

## Northern New Jersey Region SCCA - USMC Toys for Tots '2023 Teddy Bear Road Rally'

By Peter Schneider

December 3, 2023 marked the 34th annual 'Toys for Tots' Teddy Bear Road Rally, hosted by Northern New Jersey Region of the SCCA and Motorsport Club of North Jersey. This year's sponsor and the sponsor for the past eleven years was Subaru World of Hackettstown.

Twenty-eight (28) teams competed on this year's rainy and cold event, only two teams ran the event 'clean'.

The NNJR-SCCA/MCNJ's 'Toys for Tots' Teddy Bear Rally is the longest running charity rally associated with SCCA and the longest running event hosted by Northern New Jersey Region and the second longest rally conducted by the same event organizer (Ted Goddard organized the New England Region's Cover Bridge Rally for forty-nine years). **Since 1990 NNJR-SCCA/MCNJ has collected over 4,000 toys with an estimated value of \$29,000. We hope to continue the event for many years to come.**

This event is a simple to follow RoadRally using the back roads of Morris, Warren and Hunterdon Counties. The event started at SUBARU WORLD IN HACKETTSTOWN and ended about 50 miles later at the Long Valley Brew Pub in the center of Long Valley, NJ.

The rally is open to the general public and requires only a car or light truck with a working odometer and a pen/pencil to compete. The event is not a Time-Speed-Distance (TSD) rally, but a lightly trapped Social 'gimmick' rally. The entry fee, per car, is a brand new Teddy Bear or new toy, worth at least \$35.00 retail which is donated to the USMC Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

'Toys for Tots' began in 1947, when Major Bill Hendricks, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. The idea came from Bill's wife, Diane. In the fall of 1947, Diane crafted a homemade doll and asked Bill to deliver the doll to an organization, which would give it to a needy child at Christmas. When Bill determined that no agency existed, Diane told Bill that he should start one. He did. The 1947 pilot project was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted 'Toys for Tots' in 1948 and expanded it into a nationwide campaign.

The Teddy Bear rally is a mileage based course rally. 100 points are 'awarded' for each mile variance from the official route. The contestants note their car's odometer reading at unmanned (DIY) checkpoints as listed in the route instructions and the club utilizing an odometer calibration leg to compute corrected leg mileages and compare them with the official leg mileages to determine score.

Since 2016, the region has been posting event notifications on Facebook and targeting individuals in the NJ, NY and Pennsylvania area with low cost ads, and email blasts on Constant Contact we have been able to maintain a steady list of entries for our events.

Since inception, the 'Toys for Tots' rally has used 'Photo Clues' (a format borrowed from the Metro Porsche Club - Snowflake Rally which has been run for the past 68 years) to provide contestants a little extra challenge. These Photo Clues can be compared to 'Lettered Route Instructions' used on SCCA National Course events. The Photos are of signs/scenes along the rally route which at times are hard to spot (but not impossible), or are taken of easy to see every day common signs that have slight variations due to weathering or defects. All of these features must be taken into account when correctly executing a Photo Clue instruction. In addition to the Photo Clues, the rally has also used standard route following traps based on the 'Onto' rule and reversed numbered route instructions. Needless to say all route

'traps' are self-correcting, with the difference in the official on-course vs off-course mileage helping separate the scores.

This year event had only four legs, an odometer leg and three scored legs that contained simple route following traps, and could be driven in two (2) hours. Since all of the route following traps 'short cutted' the route most teams were able to finish the event in less time.

### **Leg 1**

The first route following trap on the rally was a simple reversed Route Instruction numbering trap. Since this happened at the very beginning of the event, it caught the majority of the teams, including several experienced teams. *Inst #2 and Inst #3 were listed on the Instruction Sheet 'out of order'. If you did not notice the 'trap' you made a R out of the dealership and turned R FOPP on Harris Lane, and a L FOPP just like we have done in the past and then came to the SIG at Route 46 and Naughtright Rd. (Inst #4). If you did notice that the instructions were out of order, you make a R out of the driveway and a L FOPP (at SIG) and then a R FOPP (on Drakestown Rd). You then traveled downhill on Drakestown Rd to a Forced R on Route 46 East to the SIG at Route 46 and Naughtright Rd. (Inst #4). Either way you did Inst #2 and Inst #3 you would now be looking to execute the first Special Instruction which was Photo A the crossroad sign for Flocktown Rd. Falling for this trap caused the contestants to short cut the route by 2.44 miles.*

The second trap was a *Special Instruction Clue – Photo B. The three signs shown in Photo B were all attached to a Telephone Pole and per the Cover Sheet were not valid and should have been ignored. If you did notice that the Special Instruction Clue was not valid you would have proceeded straight at the intersection of Stephensburg Rd and executed Instruction #7 on Route 57 East. If you did not notice the Telephone Pole, you made a right on Stephensburg Rd prior to executing a right for Instruction #7 on Route 57 East. Falling for this trap caused the contestants to short cut the route by 3.9 miles.*

*The next self-correcting trap was Inst #13 'L FOPP after Parke Rd', to execute this instruction correctly you need to pass the actual road (since we told you to turn after the actual road and not the road sign) and turn left on Janes Chapel Rd, and not turn after the sign for Parke Rd, which would have put you on Parke Rd. No matter where you turned, Inst #14 put you on Valley Rd heading towards Inst #15. Falling for this trap resulted in the teams short cutting the route by 0.90 miles.*

### **Leg 2**

*The trap in Leg 2 involved two Special Instruction Clues (Photos D & E) which were activate at the same time. Photo D was the picture of a Mailbox, which per the special instructions was invalid. If you noticed the trap you would have seen Photo Clue E "SHY HOUND FARM" sign and turned left on Hoffman Rd. Either way, the route self-corrected by heading north on Route 629. Failing to remember that a Mailbox was not valid you would have short-cutted the route by 2.7 mileages, and added 270 mileage points to your score.*

