

Driver & Navigator

The official newsletter of the Touring Club of New England

Volume L, number 5 – May, 2003



Election Results

With all votes counted, the election results are:

President: Doug Hagerman

Vice President: Jim Katz

Treasurer: Natalie Shrader

Secretary: Nicholas Sheckman

Board of Directors: Andrew English, Doug Hagerman, Fred Mapplebeck, Nicholas Sheckman, and Natalie Shrader.

Fog!

A review of the March Madness rally, by Doug Hagerman

When it's a warm spring evening and there is still snow on the ground, the air-to-ground temperature differential works with humidity from the evaporating snow to set a dew point that causes fog. Or so I understand. In any case, speeds that are perfectly appropriate for an evening road rally become impossibly high when dense fog arises, as it did last Friday evening in the area east of Littleton, MA.

The first event of the 2003 Touring Club of New England monthly road rally series was held on March 21st, the First Day Of Spring. Fog played a big part in the event, because it was so dense in some of the valleys that drivers were forced to reduce their speeds to below 15 MPH--in areas where the CAS was 35. This made for some interesting scores, to say the least.

This series is arranged to make it easy for people to show up at the last minute: The rally starts at the Yangtze River restaurant in Littleton, and the odo check route is published (www.tcne.net) and can be run in advance. Since the first car starts at 7:01 pm,

Upcoming Events

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

May 17: Big Lap
Lincoln, NH (NER)

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)

Aug. 23: Rally Against
Leukemia
Loudon, NH (NER)

Aug. 31: The Day Off
Lakeville, CT (FCSCC)

Sep. 7: Cruisin with St Joes
Meriden, CT (FCSCC)

First Day Out

A report by Doug Hagerman

There are lots of things to worry about when you put on a road rally, even if it's a little club event where only a handful of cars is expected: "Kinkos closed." "Bridge out on odo check." "Major typo in first NRI." Contestant asks "When measuring, did you stop at the mid-rally rest stop for the full 20 minutes?"

But the worst nightmare is when you have two unpaved "springtime in New England" legs, one of which you got stuck on during the final measurement verification, and then a brand new Ferrari shows up at registration. That's what we had on the First Day Out rally.

During rally layout and checking, these two roads were in seriously bad condition. The first is only a very short 1/4 mile section of farm lane, with an entry where you need to stop and turn left across traffic, then immediately climb a steep hill in deep gravel. The second one is a

half-mile long road paralleling a local forest preserve, and during measurement it was mostly deep potholes with only a few flat places. The CAS on these legs were 15 and 10 mph, respectively, based on conditions as they were preceding the event, and both had checkpoints on them. They were bad enough to qualify as observed trial sections, almost.

I was convinced that the Ferrari team was going to take me out behind the restaurant after the rally and work me over! And then, to make it worse, a very fancy Porsche showed up as well! We ended up with six cars altogether, which is just about the right number for an informal event of this type.

continued on page 2

continued on page 2

March Madness review,
continued from page 1:

and since registration has been streamlined, you could show up at 6:50 and start without any particular difficulty.

It's been a while since we entered a night event, and shortly after the start we encountered the first problem: No sign at the indicated mileage. Well, it is there, actually, and big and easy to read in the daylight, but at night with low beams (oncoming traffic), and a half-blind driver, you can't actually see it unless you know it's there. We drove back and forth twice before locating it, and since it was early in the event we were able to compensate for the extra time. However, after missing two more turns and generally getting confused, we reverted to "just try to stay on course, you idiot" mode. Perhaps we should just stay in that mode permanently... :*)

Things settled down for a while, but then after 15 minutes or so we started encountering quite dense fog in the low-lying sections. One particularly bad part was right after a questionable turn down a road that seriously looked like a farm lane: Deep puddles, one lane, farm-like scenery on both sides. We couldn't see more than 50 feet in any direction and it was pretty spooky, but just as I was ready to turn around James pointed out that the CAS went up to 30 MPH just when the road widened out, so maybe we weren't lost after all. Just then a checkpoint loomed up out of the fog, so we were OK.

We were off course a total of four times, and off speed almost all of the time. James generated a list of new features needed for his calculator program. Particularly valuable would be something to prevent those "Oh, darn!" comments he always seems to make when I say "I think we might be lost again." The concept of recording the mileage at ALL CAS changes is gradually sinking in, I think!

March Madness Results March 21, 2003

Driver Navigator	Car	Legs:				Total Factor	Class Overall
		1	2	3	4		
Andrew Boardman	-2	128	3	9	-10	150	1 B
Will Turano						600	1
Doug Hagerman	-5	87	-38	61	1	187	2 B
James Hagerman						748	2
Carl Baker	1	0	-50	-50	1	101	1 A
John Howard						808	3

Rallymaster: Nick Shectman
 Workers: Steve McKelvie, Steve Shectman, Car -2, Car -5

First Day Out report,
continued from page 1:

Because of the condition of the two unpaved legs, I volunteered to work those two checkpoints. I nervously approached the first checkpoint — nervous because that's where I had become stuck previously, and nervous because of the impending Ferrari/Porsche disaster. But I was pleasantly surprised: The road had been graded during the previous week! It was still very soft and the gravel was still deep, but the potholes were gone and there was a bit of a crown in the center, with the mud largely confined to the shoulders.

