

The Big Island of Hawaii staged its first rally to an appreciative group of risk takers, Sunday March 14, 2010.

Starting off from the Shops at Mauna Lani, the rallyists were given general instructions, their route instructions, and as much support as the rally team of Leif Johnsen, Briana Echavez, Bill Sanborn and Cindy and Jim Cohn could muster.

The first car out was Isabel and Jonathan Spiegel, in their Z4 BMW, on time, at exactly 10:30 am. Other contestants followed at one-minute intervals until all were on their way. Many of the teams were husband and wife pairings, and the ladies seemed to enjoy the outing even though some had reservations.

This event was touted as an introduction to rallying, and so there were several different elements to challenge the group. The first segment was an odometer check, to educate how to check the accuracy of the unit. Some found their cars were off by quite a way, others were marveled by their accuracy! But most were able to calculate a correction factor to apply to the route instructions, and we had some very precise driving over the second Leg which was for Time-Speed-Distance, with some coming down to just seconds after driving for three quarters of an hour.

Others were not so lucky, and some even missed our checkpoints, so it's a good lesson that a successful rally requires teamwork to do well. (No marriages were broken during this event!)

The third and forth legs were Game-Tour-Adventure, where the instructions asked questions both from local knowledge and from elements found along the route. The rally took the competitors over the Kohala Mountain Road, always a wonderful drive, and one that demanded a lot of attention from both driver and navigator. One of the benefits of rallying is it sharpens your attention to detail, giving more emphasis to road signs and other features along the road. This is an exercise that keeps you attentive to your driving!

How many elevation signs do you encounter? What are the altitudes? How many ranches do you pass whose names start with a 'K'? What are their names? What business has a green sign? –All increasing your awareness of where you are, and what is around you.

The GTA legs were broken up with some transit zones when cars passed through busier populated areas, and resumed in more rural areas, allowing everyone stay focused on their driving.

The Kohala Kountry Roads Rally finished up at the Shops at Mauna Lani, at the new Monstera Restaurant. Everyone who participated received a dash plaque of the KKR art, and 1st-3rd place winners took home wall plaques too. With over twenty participants, it was a good first try. The winners with the fewest point deductions were Barry and Jan Breen, visiting from Redmond Washington, Second place was taken by the Porsche 911 turbo of Tim and Kendall DiDonato of Waikoloa, and Third spot went to the team of Bob and Trudy Lindsay, driving a Miata, who drove over from Fern Acres to compete. Another notable performance was that of co-driver Cookie McIver, who as the only four legged competitor, had a distinct advantage when it came to legs 3 & 4!

Results:

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| 1. | Jan & Barry Breen | PT Cruiser |
| 2. | Tim & Kendall DiDonato | Porsche 911 turbo |

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| 3. | Bob & Trudy Lindsay | Mazda Miata |
| 4. | Isabel & Jonathan Spiegel | BMW z4 |
| 5. | Shawn Diggs & Eli Solano | Mazda Rx 8 |
| 6. | Hawke Walleman & Elsie Serna | Austin Healy Sprite |
| 7. | Roger & Railyn Ventura | Honda Civic |
| 8. | Jevon & Josh & Kevonu Sanborn | Ford F-150 |
| 9. | Joanne Quickel & Paul Zabel | Jeep Wrangler |
| 10. | Colin & Cookie McIver | Corvette |

Rallymaster: Leif Johnsen, workers: Briana Echavez, Bill Sanborn

RRSS: James Cohn

Registrar: Cindy Cohn