

STARDUST 2016 Critique – Rallymasters: Scott Morgan, Robb Warren

Legs 1 and 2: Leg 1 was a simple follow your nose to find the Checkpoint on Copus Rd. While the leg was timed from Hwy 99, the timing should have allowed you determine the leg had to be West of I5 and you could have taken I5 for a slightly shorter route. For Group X the exact location of the Checkpoint was important to locating Checkpoint 2 – but this was not apparent until SO 2,3. The handout at SO 2,3 informed Group X entrants that Checkpoint 2 was due North of Checkpoint 1 – placing the Checkpoint on Pieri Rd. The other Groups had a different Checkpoint 2 which their handout indicated was located on Millux Rd. The preferred route for Group X was through Taft on Route 119 to Enos Rd; for Group R the preferred route was East to Route 166, avoiding going through Checkpoint 1 backwards on Copus Rd, then North on the newly paved Old River Rd. to Millux Rd.

Leg 3: Located on Cerro Noroeste Rd (which was also identified as “Hudson Ranch Rd” on the road signage – but this is map based rally so the name on Map 1 is the correct name for rally purposes). Group R was given a mileage range to help locate the Checkpoint; Group X was told that the Checkpoint was within 1.5 miles of the Ventura County line. (The Eastern end of Cerro Noroeste Rd is quite picturesque during daylight.)

Legs 4,5,6: Continuing on Cerro Noroeste Rd, North on I5, stop for gas back at the Start, then to Lamont on Wheeler Ridge Rd took you to CC1. CC1 was located at the intersection of Buena Vista Blvd and Edison Rd – looking at Map 1 this intersection is 3 miles East of Wheeler Ridge Rd. However the street signs indicated that the intersection was 2 miles East of Wheeler Ridge Rd – but this is a map-based rally so the street names on the map are correct for purposes of the rally. Also, the street sign in the background of the CC1 photo read ‘Malaga Rd’ which should have tipped you off that something was amiss with the street signs. There was a letter affixed to the incorrect Stop sign 2 miles from Wheeler Ridge Rd and also at the correct Stop sign 3 miles from Wheeler Ridge Rd – we hope you found the correct one.

The leg then included a long run from Bakersfield to the Eastern edge of Tehachapi, traversing down Woodford Tehachapi Rd. via the Keane offramp. The route includes CC2, 8.7 miles from the Hwy 58 offramp. Hopefully you recorded the proper CC information on the back of the ‘second’ sign. Two identical signs are on Tehachapi Woodward Rd, approximately 0.6 miles apart. The second one is at the correct mileage.

You are told that SO 4,5,6,7 is on East Tehachapi Blvd, 0.4 miles east of Sand Canyon. This will also be the restart. You have not yet been given sufficient information to accurately identify all of the checkpoints, thus you need to avoid the following:

- Cummings Valley Rd (Checkpoint 4)
- any roads intersecting Tehachapi Willow Spring (Checkpoint 5)
- any roads intersecting Banducci (Checkpoint 6)

Also Highline Rd and Hwy 202 are safe for all legs.

From CC2 on Woodford Tehachapi Rd., carefully proceed east on Hwy 202 (safe) to Tucker, then north to Hwy 58. Do not exit at Tehachapi Blvd. since that road intersects with Tehachapi Willow Springs and might host Checkpoint 5. Rather, continue on Hwy 58 to the next exit (Sand Canyon Rd), left at the base of the offramp, and right onto the SO road.

Leg 4

There are not too many options for this one. In addition, you now have information relative to checkpoints 5 and 6. You have been given that Checkpoint 4 is located on Cummings Valley Rd. heading away from Bear Valley Rd. The preferred route is to return to Hwy 58 via the Sand Canyon Rd onramp and proceed west to Tucker. Exit Tucker and proceed to Hwy 202 and head west. Cummings Valley Rd is a loop that intersects Hwy 202 twice. Also, there is a potential that a small spur of Cummings Valley Rd lies west of the second intersection. Since Bear Valley is west of both intersections, the proper approach is to pass BOTH intersections until the southern end of Bear Valley Rd is seen. Turn north on Bear Valley Rd and then east at the intersection of Bear Valley Rd and Giraud/Cummings Valley Rd. The checkpoint is not on the spur, but instead was located approximately 0.6 miles past the Westernmost Hwy 202/Cummings Valley Rd intersection.

