

Olympus, Oregon Trail rallies draw big crowds

WORKERS' APPRECIATION DINNER: The workers' appreciation banquet and awards ceremony was held at the King Oscar motel in south Tacoma. The Oregon Rally Group had representatives there too and also contributed to the overhead. It was a bit smaller this year with only 70 attendees, which was down from well over 100 the years before. The food was great and there were door prizes and annual awards. Those who were honored were: Jorge Meca went to Ron Barker again; Gene Neilsen to John Nispel; Rosemary Tindall to Tracy Manspeaker; and Rookie of the Year to both Brian Gottlieb and Josh Rustigan (Driver and co-driver).

DOO WOPS RALLY: Ray and Janice Damitio spearheaded the Doo Wops again this year. It took place April 17-19. The event was restricted to Pacific and Grays Harbor counties. It was hoped that Capital State Forest would be included but that hasn't happen even to this date.

This is a local rally but lots of fun and excitement. Some of the stages were going to be used again for the Olympus Rally so it was a good dress rehearsal for the big one.

OLYMPUS RALLY: The Olympus Rally was a great success. It only had 33 starters but it did have competitors from faraway places vying for national points. Subaru had their teams from Vermont; there were two Polish teams, California and Oregon cars and our locals among others.

Olympus drew some big names too: Travis Pastrana, "Cowboy" Kenny Block, Andrew Comrie-Picard, Tanner Foust, Matthew Johnson and Dave Mirra to mention a few. You will probably see some of all of these drivers at the X-Games.

Headquarters landed at the Guest House motel in Aberdeen (not the Olympic Inn although it was well used by our folks). The ceremonial

RALLY REPORT

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start was in downtown Aberdeen. There were service areas on the Quinault Indian Reservation and in the small town of South Bend.

The Wreck Creek stage was adjacent to the Pacific Ocean and provided a magnificent view of the rock formation in the water and the surf with rally cars screaming up the hill in the foreground.

Moviemakers and still photographers in their green vests often dotted landscape. There was good news and bad news: We love spectators and they are a critical part of the whole operation but truthfully we were overwhelmed by their numbers. It was estimated that we had between 1,000 and 1,500. Finding places to put them and their vehicles was a good trick.

Programs were handed out to spectators wherever possible. They were very elaborate and provided directions to the spectator areas along with bios on top drivers. There were schedules and instructions for viewing the stages. They were in the glossy magazine format. The programs did explain how stages worked and how those attending should behave. I am not sure that some folks read them from cover to cover. Our old friend Ananda Siverts produced the programs and deserves a compliment on the finished product.

LITTER PICK UP DAY: Sunday, April 26 was Pacific Rally Group's litter pick up day (PRG is the local affiliate to NWR-SCCA). The group picks up two miles of garbage on the side of the Interstate 5 freeway between mile posts 101 and 99 (northbound side). The project is part of the Adopt-a-Highway program for the Washington Department of

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