

# Road Rally Review

## Fishing For Crabs: The '85 Virginia Reel

The former "Maryland Is For Crabs" rally committee, having put on a series of SCCA National and divisional events in recent years, decided to flee Baltimore for points south in 1985. In the calmly rural town of **Manassas, Virginia**, some 30 miles west of Washington, D.C., the committee changed its name, but the results of its efforts were pretty much the same as before: much **trap consumption** by the contestants.

Rallymasters **Doug Sheatsley** and **Dan Estersohn** put their considerable skills to work, under the watchful eye of Chairman and Chief Martinet **Dave Gomberg**, and put on a brisk, long event on Aug. 3 of some 280 miles in 11 busy hours. They **resurrected** the hallowed name of "**The Virginia Reel**," one of the first great SCCA National rallies, and proceeded to reel in a host of guppy crews plus a couple of barracudas. One great white shark escaped the committee's bait.

As per the usual SCCA format, the general instructions were the **apotheosis of confusion**, obfuscation and hallucination. For diehard rallytypes, it mattered not. **Thirty-six teams** came from everywhere, with 11 percent of the population from Denver or beyond. All but two crews finished the event.

The first couple of legs warmed everyone up with "onto" traps of **mild difficulty**. Then came the "no visible name or number" traps which first surfaced in Richmond about 400 years ago. An "unpaved" trap or two produced some maxes. Then, as an acknowledgement to the many teams from the Washington, D.C. area, the committee pitched in a "before" trap which has a different definition in **Chairman Mao's Little Yellow Rule Book** for SCCA than it does in the Washington rules. Needless to say, the trap worked to perfection, **nailing** every single D.C. team except Gordon and Rita Wagner.

The ninth leg was a **quickie**, biting most teams with 30 to 50 points. The checkpoint slip drily commented, "This is the required quickie."

Finally, and not a moment too soon, we were leaving the **last morning control** on the outskirts of Culpeper, Virginia, looking for a place called "**Horsefeather's**." The next instruction required us to turn in our morning scorecards at McDonald's. We didn't see the first sign, but there was McPork, right in the center of town. The whole thing **smelled** like Well Done Trap. For some reason we (and most of the other contestants) pressed on, eventually running down

a highway for 22 (count 'em) miles, **still looking** for the stinking "Horsefeather's" sign. We actually came to another town and there it was—shortly followed, mail naturellement, by McDonald's. It was a **confidence leg** of the most horrible sort. The on- and off-course lunch stops weren't even in the same county!

Just into the afternoon was a **second quickie**. The leg review slip said it all: "This was the non-required quickie. Some rallies do not have one of these."

The next five legs were **repeats, inversions and convolutions** of earlier traps, giving the teams numerous opportunities for self-inflicted **lobotomies**. The committee knew that repeated hammering would lower the troops' guards as they approached the afternoon break near the site of a memorable Civil War battlefield, The Wilderness. It was appropriately named: We ate traps going in, while there, and coming out. Wilderness, indeed. The most wretched of all was the **basic cookie break trap**. Manning the lemonade stand was none other than **Mike Leeper**, known throughout D. C. rallying as the Sainted Father of Off-Course Cookie Breaks. Just seeing Mr. Leeper there was enough to put you off your feed. If you took his lemonade, you were certain also to get 200 points worth of **citric gas**. We did and we did. Why deny your fate?

Leg #22 had an **underlap trap** that I would describe if I had yet understood it. But I still don't so I won't. Happily, the last four legs coming back to Manassas were almost trivial. The committee rightly perceived that the contestants would be **numb** and decided to make the inbound section routinely simple. That undoubtedly improved the rally's scores on the contestant evaluation reports.

Just before the awards were distributed, Martinet Gomberg introduced many of the legendary rallymasters (and contestants) whose early work had created and perpetuated the Reel: **Andy Deming, Art Pickard, Hank Mann, Alec Lichtman, Jim Smith, Dick Stanley, Dave Teter, Joe Ansell, Steve Mulligan and Charlie and Ellen Brown**. Some of those names are still in the backs of SCCA and D.C. rally rule books. Look for the section that says "Winners."

There was much kindness and foresight in Dave Gomberg's effort to bring those individuals to the **rebirth of the Reel**, a gentle reminder to those of us presently engaged in this devilish sport that there is a wonderful history to it all.