Leg 5

You know that Checkpoint 5 is heading away from Tehachapi Willow Springs Rd. At SO Group X was told that Checkpoint 5 was North of Hwy 58 within 3 miles of the SO; Group R was told that Checkpoint 5 was on East Tehachapi Blvd, 0.1 mile west of its intersection with Sand Canyon Rd. This eliminates all possible roads except for East Tehachapi Blvd. The preferred route has you exiting Cummings Valley Rd by going right on Hwy 202, and retrace the steps you took toward SO 4,5,6,7 (Hwy 202 -> Tucker -> Hwy 58). This time, however, exit at Tehachapi Blvd, turn right, and watch for the checkpoint just before Sand Canyon Rd.

Leg 6

Group X was told at SO 4,5,6,7 that checkpoint 6 is due west of the SO, while others were given the exact street location. Heading away from Banducci, and given the safe roads of Highline and Hwy 202, the only possible solution is that Checkpoint 6 is located on Pelliser Rd., heading north. From Checkpoint 5, re-enter Hwy 58 heading west and exit at Tucker. Taking Tucker south then heading west on Highline brings you to the Highline/Banducci intersection. Veer left on Banducci, and step through the turns through the hills of Tehachapi. Soon after emerging on the flatlands you encountered Pelliser. Heading north on Pelliser brings you to Checkpoint 6. Return to Hwy 58 by turning east on Giraud and following it to Hwy 202. A left turn on Hwy 202 will lead you into a sequence that has become familiar on the last few legs (Hwy 202 -> Tucker -> Hwy 58). It is now time to leave the beautiful Tehachapi mountains (although you probably didn't see much in the dark), and begin Leg 7.

Leg 7: Relatively straightforward Checkpoint located just North of Boron – with a minimum speed of 35 MPH. From Checkpoint 6 take Route 58 to Gephart Rd to the Checkpoint on Suckow Rd (did that “Not a Through Road” sign get you thinking?)

Legs 8,9: Back to Route 58 for the drive to Barstow and a break for breakfast and gas. Then take I15 to Ghost Town Rd to SO 8,9. At SO the photo showed that Checkpoint 9 was on the South end of Harvard Rd. South of the intersection with Silver Valley Rd. Given the time between Checkpoint 8 and Checkpoint 9 (12 minutes), Checkpoint 8 must be on the portion of Harvard Rd North of Checkpoint 9. The preferred route was to exit the I15 at Minneola Rd and take the frontage roads to the very Northern-most section of Harvard Rd (which is North of I15) since Checkpoint 8 could have been located there (but wasn't – at least not this time...). Straightforward drive to Checkpoint 8, then continue on Harvard with a few forced turns to Silver Valley Rd, East to back Harvard, and South into Checkpoint 9. After Checkpoint 9 you needed to go West to Minneola Rd. to get back to I15 without going through Checkpoint 8 backwards.

Leg 10: I15 North to Kelbaker Rd exit (in Baker), North to Silver Ln (unnamed on map) and directly into Checkpoint 10.

Legs 11,12,13: Take I15 to Jean, then CC3 was straightforward in the town of Goodsprings. Preferred route to CC4 was head South back to Jean and take Las Vegas Blvd from Jean to the Seven Magic Mountains sculpture and CC4.

From CC4, you continue on Las Vegas Blvd to SO 11,12,13 using Volunteer Rd (avoiding Larson Rd where Checkpoint 11 is located) to Gilespe Rd to Shayna Ave and finally to the SO on La Cienega St. At SO, you saw the Checkpoint 11 was down

the street to the West (on Larson Ln), Checkpoint 12 was just to the East (on Battista Ln) and Checkpoint 13 was directly ahead (on Welpman Way). Due to the time from Restart (1 minute), Checkpoint 11 had to be entered heading West. Group R was told that Checkpoint 12 was to be entered heading North; both Group X and R were told that Checkpoint 13 was to be entered heading West – Group X had to calculate the direction for Checkpoint 12 based on the timing from Checkpoint 12 to Checkpoint 13. From SO, drive directly to Checkpoint 11, then head North on Las Vegas Blvd, to Volunteer Rd, South on Giles pie Rd, East on Larson Ln to Battista into Checkpoint 12. Then continue on Battista turn left onto Welpman Way and close out the rally with a zero (we hope) at Checkpoint 13.

We hope that you enjoyed this event and will join us again for future events.

Group X Tiebreaker Sequence: 2, 5, 6, 8, 4, 3, 9, 12, 7, 10, 13, 1, 11

Groups R,N,2,1 Tiebreaker Sequence: 5, 6, 8, 4, 3, 9, 12, 7, 2, 10, 13, 1, 11

Many thanks to Joe Akerman, without whom none of this Monte Carlo rally fun would exist. And also to Larry Scholnick who volunteered to crew for us at nearly the last minute.