



WHEELSPIN

July 2008

www.hccc.org.nz

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WEBSITE: www.hccc.org.nz

COVER PHOTO

Rex & the Flying Fish — going hard!

Harbour Capital Car Club Clubnight

First Wednesday of the month Fireman's Arms, 313 Jackson Street
(North End of Jackson Street, just South of Cuba St intersection) Petone

Committee Meeting 3rd Wednesday of the month, Fireman's Arms, 313 Jackson St
Petone, 7:30 pm. Note:— Anyone is welcome to attend committee meetings.

Wheelspin is the official magazine of the Harbour Capital Car Club, PO Box 4102, Wellington.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Club or Committee.

To other Car Club Editors: While we do not object to other magazines using articles or
material from our Wheelspin, we do appreciate recognition of the source of said material.
Originals are usually available on request.

DEADLINE

The Deadline for Wheelspin articles is the 20th of the month approx.

Clubnight

Wed 2nd July at the Firemans Arms, Petone

Bit of a mixed bag this last month!

I headed up to Taupo to help out at the Hutt Valley Motorsport single sprint day on Queens Birthday weekend. The facilities at the Taupo track are excellent, once again with a nice air conditioned room with a prime view for timing.

I was also scrutineering, and there were lots of really basic problems highlighted once again. Such as a fire extinguisher cable tied to an un-homologated roll protection structure that is most politely described as being “absolute crap”.

I think we as a sport really let ourselves down in the sense that we really don't tell our newbies enough, before they turn up to their first event. So when I'm wearing my scrutineer hat, I keep having to be the bad guy by telling people stuff that they really ought to have read, but in fact haven't looked at.

So I might have to work on some stuff, to cut down on some of the easily fixed mistakes that I see very often.

The track day was quite (very) wet. Pete Collins discovered that running slicks in the wet results in a number of spins. Four during one three-lap session at one stage.

Meantime, I sensibly stayed up in the warm office, doing timing, and eating the supplied snack foods 😊

There were a couple of “oops” moments, not counting 327 spins. An MR2 shunted another competitor in the door, despite it being made exceedingly clear at driver briefing that you overtook on straights and if the other driver used his indicator and moved out of the way. So that wasn't a good look. An Evo looped it under brakes and slid down the pit wall, doing a bit of damage.

This Taupo track day was fairly quickly followed by our usual Levin Autocross, which was thankfully drier than both the Taupo track day, and our previous Levin autosplodge.

I set out a track with a bit of everything, a straight bit or two, some tight corners, and everything else that I could find a flat enough bit of paddock to use.

Al Groves led the way, with Pete hot on his heels. I brought the Sti wagon home in third in front of Webster who had a bit of bad luck with the cones.

It was a good day, with everyone getting lots of runs, and some new people out there having a thrash around.

I was finding the Sti quite hard work, as it tried very hard to understeer unless you were on boost. Of course keeping an early Sti on boost is a bit tricky as they tend to towards quite unsubtle power delivery at the top end!

The next event that rolled around was the Todd Park autocross, to replace with HVMC Dual / Multi Sprint at Manfeild (cancelled due to lack of entry numbers). That was as usual, a hilarious day of cones and sliding.

I'm yet to go to that event and not have a heap of fun!

It was a tricky course though, and Roger and I stayed out on the course during everyone's first runs, to guide them through their second lap when they got the first lap wrong.

I was having unfortunate car dramas, as I was in a Charade that was giving me a bit of trouble, so had to give up at an early stage in the day.

The car kept flashing the oil pressure light at me, which is obviously one of those things that you don't ignore! So I packed up and headed home (thus my position of around second last!).

It turned out that the car had been not serviced for quite some time, as the oil filter was blocked solid! Clearly the old dude who had owned the car found the oil filter too difficult to remove, so he just never did.

This was an exceptionally stupid thing for him to have done, so now it's just a matter of seeing if the engine has taken any damage from the resulting lack of pressure.

Time will tell.

Put in your social calendar a film night for July 23rd (Fourth Wednesday of the month). We're going to use the upstairs room at MotorSport House again (69 Hutt Road, Kaiwharawhara). Gather ye at 7pm and we will kick off at half past seven. As usual, I will get snack foods.

