

Yes, we do own this highway

BY FRANK HAMILTON
Regional Executive

Did you know that we belong to a couple of miles of interstate? We have for at least four years or so. Volunteers, mostly from the rally side of things, have been picking up trash on the side of the freeway between milepost 99 and 101 on the northbound side of I-5.

Four or five times each year, two to 16 of our club members have taken a Sunday out of their lives to clean up the garbage that folks toss out on the side of the freeway. We collect 30 to 60 bags of trash each time that weigh 30 to 40 pounds each. If it's big enough to get out the window, can be dumped out of the back of a pickup, or blows off a semi-truck, it's out there. The only thing that stops us is snow. It takes three or four hours to do the job each time.

The Washington State Department of Transportation furnishes bags, traffic vests and hard hats. They pick up the bags when it's all said and done. SCCA furnishes insurance and their good name. DOT erected an Adopt-a-Highway sign on the freeway that identifies us. Pacific Rally Group (PRG) bought "grapplers" (tonglike devices that combine an arm extension and tongs and really save the back). John Nispel loaned a garden cart to the endeavor to carry boxes of trash bags.

The incentive to get volunteers out on the project includes a \$25 discount on registration fees for rallyists on the next



Volunteer and NWR member Jeff Craddock feeds trash into a state-supplied garbage bag using a "grappler."

PRG or Club Rally events and free pizza at the end of each venture. Family members help a lot, too.

The problem with trash on our roads is that it is only going to get worse. As taxes go up, some think that they are paying government back for that. Most others just don't care. If volunteers weren't available, what would our state highways, city streets and county roads look like? This is a real community service. We save government a bunch of money by doing what we do.

In 2006 in Washington state, volun-

teers in this program gathered 6,540,444 pounds of trash. They spent more than 300,000 hours doing it. It cost WSDOT \$2,094,203 to dump it all. As the cost of everything goes up, so will the junk on the side of the road.

The next litter pick-up day is Sunday, May 25 at 10 a.m. Club members, racers and family members meet at Frank Hamilton's shop at 4123 93rd Ave. SW, Olympia (actually Littlerock), WA 98512 (360-352-3204). Take exit 99 off of I-5 and go west 1.5 miles. Are you up to it? Coffee will be on!

Region drums up interest at Vette show

BY SHERRI MASTERSON
Contributing Editor

The Corvette and High Performance Meet was held Feb. 9 and 10 at the Puyallup Fairgrounds.

SCCA and SOVREN continued to team up and fill an area inside the Pavilion equivalent to three spaces. SCCA used the space to promote motorsports with various venues and specialties represented.

The PRO SOLO "light tree" was on display and was set at the front of the

booth and cycled through the lights on a predetermined time sequence. This brought a lot of questions about why SCCA has a light tree.

Videos from Solo, Rally, Race and SOVREN events were shown throughout both days. All venue schedules and membership information were offered.

The floor of the display area had a taped Race-Autocross-RallyCross course laid out. Two 1/32-scale remote controlled cars were used for the course and it got attention. Setting up scenarios on course also used the course to per-

form flagging demonstrations, which were announced over the PA in the building to attract attention.

Thank you to everyone who helped: Val Korry, Rick Vomenici, Sherri Masterson, Tom Masterson, David Kentala, Michael Reichert Jr., Chuck Huffington, Lynne Smith, Miquel Craddock and John Forespring

Next year we will be looking for a racecar again for display. Please contact Val Korry or Sherri Masterson if you're interested in helping or displaying your car for the weekend.