

The streets commissioner just left with positive remarks about hosting an Electrathon race on the streets of Oostburg. I will be attending the village meeting for final approval, but it looks like it could be a go. Our school is located just 20 miles south of Road America and is in town. There are winding subdivision streets adjacent to the school of which include a couple 1/4 mile straight-aways. Its the ultimate environment for a rally. My questions.....

1. Who would be interested in attending?
2. Would it be sanctioned or another exhibition?
3. When should it take place?

I would suggest a pilot event, then take notes and see of interest for the future. Sounds like a good place to try this. Real-world driving conditions on streets that may or may not be smooth.

Mike

I am in favor of more events for my students always. I am not sure I can make many fall events as we generally are re-working our vehicles each fall, getting them ready for the Spring with the modifications as part of the 2-3 year life span process of our vehicles per the regulations. I do look forward to giving our XRV a trial run prior to the bigger Spring Events!

My main concern for such a venue comes from my experiences as a Coordinator of the UW-Stout Supermileage Challenge for 3 years in college. Can you guarantee complete control and safety of the road? How are you going to stop ALL cars/vehicles/dogs/kids from walking out on the road while a quite 30-40mph 300+ pound vehicle barrels down the road? Mail man? Schwann's Man? UPS/Fed-ex? Emergency Vehicles, etc.

My second concern is Insurance? All the other venues have large insurance plans that can pick up any tabs if our insurance runs out or if others get involved. Will there be insurance for such an instance on a city road?

I can deal with pot holes pretty easily - cones over each one that is large enough to damage a vehicle - and pointing them out on a pre-course walk through with my drivers...

That is my two cents worth. Keep me posted and I will look into attending if it is safe.

Jesse Domer - Watertown High School

Sounds great! Bayfield would like to attend. How about an early summer (ouch) event after schools out. Jessie has some good points about the liability and safety. I know some advisors in Iowa that have run road rallies - I think they would do one in Pomeroy. Let's keep up the dialog/planning on this one. How can we help Luke?

Some of the terms through the village are that it be held during the week while school is in session. I got the idea from a student who was talking about the cancer walk they have on similar streets. Apparently they shut the streets down, not even the ups guy is allowed to go on them. I suspect they are blocked by Sheboygan's finest, because we don't actually have an Oostburg police man. The roads don't have any potholes that I know of.

We would line the streets with hay bales on the inside of the curb, I suppose there is always a possibility of a stray car running into something, but I think it would be slowed enough by the time it pushes the bail over the curb and then has to hop the curb itself, not to mention the fact that the wheels would likely be trashed.

Insurance is what I will need help with; I'll inquire about it from our school and from the village. If someone knows of an example that would help.

Would teams want to race right after Road America since we are so close or would teams be willing to make a separate trip?

Luke this is Dan Van Boxtel give me a call as soon as you get this at school 920-766-6113 ex 5606.

Let's talk about electric cars I have a lot of questions for you as we are just getting started.

What kind of motor is best?? Where did you get your motor??

What are you using for wheels?

Dan

Dan,

I recommend looking at the "New Teams" discussion and start asking questions there. Luke is one great resource for you, and there aren't any other advisors that I have encountered that aren't willing to share their expertise. Many of them monitor these discussions. I am not an expert on starting a new team, but who knows what I can add????.....

Good to Kaukauna getting in to this challenge.

I would like to always see a minimum of one week between challenges as part of this whole concept is "engineering." This gives our team time to come home, look through the data collected, adjust the car and go to challenge again. If we just do challenge after challenge without changes, I am done as an advisor...

Well we certainly don't want you to be "done" as an advisor? In being an exhibition I'd like as many teams as possible. It's a lot of work just to race against Bayfield again. It will be important to have a successful safe race to ensure its sustainability into next year. I thought by holding it immediately after or before Road America would increase the likelihood of more teams in attendance, since they will already be here. We are located 20 minutes south of Road America.

I talked with our insurance company, they said it would be handled like any sporting event that takes place off school grounds. She did mention that we should have medical waivers like the ones we have filled out for the other events. I meet with the village Thursday evening to get the final go ahead.

EC North is very interested in more events.

However we are in budgetary problems and would be only able to swing the event if it was a continuation of Road America. Perhaps the Saturday/Sunday before RA? This make it easier for us because we already have the Hotels, Travel arranged, and Subs paid for.

