

## HOW TO PUT ON THE BEST NATIONAL RALLY OF THE YEAR!!

Paul Novak

I don't know!! But we are getting closer and next year I hope to write how it was done.

After reading the write-ups on rallies in the various publications that I subscribe to, rallymasters are almost always referred to as devious unscrupulous individuals who are all trying to "stick it to" the contestants. This attitude is assured to get bad comments at the finish.

Rallying is a hobby. People have a hobby because they enjoy doing that thing in their spare time whatever it may be. As soon as a hobby stops being fun then they get a new hobby. Organizers should keep this in mind if they are at all interested in furthering the hobby of rallying.

THE GATOR GOTCHA FORE National Rally (Vero Beach, Fla.) has been designed with contestant enjoyment as the primary consideration. Secondly, the rally had to be made challenging to be of national caliber. No traps are used!!! A trap is a situation or wording that is cleverly omitted or disguised in the General Instructions to avoid detection. Cute traps, like the sign that is near a mailbox and upon close scrutiny you can detect that it is in some way supported by the mailbox, hence an ineligible sign, are definitely avoided.

Contestants like to make their own mistakes and if enough opportunities are provided everyone will make at least one dumb mistake. Instead of traps we use: Limited structured course following situations. Every situation

is explicitly covered in the general instructions. These involve Main Road

<sup>y</sup> follows, conflicting route following priorities (where a lettered instruction, numbered instruction and the Main Road can be applied at the same point and each defines the same or different directions) where logic must be used to deduce the proper priority to use, and a few misspelled signs - the more obvious the better. Be sure all signs are easy to read at rally speed - No one likes a sign hunt. One hard to see sign could easily ruin an otherwise great rally.

Tell the contestants exactly what you are going to do to them and then go out on the course and do it. Everyone appreciates an honest rallymaster. Make the general instructions complete.

Well placed checkpoint locations are utilized to separate the scores of the contestants who fail to bring their own "trap" with them. No one complains about an unexpected control or a well hidden location where they got caught running early. A few of these early in the rally will keep the contestants running on time and increase their ability to make their own dumb mistakes.

After the route is completed a review of every situation should be made to see if any can be construed as devious. These should be eliminated without hesitation. The rally is always tougher than the organisers realize! So eliminating a "trap" or two won't hurt - only help.

Everyone appreciates efficient checkpoint operation and fast scoring. This is the polish that's added after you do everything else right. That is, training checkpoint crews "before" the rally and establishing a good, fast scoring system.

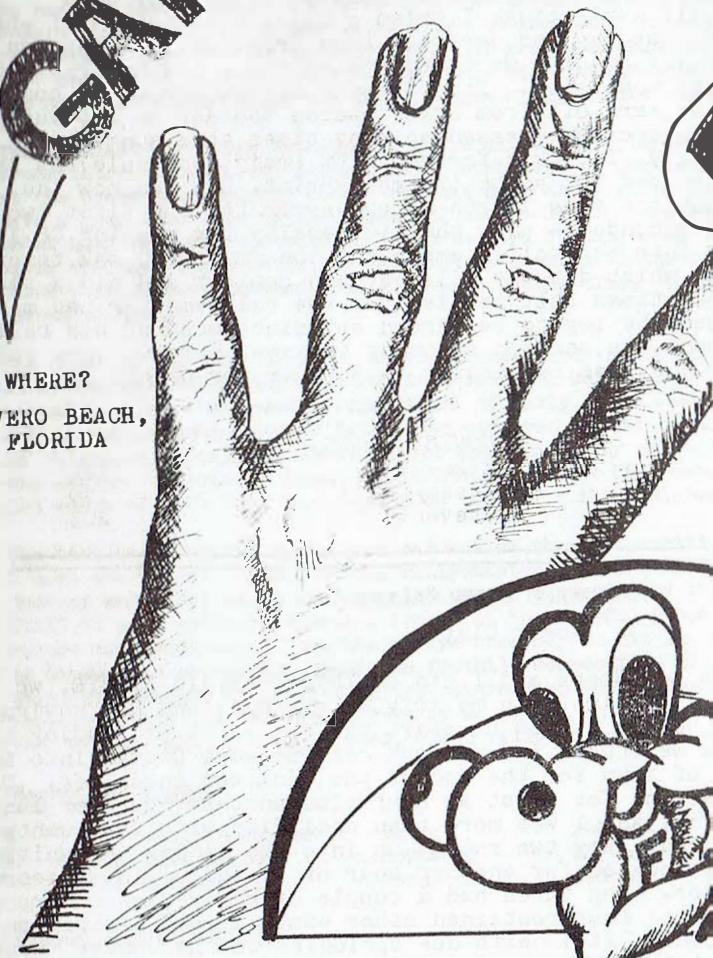
In 1974 THE GATOR GOTCHA THRICE rated a 93+ on the contestant evaluation reports. The overall finishing position is not yet announced. This year we feel that we've got it all together so if you are planning to attend the SCCA National convention on Jan. 24th also plan to run our national rally on Jan. 18 - 19. We promise you will enjoy your favorite hobby!!



# THE GATOR GOTCHA

JAN. 18-19, 1975

WHERE?  
VERO BEACH,  
FLORIDA



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