

Presidents Update – November 2013

After a slow start this year our Canadian Rally Championship is well under way with the Rocky Mountain Rally behind us and Rally of the Tall Pines ready to wrap up the season during the last weekend in November.

This year Rocky was in a new location on all new & exciting roads. Long stages, fast in places, technical in others, road conditions from gravel to ice & snow probably sums it up best. Along with an outstanding venue in Invermere, the Rocky Mountain Rally seems set for a bright future.

Two-wheel drive competitors don't forget that next year the National 2WD championship will move away from the 4 out of 6 format and count all 6 events, as does the overall championship. We're hoping to see an increased interest in our 2WD championship, especially in the East where the competitors will be able to have all 4 events counted towards the championship standings.

Social Media and TV

The first two events of the season have aired on TSN, TSN2 and RDS. I am really pleased with the coverage to date and expect that we'll see even more excitement in forthcoming event airings.

The broadcast times seem good. I've had feedback from casual observers that they are getting to watch the Canadian Rally Championship on TV at the local sports bar. This is great for our sponsors, competitors and organizers alike as it grows the interest in our sport.

Our back end loaded season is proving a bit of a challenge for our media folks with so many rallies in such a short period. You may have noticed that the online videos have slowed a little while we ensure that the TV ready video gets to the broadcasters on time. Please bear with us, as it is important that the TV goes out on scheduled.

Upcoming Broadcasts

TSN2:

Pacific Forest Rally

- Wed Nov 27 23:00 - 23:30
- Thu Nov 28 15:00 - 15:30

TSN:

Rallye Defi

- Wed Nov 20 13:30 – 14:00

Extended Board Changes – Technical Director

After much feedback the board concluded that the Technical Director role, which in its current form includes presence at CRC events, was too much to expect from a single volunteer. It has been decided to split the Technical Director role back into the Technical Rules Committee chair and to delegate the CARS presence at events, if required at all. The concept a couple of years ago was that the Technical Director could influence consistency in technical standards across the series by being at the CRC events. This has been a successful, and appreciated initiative but we feel it has run its course, particularly due to the high demands on the Technical Director's personal time.

Going forward Darryl Malone has offered to continue as the Technical Director leading the Technical Rules Committee. If the board and/or Darryl feel it necessary to have CARS technical presence at a particular event to assist with scrutineering standards or to handle a special project we will aim to have a more local Technical Committee rep attend on our behalf. This should achieve our technical standard objectives, reduce cost to the association, and reduce workload on the Technical Director.

The board would like to thank those who submitted applications for the role. With succession planning in mind hopefully some of those candidates will consider joining the Technical Rules Committee in the near future.

AGM Planning

At the moment we're real busy planning for the 2013 AGM, which is scheduled for Jan 11th 2014. This year the event will take place at the Chateau Laurier in Quebec City and will be a combined event with the CRQ awards. Eric Tremblay and I have been talking about the details and I am really excited about the prospects of having a large turnout for the event.

The CARS board will be holding a board meeting on Friday. A portion of the meeting will be open, during which members and individuals are invited to sit in.

On the Saturday we will continue in open meetings with Organizers and Competitors. Then late afternoon we will convene the AGM followed by an EGM during which we will be asking the membership to adopt a new set of Corporate Articles and Bylaws, both of which are required as part of the new Not-for-Profit Corporation Act.

Our NFP committee has been busy all year making sure that our new articles and bylaws comply with the new legislation while not changing the intent of the old bylaws. The reason we didn't want to change intent is because we are required by law to implement new articles and bylaws. By keeping the intent the same and only making changes required by law we are hoping to ensure that the content of the new documents don't become contentious or get stalled at the EGM.

On Jan 11th CRQ are holding a regional rally after which we're hoping to see all of the organizers and competitors join us at the awards banquet. The rally is planned to be over early afternoon. It is my hope that we don't lose any member participation from the AGM and EGM as getting everyone's input to these important meetings is critical.

Debbie from the CARS office will have the AGM package out to CARS members before Dec 11th.

Goals Update for October 2013 follows:

The rest of my update is a status report on our 2013 goals, highlighting the progress that we've made, any unfinished work will roll into our 2014 goals and we will continue working on those items.