### **Leg 3**

*This was the Odometer Leg. No route following traps on this leg. Everyone got a zero on this leg. Since the rally organizers utilize an Excel Spreadsheet to compare the contestant's leg mileage to the official mileage, any leg that does not contain a route following trap can be used as the odometer leg*

## Leg 4

The last trap of the event was based on the fact that route following instructions per the General Instructions need to be executed at an intersection. The 'Straight' at Instruction 28, **could not be executed** at the same place as the quoted sign used for the Checkpoint, because Shenandoah Court was a marked Dead End and not a valid intersection. To do this correctly, you needed to proceed to the next intersection (which was a Stop), and proceed 'Straight' and then look to execute Instruction # 29. Those that did it incorrectly saw Photo F.

The event was scored in four classes: Beginner, Novice, Intermediate and Expert, with Special Awards for Best Subaru, Best Porsche, Best Family, Best Husband & Wife/Partners and Dead Last But Finished. All Special Award receipts received medals, and the top two in each class received a bottle of New Jersey Wine.

SCCA-NNJR and the Motorsport Club of North Jersey would like to thank all that participated in the event along with Eric and Pat Sjogren who were Safety Stewards for the event and my wife Joanne Schneider who checkout the event with me several times and worked registration and her assistance with the event for the past 34 years.

FINAL RESULTS										
2023 SCCA-NNJR Toys for Tots Teddy Bear Rallye										
December 3, 2023										
Car #:	Overall Place	Class Place	Class	Driver/Navigator	Leg Scores:				Total Score	Special Award
					Leg #1	Leg #2	Leg #3 / ODO Leg	Leg #4		
24	1	1	Expert	Michael Szorentini/Mike Share	0.8	0.4	0.0	-0.8	2.0	
4	2	2	Expert	Joan Fitzhugh/Gilbert Fitzhugh	4.4	-4.8	0.0	-4.1	13.3	
12	3	1	Novice	Frank Kirwin Jr/Sun Whee Kim	3.9	3.7	0.0	-109.7	117.3	Best SCCA
37	4	2	Novice	Arthur Falgione/Ted Lawless	4.4	5.1	0.0	-152.9	162.3	
34	5	3	Expert	Bob Murphy/Angela D'Alessandro	-5.5	5.1	0.0	-152.9	163.5	Best Subaru
27	6	1	Intermediate	Kevin Ziegler/Jake Makdad	19.7	-0.9	0.0	-146.5	167.1	
14	7	3	Novice	Marian Konop/Betsy Donovan	73.9	-6.3	0.0	-159.7	240.0	Best H&W
20	8	2	Intermediate	Stuart Schulman/Robin Schulman	-236.1	3.7	0.0	20.3	260.1	
22	9	4	Expert	Peter Shelly/Chris Davis	-246.2	3.7	0.0	-149.7	399.6	
2	10	4	Novice	Alex Cabral/Cam Giles	-7.3	244.9	0.0	-153.5	405.7	
28	11	5	Expert	Jim Wakemen/Rose Wakemen	-244.9	9.8	0.0	-152.1	406.8	
1	12	5	Novice	Joe Brower/Joe Handel	-485.3	11.0	0.0	-11.1	507.4	
25	13	6	Novice	Rich Wolfson/Mike Heller	-390.0	72.8	0.0	-136.5	599.3	Best BMW
29	14	7	Novice	Dave Rose/Nick Barter/Kristine Stortroen	-277.4	195.7	0.0	130.9	604.0	1st BFT
17	15	8	Novice	Dylan McKibbins/Justin Choi	-218.5	-260.0	0.0	-146.5	625.0	2nd BFT
9	16	9	Novice	Joan Olszewski/Maureen Harris	-356.2	-266.4	0.0	-19.7	642.3	
10	17	3	Intermediate	Steve Jacobs/Tom Bennett	-296.2	-276.4	0.0	-159.7	732.3	
32	18	10	Novice	Tony Vu/Ryan Ramones	-600.7	15.0	0.0	-143.0	758.6	Best Porsche
19	19	11	Novice	Roger Salomon/Mike Peters	-390.0	-280.2	0.0	-156.6	826.7	
16	20	12	Novice	Mary Anne McInerney/Noel McInerney	-640.3	-272.7	0.0	-4.1	917.1	
35	21	13	Novice	Joe Darlington/David Darlington	-502.6	-306.4	0.0	-164.9	973.9	Best Family
13	22	4	Intermediate	Robert Knapik/Lucille Knapik	-607.4	-263.7	0.0	-133.1	1004.2	
15	23	14	Novice	Larry Stein/Robert Levine	-604.2	-270.4	0.0	-149.7	1024.3	
5	24	15	Novice	Sean Franciscus/Drew Franciscus	-632.0	-270.1	0.0	-146.5	1048.6	
8	25	16	Novice	Maximilian Hain/Liz Hammond	-729.6	639.9	0.0	-4.1	1373.6	
23	26	17	Novice	Curtis Springstead/Sebby Viana	-396.2	1000.0	0.0	-159.7	1555.9	
11	27	18	Novice	Gary Jones/Terri Jones	-1000.0	-686.6	0.0	-266.2	1952.7	
33	28	19	Novice	Cynthia Brower/Bobby Brower	1000.0	1000.0	0.0	1000.0	3000.0	
36			Touring	John Roderick/Veronica Gress	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	

Note: Positive leg scores means participants travelled too many miles, while negative leg scores means too few  
Note: Mileage points calculated as 100 points per mile