Damon Smith

Yes, I also think that "piggy backing" RA would be a way to make it happen at less of a cost to teams. How about Sat. afternoon before RA? But, as I'm thinking about this - inspections. For this to be an officially sanctioned

event we'd have to have inspections. It would be nice to have to go through inspections only once, then teams would be OK'd for the weekend. Just something to consider.

The village approved it!!!! Well they didn't disapprove it anyway. I submitted that the race would be held after Road America on the 29th which is a Tuesday. So let's hear it, who wants to go to the 08 Rally? Please reply w/ quote to the following list so I can get an organized tally.

Oostburg- 2 cars

Bayfield-

Eau Claire-

Kaukauna-

Bonduel-

Cashton-

Watertown-

Valders-

Argyle-

Edgar-

Berlin-

Kickapoo-

Preble-

Other School #1-

Other School #2-

Other School #3-

Other School #4-

Great news Luke! I can't give you an official yes - let me run it by my administration though. Hey - what's one more day out of school anyway? In the past, we have been on the road home Monday. Would the "endurance competition" be in the morning so we could make it home at a reasonable hour?

I would like to get started first thing in the morning

Would this a race only or would there be safety inspections also?

I assume this race would not count for the overall championship?

We'll I'm still waiting for it to take shape. It really depends on the amount of participants, If there aren't enough, then I'm not going to spend much time on the logistics of it. Personally, I view it as an exhibition for this year. If there is a good turn out and all goes well, then we could maybe regularly schedule it for the following years.

Being that it is immediately after RA, I'd think we would not have to have inspections this year. Maybe we could poll those participating and see what the general consensus wants.

EC North is planning on coming to your rally. We will hopefully be bringing 2 vehicles. Thanks for another opportunity for my kids.

Damon

Watertown will not be attending. A vote taken with our students and parents - we do not feel we would be attaining our Purpose by attending this event, with no time for reflection and change between this and the RA event. Other than a "fun time", we do not see the opportunity for engineering here that we desire. If next year there is at least a week between this event and another, Watertown would likely attend.

* (I am not saying that another venue does not bring engineering principles and challenges to a team, but we look for the ability to collect data, process, implement change and re-collect data.)

Ok, Luke, so are we on for the Road Rally??? I am pushing my kids to get reservations for RA and want to include an extra night for the rally. When would you let us know if it is a go??

Damon

Well, I'm going to have to shut down 4 blocks of streets and block access to the houses on them. (of which I have no reservations doing) However, I'd like there to be a few more schools showing up before I block all that off for 6 cars to race.

Bradford would be interested even if we do not finish our vehicle how about after the fox valley race?

Luke, Sheboygan South and North will bring a car

On a personal note, I'd like to thank you for attempting to organize this road rally. I think this will be a great opportunity not only to showcase our student's vehicles, but also as a means of testing them in realistic conditions. Of course it will also be entertaining for the students involved.

Joe Janicek
Sheboygan South

Park HS would be interested and bring three cars. But the date of the event is real important. We have a hard time missing out on school for the Supermileage at Road America and then the weekend after that trying to make FVTCs comp. I think their not spread out enough. a the end of may rally would work out great. The cost of lodging also adds up after all these events. Maybe we could work on a lodging plan at a school gym or campground? -tom

That's 12 cars; you guys are really going to make me do this aren't you? :) The village approved it and so did the building principal. The race will be held the day after RA on the 29th which is a Tuesday, I'd like our own weekend

next year but thought this would be convenient as it's a trial race and teams will already be here for RA. So lets hear it, who wants to go to the 08 Rally? Race will be held in Oostburg around the elementary school and football field in a residential area. Roads will be barricaded and lined with straw bales. I will post itineraries when things warm up. Camping at Kohler Andrea is on the lake and very nice, 15 miles away from RA and Oostburg.

North Will bring another car, for a total of 3 cars

Luke, I'm turning in the paperwork for our spring trips next week. I will let you know what the Admin. says as soon as I hear anything. I agree, there is a concern about it being between RA and FVTC and the amount of time away from school, but it sure sounds like fun. I would think if teams passed inspection on Sun - they would be exempt from Inspections on Tues. However the board has not discussed this - wait, you're on the board now...