The movie is one of the old school "Illegal Car Race" movies, The Gumball Rally from 1976!

That's it from me; see you at Clubnight, Movie Night, Night Trials, Autocross ... and anything else we've got going!!

Leon

Sticky Signs

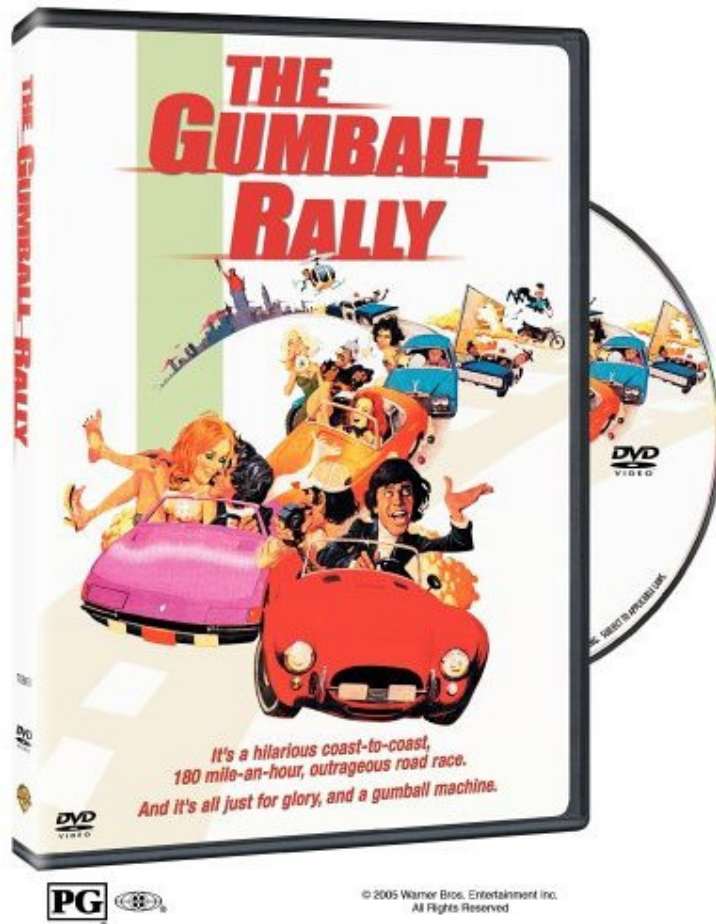
Need numbers, names or signage on your car?

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Gumball Rally Movie Night

July 23rd



7:00 – 7:30pm
MotorSport House
69 Hutt Road
Thorndon / Kaiwharawhara
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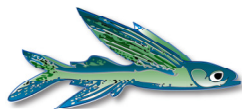
Rolling shell with all rust repaired and painted. Cross member modified for 4age, half cage kit (needs assembly, can be used as base for full cage), under sealed, would be perfect for rally/race car build

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TRIALS

Hello folks

Thanks to Barry Lakeman & Eddie Conroy for organising the event.

Congratulations to Wayne Gair & Dianne McDonald for winning the event and also first in the Expert class.

Congratulations to Andrew Bartle & Marjorie McKee and also to Mark & Sam & Dave Jennings (first equal in the Intermediate class and an excellent 2nd = overall), and Len & Leanna & Hannah Fisher (first in the Novice class and 10th overall).

The next event is on July 9 - round 2. Organiser Stephen Marks. Start & finish at 9 Nether Green Crescent, Johnsonville. Documentation from 7pm, first car away at 7:30pm. Entry fee \$15 per car. Duration 90 minutes.

Later rounds this year:

August 13 - round 3. Organisers Cathy & Mike Reid. Petone / Hutt Valley.

September 10. Organisers Wayne Gair & Dianne McDonald. Titahi Bay & surrounds.

