

of the competitors on the Press Stage had been in town the previous weekend for a parade during the Garfield County Fair. Pomeroy's paper had articles and descriptions (including a better map than mine) of the stages, and directions for spectating. Walla Walla's Sunday paper had a front-page, full-width, above-the-fold, picture of the Press Stage hairpin... Lewiston television had several spots, and an article on their Web site. PRG's own Alan Perry was the media wrangler for Wild West, and on-site Web reporter, posting updates throughout the event, on times, incidents, conditions, and competitor comments.

Saturday, Wild West carried the title of the Jerry Moon Sou'wester Regional Rally as a Coefficient 3. All of Saturday's roads were north of town, south of the Snake River. Wild West 2007 just scratched the surface in a wealth of possibilities. Top speed approaching Spectator One, at 6.34 miles into "Malone," SS1 and SS3, (verified by an ear-to-ear-grinning sheriff) was 102 mph, in a VW Golf GTI, by Todd Hartmann and Shawn Callahan, coming down the hill into an acute right (with guardrails and a ditch on exit — don't ask me how I know about the ditch...)

"Connell Hill" was SS2 and SS4, and included some very fast "drive-by" cows early in the stage. Different from the "Flying Finish Cows" on Malone, who needed soothing white-noise from a generator, the Connell Hill Cows were right on the fence, feeding on hay, watching the cars blow the slobber off their neighbors' noses.

Apparently different cows.

In the middle of "Connell Hill," at 2 miles from the start flag, the instruction reads: (Double Caution) Slight Crest, into 90 Left, around Barn, into HPR, Off Camber. "Around Barn"? Yes, over crest into square left, between a big red barn wall and a big



Driving a 1970 BMW 2002 in the G2 class, Mark Fox and Jake Blattner took second in G2 on day one and third on day two.

brown dirt wall there is a 12-foot wide road. This looks more like 6-foot wide and blind at speed. "Don't Cut!!!" A half-mile climb through several kinks reaches "Mountain Top" and the instruction: "Keep Right over Crest, Off Camber" — a recurring theme — followed by a "Triple Caution 90 Left, Road Drops" ... with exposure.

From here to FF the road is very wide, slightly

crowned, a bit marbly and very fast.

Service was available at the fairgrounds after each pair of stages in the morning, and each three-stage loop in the afternoon.

Spectator areas on Saturday just kept getting more crowded. On "New York," SS5 and SS8, in the afternoon, the first run had half a dozen cars for "000." Second run, as "New York, New York", I lost count. There were folks in lawn chairs from a half-mile before, to a bit after the turn, behind the fence, on the hill, enjoying a great panoramic of "slight downhill, into one-right, drops," then briefly out of sight around a "Double Caution long hairpin right, with exposure both sides," opening into a long sweeping run up and over the crest, disappearing into the wheat fields. There were only a few seconds from the last view of one car over the crest until another car arrived to do it again. The wind acted as natural air conditioning and cleared the dust. Elevation varied from just under 1,200 feet at the start to 1,927 on top of the wheat

