South Jersey Region
Sports Car Club of America

How to Participate Well in TSD Road Rallies

By Jim Wakemen, Sr

Chapter 1: Things to Know and Understand Before the Rally

I. Introduction: The purpose of this booklet is to help people, who are new to or have some experience with TSD rallying, to develop the knowledge and skill to do well in this sport. Any type of car or small truck may be entered on the rally. The letters TSD stand for time-speed-distance. In a TSD rally the contestants are given the **SPEED(S)** that they are required to average during the rally. The **DISTANCE** of the rally can be measured. The perfect **TIME** for the rally can be calculated. The contestants that come closest to the perfect time are the winners of the rally. A rally is not a race. Penalties are based on how far contestants differ from the perfect time. Being 15 seconds earlier than the perfect time is penalized equally with being 15 seconds later than the perfect time. Rally cars with two member teams of a driver and a navigator start the rally in one minute intervals. The cars travel along little used rural roads. Along the way they enter checkpoint controls that time the cars arrival. A score for each control is earned at the time of entry. The total of all the controls for the each rally car becomes the cars total score for the rally. The rally car with the lowest total is the winner.

II. Registration: Contestants can pre-register by mail by filling out the form on the rally flyer and mailing it with a check to the rally registrar. By prepaying for a 2006 SJR rally you save $5 and put yourself in better position to receive a dash plaque. The plaques are multiple colored plaques presented to a limited amount of entries. Contestants can register at the start of the rally on the day of the rally. Contestants, even if pre-registered, should arrive about 45 minutes before the start time as there is some paper work involved in registering. The registration workers will explain what has to be done. You will receive a registration packet. It will contain materials needed for the rally. The materials included the standard GIs, an official scorecard, a contestant's copy of the scorecard, a time allowance sheet, dash plaques, addendum to the GIs (a list of things that apply to today's event) and any other special things pertaining to today's event.

III. Sets of Instructions: There are two sets of instructions for every rally. They are **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS (GIs) and ROUTE INSTRUCTION (RIs).**

A. General Instructions are the rules for rally. They include some administrative material and general rules to which contestants must adhere. All the 2006 SJR rallies will use a set of standard GIs that can be found on the SJR website. Not all the material in the GIs need be mastered before your first rally but certain sections are necessary. This booklet will explain procedures that you need to know. Read the GIs after completing this booklet's first two chapters. Contestants should read the entire GIs but concentrate on the following paragraphs: **The Rally: 3 Numbered Route**

Instruction, 4 Roads, 6 Route Following Priorities, and 7 Navigational Aides, and the entire Glossary.

B. Route Instructions will be given to each team 15 minutes prior to the team's official starting time. They are the instructions that will be followed to travel through the course. There are several types of route instructions. Most of the 2006 SJR rallies will use Numbered Route Instructions (NRIs). They will be similar to: 25. Right at "Red Cow". All the NRIs have to be done in accordance with the rules as established in the GIs. The Right in the sample NRI above must be done using the definition of "Right" found in the Glossary section on the GIs.

IV. Types of Controls and Procedures to Follow.

A. Types of Controls: There are three types of controls. They are Open, Closed and Do It Yourself Controls (DIYC). Most of the controls used by the SJR 2006 rallies will be Open and DIYC. Closed will be used in April.

B. Procedures at Controls.

1. Open Controls. Along the route at mostly unannounced locations the rally cars will enter open controls. They will have a checkpoint sign beside the road so that you know it is a control. A sample checkpoint sign will be on display at registration. A timing car/station will be 100 to 150 feet past the checkpoint sign. Cars should drive past the checkpoint sign at the given average speed, then the car should slow to a stop at the timing car. Hand your Official Scorecard to the worker. The time you past the checkpoint sign will be recorded by the control workers on your scorecard. The time that you are to start the next leg will be written on the time out block for the next control. You will be given a control slip that contains the official mileage and the official time for the control just completed. The control slip will also give the location of the restart and the official mileage to the restart. Pull up to the restart location and begin the next leg at the proper time out. There is a section of Chapter 2 of this booklet on How to Score Your Self. The paragraph here on open controls will become more understandable to you when you read that section.

2. Closed Controls. Along the route at mostly unannounced locations the rally cars will enter closed controls. They will have a checkpoint sign beside the road so that you know it is a control. A sample checkpoint sign will be on display at registration. If closed controls are being used, DO NOT STOP. The workers will time you as you pass the checkpoint sign and record your time-in on their log sheet. You will have your car number displayed on your car. The workers will record your car number with your time. At a later point in the route instructions the rally master will have placed a time in an instruction that will place all contestants back on their proper time. At the end of the rally you will receive your scores for all the controls.

3. Do It Yourself Controls (DIYC) **In the RIs of all 2006 SJR Rally Series precise instructions of what each team must do at DIYCs will be given.** The following is a reproduction of the DIYC section of the GIs: "Location of DIYCs will be given in the NRIs at referenced signs. The timing line is an imaginary line perpendicular to the rally road to the referenced sign. The contestants will time themselves in at each DIYC. Enter the time you wish to have as a time-in

(hour:minute.hundredths of a minute as 10:24.75) for that control in the proper place on your official scorecard. Time-out for the next Leg is 2.00 minutes after the time you entered as a time-in. Example: Time-in entered as 10:24.75, then your time-out is 10:26.75. You will receive a control slip for a DIYC at the next Open Control. It will contain much of the same data as a Checkpoint slip as described above."

Printed below is how DIYC 2 is presented in Spring Thaw 2006 rally.

xx.xx/   33. DIYC 2 at "Harold J Hurff". Enter the time you arrived on the
  0.00   line for arrival time for control 2. Add 2 minutes to that arrival time and
              enter that time on the line for departure time for control 3. Zero your
              odometer. Begin Leg 3 at the departure time you just entered. CAST 38.

V. Navigation Aides

Navigational Aides are signs and objects that are referred to in the RIs. The paragraph in the GIs is explicit and reproduced here:
"a) Signs: Any reference that appears in quotation marks (" ") is a reference to words, letters or numbers on a sign and spelling will be exact. A portion of a sign may be a referenced, but it must be a continuous portion of the sign. "Silver Rd" can reference a sign with "Old Silver Rd" but it does NOT reference a sign: "Silver Hill Rd". No sign will require you to look back to see it. No sign will be on the road surface.
b) Landmarks: Any reference that does not appear in quotation marks is a reference to an inanimate landmark i.e. the actual object or a picture of the object (silo, railroad, bridge, and road etc). You will be expected to recognize common landmarks by their customary appearance. No Landmark will require you to look back to see it or to identify it.
c) No Navigational Aide will be on or attached to a mailbox. No navigational aide will be on or attached to a mailbox support."