

“Meet in the Middle Rally”

Rich Bireta

Eight rally teams came together to run the Meet in the Middle TSD road rally on Saturday, March 10. The unique aspect of this rally was that competitors had their choice of two different starting locations. Four cars started at SCCA National Headquarters in Topeka and four cars started from Derby, just south of Wichita. Each set of competitors followed a different route until the rally routes merged near Neodesha, Kansas. From there the teams followed a common route to the finish at the renowned Chicken House Restaurant in the small town of Olpe, Kansas, just south of Emporia.

Entries were down significantly from last years 25 teams. This was due in part to 4 pre-registered teams dropping out the week before the event and less promotion of the event being done this year than in 2006.

Despite several wrong turns and one car running out of gas, all the competitors made it to the Chick House in Olpe, where the following results were computed.

Final Results

	SCCA Class	MiDiv Class	Leg 1	Leg 2	Leg 3	Leg 4	Leg 5	Total
Pego Mack / Steve Nelson	Equipped	A	3	40	2	11	5	61
Keith and Judy Pfautz	Stock	A	35	160	25	44	13	277
Dan McConnell / Paul MacRoberts	Novice		67	51	74	95	29	316
Randy Gregg / Lonnie Worthington	Stock	B	38	237	0	30	72	377
Eliot Alvis / Anne Jankowski	Novice		0	57	300	39	36	432
Robert Onelio / Ryan Curran	Novice		300	300	37	69	276	982
Mike and Kathy Van Dam	Novice	C	98	300	300	74	273	1035

For the second consecutive year, Pego Mack and Steve Nelson won the event overall. Keith and Judy Pfautz won Stock class (and second overall) while the Novice Class was won by non-SCCA members Dan McConnell and Paul MacRoberts.

A total of three “0” (perfect) scores were posted during the event. Wichita starters and Novices Eliot Alvis and Anne Jankowski scored a 0 one the first leg. Randy Gregg and Lonnie Worthington scored a perfect 0 on the first manned checkpoint, leg 3. Bruce and Charlene Bettinger ran the event for fun and scored a 0 on leg 1.

Thanks to Albert Weaver for serving as Safety Steward, checkpoint worker and pre-checker. Thanks to Devon Bireta for working checkpoints and keeping her Dad company on the long drive from Topeka to Neodesha, and thanks to Bruce and Charlene Bettinger who handled the Wichita starting duties and helped more than one competitor out of a jam.