

2017

It's 5 years now that I have been president of RallySport Ontario, and in that time, we have seen lots of changes, some good, some not so good.

The RSO Board of Directors meets about monthly via conference call, doing our best to ensure that there are well-run events for rally enthusiasts. Some of the issues addressed include rallysprint rule revisions, discussions and conflicts with municipalities and residents affected by events, the Ontario Distracted Driving Law update for ham operators, growth and promotion, etc.

There are major concerns for performance rally that must be addressed, with entries continuing to decline; whether we can turn that around remains to be seen. There are numerous causes, including the costs and hassles of prepping a car, insurance, entry fees. It may be the low point of a cycle that the sport is going through with an upswing coming, but if the decline is not reversed, event organizers will not run events; it will not be sustainable.

New technologies continue to be developed and improved. Car tracking at stage rally give us strengths in the operation of rallies, and there are more and more apps for navigational rally that will allow tighter competition without the cost of specialized equipment (people will still get lost, though).

We are seeing new people become involved in the clubs and in the running of events, while ~~older~~ more experienced people are stepping aside but continuing in the role of mentor. The new people bring fresh ideas, the others help guide them.

We welcome the new Ottawa Sport Car Club, which has affiliated with CARS and RSO. The club hopes to run a number of TSD and rallycross events, with their first one coming up May 26, the Lanark Highlands Naked Tour.

Another new club has been formed and affiliated with CARS with the express purpose of gauging interest and feasibility of getting a WRC event in Canada. Membership purchased in the club, Rally Promoter Association of Canada, will enable them to investigate if such an event can be held in Canada. They are looking at a 5-year time line, and running a new event, not using an existing one.

Our fabulous Board of Directors have worked hard over the past year to keep things going. Darryl Malone has taken his CARS regional director position to heart, making sure that RSO has a strong voice on the CARS board, as well as keeping the Board up-to-date on CARS news and initiatives. Kelly Mathew continues to herd us, keeping us on track with meetings and minutes. Warren Haywood and Darin Mayes do a great job with their respective rally disciplines (see their individual reports for details). David Maynard took on the role of Treasurer last year, following in the footsteps of Pete Gulliver, and keeps us financial sound.

The Car Zero Report newsletter reaches 680 subscribers (up from 630 at the beginning of 2017), with 15 issues sent in the year and an average Open rate of 40%.

I thank the RSO Board and the club presidents and club members for their hard work on, and their support and input over the past year.

Bruce Leonard
President
RallySport Ontario

Annual The Car Zero Report

