

Come drive with us

By Simon Levear

Okay, things are looking good. We left right on time and I've had the speedometer needle pegged right at 42 mph since then. Things were a little exciting in the 30 mph corners, but the tires have good grip so I'm confident that I'm maintaining the called for 42mph average speed. My navigator reminds me we're looking for Bellinger Scale Rd. Okay, what's that road coming up. I can almost read the sign, it looks like "Belli.... Something"???. As it comes into focus it is Bellinger, but it's only Bellinger Road and the Instruction calls for a Right at Bellinger Scale Road, so we refuse it and continue on. Check the speedo, yep, still pegged at 42 mph. a few miles later there's another road on the horizon. Can't read the darn road sign, gosh I wish my eyesight was what it was when I was 20. Oh well, close now, yep Bellinger Scale Road, so we make the turn and my Navigator reminds me that as we make the turn we should CAST (Change Average Speed To) 44 mph. Turn right, CAST 44 got it. Now we start looking for Left ONTO Mount Hope, but what's that coming up? A stop sign. Oh crap, how am I supposed to average 44 mph with a stop sign? It's about a half mile away, so I punch it to get some time "in the bank" that I know I'm going to lose by coming to the legally required stop at the stop sign. Punch it, put time in the bank, brake hard to the stop, quick look both ways, and punch it again to get back to 44 mph as quickly as possible. I still lost time with the stop so let's do 48 for a bit until I feel like I'm back on time again.

Ding, there goes the Ap on the phone as we encounter a checkpoint and the Ap tell sus we're 20 seconds late. Not too shabby for running by the seat of our pants. Still looking for that Left ONTO Mount Hope, what's that sign up ahead?

And that is what you'll experience while competing in a Time Speed Distance Rally. You'll drive a pre-determined course by following given instructions, and while following the course you'll maintain a given average speed. If you do that precisely, you'll encounter checkpoints on time. For every second you're early or late, you get a penalty point. Low score wins. All you need is a street legal vehicle, a partner, and a sense of adventure.

Come join the Emerald Empire Rally on May 21st starting at 1pm at the Sizzler on Postal Way in Springfield. The rally finished around 5pm at Roundtable Pizza in Springfield. On-line registration is required and on the EESCC website. You will also need to download the Richta Ap. More information is on the flyer on the EESCC website.