

Recent CVR Rallies

Spring 2013 – Storrs Center – June 9, 2013

This course following rally started at the parking garage on Dog Lane in the new Storrs Center development (across Route 195 from UConn's Fine Arts College) and ended at the recently opened Dog Lane Café at the corner of Storrs Road (Rte 195) and Dog Lane. Most of the rally was run on rural roads in Mansfield, Willington and a little bit of Coventry. The length was about 47 miles and took 2 ½ to 3 hours to complete.

Points were given to rally teams for spotting historic Mansfield and Willington names on signs and landmarks, given by a short history in the General Instructions which noted the significance of these names. One road section of the rally had many animal representations on signs, statues and other physical items, and points were given for spotting each of these. Points were also given (or taken away) by observing and writing down course markers placed along the rally route – some course markers worth positive points on the correct rally route, and some worth negative points on incorrect routes. The total possible score was 224 points, and the winning team earned 100 points. The team of Allison/Pratt placed first with the Poythress team second. At the finishing venue a quick presentation about the new Storrs Center Development was given to the 30 participants by the Storrs Center Master Developer.

Gimmicks employed on this rally included redundant route instructions, uninstructed T intersections, circling New England style greens, being placed onto roads by name, making an acute turn, and what to do when lost. The tie breaker was the number of metal farm gates passed along the rally route.



The finish at the Dog Lane Café in Storrs Center

Fall 2013 – Guilford – October 27, 2013

Like the Spring, 2013 rally, a brief history of Guilford was included in the GI's, and points were awarded for recognizing historic signage along the rally route. Similarly, course markers were placed for rally teams to observe, note on their scoresheets and receive positive or negative points for them. The rally was about 50 miles long and used rural roads in Guilford & North Branford. The rally began and ended at the Splash American Grill on Route 1 in Guilford. The maximum possible point score was 204 and the winning team had a score of 104. Winners were the team of DeMattie/LaRussa with second place going to the team of Allison/Pratt. 19 teams (38 people) participated in the rally, and were treated to a great fall day in Southwestern CT.

Gimmicks employed on this rally included a dead-end road (that didn't exist), being placed onto roads by name, several redundant route instructions, entering a checkpoint from the correct/incorrect direction and what to do when lost. The tie breaker was the number of red barns passed along the rally route.



The winning team of Paul DeMattie & Anthony LaRussa at a Guilford Rally checkpoint

Spring 2014 – All Around Newtown – June 8, 2014

This rally was a 60 mile loop through the Towns that surround Newtown. The first 45 miles and 5 checkpoints were a Poker Run in which each rally team drew a card at each checkpoint and then the poker hands were compared at the end of the rally with the best hands winning. The rally started at the Starbucks in the Southbury Green Plaza and finished at Jordan's Restaurant in Southbury, which was right across the street. The last 15 miles of the rally route were set up to be an optional course following gimmick rally (rally within a rally) using a different set of route instructions and course markers to track each team's actual route. 18 rally teams participated in the rally and the highest poker hand obtained was four 10's. In addition to the regular set of instructions, rallyists were given 3 word puzzles to solve whose solutions gave them special instructions that could increase their scores. For the gimmicked part of the rally, the maximum score was 95 and there was a 4-way tie for first place (45 points) with the tie breaker even for the top 2 teams as well. Congratulations to the Allison/Pratt and Poythress teams for their double tie for the best score on the gimmick rally. The highest poker hands were held by the Dudzic and Keller teams.

Gimmicks employed on the last 15 miles of the rally included misspelled street signs, uninstructed T intersections, being placed onto a road by name, and a newly defined intersection called a *confluence*. The tie breaker was the number of street signs with "Hill" on them along the rally route.



Checkpoint #5 – Near Southington

Fall 2014 – Barkhamsted and the surrounding area – October 5, 2014

This rally had several distinct “legs” each with a different character of roadways used. It began at the Dunkin Donuts on Route 44 near the Simsbury/Canton Town line and ended at the Wood N Tap on Queen Street in Southington. It was approximately 70 miles long, but took under 3 hours to run (for most teams). The first leg was over rural roads in Canton. The second leg was mostly on the state highways that surround the Barkhamsted reservoir. The final leg was through the urban streets of Plymouth and Bristol. Gimmicked instructions and coursemarkers were placed along the first leg of the rally only; however, throughout the entire rally route teams were given photographs of landmarks and other noticeable items along the rally route and told to identify them by recording the first traffic sign that appeared along the route after the photograph. Points were assigned both for course markers (plus and minus) and for correctly identifying the 30 or so photographs (which were not in the correct order). The maximum number of points attainable on the rally was 180, and the winning team of Thomas/Coyne earned a score of 116. Other winners included the Eskew, Poythress and Mayer/Garrity teams.

Gimmicks employed on the 1st leg of the rally included a misspelled street name, several uninstructed T intersections, being placed onto a road by name, a confluence and a pretty difficult word search puzzle whose solution enabled teams to score an extra 10 points. The tie breaker was the number of bridges driven over along the rally route. (Note: In future rallies, observing course markers AND photo logs will be done on separate legs, not the same leg at the same time! Doing both is just too much observing for one navigator.)



Drivers and Navigators meeting prior to the start of the Barkhamsted rally