Rally Awards by Jay Nemeth-Johannes RReNews — February 2017

The definition of the word rally is "a gathering." Here in the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), we would like to see "rallye" at the Regional level as more of a social gathering. Still, the excuse to gather is some form of competition, and that seems to lead to the need for trophies.

The first instinct is to run over to the local trophy shop and throw money at these things. You will soon discover how little you get for your money. Expect to pay over \$20 for your typical wall plaque or that bowling trophy with the random American sedan sitting on top. Surely we can do better.

I have been putting together trophies for local events for several years now. A little imagination and you too can come up with ideas for awards that fit the theme of your event, provide something folks will want to display and save some money to boot.

A key part of my trophies is a laminator. Amazon sells a very serviceable one for around \$20, the <u>AmazonBasics Thermal Laminator</u>. I have used this one for three years now and run over 100 sheets through it. Click here to review the one I use.

Trophies can be made economically, with <u>Sparco 5-mil Clear Letter Sized Laminate Pouches</u> costing \$15 for 50 letter-size sheets.

One of my tricks is to create laminated designs that include the award plaque (ie: 1st Novice). That way we can create extras economically and adjust which Class gets more trophies, based on who starts the event.

Some examples of trophies we have used in the past.

One year, I gave out Lego cars along with a laminated road and grass base. We didn't assemble the cars but gave them out as a trophy kit. It was successful. People didn't leave after getting their awards, but hung around and built their cars. Even those who didn't win stayed to watch them being built! Total cost was about \$8 per trophy.

Another idea we used for our Badger Burrow National was to give out plush badger dolls with the place plaque tied around the neck with a ribbon. Total cost was \$13 per trophy.

In addition to the trophies, we always give out refrigerator magnets as Participation Awards. We print roughly 20 copies of the design on an 8.5x11 sheet of paper, laminate them, and then cut them apart with a paper cutter. We then attach a magnetic rubber strip on the back, and we are done. We use the ProMAG 2 x 3-1/2 Inches Adhesive Business Card Magnets and cut them in thirds.

The result is something folks seem to like, and I have seen them everywhere after the event. These things take me about two hours to make for 60 plaques and cost around \$0.15 each.

We recently created a smaller refrigerator magnet called the Zero Hero Award. We give these out to any non-computer car that gets at least one zero on an event. So, even if the team is dead last, they can still get this award for one good leg.

A zero by a novice is not common. They may not know how they did it, but them seem to feel 10-feet tall when we give these out.

These ideas may seem silly for the old hardened National folks, but this stuff is part of what works for building our Milwaukee Region Road Rally program. These ideas are easy to put together, and the result is exciting.

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