

HEART OF DIXIE RALLY PHILOSOPHY

In the spring of 1970, several adventuresome members of the Tennessee Valley Region cast the variable main road rule upon the rally community in a Heart of Dixie divisional. Guided by the enthusiastic endorsement of contestants, four consecutive Heart of Dixie nationals have been presented with an increasing number of entries each year. The philosophy and concept of these events has remained essentially unchanged over this time period with the underlying objective of presenting a difficult course-following event, free from instructions that can be interpreted in more than one way. We have not put on the perfect rally; in 1974, we stretched our philosophy to include course following situations that were, at best, extremely difficult. Recognition of those shortcomings has directed our preparative efforts for the 1975 event, which will be difficult and require quick thinking but not overwhelm the contestant with overload and third order logic.

Preparation for each year's event begins one month after the prior event with course layout normally completed by February 1 of each year. There exist some hard, fast, guidelines for course preparation which all course marshalls must obey:

1. All course following situations are looped. Normally, more course preparation time is spent in looping a trap and giving the contestant a "warm" feeling about being on course than is spent on the on-course route. Evidence the fact that on the 1974 HOD, a most difficult rally, that out of 2100 leg scores, less than 1% (20) consisted of a miss penalty.
2. All landmarks must be identified by a sign, official mileage as defined in the NRR or general's glossary. This prevents the use of an instruction such as "left after gazebo" where 50% of the field has no idea what a gazebo really is.
3. No phantom car problems or complex mathematical problems. We left those in algebra class.
4. No negative inference. An unnecessary complication.
5. No spelling or punctuation traps. Stopping at every sign or intersection to ascertain spelling is not only distracting but also adds overload to a course following event.
6. Avoid residential areas as much as possible.
7. No trap designed to penalize a contestant more than a max (or less, for that matter).
8. Brisk speeds.

9. No more than 3 variable main road notes applicable at one time.
10. All numbered route instructions are intended to be executed and will not be cancelled. We feel the contestant deserves nothing less.
11. Minimum number of special instructions.
12. No unmanned controls.

Among the characteristics of any HOD event, the following can be expected:

1. Traps based precisely upon the definitions in the glossaries of the NRR's and the generals.
2. Difficult main road follows.
3. Hard to see roads.
4. Force contestants to look on the left for a clue when a main road follow goes right.
5. Traps based upon main road priorities. You can expect situations where each of the active main road notes would take you in a different direction at an intersection and you will be forced to make a quick decision as to the main road.
6. Simple timing traps.
7. A few surprises.

The committee believes in a strict literal interpretation of the NRR's, the generals, and the definitions contained in the glossaries of each. If each contestant prepares himself accordingly, the HOD-75 should be the most enjoyable rally you will run this year. The rally is not designed to overwhelm and confuse the rallyist with complex instructions and numerous details. A concerted effort has been made to make all instructions clear, concise, and interpretable in only one way. Just remember that you will not be entering a "timing contest." If you are not the rallyist that truly enjoys a trap rally, then the Heart of Dixie is not for you; however, if you enjoy following the main road through some most interesting course following situations, the 1975 Heart of Dixie will provide a most interesting, challenging and hospitable weekend in the Tennessee valley.