerville MA 02144	phi@apocalypse.org	(617) 628-3595

The purpose of the Touring Club of New England, Incorporated, is to encourage the ownership, preservation, and operation of sports cars; to provide and regulate events and exhibitions for sports cars and their owners; to promote motoring for pleasure and sport; and to encourage careful and skillful driving on public highways. The club welcomes guests to all of its events.

Driver & Navigator is published periodically for the members of the Touring Club of New England and entrants from recent Touring Club of New England events. Personal advertisements are free at the discretion of the newsletter editor. Business advertisements are placed at periodic and annual rates.

Membership to The Touring Club of New England is by application to the membership chairperson. Annual dues are eighteen dollars, with membership extending for one year from the last day of the month in which the membership is granted. Each paid membership includes the privilege of naming a spouse, relative or friend as a dues-free auxiliary member.

Touring Club of New England, Inc. Member Application Form

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

E-mail: _____

Auxiliary Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

E-mail: _____

On request, listings of the membership are made available to the members of the club for publicity and informational purposes. If you do not want your data made available on these lists, please check here: _____

I understand that the membership is for one (1) full year from the date of this application and I agree to abide by the by-laws of the Touring Club of New England, Inc.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

**Please remit with payment of \$18.00 payable to the Touring Club of New England to:
Karen Logan, 5 Boulder Circle, Nashua, NH 03062**

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February 2003



In this issue:

- News about our new Third Friday Night rally series
- Minutes of the annual meeting
- Flyer for *March Madness*

Visit the TCNE web site! <http://www.tcne.net>

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