



Sports Car Club of New Hampshire

Mt Ascutney Hillclimb, September 17-19, 2010

By Dave Burden

Thanks to the efforts of Howard Roundy and Bill Bennert, we had on-line registration and payment for the drivers which was a big help. We went paperless for the entry this time, yet still received a dozen or so entries pulled off the hillclimb.org website and mailed to us. The rest of the 35 entrants were either done on-line or at the hill.

For the spring event we plan to do away with the traditional entry form for those that sign up on-line and simply have them sign a waiver when they come to registration. This will speed up the process.



The weather looked good for the weekend when the hill was being setup on Friday by our wonderful wire crew. We even had Dave Estes volunteer and help out. At registration we had our 32" flat screen tv on the outside of the Winnebago so the drivers and workers were entertained by the movies 'The Italian Job' (the original 1969 one) and 'Cars' while getting the paperwork done.

We also had a chart on the Oak lean-to for everyone to try and build family trees

out of current and past car brands. Some were easy, but it got tough when trying to remember what brands made up AMC, Auto Union or the Rootes Group.

Even though overall entry was down for this event we had 10 first time drivers to the hill. This in itself was encouraging. They all went through the novice school on Friday and we did 3 drive ups to give them a preview of the road.

Diane rustled the workers together Saturday morning and got them all up the hill. The radios and wire were all checked out and all but a few late arriving drivers started a fam run by 8:30am. We started the first timed run at 9:00am. Drew kept the cars going up and down the hill as fast as possible and we only had one incident in the morning. The oil filter housing worked its way loose on one of the cars on the way down as they came past check 1. This spread oil through turns 3, 2 and part of 1. The clean up delayed us a bit, but the runs continued.

The rest of the day proceeded without incident, until a power company truck showed up, needing to get to the top of the hill. Expecting nothing out of the ordinary, we found a gap in the runs and sent them up. Fifteen minutes later, they crept past finish... I think that was the biggest delay of the day.



Lunch fell somewhere in between the 2nd and 3rd runs, and we called it a day after all the drivers had completed 5 runs. The wrecker crew didn't have to roll once and no one went off. All the drivers, including all the first timers deserve credit for this. If you look at the times on Saturday, you'll see how the new drivers progressed throughout the day. Many started off with times over 4 minutes then slowly going faster.

The best comment I heard about Sunday morning was from the ranger. We had the hill set up and staffed and cars on *timed runs* so early (8:30am) that we woke him up! Again, the drivers stayed on the road, for the most part, and the timed runs went like clock work.

Two minor offs did happen though. One car dumped more oil going up past check 1 and spun at turn 4. It was pulled back into the check point and parked for the day. Another one spun after finish and ended up in the ditch just before the turn into the parking lot. There actually

was no damage to the car and it continued running after being removed from the ditch (and re-teched.)

We did have another power company truck show up in the morning, but this one was running properly and only took around 7 minutes to get past finish.

We ran a little late for lunch so we could squeeze 4 runs in before the break. Given the number of runs on Saturday and the good luck everyone was having we decided to call it a day after getting 2 clean runs in after lunch.

After the workers came down, the hill was cleaned up, the wire brought down and we had awards started by 5:30pm. Again we did the picture trophy for the 1st place finishers in each class which went over well. Thanks to Dave Estes and Marcel for providing the pictures.



Overall the weekend was a great success thanks to the tireless workers who stepped up to help us put this event on and kept it running smoothly.