

Navigational Rally Report - 2018

The 2018 season was a busy one in navigational rally. There were many events throughout the year all over Southern Ontario. Interest is growing with new teams entering events and our veteran group of experts continues to mentor and support road rally. It continues to be healthy and even grow with two new events in the calendar, new organizers, and a new club. Although not without our losses, road rally in 2018 was another fun filled season of interesting roads, creative instructions, and close battles.

There were a grand total of 21 road rally events in 2018. The ORRC series added a ninth event so competitors had an extra throw-away event for scoring (best six of nine). The Novice class was decided very early in the season with six straight wins by rookie team Marzetti and Laye. However, the Expert class was a close battle that came down to the very last event, the return of Northern Lights. The team of Leonard and Leonard took the driver championship by one point and navigator championship by two. Northern Lights was put together by first-time organizers, Demmeier and Lalonde, so no one knew what to expect and made it anyone's guess who would come out on top.

Some of the clubs hosted their own events too. KWRC continued with their Saturday Night at the Rallies (SNATR) series with six events. The SNATR series is intended for beginners in road rally but also offers challenges for more experienced teams. PMSC hosted five fun rallies including a GPS, Poker Run, and a Scrabble rally. The Ottawa SportsCar Club hosted their first road rally which took place around Lanark Township using some of the same stage roads from the Lanark Highlands Forest Rally. A very well organized event for their first effort and it was thoroughly enjoyed by the entrants.

Unfortunately, 2018 was marred with the loss of two great rally contributors: Gary Neil and Guy Boudreau. Gary was a long-time performance and road rally driver and soon to be organizer. Guy was a road rally organizer, driver, and navigator. Their contributions to rally were immeasurable and they will be greatly missed.

The 2019 season looks to be another good year for road rally with a similar number of events and I hope to see an increase in participation.

Thank-you,
Darin Mayes
RSO VP Navigational Rally