October 8 - round 5. Organiser Dave Jennings. Kapiti area.

cheers, John

WELLINGTON MOTORSPORT ASSOCIATION JUNE NIGHT TRIAL - 11 JUNE 2008 RESULTS

Number	Car	BEGIN	IN	GRA	ODO	MULL	EDDIE	EDDIE	KEA	KA	ARE	EDDIE	EDDIE	VW	UFR	EDDIE	Time	EDDIE	CAN	Time	KEA	DL	DDU	KA	TUI	EDDIE	VW	UDAR	DDD	DOLL	Time	SUNNY	MAZDA	DUFFLE	DED	DDL	FINISH	Time	TOTAL	POINTS	OVERALL	Number
1	Halford	2	E	3	E	.	0	5	E	5	15	4	1
2	East	2	L	.	.	10	23	L	.	10	7	L	4	E	10	11	97	13	2
3	Grat	2	L	3	E	.	1	L	10	10	1	L	2	39	8	3
4	Trora	1	E	1	E	.	0	5	L	0	7	1	4
5	Hinau	1	L	15	L	.	1	E	1	L	3	21	5	5	
6	Best	6	L	10	.	3	L	.	2	L	10	10	1	E	10	.	10	.	.	6	78	11	6	
7	Hinau	5	L	1	E	.	0	0	4	10	2	7	
8	Best	12	L	4	E	.	2	L	10	5	E	10	2	55	9	8	
9	Best	6	L	0	.	.	1	L	2	L	1	10	2	9	
10	Best	10	2	L	10	3	E	10	13	L	10	10	10	3	L	4	95	12	10	
11	Best	0	4	E	.	4	L	10	2	E	10	4	34	7	11	
12	Best	10	3	L	4	L	.	1	L	10	.	10	3	E	10	.	.	.	10	1	72	10	12	
13	Best	1	L	3	L	.	1	E	1	L	5	21	5	13		

Thanks to: the Control and Check personnel: Mike and Cathy Reid (Start Control), Tamsin Lakeman (Best Street) and John Swan & Ruth Shepherd (Parkway).

Wayne Gair for the boards.

Organisers: Eddie Conroy and Barry Lakeman

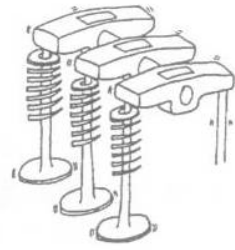
WELLINGTON MOTORSPORT ASSOCIATION JUNE NIGHT TRIAL - 11 JUNE 2008 RESULTS

Car no.	Crew	TOTAL POINTS	OVERALL PLACE	Class
1	Denise Gandy, Hilary Gandy, Sue Gandy, Gordon Gandy	15	4	Expert
2	Mike Hodgetts, Graeme Sharp	97	13	Novice
3	Paul Te Punga, Christina Te Punga	39	8	Expert
4	Wayne Gair, Dianne McDonald (Team Peugeot)	7	1	Expert
5	John Rapley, Carol Weston	21	5 =	Expert
6	Jilly Hutson, John Tennent	78	11	Expert
7	Andrew Bartle, Marjorie McKee	10	2 =	Intermediate
8	Bill Peacocke, Murray Milner, Wendy Moore, Craig Crawford	55	9	Intermediate
9	Mark Jennings, Sam Jennings, Dave Jennings	10	2 =	Intermediate
10	Brian Craig, Barry Craig	95	12	Expert
11	Stephen Marks, Kieran Marks	34	7	Expert
12	Len Fisher, Leanna Fisher, Hannah Fisher	72	10	Novice
13	Cathy Reid, Mike Reid	21	5 =	Expert

Tappet chatter

Just so you know: - We don't miss much and we will print everything. We never let the truth get in the way of a good story and we will not be intimidated. We can however be bribed, but we can't guarantee that it won't be published anyway!

Note: We trust our informants' 100% and would never question their reliability!



Come on you guys, there must be some gossip for me to report!

