

checkpoints



VIRGINIA MOTOR SPORT CLUB

Vol 111 No. 10 3806 Dover Road, Richmond, Virginia October 1959

NEXT EVENT

Halloween Rallye - O D's Bill Harding Dick Gunn & George Patteson.
Starting from the Branch House at 7.30 pm October 31. Bonus points for
costume - So if you want to win wear one! Bring tranquilisers!

1959 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| Nov 7-8 - Old Dominion Rallye
First car out 8 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 7 from
Azalea Ave, Shopping
Center on U.S Rt 1. | Dec 17 - Meeting Election of
Officers |
| 15 - Marlboro Regional Races | 20 - Christmas Rallye
Stan Clark. |
| 19 - Meeting - Nomination of
New Club Officers. | Jan 9 - Annual Banquet. |
| 22 - Thanksgiving Rallye
R Walker & L. Wells | 24 - Ladies Rallye. |

DINNER MEETING

15 October 1959 - 6.30 p.m.

OD's Margaret Rucker & J. Kessler.

Dunn's Restaurant - Mechanicsville Pike.

The flag[^]dropped, and we were off and pouring, the bourbon gaining in the straights and the scotch making it up in the rocks. Lots of laps were made during the cocktail section of the meeting, Tex Hopkins being talked to death as soon as he arrived, mostly by "Richmond's Rigorously Rapid Racers". Promptly at 7.30 the dinner was started after an invocation by Fred Johnson. Apparently much witty conversation took place, judging by the laughter to be heard around the room, while we ate our very good steaks. The business part of the meeting was soon disposed of, trophies being awarded for events and mis-events. Tex Hopkins, who drove down from Arlington especially for the meeting, gave a very interesting talk on sports cars and racing, including some plans that SCCA may put into effect next year. This was followed by a 5 minute question period, then, a small party which lasted till twelve when they threw us out.

Our many thanks to Tex for coming down to speak to us. We

certainly hope he enjoyed the meeting one half as much as we enjoyed his talk. Thanks are also due to Margaret Rucker and John Kessler for organising the whole thing; they did a fine job. Everyone will agree that this was the best meeting of the year; we should do this more often.

Ed. Wright.

OLD DOMINION RALLYE

REMEMBER! Entry deadline October 30th. This should be a must for all rallye enthusiasts. Don't forget BYOL for Saturday night party. First car leaves Azalea Ave. Shopping Center - 8 a.m. Sat., Nov. 7. Additional entry forms may be obtained from John Kessler, MI: 8-3441. Lets have a record turn out for this event.

FLEA TICKETS

All Flea tickets and money to be handed in at the November meeting.

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GRANDPA BUCKETBUTT.

Grandpa Bucketbutt is in mourning for his Healey and has no comments this month!

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and the
- FIAT ABARTH "750" -

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American International Rally
By Stan Clark

"A heck of a long drive just to run a rally". This remark by a Canadian driver just about summed up our feelings as we drove the very long 2400 miles back from Las Vegas.

The rally had started for me a week earlier when I drove down to Salisbury N.C to meet my crew mates and car. Two days and 800 miles later we set out from Miami at the unearthly hour of 3:04 am on the first leg of the 5 day event. The first day was uneventful and we arrived in Asheville N.C with plenty of time in hand to reach the first control on time.

Here we were joined by entrants from New York and some thirty cars took off in torrential rain into the mountains of N.C & Tennessee. Wet, leaf-covered roads emphasised the oversteering tendency of the Corvair but our driver Stine Wiggs used his stock car experience to avoid any major contretemps. It was in this section that Walter Kronkite overdid it on a particularly nasty curve and descended thirty feet into a river submerging both his TR3 and his navigator. Fortunately no one was hurt. We arrived just as a breakdown truck was hauling the battered car back onto the road and our Corvair resumed its journey at a noticeably more sedate pace. After a couple of hours of fog which caused some competitors to visit States not on the route, the weather cleared and the rest of the run to Fort Smith and thence to Santa Fe was comparatively uneventful. We arrived tired but penalty free to enjoy a night's sleep before the serious part of the rally - the regularity run.

Sixty five cars assembled on Friday evening for the start of the regularity section which was to take us 900 miles to the finish at Las Vegas. I understand that this type of thing is a typical Californian rally and it is remarkable that all their navigators are not long dead from overwork. The route instruction book contained nearly 180 instructions of which about 40 were actual route instructions - the rest being speed changes.

We cranked up the Curtas and headed into the night reaching the first checkpoint in good order. Soon after this a fault developed in our odometer which effectively ruined our chances of finishing in the money. How effectively we didn't realise until the results were published! We pressed on, stopping only long enough to refuel until dawn found us in Grand Canyon National Park. The schedule was too tight to allow more than about 30 seconds sight-seeing and we continued to a point where the organisers generously allowed us 5.5 minutes rest. Here I suffered my first attack of Curta Cramp which involved complete paralysis of the left hand. Naturally there was a checkpoint less than a mile ahead, but we managed to hit this one on time.

The rally followed the same pattern throughout with a series of closely spaced speed changes followed immediately by a checkpoint. Finally there was a run of about 70 miles at an average speed of 65 mph leading to the finish control at Las Vegas. This we reached twenty hours and thirty minutes after having left Santa Fe.

Naturally we were disappointed by our performance but were consoled by the fact that others had had even worse luck. Next year, of course, we shall do much better!

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CHECKPOINTS is published monthly by the Virginia Motor Sport Club, mailed free to members. Subscription rates to non-members, \$1.50 per year. Meetings are held every third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Branch House, Monument and Davis Avenues, Richmond, Virginia. EDITOR - Ed Wright, STAFF ASSISTANTS - Marvin Donger, Ed Wood, John Kessler, Bill Harding, Ed Remick, Judy Baylor, Caroline Crenshaw. Deadline for material - 10th of each month. All letters addressed to 3806 Dover Road.

POINTS STANDINGS THROUGH THE DINNER MEETING

J. Thornton	10,005	L. Wells	6800
S. Jenks	9205	M. Jenks	6505
G. Patten	8900	S. Kessler	6255
J. Kessler	8855	B. West	6250
M. Thornton	7605	M. McClintic	6205

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