—Bob Higdon

### ROAD RALLY RESULTS REVISION

The Class A results of the Virginia Reel National Road Rally published in the October issue of *SportsCar*® have been revised. The top five finishers in Class A are now: 1. David Teter/Roger Bergstein (132); 2. Bix Goodwin/Jim O'Connor (318); 3. John Stenmark/Janice Stenmark (915); 4. Mark Haas/Dave Urban (919); 5. Bill Laitenberger/Jerry Kerwin (1036).

### 1985 ROAD RALLY MANUFACTURERS CHAMPIONSHIP

As of 9/23/85

Toyota	54
Datsun	34
Dodge	25
Chrysler	13
Mazda	10
Buick	4
Plymouth	3



## Road Rally Results

### WIZARD'S PATH — DIVISIONAL SEPTEMBER 14, 1985 NEW ENGLAND REGION

#### CLASS A (5 Entries)

1. Mark Evangelista/Jim Friedman (20); 2. Debbi Segall/Bob Kraus (588); 3. Phyllis Bower/Skip Bower (688); 4. David Teter/Roger Bergstein (689); 5. Mark Haas/Tom Hanson (837).

#### CLASS B (3 Entries)

1. Mary Beth Folsom/Glenn Folsom (243); 2. Jack von Kaenel/Job Gutridge (330); 3. Mark Rerick/John Classen (414).

#### CLASS C (1 Entry)

1. Joseph Coyle/Val Stegemoen (454).

### OKTOBERALLY — NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 21, 1985 LAND O'LAKES REGION

#### CLASS A (10 Entries)

1. Terry Nordstrom/John Calhoun (40); 2. Bob Morseburg/Norm Hill (357); 3. Dave Fuss/Rachel Fuss (425); 4. Clarence Westberg/Kate Westberg (457); 5. Scott Forehand/Fred Rosevear (525).

#### CLASS B (5 Entries)

1. Spence Darby/John Classen (40); 2. Marty Howard/Julie Howard (1028); 3. Kit Caruthers/Gary Starr (1421); 4. Kerry Freund/Karen Freund (2491); 5. Mike Duea/Jim Duea (4158).

#### CLASS C (12 Entries)

1. Kim Ufford/Dale Thomsjo (949); 2. Rich Kamo/Kim Joiner (1345); 3. Mary Widener/Tom Mates (1652); 4. Tony Steffaneli/Don Steffaneli (2902); 5. Syed Saghir/Linda Saghir (3254).

### IT'S GREEK TO ME — NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 1, 1985 GREAT RIVER REGION

#### CLASS A (20 Entries)

1. David Teter/Roger Bergstein (42); 2. John Stenmark/Janice Stenmark (68); 3. Clarence Westberg/Kate Westberg (97); 4. Mike Thompson/Dennis Doffing (99); 5. Mark Evangelista/Jim Friedman (236).

#### CLASS B (9 Entries)

1. Bob Schlain/Bob Miller (68); 2. Jeanne English/Dave Kolb (68); 3. Spence Darby/John Classen (245); 4. Kit Caruthers/Gary Starr (911); 5. Ed Follis/Bob Lyon (1094).

#### CLASS C (13 Entries)

1. Jack von Kaenel/Bob Hidgon (755); 2. Kim Ufford/Dale Thomsjo (851); 3. Roy Coleman/Debbie Lewis (1492); 4. Mary Widener/Tom Mates (1726); 5. Jim Bartholomew/Julie Bartholomew (1746).

### MOONSHINE RIDGE — NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 7, 1985 COLUMBUS CLUB REGION

#### CLASS A (17 Entries)

1. Bob Morseburg/Spence Darby (364); 2. Dave Teter/Roger Bergstein (558); 3. Mark Evangelista/Jim Friedman (596); 4. John Stenmark/Janice Stenmark (769); 5. Dave Gomberg/Jim O'Connor (875).

#### CLASS B (5 Entries)

1. Bob Radford/John Classen (314); 2. Bob Schlain/Bob Miller (780); 3. Kit Caruthers/Gary Starr (974); 4. Joyce Matuszak/Pete Matuszak (1217); 5. Marty Howard/Julie Howard (1315).

#### CLASS C (9 Entries)

1. Phil Schneider/Loretta Hamilton (1495); 2. Kim Ufford/Dale Thomsjo (1530); 3. Mary Widener/Tom Mates (1598); 4. Rich Kamo/Kim Joiner (1782); 5. Syed Saghir/Linda Saghir (2054).