CLUBNIGHTS

First Wednesday February to December 7:30

Clubnight venue:

Fireman's Arms, 313 Jackson Street, Petone

(North End of Jackson Street, just South of Cuba St intersection, West side of street)



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Wellington Motorsport Association Calendar 2007/8

Contact the HCCC convenors if you want to find out more about an event (like regs and entry form)
for email updates of the WMSA Calendar contact the secretary wayne.gair@kapiticoast.govt.nz

Jul	5		Rally–South Cantrbry		Timaru	Nat
	6		Gravel Sprint	Levin	Gladstone Rd, Levin	GS
			Race (Winter Series)	Manawatu	Manfeild	
	9		Night Trial			
	20		Gravel Sprint Sprint (Dual Car)	Wairarapa Intermarque	Puketiro Road Manfeild (Capri)	GS IM
	26		Rally – Hawkes Bay NZRC/NIRS		Hawkes Bay	Nat
	27		Motorkhana	Harb Capital	Donnelly Park	ST
Aug	2		Rally–Eastern S/land		Catlins	Nat
	10		Gravel Sprint Race (Winter Series)	Kapiti Manawatu	Cooks Heights Manfeild	GS
	13		Night Trial			
	17		Circuit Sprint (Dual Car)	Intermarque	Manfeild (Alfa)	IM
	31		Auto-x/Motorkhana	Levin	Donnelly Park	
	30- 2/09		Rally NZ		Hamilton	Int
Sep	7		Gravel Sprint	Kapiti	Valley View	GS
	10		Night Trial			
	13		Rally (Taupo Cassic)	Taupo	Taupo	
	14		Winter Series (Winter Series)	Manawatu	Manfeild	
	20		Rally – Nelson NZRC		Nelson	Nat
	21		Rally – Nelson NZRC		Nelson	Nat
	27		Rally–NSCC NIRS		Paihia	Nat
	28		Autocross Rallysprint	Harb Capital Kapiti	Donnelly Park	KN RS
Oct	4					
	5		Sprint (Dual Car)	Intermarque	Manfeild (MG)	IM
	11		Rally – Day Breaker NIRS/Xtreme	Manawatu	Manawatu	Nat
	12		Circuit Sprint		Manfeild (?)	RT
	19		Autocross	Kapiti	Otaihanga	KN
	16- 23		Rally (Silver Fern)	Marathon Rally Club		
	26		?? Sealed Sprint Auto-x/Motorkhana	Wairarapa Hutt Valley Levin	?? Port Road Donnelly Park	DM
	26- 1/10		Rally - Targa		North Island	
Nov	2		Gravel Sprint	Levin	Waiorongomai Road, Otaki	GS
	8		Rally – Westland		Westport	
	9		Sealed Sprint	Wairarapa	Admiral Road	DM
	15		Race (Classic)	MG	Manfeild	Nat
	16		Race (Classic)	MG	Manfeild	Nat
	30		Autocross	Harb Capital	Donnelly Park	

Dec	7		Gravel Sprint Sprint (Dual Car)	Wairarapa Intermarque	Dorsets Road Manfeild (Fiat/IMCC)	GS IM
	21		Circuit Sprint	Manawatu Mspt	Manfeild	RT
	25		Reindeer Races		Reindeers are all young and fresh – new breed for this season	

	Abbreviations:		Stewards:		Organising Club:
KN	Kim Naylor Autocross Series	AW	Alan Wright	HC	Harbour Capital
DM	Duncan MacKenzie Sealed Sprint Series	BS	Barry Swanerton	HV	Hutt Valley
ST	Stewards Trophy Motorkhana Series	GG	Gordon Gandy	W	Wairarapa
VB	Vesta Battery round of ST Series	GM	Gus McMillan	K	Kapiti
GS	Gravel Sprint Series	JR	John Rapley	WG	Wellington
RS	Rally Sprint Series	PT	Paul Te Punga	M	MOWOG
CR	Central Region Rally Series	SM	Stephen Marks	T	Triumph
IM	The Surgery Intermarque Sprint Series	WG	Wayne Gair	MG	MG



The 2008 United Travel PN Race Series is about to kick off starting on June 14 and 15th.

This season we are seeking 2 interested people to be the co-ordinators of the 2 Inter club saloon classes.

The person I am looking for will be

- Friendly and good with people
- Understand circuit racing
- Be able to work under pressure
- Calculate handicaps grids from race results
- Co-ordinate the drivers from the class into grids
- Work with existing Manfield officials to ensure a great days racing is had by all our competitors(customers)
- Be able to commit to the 4 rounds of the series.

The dates of the rounds are Sunday June 15, Sunday July 6, Sunday August 3 and Sunday September 7.

