



The

# Checkpoint

Official Publication of the Arrowhead Sports Car Club

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Number 1

## Remembrances of Joel Briggs

--by Tim Winker

The motorhead community in Duluth lost a good friend shortly before Thanksgiving. Joel Briggs passed away as the result of a motorcycle accident near Eau Claire.

Joel had been a part of several ASCC events over the past couple of years, most notably when he helped track down parts for some of the competitors on the Around The World In 80 Days Motoring Challenge in 2000.

*(He spent the better part of an afternoon burning phone lines successfully chasing down a transmission for a 1941 Chevy, a truly oddball critter. -ed.)*

I had the privilege of working last year's Sno\*Fall Rally with him.

Joel showed up for Sno\*Fall in a car that most would have left home, a full-sized Oldsmobile station wagon. But Joel was prepared for the event, with some safety gear on board, and snow tires all around. Despite snowy conditions, he had good control of the Olds at all times, even tossed it into a couple of corners to let it oversteer through the turns. We worked a checkpoint at the Wirtanen Farm.

A couple of legs later we saw flashing lights on the road ahead... a car in the ditch. Joel parked the Olds and we went out to see if we could help. Gary Starr and Mike McConnell had slid sideways into a ditch, and with no tow hooks on Starr's Eclipse it took muscle power to get the beast unstuck. It was then discovered that the right rear tire was flat, and Joel grabbed the jack and changed the tire.

I most recently ran into Joel, along with his wife Carol and their son Eric, in the woods north of Houghton, Michigan. Eric is a student at MTU, and Joel and Carol had taken advantage to visit him during the Lake Superior ProRally. We stood together for awhile at the start of the final stage and watched the first cars go through.

Joel was known to many ASCC members as he used to run TNT Mufflers, and in the past couple of years was the owner of That Old Car Place on Tower Avenue in Superior. There was always an interesting collection of old hot rods that needed at least some restoration work.

I stopped in there a few months ago and got the nickel tour, which included a wide-fendered "Street rod" motorcycle under construction. It was still rather rough, most of the metal work done, with considerable work required before paint. I am told that it was this creation that took his life.

The funeral was a Who's Who of Twin Ports motor maniacs. Joel had been known in most branches of motor sports, and there was an interesting cross section. The garments told the story: leather motorcycle duds, street rod jackets, racing jackets. Danny Page Jr. and I were probably the only two people there wearing ties. Likewise the parking lot was full to overflowing with trucks and cars that were evidently loved by someone with mechanical ability. It was obvious that Joel's life touched a lot of people, and that his passing will leave a void that may never be replaced.

*(Thank you, Joel; I wish I had gotten to know you better. -ed.)*

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None this month.

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Tim Winker (Stories & Photos)

## Submissions

Submissions to *The Checkpoint* may be typed, handwritten, composed on diskette or transmitted by e-mail. All submissions should be sent to the editor at the above address

Computer disks with text should be in an IBM compatible format. If material is submitted as an attachment to an e-mail message, notify the editor before submitting. No unknown e-mail attachments will be opened. Deadline for submission is the last Thursday of the month for the following month's issue.

Articles, photographs, drawings and paste-up work submitted to this publication earn ASCC Continental Cup worker points.

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# Joel Briggs



--Tim Winker Photo--

*Joel Briggs changing the tire on Gary Starr's Eclipse during the 2000 Sno\*Fall Winter Rallye. Notice all the help being rendered by ASCC*

The remainder of this page is blank in memory of our friend.

## **Sno\*Fall Rally**

Dec. 8, 2001

### **Carlborns Sweep out of the UP and Clean Up Sno\*Fall**

Mom Nature came through with a light dusting of new snow the evening before, so the umpteenth annual Sno\*Fall Winter Rally was able to live up to its name once again. Only a couple of weeks prior the temperatures had been in the 60s (F) and rallymaster Randy Jokela was concerned that his course would end up rather boring despite the interesting roads of Carlton County. Not so.