GOALS FOR 2013

1. Continue development of this Vision, Mission, and Objectives document.
(John Hall - complete for 2013, will develop 2014 goals for finalization during the AGM weekend)
2. Clarify and document the rules change process to include both administrative and technical rule changes procedure.
(John Hall – complete, we now have both a Tech Rules Committee and an Admin Rules Committee that review all rule change requests, research and make proposals to change or not)
3. Address all technical and administrative rule changes in a timely manner while ensuring adequate time for rally community input.
(Tech and Admin Rules Committees are following the process and ensure that adequate time and consideration is given to rally community input to proposed rule changes)
4. Make proposals relative to technical rule clarification and change requests (Technical Rules Committee)
 - o Seat expiry *(continuing review of failure data)*
 - o Light weighting of production cars *(complete)*
 - o Hydraulic handbrakes in production cars *(complete)*
 - o Use of pedal boxes in production *(complete)*
 - o First aid kit accessibility *(complete)*
 - o Tow rope locations *(complete)*
 - o Roll cage padding similar to RA rule *(TRC reviewing)*
 - o Model range clarification *(TRC reviewing)*
 - o DOT helmet use in Rally-X *(TRC is reviewing)*
5. Make proposals relative to administrative rule clarification and change requests (Admin Rules Committee)
 - o Review Series' Scoring Rules prior to the 2014 season 6/6 or 4/6 for 2WD.
(complete, decision made to go 6/6 for the 2014 season, based upon the fact that we are trying to elevate the 2WD championship)
 - o Review Triangle use rules *(proposal approved by board)*
 - o Championship awards CRC overall & 2WD or 4WD & 2WD *(complete, decision made to have two major championships in 2014. The overall championship for the Deak & Fidler trophies and the 2WD championship for the yet to be named but equally impressive 2WD championship trophies)*
6. Ensure compliance with impending Federal Not-For-Profit Corporation legislation through a re-write of the by-laws.
(Martin Loveridge is working with NFP legislation committee and will have proposed by-law amendments ready for presentation to an EGM which will occur in conjunction with the AGM in January 2014)

7. Improve financial reporting for dissemination to the elected Board with quarterly expenditure reports referenced to budget.
(The Treasurer, Martin Burnley is providing quarterly financial updates and has introduced a capital planning process that the board will start to use, proposed 2014 budget will be going out with AGM package)
8. Input to new insurance coverage for volunteer vehicles
(complete, the insurance policy was modified to include coverage for volunteer vehicles while on a hot stage)
9. Conduct a complete review of the Safety Guidelines. Identify required safety practices and recommended safety guidelines.
(Ross Wood is leading the safety guideline review committee had hoped to be complete the review by YE 2013 – Committee has met a couple of times and are making progress. Work will continue into 2014.)
10. Develop new media program working with Muskateer Media to produce TV and Social media content.
(Broadcast deal was established with TSN, TSN2 and RDS, Airings have started, feedback has been positive)
11. Continue development and improvements to CARS website.
(Keith Morison – website development has been slow but continuing to look at our options)
12. Determine if an electronic vehicle tracking system is needed/viable/affordable.
Make proposals
(Keith Morison developed a testing protocol, is arranging for test equipment from RallySafe and will have testing plan in place for 2014)
13. Develop and implement an emergency & crisis response manual
(John Hall – No progress will defer to 2014)
14. Implement the use of an electronic survey tool for gathering input.
(Keith Morison, complete and survey monkey is used regularly by the board to gather input to various topics)
15. Determine if further changes to the Class structure are required by June 30th 2013 and monitor thereafter.
(Martin Burnley led the Large Displacement Committee who proposed rule changes that received rally community feedback and have now been adopted by the board for inclusion in the rules.)
16. Assess the use of a Spec Fuel program. Provide feedback to the rally community on the value and proposed direction to be taken by CARS.
(Keith Morison – the review of a spec fuel program was completed, the board decided to not proceed with a spec fuel program at this time)
17. Organize training and/or training materials for both Stewards and Organizers.
(Ivan Butikofer has been working on this project, will continue into 2014)
18. Provide monitoring and support of the Pacific Forest Rally and the Rallye Baie des Chaleurs to ensure that national standards are met.
(Terry Epp worked with the events and has received excellent responses from all organizers. Events made good improvements in 2013)

19. Determine if the use of Speed Factor in conjunction with the current seeding system is to be implemented.
(Jim Morrow – continuing to work with the speed factor committee who has developed a prototype system that they are testing with various event data. Will be reviewing options and make proposals going into 2014)
20. Review CRC restarting rules after a DNF. Possibly introducing super rally concept.
(Admin Rules Committee – drafting proposals for board review prior to going out to rally community)
21. Ensure that each Region observe at least one Rally-Cross event in 2013.
(Regional Directors)
22. Monitor P4WD weights and recommend a minimum weight for 2014
(Darryl Malone – thru 2013)
23. Monitor/enforce rally car noise levels and review current noise rule.
(Darryl Malone – thru 2013)
24. Document the process for issuing the rule book annually
(Terry Epp – thru 2013)
25. Communicate progress on 2013 goals with membership on a quarterly basis as part of the Presidents update
(John Hall – April complete – July complete – Nov complete)

John Hall
President
Canadian Association of Rallysport