As part of the Manfeild team if you can commit to the 4 rounds you are in the draw to win a 42" LCD TV as well as the draw to win a return trip for 2 to the Indycars on Australia's Gold Coast for 5 nights.

Additionally we are seeking help for Flag and Rescue crews, with the same ability to win the TV if you can commit to 4 rounds for us.

We are also seeking expressions of interest from parties for position of Chief Flag marshal and Chief Rescue Marshal. These positions are currently filled but we are seeking a Manawatu based person (preferably) to fill these positions. This would be for summer race series as well.

If you are a competitor Round one has ENZED V8 Utes returning to Manfeild, the home of V8 ute racing on Sunday 15th June 2008. The first round has TV Coverage so if you want your 5 minutes of fame get to Round one at least. Entries close June 1st 2008. Regs and entry forms are on the website www.motorsportmanawatu.org.nz If you own a ute of any description we are having a Ute Muster and all owners of utes will get preferential parking for the meeting creating a "Guard of honour" for the racing utes.

Tickets are \$15 adult and \$25 family and each ticket you fill in and put in the competition boxes around the pits will put you in the draw to win the 5 day package to the INDYCARs and V8 Supercar challenge. It does not get better than this. Also competing on the weekend are the FMG Classics, Tony Oliver Contracting Formula Fords, The Guardian Newspaper Formula First, Harbour City Guard Services Allcomers 1.23 and faster and United Travel Feilding Allcomers 1.23 and slower.

If you have any questions or wish to apply for any of these positions please email to manawatucarclub@xtra.co.nz with Race Series Co-ordinator in the Subject line.

Thanks

Julian Hardy
Motorsport Manager

Levin Autocross 28 May 2008

Name	Car	Club	Class	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Fastest	Class Placing	Overall Placing
Al Groves	WRX	Kapiti	4WD	01:45.52	1:26.44*	01:22.77	01:18.78	01:18.78	1	1
Leon Cast	WRX	HCCC	4WD	01:35.88	01:27.10	01:23.63	01:19.94	01:19.94	2	3
Geoff Warren	Legacy	HVMC	4WD	01:43.46	01:30.77	1:32.58 lots	01:22.96	01:22.96	3	5
Chelles Roberts	Legacy	HVMC	4WD	01:43.08	01:43.00	01:33.13		01:33.13	4	14
Peter Collins	Corolla	HCCC	EOD	01:32.35	01:26.98	01:21.75	01:18.78	01:18.78	1	2
Webster Gough	Starlet	HCCC	EOD	1:28.81*	01:27.00	01:22.04	1:19.20*	01:22.04	2	4
Jilly Hutson	Starlet	HCCC	EOD	01:45.27	01:32.58	01:27.34	01:24.19	01:24.19	3	6
Victor Yuen	Corolla	HVMC	EOD	01:54.67	01:41.05	01:29.19	01:24.93	01:24.93	10	7
Brian Samson	Astina	New	EOD	01:43.65	1:46.54*	1:32.58*	01:26.98	01:26.98	4	8
Brian Craig	Corolla	HCCC	EOD	01:33.55	01:29.60	01:30.25	1:24.70*	01:29.60	5	10
Mike Duston	Pulsar	Mowog	EOD	01:35.10	01:31.65	01:30.95	1:25.78**	01:30.95	6	11
Alexandra Baker	Corolla	HVMC	EOD	01:52.33	01:41.47	01:37.07	01:31.17	01:31.17	7	12
Dick Butters	Corolla	MG	EOD	01:39.10	01:35.57	01:32.56	01:31.65	01:31.65	8	13
Kerin Butters	Corolla	New	EOD	01:43.43	01:40.28	01:35.43	1:32.93*	01:35.43	9	15
Andrew Wellum	Sierra	HVMC	ENOD	01:41.10	01:34.63	01:33.64	01:28.13	01:28.13	1	9

Clerk of Course: Leon Cast

Scrutineering: Al Groves

Timing: Donna

* indicates that a 5 second penalty applies to the time shown, for cone displacement

Geoff Warren wrote:

Evening all,

Thanks for coming along today to Todd Park autocross.

Fantastic weather and good course conditions for the day allowed for a few extra runs afterwards. Good to see lots of people taking advantage of that.

Results are attached.

