

RallySport Ontario (RSO) VP Navigational Rally Report – 2017

The overall health of road rallying in Ontario remains relatively well. Rally is all about people. New interest continues and the core group of seasoned veterans remains willing and helpful. The newer organizers have improved the quality of their events with mentoring and experience. Although not without its challenges, 2017 was a successful season and 2018 promises to be another entertaining season with 9 scheduled events.

The ORRC series continued with 8 well organized events courtesy of MLRC, TAC, SPDA, KWRC, and PMSC. The events continue to be challenging for experienced teams as well as informative and supportive for newer participants. Inclusion of the Touring class in most events has helped bring a few new teams up to speed in the basics of navigational rally. With the removal of the Intermediate class, the Expert class was bolstered and now has several dedicated teams offering a higher level of competition. The Novice class continues to attract new participants however retention is still not very high. Overall participation rose marginally over the previous year (2%).

The season finished early this year at the beginning of November with KWRC claiming the club championship, Jane and Bruce Leonard claiming the top spot in Expert Driver and Expert Navigator, and Andrew and Teresa Marek winning Novice Driver and Novice Navigator.

The most significant challenge for 2017 was that another township has been added to the list of banned areas. Mulmur Township has followed the lead of their neighbour, Mono Township, and has enacted a bylaw restricting rally activity in their area. Events can still run there with a permit but it is prohibitively expensive and not worth the effort and cost. An Internet search didn't find any other townships with similar restrictions however there is always a risk that more may follow suit.

General public perception continues to be negative as only unlawful non-sanctioned events that use the term "rally" to describe their events tend to make it into the main-stream media. A goal for 2018 will be to try and improve the public perception.

A number of minor rule changes were proposed and reviewed by the Expert teams for 2018. Participants organizers should review the updated rules on the RSO when website.

Club level events were hosted by KWRC and PMSC in 2017. KWRC's Saturday Night at the Rallies (SNATR) continue to be an excellent source of new participants and help train new organizers and workers. The club hosted 6 events with an average of 12 teams per event. PMSC hosted a few fun TSD events again this year. While not conforming to what we've come to expect from TSD rallies, they are an entertaining way to spend some time touring the countryside while maintaining interest in rally in their area.

Overall, 2017 was an entertaining and successful year for navigational rally and 2018 promises to be similar.

Sincerely,

Darin Mayes
VP Navigational Rally