

“Kansas Rally Weekend – East to Easton (and West to Weston) Rally Pavement Ends (Again) Rally

Rich Bireta

Rally teams from 6 states and 8 different SCCA Regions came to northeastern Kansas for the second running of the Kansas Rally Weekend. Two time-speed-distance rally events were held on two successive days. Saturday, November 8 saw the inaugural running of the East to Easton Rally and Sunday November saw the second running of the Pavement Ends Rally.

Events like these cannot occur without a significant volunteer effort on the part of many people. I mentioned my gratitude to these folks Saturday, but a “Thank You” bears repeating. Thanks again to:

Albert Weaver for serving as the Safety Steward and working checkpoints.
Derrick Carpenter for working registration and checkpoints Saturday.
Dan McConnell of the HOA Z Car Club and KC SCCA for event promotion,
Anne Marie Bireta and Jon Shipman for working checkpoints.
The boards of the Kansas City and Kansas Regions of the SCCA for their support and encouragement in allowing us to develop a road rally program in this area.

By staging two events in one weekend I hoped to attract a number of rally enthusiasts from across the SCCA Midwest Division as well as entries from local Kansas City car clubs. Two national caliber rally teams were able to enter the events on their journey home from the US Road Rally Championships, held the previous weekend in Portland, Oregon. Others traveling to the events were Bruce and Charlene Bettinger from Wichita, and Bob Strattan and Ken Olinger from Tulsa.

Saturday’s event, The East to Easton (and West to Weston) Rally started at the Legends shopping center near the Kansas Speedway. The tire warm up and odometer check took the fifteen rally crews due north, across the Missouri River for a scenic tour of Platte and Buchanan counties in Missouri. Although the rally route did not actually go all the way “east to Easton”, the route did bend south and then head “west to Weston”, where the rally teams enjoyed a post-rally meal and conversations at the Weston Brewery.

After four checkpoints and 95 miles of rallying, it was clear why the event was measured precisely to the 0.001 mile (5.28 feet) and timed to the 0.01 minute (0.6 second). In order to remove “rally luck” from determining the winner among the national-caliber teams, such precision was necessary. Even with these measures, the difference between the first two teams was only one point (0.6 seconds). The team of Charles Hanson (Indianapolis, Indiana) and Jack von Kaenel (Arlington, Virginia) won 1st overall and 1st in the Equipped class over Bruce Gezon (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) and Ron Ferris (St, Louis, Missouri).

In the SCCA Limited class, Bob Strattan and Ken Olinger (NEOKLA Region) won the class ahead of Kansas Region members Lori Goetsch and Martin Courtois (Manhattan, Kansas).

The SCCA Stock class and Novice class winners were Devon Bireta and Jon Shipman. (With this second class win, Devon loses her Novice classification). Second place went to David Avard and Will Marotta (Kansas Region) and third place went to Neava Ford and Charlie Clark (Kansas City Region).

On Sunday morning, ten rally teams met just north of Lawrence, Kansas for the start of the Pavement Ends (Again) rally. As the name implied, unpaved but good quality roads were used as the competitors traveled the route between Lawrence and Perry and back. The use of unpaved roads allowed the design of a much more compact rally route with more checkpoints than Saturday. After 112 miles and 8 checkpoints the rally ended at the historic Johnny's Tavern in North Lawrence.

Sunday's event saw different winners from Saturday's. Bruce Gezon and Ron Ferris won the overall and the combined Equipped / Limited class over Charles Hanson and Jack von Kaenel. First place in the Stock class went to Bruce and Charlene Bettinger of the Wichita Region. First place in the Novice Division went to Steve Berger and Dale Smith, Kansas City Region. Dale, KC's Regional Executive, met a personal goal by completing a rally event while receiving no "maximum penalties" on any leg of the event.

I am very pleased with the turn-out of fifteen teams on Saturday and ten teams on Sunday. The route was intended to be trap-free, and everyone made it to the finish. I hope you agree that the roads were interesting and fun. (Isn't that first leg in Missouri a blast? Buck Creek south from Oskaloosa is one of the best roads in northeast Kansas. **Those** are what rally roads should be!)

Several improvements we made in our processes since the last rally in May. We used a new method for scoring that allowed the initial scores to be posted within 20 minutes of the end of the event. There are still some areas for improvement in our events. Specifically I noted that several of the checkpoint zones were not deep enough to accommodate all of the cars that were there at one time.

