

# Critique for Some Assembly Required Rally

By Paul McGaffey

**Checkpoint 1.** You were given a handout at start that gave you the information that this checkpoint is due north. The narrows down the possible inmarker roads to one: Vasquez Canyon.

**Checkpoint 2.** The primary information for this checkpoint is the leg time. With only 22 minutes and a standoff to the North, the only possibility is Inmarker E on Bouquet Canyon.

**Course Control 4** gives you the opportunity to experience the “Music Road”. Wouldn’t want to miss that!

**Checkpoint 3.** This location was given at Standoff.

**Checkpoint 4.** You only have 12 minutes to get to 4 and the only one that is close enough and available is Inmarker K on Mojave Tropicco.

**Course Control 1.** Pick up on the way to Checkpoint 5.

**Checkpoint 5.** Information at Standoff told you it is within 0.2 miles of Lily Street. That only intersects with Silver Queen and makes it Inmarker G.

**Checkpoint 6.** The course instructions gave you Lone Butte or United and standoff information told you it is due east of 5. That leaves only United.

**Course Control 5** should have been picked up on the way to Checkpoint 5 and it should have caused you to see Inmarker 7 to your left as you turned right on Sierra Highway. The big decision was to continue on Sierra Hwy to Silver Queen or U-turn and go back to Backus Rd. and then use the freeway to get to Inmarker 5. If you made the U-turn it made you late for Inmarker 5. With only 10 minutes on Leg 7 you should have know the only place that 7 could be was north of Silver Queen.

**Checkpoint 7.** Instructions told you it is on Sierra Highway. You probably saw it on the way to 6. With only 10 minutes to get there, it had to be on the North end of Sierra highway.

**Checkpoint 8.** You were given information at Standoff that 8 is Inmarker D which puts it on Backus Rd West of Mojave Tropicco Rd..

**Checkpoint 9.** Instructions told you that 9 is West of 90<sup>th</sup> Street and the handout puts it North of Rosamond Blvd.. With only 11:00 minutes to get there Hamilton or Manly are your only choices. I am sure you were manly and found it on Manly.

**Checkpoint 10.** Instructions told you it is on Frontage Road and the correct way to get there.

**Checkpoint 11.** Standoff handout told you it is Inmarker A on 70<sup>th</sup> Street East, North of Avenue I. This is the big “Gotcha” in the rally. As you come down the road, you should see the Passage Control sign just before Avenue H. You also see a checkpoint straight ahead. If you ignore the Passage Control and go into the checkpoint, you are very early on Checkpoint 13!

**Checkpoint 12.** Standoff info says its 2.0 miles east of 11. That puts it on 90<sup>th</sup> Street east. If you did see the PC for 11 and turned left at the intersection to get to 12, you were in big trouble because there is not enough time to do the big loop and approach it from the North. You should have turned right (after PC 11), then right up 60<sup>th</sup> Street East to Avenue G and right, down 90<sup>th</sup> to the Inmarker. It is only 6 miles this way instead of 13 miles the wrong way!

**Checkpoint 13.** You knew it was Inmarker H on 70<sup>th</sup> Street East and you should have seen it while looking for 11 and with only 5.50 minutes to get there it’s easy. From 12 it’s just a quick right and left and score!

**Course Control 3** sets you up for failure if you do not figure out the shortcut to Checkpoint 14 shown on Map 6.

**Checkpoint 14.** Instructions said it was on Mt. Emma and Standoff information said it’s east of Cheeseboro and you have to get CC3 on the way, so you only have time to get to the East end of Mt. Emma. You have to make the loop on 87<sup>th</sup> Street and come into the Checkpoint Eastbound which a Passage Control.

**Course Control 2** gets you to Standoff on the lovely Aliso Canyon Road.

**Checkpoint 15.** Instructions said it is on Crown Valley. At Standoff you found out it is Inmarker I and it’s North and South of Soledad. So, you follow the various roads to get to Crown Valley and turn right to enter from the correct direction. If you look left, you probably see it and realize that you have to go up to Soledad (which runs parallel to Crown Valley), turn left, run down 2.1 miles and then left again back onto Crown Valley and into the checkpoint, fun huh?

**Checkpoint 16,** Things are getting tough now. At standoff, the handout said it was Inmarker I, so you know it’s North of Soledad Cyn. and you know you have to enter towards Sierra Hwy . As you drive North on Crown Valley Rd. you reach Sierra Hwy without encountering a checkpoint, you have time to go up Crown Valley to the loop (of paved roads) and circle around to hit it correctly. If you miss the loop, you enter the checkpoint backwards. This is the nastiest type of checkpoint and reserved for Experts only.

**Checkpoint 17.** You have little information for this one, but you only have 8.5 minutes to get there and the list of Inmarkers has diminished to just a few. So, Inmarker L puts it on Red Rover Mine Road and you get there by going West on Sierra highway, passing by the North end of Red Rover, left on Ward Road over the Freeway, East on Escondido Canyon back to Red Rover and North to the Inmarker.

**Checkpoint 18.** Standoff information said it's Inmarker C, North of Sierra Highway. it's got to be Mint Canyon and you only have time to get there going west.

**Checkpoint 19.** With 12 minutes to get there and 12 minutes to the only Inmarker left on your list "F" (Checkpoint 19, South of Davenport) So, that puts it on Summit Knoll Road. The only trick is, that you have to turn on Adler Road to get to Summit knoll.