The first car, with one of the more experienced teams in the club, was over two minutes late. This is not a good sign, but then cars 2-6 showed up in reasonably correct sequence, so the first car was obviously in some kind of navigating trouble. There were no complaints about the road condition, and even the Ferrari team was more concerned about their leg time than the gravel. Whew! I had to really race to get to the third checkpoint (thanks Andy and Maryanne for working #2 and #4), and was relieved to see that this leg had been graded, too.

So, everything ended up OK after all. Cool Car Of The Day award goes to Chris Outzen and Peter Beale in their brand new Ferrari. Congratulations to overall winners Nick and Laurel running in Class C (taped odometer) with a total score of 25 over five legs. And thanks to the Yangtze River Restaurant in Littleton, Massachusetts, for providing an excellent dinner and a room for scoring. We actually sort of forgot to have the club meeting, but a rally is better than a meeting any day...

First Day Out Results Littleton, MA April 18, 2003

Driver Navigator	Car	Legs:					Total Factor	Class Overall
		1	2	3	4	5		
Laurel Unger Richman	6	-8	-2	-11	3	-1	25	1 C
Nicholas Shectman							25	1
Will Turano	3	10	-6	-23	88	22	149	1 B
Andrew Boardman							596	2
Adam Brodeur	1	49	5	-4	16	-2	76	1 A
John Howard							608	3
Chris Outzen	4	-16	76	67	104	53	306	1 D
Peter Beale							612	4
Hank Black	5	-56	270	18	51	-21	416	2 D
Scott Eggimann							832	5
Fred Mapplebeck	2	-246	0	-6	-16	-3	271	2 B
John Hagerman							1084	6

Rallymaster: Doug Hagerman
 Workers: Maryanne Rhodes, Andy English

Essex Ramble flyer unavailable in online version

Team Övningskörning and the Touring Club of New England

present
the third rally in the Third Friday Night Rally Series
homage to and practice for the next day's Big Lap rally

Mayflower

A Straightforward Time-Speed-Distance Rally of approximately 45 miles
Tulip instructions

10% unpaved (may not be suitable for Ferraris)

Starting and Ending at the Yangtze River Restaurant in Littleton, MA

Friday Evening, May 16, 2003

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

Schedule:

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

8:59: car zero returns to the Yangtze River restaurant for an all-you-can-eat buffet

9:45: trophy presented for first in novice class, and points announced for placement in other classes

10:15: restaurant closes for the evening

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 rally heads north towards roads which might be used on a Big Lap rally. Like Big Lap, this is a day-into-night rally. Mileages will be given to turns which might be missed in the dark, but not otherwise. Expect a chance to kick up some gravel, and a few other New Hampshire-style surprises. Tulip instructions, a simple navigational route, and careful checkpoint placement should keep route-finding simple and put the emphasis on staying on time.

2003 TCNE Board of Directors

Andy English	181 Littleton Rd. #302, Chelmsford MA 01824	AEngli622@aol.com	(978) 256-7285
Doug Hagerman	5 Greenbriar Lane, Worcester MA 01602	douglas.hagerman@hp.com	(508) 797-0165
Fred Mapplebeck	147 Millville St., Salem NH 03079	DerfRally@aol.com	(603) 898-4778
Nicholas Shectman	75 Lexington Ave., Somerville MA 02144	phi@tcne.net	(617) 628-3595
Natalie Shrader	144 Harvard Rd., Stow MA 01775		(978) 897-3058

2003 TCNE Officers & Chairpersons

President:	Doug Hagerman	5 Greenbriar Lane, Worcester MA 01602	douglas.hagerman@hp.com	(508) 797-0165
Vice-President:	Jim Katz	4 Cedar Ridge Terrace, Bedford MA 01730		(781) 275-0791
Treasurer:	Natalie Shrader	144 Harvard Rd., Stow MA 01775		(978) 897-3058
Secretary / Newsletter:	Nicholas Shectman	75 Lexington Ave., Somerville MA 02144	phi@tcne.net	(617) 628-3595
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

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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May 2003



In this issue:

- Results and reviews from *March Madness* and *First Day Out*
- Flyers for *Mayflower* and *Essex Ramble III*

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

Touring Club of New England
c/o Nicholas Sheckman
75 Lexington Ave
Somerville, MA 02144

«Note»
«Name_2»
«Name»
«Address»
«City» «State» «Zip»