I hope to see many of you at our next road rally event. Preliminary plans for 2009 include a rally school in conjunction with the Meet in the Middle Rally with starting locations in Lawrence and Kansas City and another Kansas Rally Weekend in November.

East to East Rally Results:

Car	Crew		SCCA Class	Total
1	Charles Hanson / Jack von Kaenel	Black Contour	E	1
2	Bruce Gezon / Ron Ferris	Silver Mini	E	2
7	Bob Strattan / Ken Olinger	Silver SHO	L	129
10	Lori Goetsch / Marty Courtois	Red Mini	L	142
12	Devon Bireta / Jon Shipman	Gold CR-V	S (Novice)	202
16	David Avard / Will Marotta	Blue Mazda M3	S	230
15	Neava Ford / Charlie Clark	Green CR-V	S	267
5	Bruce Bettinger / Charlene Bettinger	Gold Volvo	S	302
6	Adam Miller / Christina Miller	Beige BMW 328i	S (Novice)	340
13	Dale Smith / Al Hermans	Red 240Z	S (Novice)	414
9	Angie Covey / Mark Covey	Blue Subaru STI	S (Novice)	423
14	Karl Mayo / Krista Mayo	Green BMW Z3	S (Novice)	522
8	Ken Ragan / Gini Ragan	White Equinox	S (Novice)	531
4	Dan McConnell / Paul MacRoberts	Blue 350Z	S (Novice)	568
11	Patrick Wank / Christopher Wank	Red Audi A4	S (Novice)	669

Here are the leg-by-leg scores:

Car	Crew	SCCA Class	Sugar Creek	Platte River	Hardesty Lane	Weston	Total
1	Chuck Hanson / Jack von Kaenel	E	0	1	0	0	1
2	Bruce Gezon / Ron Ferris	E	1	0	0	1	2
7	Bob Strattan / Ken Olinger	L	24	1	101	3	129
10	Lori Goetsch / Marty Courtois	L	45	65	24	8	142
12	Devon Bireta / Jon Shipman	S (Novice)	70	18	106	8	202
16	David Avard / Will Marotta	S	6	63	154	7	230
15	Neava Ford / Charlie Clark	S	74	26	159	8	267
5	Bruce Bettinger / Charlene Bettinger	S	172	86	41	3	302
6	Adam Miller / Christina Miller	S (Novice)	126	66	60	88	340
13	Dale Smith / Al Hermans	S (Novice)	86	10	300	18	414
9	Angie Covey / Mark Covey	S (Novice)	112	300	6	5	423
14	Karl Mayo / Krista Mayo	S (Novice)	272	159	3	88	522
8	Ken Ragan / Gini Ragan	S (Novice)	122	80	141	188	531
4	Dan McConnell / Paul MacRoberts	S (Novice)	300	119	145	4	568
11	Patrick Wank / Christopher Wank	S (Novice)	300	199	112	58	669

Pavement Ends Rally Results:

Car	Crew		SCCA Class	Total
2	Bruce Gezon / Ron Ferris	Silver Mini	E	5
1	Charles Hanson / Jack von Kaenel	Black Contour	E	10
3	Bob Stratton / Ken Olinger	Silver SHO	L to E	152
4	Bruce and Charlene Bettinger	Gold Volvo	S	278
7	Devon and Anne Marie Bireta	Gold CRV	S	464
10	Julie and David Avard	Gold Cherokee	S	473
8	Steve Berger / Dale Smith	Grey Jeep	S (Novice)	543
5	Jason Schnurr / Curtis Barkley	Blue 280 Z	S (Novice)	631
9	Ken and Gini Regan	White Chevy SUV	S (Novice)	884
6	Dan McConnell / Garth Durre	Red Dodge	S (Novice)	1438

... and the leg-by-leg scores:

Car	Crew	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2	Bruce Gezon / Ron Ferris	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
1	Charles Hanson / Jack von Kaenel	2	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	10
3	Bob Stratton / Ken Olinger	9	1	46	1	6	72	17	0	152
4	Bruce and Charlene Bettinger	21	53	61	7	36	53	47	0	278
7	Devon and Anne Marie Bireta	30	70	112	53	65	113	20	1	464
10	Julie and David Avard	19	103	100	24	13	12	46	156	473
8	Steve Berger / Dale Smith	58	53	167	9	110	128	10	8	543
5	Jason Schnurr / Curtis Barkley	0	41	13	57	141	55	300	24	631
9	Ken and Gini Regan	128	159	11	82	124	147	142	91	884
6	Dan McConnell / Garth Durre	126	282	129	300	113	122	300	66	1438