Cheers

Geoff

Todd Park Autocross - 08 June 08											
Car No	Driver	Car	Club	Class	Prac	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	FTD	Class Placing	OA Placing
13	Alan Groves	Subaru WRX	Kapiti	4WD	01:34.68	1:46.78****	1:17.72*	01:15.79	01:15.79	1	1
12	Jeff Dahlberg	Subaru WRX	HCCC	4WD	01:47.13	1:40.38**	01:24.63	01:19.94	01:19.94	2	4
3	Nick Kacouris	Subaru Omega	HVMC	4WD	1:33.69 ww	01:26.97	1:18.91*	1:18.69*****	01:23.91	3	9
19	Jacob Lyon	Datsun 1600	WCC	ENOD	01:42.19	01:30.90	01:23.32	1:23.25**	01:23.32	1	8
11	Adrian Marsden	Holden Commodore	HCCC	ENOD	1:46.35 ww	01:41.10	01:30.95	1:30.38**	01:30.95	2	17
18	Samuel Davey Uprichard	Nissan 200SX	HCCC	ENOD	MT	01:40.90	01:32.44	01:39.19	01:32.44	3	18
7	Warwick Neal	Ford Cosworth	HCCC	ENOD	1:49.03 ww	01:36.38	1:30.41*	1:29.97*	01:34.97	4	19
9	Chris Judge	Toyota Starlet	New	ENOD	01:48.50	01:38.00	01:35.41	1:36.12**	01:35.41	5	20
8	Graeme Corlett	Toyota Starlet	HCCC	ENOD	2:10.97 ww	01:48.12	01:42.63	01:40.15	01:40.15	6	22
21	Geoff Warren	Mitsubishi Mirage RS	HVMC	EOD	1:27.10*	01:20.56	01:16.69	01:21.81	01:16.69	1	2
15	Webster Gough	Toyota Starlet	HCCC	EOD	01:33.56	01:25.57	01:19.63	01:18.10	01:18.10	2	3
22	Bill Peacocke	Holden Barina	HCCC	EOD	01:35.00	01:28.29	01:25.81	01:21.31	01:21.31	3	5
14	Chelles Roberts	Mitsubishi Mirage RS	HVMC	EOD	DNF	01:32.00	01:33.04	01:22.34	01:22.34	4	6
17	Peter Collins	Toyota Corolla	HCCC	EOD	1:37.24****	1:44.22*****	1:37.81****	01:22.97	01:22.97	5	7
5	Roger Barnes	Daihatsu Charade	MRD	EOD	01:38.47	1:43.93**	01:24.37	01:26.19	01:24.37	6	10
10	Hamish Paterson	Honda Integra	HCCC	EOD	01:39.03	01:41.09	01:29.22	01:24.50	01:24.50	7	11
2	Cathy Reid	Daihatsu Charade	HVMC	EOD	1:42.62 ww	01:51.18	01:28.82	01:24.94	01:24.94	8	12
16	Dick Butters	Mini Clubman	HCCC	EOD	2:08.44 ww	01:31.63	01:27.25	01:25.50	01:25.50	9	13
20	Brian Worboys	Road Rat	HCCC	EOD	01:49.60	01:45.13	01:25.62	01:50.56	01:25.62	10	14
1	Leon Cast	Daihatsu Charade	HCCC	EOD	1:40.13 ww	01:28.82	1:22.25*	DNF	01:27.25	11	15
6	Jilly Hutson	Toyota Starlet	HCCC	EOD	2:00.19 ww	01:41.53	01:31.25	01:29.37	01:29.37	12	16
4	Victor Yuen	Toyota FX-GT	HVMC	EOD	1:39.98 ww	1:40.78**	1:38.13**	1:29.44**	01:39.44	13	21
Thanks to:											
Clerk of Course: Geoff Warren & Chelles Roberts											
Safety Officers: Neville & Raewyn Webley, Tim Dempsey											
Scrutineering: Leon Cast, Aaron Tasker, Andrew Thompson, Roger Barnes											
Timing: Geoff Warren, Cathy Reid											

Whangarei 2008

What a great weekend!

Starting with some trepidation, since we thought we had to get to Whangarei by 5pm Thursday for scrutineering, thus a VERY early start. However it turned out that Clubman's scrutineering was on Friday morning.