*-Kettle River Crossing-*

The first leg took competitors through the Ditchbanks, a rugged road built through a swamp... er, wetlands area in the Fond du Lac State Forest. The Ditchbanks Road is generally not plowed unless the snow gets very deep. A recent snowfall of about a foot had deteriorated to slush and refrozen in recent days, making for icy ruts. In past years several cars have gotten stuck by sliding off the road, and one year Todd Larsen rolled a Renault LeCar on one of the curves. All cars made it through without difficulty this time.

The roads were in better shape after that, though even paved roads had a veneer of hard-packed snow, making traction questionable in some corners. The course headed west toward Cromwell and Wright, then south for awhile toward the town of Kettle River, and east to Barnum for a long break.

The course went past the family home of actress Jessica Lange, through the Holyoke area, and north again along some twisty roads over various branches

of the Nemadji River, around Chub Lake and back to Cloquet.



*-Carlborns entering a Checkpoint-*

Several drivers reported "moments" along the road when they weren't certain they would stay on the road, but none ended up in the ditches.

Phyllis and Scott Carlborn, 2001 Winter Rally Champions, were once again the winners in their Jeep Grand Cherokee. Second overall and first in Class C went to Steve Kemp and Rolf Strand in an Audi.

## **Wisconsin Winter Rallye**

January 12, 2002

### **Carlborns Take 2nd Victory of the Season**

Phyllis and Scott Carlborn, 2001 Winter Rally Champions, were the overall winners of the 2002 Wisconsin Winter Rallye in their Jeep Grand Cherokee. Finishing second were the novice team of Joe Lipinski and Brian Naughton, whose first rally was last year's WWR. Surprisingly, WWR '02 turned out to be more like an evening of the WWF, as several cars were dropped from the running due to mishaps.

The problems began on Leg 1, when the Audi of Kemp/Strand missed the first instruction after the odometer check, following the curve of the main road instead of going straight onto unpaved. First-timers John and Paul Ojanen in a Subaru WRX followed the Audi. It was several miles before Kemp and Strand noticed the error, and by the time they got turned around and back on course they had exceeded the

maximum allowed Time Allowance and were forced to take the 60 point maximum penalty.

In the meantime, the Ojanens found out that despite AWD and anti-lock brakes, performance tires and icy roads do not mix. Their WRX ended up well off the road and struck a birch tree, denting the left front fender and bumper. With the help of a tow truck they were able to get back on the road and re-joined the rally after the mid-point break.



*-Jackson Box Trail-*

First-timers Scott and Wendy Riedl, now owners of the infamous "Zippy, the Wonder Bunny" (a ClubRally VW Rabbit that has passed through many hands), fought several gremlins, some self-induced. Their rally computer failed on the drive up from their home in Baraboo, and the stock odo was non-functional, plus they did not have a calculator. They were still able to follow the course, but did not stop at the first couple of controls, but realized by Control 3 that since the other competitors were stopping, maybe they should as well.

Their rally ended a couple of legs from the end when the alternator quit, and the battery did not have enough reserve to get them back to Solon Springs. When all power was exhausted, they pushed the car to a country bar, as they did not have a flashlight to investigate the problem. Under the light of the parking lot, they determined that the problem was merely a wire that had come disconnected, and they were able to get Zippy fired up again.

Old-timers Dexter Nelson and Mike McConnell were also a "DNF" in their Dodge Stratus, though good

scores early on put them into 4th overall in the scoring. A sharp bump on Leg 8 (Crotte Brook Trail) caused the engine cradle to bottom out, and punctured the oil filter. About a half mile later, the "CHECK ENGINE" light came on and the team pulled to the side. They were towed back to Solon Springs by Sweep, where they found a gas station that had a service bay. Though the attendant on duty was not a mechanic, he was able to locate a new filter and several quarts of oil, so the Dodge left town under its own power.

Rally worker Bill Taylor upheld a family tradition normally reserved for his son Al by getting stuck. He pulled off the roadway a little too far in making a U-turn, but was able to extract the car after a bit of rocking, though he and daughter Dana missed one of their control assignments as a result. Rallymaster Tim Winker, running as lead car, was able to clock all cars in and send them on their way to the midpoint break.

Ojanens rejoined the rally after the break, catching five controls still open. They skipped the final control due to a low fuel situation.

