

WAPA members discuss strategy before the start of the 2008 “Easy Being Green” road rally.



'08 RALLY GOES GREEN Fuel-Sipping Ride Through Virginia

Following a soggy Saturday, the Rally Gods smiled once again on WAPA and brought out a picture perfect fall day for the October 26, 2008, WAPA “It’s Easy Being Green” rally. Automakers supplied a fleet of their most efficient vehicles in various classes, including alternative fuel, hybrid and diesel approaches to fuel economy.

Participants arrived at the Leesburg Red Hot & Blue restaurant and enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast buffet underwritten by Toyota, Lexus and Scion.

Rally master Rick Trawick announced the rules and a route sprinkled with clues and two-separate car swap stops so WAPA members could sample three different vehicles during the rally. As a prep for Halloween, one swap was at a local cemetery,

where we had to count the dead Weners without crossing the cemetery wall. Many of us were not “weners” on that question.

The route wound through rolling hills past horse country estates in Virginia. A few of us watched a helicopter landing on a private estate (coming home from church?, the grocery store?, the Caymans?). There was plenty of feathered wild life--hawks and buzzards--for participants to view if they let their attention wander from the rally sheets. It also seemed that deer have a tough time on these back country roads, however, the scale of road kill was not a rally question.

Les Jackson is renowned for his difficult clues, but he has found an heir apparent in

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WAPA Rally

Rick Trawick. Now, puns are part of the equation.

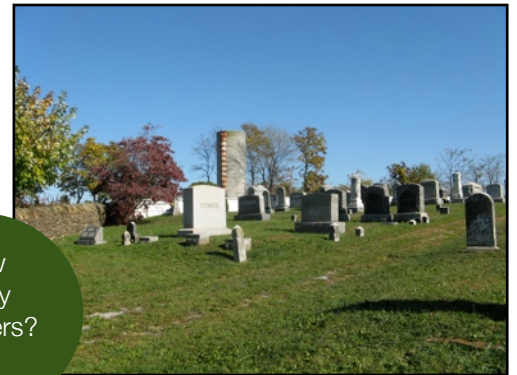
After a couple of hours of creeping along the road with long lines of patient local drivers stuck behind intent journalists, time was up and Leesburg could resume its normal weekend routine. Next year, we need to include a rule that rallyistas must pull over and let the traffic flow.

The rally ended where it began--at the Red Hot & Blue in Leesburg. Rick and Les went through the questions and let us know how bad our answers were. Well not all of us: at least four teams won prizes. The Mazda team was the only group that could answer all ten extra credit questions, matching ad slogans to automakers.

Thanks to the automakers who supplied fuel sipping vehicles for the rally, including Nissan Versa, Sentra and Rogue;

Ford Escape Hybrid; Toyota Corolla, Prius, Matrix and Scion xD; Mazda 6; Hyundai Genesis, Elantra Touring; Honda Fit, Civic Hybrid; Chrysler Aspen Hybrid; Chevrolet Malibu; Mercedes Bluetec Diesel GL320, ML320 and E320.

Thanks also to A&M Specialists, Event Solutions International, and Specialty Transport for delivering the wide variety of rides.



How many Wenners?

2008 WAPA Rally Winners



Rick Trawick (top left) with Dave & Laura Reininger who took home first place-- a set of Michelin tires worth. Second place team won a gift card to Bonefish Restaurant. Third place was captured by (bottom left) Maria Kretowicz, Brian Armstead and Phil Linnert. They will also enjoy a dinner courtesy of A&M Specialists. Fourth prize went to Tamara Mlynarczyk, Patrick Fulton and Barbara Nocera.



WAPA Grapevine

Autoline Daily is a new five-minute daily Webcast posted on the Web every Monday through Friday at noon (ET) hosted by John McElroy. The show's media partners include WWJ News radio 950, Autoblog.com and Wards Auto.com. You can view the Webcast at www.autolinedaily.tv. Siemens PLM Software is the title sponsor and the exclusive sponsor for the first month. 'Autoline Daily' will draw on the resources of 'Autoline,' the television show, which just celebrated its 11th consecutive year broadcasting on Superstation WTVS PBS Detroit, and will be produced by Autoline's parent company, Blue Sky Productions.