After a cruisy run up there with Rex and Adam, we arrived at our host's farm just as he finished fitting new \$70,000 rotors to one of his helicopters. Would anybody like to be test pilots? Too right, so Rex and I jumped in (Adam had plenty of rides before, when he built the Helicopter shed last year)

What an awesome start to our weekend, the views from the farm at ground level are spectacular over the Whangarei heads, but in a Helicopter.....

Then a very pleasant evening with our host sharing his exploits motorcycling in Mongolia and several bottles of red wine.



Scrutineering on Friday was expected to be easy, since we were “done:” at Wairarapa, however, it seems we were to be gone over again, by the most picky of scrutineers. Firstly my helmet was banned because of a torn lining (this was torn in 1999 when the Terraphone was fitted from new!). Then we were told to fit split pins into the seat belt mounts!?!*, then told to fit a sticker to the dash to explain to rescuers how to undo the seatbelts – Yeh right, I’m sure rescuers would stop to read the instructions.

Having said “Yes sir, three bags full sir” we continued on our way!

Then later that day when leaving the ceremonial start, we followed a mufti Commodore, who pulled in without signalling then he pulled out again after we passed (again without signalling) and stopped us. When he looked in the window and saw to old geezers, he had a look of perplexity — he’d thought that he’d got a boy racer, and would inevitably find something wrong. Well he didn’t, after telling us to dip our lights (which were already dipped) he sent us on our way!

By now Gareth and Nicky had arrived so we were all set for a gentleman’s start at 9am on Saturday.

The rally itself uses all the stages that used to be used on rally NZ, so well known to us, and awesome roads, including the famous Hella jump bridge.

For us most stages were uneventful, apart from 1 spin and a couple of whoopsies, we progressed getting faster all day (as is Rex's style).

Len was not really on to it early on, getting the fuel stop wrong as well as the ceremonial start the night before — NEVER assume it to be the same as last year! I did get the notes right though, that helps!

After a hard day at the office we finished 1st North island Champs competitor, 1st in class E and 2nd in the new La Serie De Rallye champs.

Most risky part of the day was prize giving, we jumped on the bonnet with champagne in hand, Len hit Rex on the bean with a cork, Rex blinded Len with wine, and we both slipped off the wet bonnet — must practice for this in future!

Extreme thanks to Gareth, Nicky, Adam and our fine hosts Barry and Jan of HeliNORTH.

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Rally Wairarapa – 12-13 April 2008

HiWay Motorsport

Brian Rowe, Jilly Hutson

Service Crew – Margaret Kerslake, Nick Kacouris (HVMC) and his friend Scott.

The first rally of the season and what a fabulous weekend! It was not without its challenges but well worth the effort. One of the really nice things about a rally in your local area is knowing so many of the support folk out around the place making it all happen. There were sooo many Harbour Capital Car Club members there is all different roles which was great to see.

Maybe I should take a couple of steps back.... All the effort that goes into getting the car ready and the team to the event, entry forms, \$\$, notes forms, service crew, tools, tyres, spanner checks, window cleaning, signwriting, fuel, warrants, rego's, trailers, tow vehicles, overalls, helmets, headsets....damn makes my head hurt but all a very necessary part.... :)

Anyway with all these things finally sorted we headed off over the hill to the mighty Wairarapa for the Rally. A wee bit of rain in the week prior did not a lot to dampen the roads.

Arrived in Masterton with a few minutes to spare down to Documentation to get all the stickers and books. The car is due on display downtown from 4pm onwards with an official start for the first car at 7pm.... Hmm for us that means about 8:07.

Day one starts in Pongaroa. This is approx 120km north East of Masterton so we decided to tow the car up most of the way and drive the last 20 odd kms to warm it up. Well here we encounter the 1st of 3 challenges of the weekend.... A flat tyre in the trailer, tandem so not a biggy for towing unladen.... ok take the car off let the service crew sort out the dead tyre and we headed off to Pongaroa about 25 kms away.