The rally course visited several prime sections of potential ClubRally, including Tower Fire Lane, Breitzmann Lake Road, Hunters Trail, Crotte Brook Trail, Empire Wilderness Road and Jackson Box Trail. Many roads had not been plowed, so it was necessary to stay in the single-track ruts or get pulled into the ditch. Logging operations on Jackson Box Trail this winter require that the road be kept clear, and it is in better shape than it has been in many years.

*(Results for the Sno\*Fall and Wisconsin Winter Rallies may found on following pages. --ed.)*



*Tim Winker spent part of December in "Jolly Old" covering a couple of vintage auto events. As he puts it, this is a place he "almost stayed." Ask him, not me.*

*--ed*



## 2001 Sno\*Fall Winter Rallye Official Results

OA	CL	Driver	Car Model	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
		Navigator											
1	1B	Phyllis Carlborn Scott Carlborn	98 Jeep Gr. Cherokee	0	4	3	0	0	0	4	0	0	11
2	1C	Steve Kemp Rolf Strand	Audi	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	31	37
3	2C	Wm. Yarroch Michael Yarroch	Subaru Impreza	59+5	23	14	0	9	3	4	0	8+5	130
4	3C	Dexter Nelson Mike McConnell	Dodge Stratus	3	18	8	31	0	44	5	31	8+5	153
5	4C	Matt Prater Bryce Ostenson	90 Mazda 626 LX	31	19	12	60	60	9	14	6	0	211
6	5C	Joe Lipinski Brian Naughton	90 Audi 90 quattro	0	36	3	60	0	54	4	60	18	235

**Rallymaster:** Randy Jokela  
**Ass't RM:** Diane Sargent  
**Checkout:** Tim Winker  
**Control Workers:** Bill Taylor, Brad Enberg, Al Kintigh, Nick Kintigh, Alex Kintigh  
**Course Opening:** Randy Jokela, Jon Anderson  
**Sweep:** Diane Sargent, Al Taylor

Arrowhead Sports Car Club  
**WINTER RALLY SERIES**

# Wisconsin Winter Rallye

## Official Results

January 12, 2002

OA	CL	Driver	Car Model	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	<u>Total</u>
1	1B	Phyllis Carlborn Scott Carlborn	98 Jeep Gr. Cherokee	0	0	0	0	23	5	0	4	0	0	32
2	1D	Joe Lipinski Brian Naughton	90 Audi 90 quattro	0	0	4	11	5	5	0	10	6	11	52
3	2B	Steve Kemp Rolf Strand	98 Audi A4 quattro	60	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	70
4	1C	Dexter Nelson Mike McConnell	98 Dodge Stratus	4	0	22	15	4	4	0	60	60	60	229
5	2D	Tim Smigowski C. Smigowski	95 Chev S10 Blazer	51	60	60	60	0	3	60	3	0	12	309
6	3D	Dan Merback Brady Sturm	87 VW Golf	60	21	60	59	29	0	40	60	60	58	447
7	4D	Scott Reidl Wendy Reidl	84 VW Rabbit GTI	60	60	60	60	41	60	60	60	60	60	581
	4D	David Byrka Harry Goldfine	Volvo 740 Wgn	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	41	60	581
9	5D	John Ojanen Paul Ojanen	02 Subaru WRX Wgn	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	600

**Rallymaster:** Tim Winker

**Ass't RM:** Diane Sargent

**Control Workers:** Bill Taylor, Dana Goetz, Randy Jokela, Jon Anderson, Brad Enberg

**Course Opening:** Tim Winker

**Sweep:** Diane Sargent, Doug

## Dakar 2001

### Official Results

O/A	Nr	Driver
1	201	MASUOKA
2	200	KLEINSCHMIDT
3	210	SHINOZUKA
4	207	FONTENA
5	204	SOUSA

**NOTE:** Though not an official part of the Arrowhead Sports Car Club Winter Rallye Series, the Dakar Rally has some seasonal appeal. If the Dakar organizers work out some of their organizational glitches, we might include them. Besides, the sand could occasionally come in handy.