

## Rally Master Letter – WSCC Halloween Rally 2007

First, the cop. Apparently a few of you were stopped in the middle of the rally on Hickory Rd by someone who described himself as an off duty Captain. If you weren't speeding, you are legally allowed to drive down that road. So unfortunate as it was, he couldn't really block the road or otherwise do something other than complain as people living in the neighborhood would do given that only 3 people live on that street and they all know each other. Nobody reported getting a ticket so we're all good.

Second, the signs. Yes they were difficult to see but of the 50 signs out there, only 2 were never seen by any team. Two more were DQ'd because they turned around in the wind. I heard a lot about the signs and the next rally I plan, I will definitely be more careful on how I place them so there is no danger involved in recording the symbol.

Next, the errors. There were two errors in the rally and both can be explained, but not excused.

First error, 'Left after "TRESSPASSING"'. The Left that we were using was 'Evergreen' and in fact if you were to go straight here you would have seen the **Dead End** sign further up N. Lake Rd. So the left would then be forced. Why didn't we see it in all of our pre-runs? There were easily 3 to 4 trees obscuring the view and if you weren't looking very hard, you wouldn't see it. I had to stop the car during the day and look up the road to see it through all the trees. But it was definitely there and probably more visible at night when reflective. In any case, given that we first ran this rally a few weeks ago when there were far more leaves on the trees, we definitely had more trouble with it on our pre-runs. So chalk this one up to fall foliage. Most people figured it out after turning on Evergreen and finding Fox within a few hundred yards.



The "**Tresspassing**" sign after the **And Follow** is difficult to see but legitimate. I've been on rallies which had more difficult signs to find and got lost forever too. I purposely put the ~ sign there so that your eyes would move right and at least notice the Private Property sign. Almost everyone recorded the ~ sign so you were definitely looking that way.



**As you approach and as you drive by**

How could we have done this right in the instructions?

ORIGINAL:

Left at T and follow  
Left after "Tresspassing"  
Right at "Fox"

Better but still tricky:

Left at T  
Right (this in place of 'and follow')  
Right at "Fox" (or just Right)

Error two, 'Right after "SUNSET"'. As you may recall, you were driving on freshly paved Scofieldtown Rd / Sunset Road. On the week of the rally the 'SkyView Rd' STOP sign was installed and on top of it they put a new SkyView sign which was perpendicular to a new Sunset Rd sign. In the dark at least the SUNSET portion is very difficult to see. I drive past this sign daily and every day I try to see if I can see the sign and it's very difficult. Given that we have veteran ralli-ists doing this though, at least one of them saw it. So it was an error, compounded by the fact that Princess Court, a dead end, had no sign indicating such. Only one team indicated they saw this sign and drove up Princess Court so maybe it was not all that bad for the rest of you.

Next, the non Error. Instruction 57 Left and 58 Bear Left at STOP. Someone complained we didn't have an instruction in between these that said Bear Left at STOP (MBR) because you did come to a stop after 57. The road coming in from the right hand side was one way, so you couldn't go there and therefore it was a forced left. I didn't plan it this way but what happened if you counted this as the Bear Left, you would have actually taken a right at the real Bear Left. Nice trick that wasn't intentional but also not a mistake.

So that is that for the errors and explanations. We had 22 cars finish and 6 people provided answer sheets at Applebee's. Everyone who was at Applebee's after we closed the checkpoint said they loved the course, hated the sign placement and said it was nice and challenging the

way they liked it. Maybe this was the drinks everyone was having but it made me feel better at least.

So staging a rally is pretty difficult work, but I am glad we volunteered because otherwise there would not have been a Halloween Rally this year and that would have been sad. The weather cooperated with us, we had a great turnout and hopefully all the new participants will come back for the Turkey Tour on November 17<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank Eva, my co-rallymaster for driving up from Pennsylvucky not once, but twice and bringing supplies. Pat for encouraging us to host the rally and all the other support she gave including pre-running it in that monsoon we had. Dave and Ken for their wisdom and experience. Frank for all his support before and during the rally. Debbie and Gary for doing the registration. Mike for teaching the newbies about forced Lefts so if they saw the Dead End sign they were forever circling in Windmill land. Finally Jesse for buying me a beer even after getting lost for a real long time in the windmill section.

Truth be told, the Halloween rally is usually the one we get lost on year in and year out, so this year everyone else had that privilege. See you in November.