Encountered several vehicles going well below the speed limit so after waiting for the appropriate moment Brian made the move to pass, 1st one ok.... 2nd one still ok. a little more time for a clear spot then off past the 3rd one..... BANG up went the bonnet on the Ignis!! Thank goodness the bottom edge has a big enough gap to allow some small amount of vision for the driver. Hmm challenge No 2! Luckily no major damage to the car but the bonnet looks a little second hand and the windscreen now has a nice lattice of cracks down the co-drivers side. Oh and Brian's hearing may be back to normal by now after the slight shriek from my side of the car. :)

Finally arrived at the service park and after a bit of wandering round to find our actual start time we get underway.

Our worry was that the crack in the windscreen would make its presence felt but luckily other than one crack going all the way the bottom there wasn't any other changes all weekend.

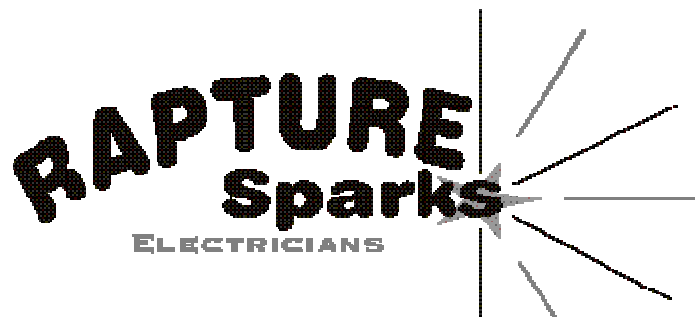
The Rally school experience last year is really paying off as Brian is pushing the Ignis along at a much higher rate of knots than last year. A relatively uneventful day with no serious moments and a good battle with Dave and Brian in the mighty Charade kept the day ticking along.

There was a prize giving Saturday night for the North Island Rally Series and Rally Extreme. We were 4th in the 2nd class for Extreme and 3rd in class B for North Island. Some competitors were only doing the one day event and for the rest of us, off to enjoy another day in the gravel!

Day 2 dawned clear and sunny and today's stages are mostly based around Eketahuna. Again fairly uneventful until a small spin in stage 11 put us 90degs to the road with the front wheels just over the edge enough that reverse won't pull you back. Now here is where being last car on the road has its advantages.... The tow guys are usually only minutes behind and this was no exception. I got out to get the tow rope out just at the tail vehicles arrived, Brian got out to give me a hand when very gently the car slipped down into the culvert! The weight distribution was just enough to tip it over the edge. Now with the back wheels where the front were a few moments ago this meant a bit bigger pull required but thanks to the tow crew we were on our way all but about 5 mins behind where we should have been. The only trail being the grass that had made its way into the door hinges and another dent to add to the already sad looking bonnet. Thankfully that was the 3rd thing so the rest of the rally went well right to the end.

A 3rd in class B for the overall event was a great way to end the weekend. A really big thanks to our crew who kept a welcome flow of hot food and drinks and good car skills. Roll on Rally Waitomo in June....

Jilly



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WOMAN'S DIARY

Saturday 12th April 2008

Saw him in the evening and he was acting really strangely.

I'd been shopping in the afternoon with the girls and was a bit late meeting him, thought it might be that.

The bar was really crowded and loud, so I suggested we go somewhere quieter to talk.

He was still very subdued and distracted so I suggested we went somewhere nice to eat.

All through dinner he just didn't seem himself - he hardly laughed and didn't seem to be paying any attention to me or to what I was saying. I knew that something was wrong.

He dropped me back home and I wondered if he was going to come in.

He hesitated but followed.

I asked him what was wrong, but he just half shook his head and turned the tv on.

After about ten minutes of silence I said that I was going upstairs to bed, I put my arms around him and told him that I loved him deeply.

He just gave a sigh and a sad sort of smile.

He didn't follow me up immediately but came up later and, to my surprise, we made love - but he still seemed distant and a bit cold.

I cried myself to sleep - I think he's planning to leave me - maybe he's found someone else.

Man's Diary

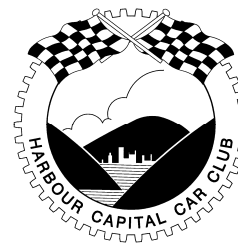
Saturday 12th April 2008

Essendon lost.

Gutted.

Got a root though.

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