General Motors, according to Reuters, has **selected** Korean supplier **L G Chem** and Michigan-based Compact Power, a local subsidiary, to provide the first-generation lithium-ion battery packs for the 2011 Chevrolet Volt. The battery contract will be announced at the 2008 Los Angeles Auto Show. GM spokesman Dave Daovitz told Edmunds Inside Line, "We are still evaluating (battery) suppliers. We expect to make a final announcement by the end of the year."

Nine of Southern California's automotive design studios produced futuristic designs for race cars that go beyond today's track expectations. The designs predict how racing will change by the year 2025. The studios include Audi, BMW, GM, Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Mercedes-Benz, Toyota and Volkswagen.

BMW Group DesignworksUSA: The BMW Hydrogen Powered Salt Flat Racer reuses existing, ordinary and mundane materials such as old oil barrels and BBQ lids to whimsical and sustainable by employing goldfish as "co-pilots"



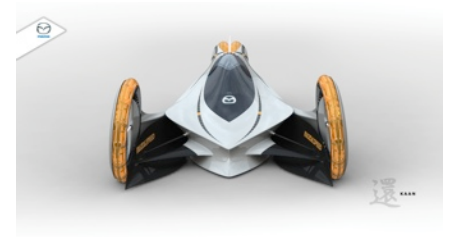
to ensure that the vehicle is running clean emissions.

General Motors Advanced Design: The GM Chaparral Volt collects and generates its own energy from three different clean, renewable and abundant California resources--earth, wind and fire--to create an entirely new category of racing - the eco-triathlon.



Mazda R&D of North America: The MAZDA KAN is an electric race car that has a patented electronic tire system to reach

250 mph with no harmful emissions.



The vehicles are piloted by individual drivers but teams are made up of thirty cars, all on the track together.

Toyota's Caltex Design Research: The Toyota LeMans Racer is the ultimate race



car that never needs to stop. Powered by highly efficient hydrogen fuel cell electric motors, each of its body panels is embedded with photovoltaic panels to supply electricity when extra energy is needed.

WAPA Grapevine



Joe Phillips
2008 WAPA President

Kudos to everyone who helped with this year's superb WAPA Rally. It was an excellent adventure, with some 60 participants traveling picturesque country roads through Loudon and other counties. This was our first rally with a green theme, and there were plenty of gas-sipping vehicles provided by the auto-makers.

A special shout-out to our two rad rally mas- did the lions share of his year's rally route, and

Les Jackson, who leant his many years of rally expertise to select clever clues and trivia for the rally guidebooks.

And we really appreciate the contributions of our many rally sponsors and volunteers: Toyota paid for the breakfast, and Michelin, Mazda, and A&M Specialists provided the prizes (a set of tires, two gift certificates to Bonefish Grill, and a picnic blanket/umbrella set). Nissan's Jeannine Ginivan and A&M's Telmo Calcado handled the first checkpoint, while Sandy and Stan Lynch (also with A&M) manned the second.

How successful was the rally? Everyone returned smiling, which is always a good sign.

Everyone also should be smiling when they receive their new WAPA directories. This year we revamped the process to save money, add more helpful contacts, and make sure everyone's information was up-to-date. So while the directory may have taken a bit longer to get to you, it is the best ever. Look for your directories any day now.

And be sure to register at www.washautopress.org <<http://www.washautopress.org>> for the November 19 WAPA luncheon with featured speaker Annette Sykora, chairman of the National Automobile Dealers Association. Dealers are calling on the White House and Congress to take emergency measures to help regenerate auto retailing and bolster the nation's economic recovery. Expect a thoughtful and timely presentation. See you there.

Joe Phillips
WAPA 2008 President

November 19 WAPA Meeting

Annette Sykora Chairman NADA

Ms. Sykora will discuss the current economic crisis and its impact on the auto retail industry. She will also discuss the emergency measures dealers are calling on the White House and the Congress to implement to bolster the nation's economy and auto retailing.

The meeting is at Noon at the National Press Club. For reservations click on upcoming events at the WAPA Web site: www.washautopress.org

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