I wouldn't have any problems moving the date; I just thought it would be easier because teams are already here. Besides that's my turkey season so I wouldn't mind changing the date. Would teams be willing to make another trip if it was say, toward the end of May? Please respond with an optional date that your teams would be able to make it. Who knows maybe there will be a common date we all pick that would be better.

EC North is only able to attend because the dates are piggy backed with RA. Sorry but we have no alternative dates.

Damon

Rally as stands. April 29th.

What do you guys think; inspections or no inspections?

If the date stands close after Road America I really wouldn't see a huge reason to hold another round of inspections. If you're worried about teams changing cars just do some basic retests (Batteries, etc.) to be sure that they are still within the rules. Pretty much any weekend in May is still open for NWTC, although I don't know about three weekends in a row, maybe though. Make a final decision soon so that we can adjust work schedules, etc.

POR928S, we will be holding the event on April 29th Tuesday. This is the day after RA. Personally, I'd like to avoid inspections this time around. If we continue next year I'd like to schedule our own weekend and have inspections. I'm not too worried about other teams trying any funny business. There would still be braking and steering competitions though.

Hosting its first event in 2008, this rally will be held on a 3/4 mile clockwise track located on the residential streets of lovely little Oostburg. The track offers 4 generous straight-a-ways for some fast action that will end abruptly at 3-90 degree turns. A winding hairpin follows the third stretch, challenging drivers to the finish line in front of pit row.

Things are starting to take shape. As of now I have everything but free brats lined up. The village is blocking off intersections, I have one squad and a local company donating all the straw bales to line the streets. I will be distributing flyers to the residences affected by the race, I'm sure I'll have some angry Dutchmen people but if they are home during the day they will probably be looking for something to do anyway. There should be schedules posted on the Electrathon website soon, we will be discussing them tomorrow at WTEA. If you have any questions about the rally I'll be around at WTEA.

It's about panic time for teams and getting thier cars done. I know I always get a little nervous around now, but I would like to see some more teams signed up to make this event a reality next year as well. Anyone participating at RA would only have to camp out one more day and have fun racing at Oostburg.

Request for registration forms!!! Teams, please send Sara your registration forms this week. I plan on sending flyers to residences affected by the Rally on Friday. I need a more official confirmation of the teams attending before I initiate the process. So if you plan on coming please send in your forms by Friday so I can still plan to hold this event based on the number of confirmed attendees.

Wild Rose is planning on attending. Do we need any type of insurance forms?

Yes, Luke will be talking with the Village of Oostburg after we confirm that enough teams will be attending. We will send information about insurance to those teams registered, which are only 3 teams right now. If you're interested, please send it your event registration by this Friday.

~Sara

Bayfield is planning on bringing 2 or 3 cars. Sorry Luke I did not get my registration in by this Friday. Just saw your post now.

NWTC will have our car there as well. I'll be getting our papers sent out this week.

Ryan W

Teams, thanks for getting those forms in. Still waiting on a couple but I think we will have 10 cars at this point. If there are any teams still interested, please feel free to sign up, the more the better. Got all my ducks in a row and hope I haven't overlooked anything, still working on free brats. Let me know what kind of questions you have.

What about speed limits?

As of right now there is no speed limit. I too am waiting on insurance.

I'm pretty sure I'll have some free brats coming for the teams. They will be sponsored by Johnsonville and Rockline Industries through the Project Grill Program in Sheboygan county. Check it out; other districts might want to follow the model.

<http://www.projectgrill.org/>

Unofficially off the top of my head the Rally rules are as follows. Pits are on the infield of a clockwise track, so race away on the inside lane. Pickup men will be on the infield so if your car is slow or breaks down stay on the inside lane. The pickup men won't have to cross the track to pull you off. Speed limit is "safe" I don't want to see anything above 40mph but the roads are as wide and smooth as RA so let them run. Passing only on the straight-aways, pass on outside. Make sure your cars come into the turns at slow enough speeds to navigate them. As teams move to the pit area there will be a mandatory driver orientation for further more specific rules.

We are limited on pit electricity, so bring your solar panels or come with your batteries charged. We do have power in the shop but it's a little hike from the staging areas. I'll have our trailer parked in the Elementary school gravel parking lot, please park parallel to it when you come. Or follow us back from RA, drop your trailer off, charge batteries in the shop and take a break. I cannot believe how busy this time of year is for Electrathoning, I don't recall reading a disclaimer at the Electrathon class that warned about high stress levels for the month of April.