

## **RSO President's report March 2022**

The last twelve months have had their challenges for everybody and rallying was no exception. However, with the dedication and ingenuity of clubs and organizers, we did manage to get some events in the books and complete championships. The reports of the various RSO board members will cover these topics and there is no need for me to rehash them, other than to express my admiration for the people who persevered to make the events happen.

It's true we had to adjust the way we administered the championships and that is still affecting us for 2022. Rallye Perce Neige has been moved to April 2 and January Jaunt is scheduled to run on March 26 but after that we are hoping for a full slate of events for the remainder of the year.

In the OPRC there are a couple of changes that should only apply to 2022. Rallye Perce Neige will have two OPRC rounds as will the Lincoln Electric Rally of the Tall Pines. Along with Black Bear and Rallye Defi that will make six events in the championship. As a board we are of two minds about having double events: more events in the championship is a good thing, but the idea of the OPRC is to have shorter, lower cost events that possibly can be completed in one long day. The organizers for Perce Neige have stated the two regionals format is only for 2022 and comes from the unavailability of the Kitigan Zibi stage when the spring break-up will be happening.

That also plays into the idea that we need more standalone OPRC events in Ontario. That's a great platitude but hard to correct as mounting a performance rally is a huge task these days.

You probably know that CARS has mandated the use of Rallysafe at all national events for 2022 and probably beyond. Rallysafe is a great system for tracking, alerts and scoring but it comes with a cost of about \$250 per car per event plus the one-time installation kit. That cost probably puts it out of range for standalone regional events which would like to see entry fees in the \$500 range. The \$50 alternative, EZ-track, will not be available this year; with them shut out of the national events there aren't enough regional only events to make the system financially viable. That's too bad as EZ Track worked well for us.

A very positive part of the OPRC is the continuing series sponsorship from Clarington Hyundai, Enercare and Ontario Motor Sales. A total of \$15k will be distributed to people placing in their class with about \$4K of that dedicated to Black Bear. More information on rules and prize distribution will be on the RSO website. The sponsors have indicated that there are other active things they would like to see to support performance rally in Ontario. We are really grateful for their support.

There are a couple of Rally Sprints planned for 2022 but the organizing structure has changed. Up to 2020 the series was planned and promoted via an initiative from Darryl Malone and Paul Hartl. They stepped back for 2021 and a committee of mostly MLRC members defaulted to organizing. The three planned events scaled back to two with concerns over ever changing and confusing Covid rules being a significant part of the problem.

The Sprints for 2022 will be organized by KWRC and MLRC but as individual events with sup regs and organization coming from the respective clubs. The events will be aggregated into a championship. Here again, more organizers are needed.

Our outlook for 2022 is cautiously optimistic. RSO's focus will need to be on promoting existing championship events and encouraging clubs to create new ones. There is a graying out of existing organizers, myself included, but club membership numbers are up with lots of enthusiastic competitors and the challenge will be to get these people into leadership roles.

There are three board positions up for election at the AGM; Secretary, Treasurer and VP Navigational. If you are interested in any of these positions please let Kelly know. I believe that the incumbents are all willing to stand again. There will be one trustee to be elected as Peter Gulliver's term has reached its maximum.

In closing I have to thank the RSO board for their work and dedication to keeping the sport going.

Martin Loveridge

President, RallySport Ontario