

# IRC 2004 - A YEAR IN REVIEW by Brian Carriere

The Island Rallysport Club on Vancouver Island had an excellent year in 2004! We held 3 TSD events, as well as great TSD & Rally-X schools. Many members worked very hard at these events and each one was fun and exciting! Also, a good number of IRC members had a strong showing in Performance & TSD events Provincially, Nationally and Internationally; as far east as Quebec, and all the way down to California! Way to go for making the Island known for growing competitive yet friendly rallyists!

April 17- TSD Rally School. There were 9 students and 5 instructors for 2004. The school consisted of classroom instruction covering all aspects of TSD rallying incl. what to expect in an actual event, how to do calcs, and what equipment can be used. Then after lunch it was into the cars and out on the dirt! 2 brief regs were run resulting in smiles all around! Well run and sure to be an annual success! The 2005 edition to be held on April 9.

June 5/6- Coast to Coast TSD. BC Championship #3, Pacific Coast Championship #1, Island Series #1. 2 words: FAST & FUN!

Arguably the fastest TSD in Western Canada or beyond, C2C 2004 did not disappoint! Only 2 teams left with less than 200 points, with most over 350! The Island proves again that just because TSD speeds are limited, doesn't mean they are slow! Kudos to Christa for a great job wearing the Rallymaster hat for this one. May 28/29 will be version 2005. Mark this 2 day event on your calendars!

August 28- Tsunami TSD. Island Series #2. With Christa at the helm again, this event brought in 9 entries and provided a lot of fun for us on this all-paved event. With a good mix of Novices and Experts, the route wound through the rural areas of the southern end of the Island with a good mix of twists, turns and pauses. August 27th will mark the 3rd year this event has run.

October 23- Rally-X school. Many IRC members and a few others trekked to Port Alberni to run a brief Rally-X school and test the facilities for future events. Everything ran smoothly with more than 10 cars running 3 times each. Many new to this event learned about timing, security, and course layout. Watch the calendar for full events in 2005!

October 30- Midnight TSD. BC Championship #5, Island Series #3. Arnie & Gil organized the final event of 2004- and it was well received with 15 entries! Competition was fierce and the results were shocking—with 3 Calculator cars and a Novice car all ahead of the both Unlimited entries! The low-tech crews sent a message to the "wired" cars for 2005! The rallyists were directed through some new gravel rally roads between Courtenay and Campbell River and overall resulted in a great event!

The Island Rallysport Club would like to thank all of the workers and competitors simply for making 2004 an amazing year!

**Check the event calendar for 2005 events starting right away in January and come rally with the IRC!**



## The only North American to ever win a WRC event was Canadian!

by Tony Latham

You know the World Rally Championship don't you? Factory teams running multi-million euro budgets campaigning around the world with the most highly advanced cars ever seen on a public road.

The budgets have become large enough to rival most Formula One teams for commitment. It's a bit of a Rock + Roll show: lots of flash + glam for three days over compact routes mandated for ease of TV broadcast among other reasons. It wasn't always this way. Pull up a chair and I will tell you.

In 1973 the WRC was in its maiden year. The FIA had made the decision to organize the best events around the world into a series for the manufacturers. The calendar ran 13 events from January to December and included (pause for effect) North America! It isn't clear if this was a political decision or not but it was a good one.

**" It was tough enough and long enough to meet the WRC standards of the day... "**

The 1973 Canadian National Rally Championship was, for the first year, a special stage rally championship and interest was high. The North American event that made the FIA's list in 1973 wasn't Canadian however. It was the USA's Press on Regardless which made the cut.

The POR was without a doubt the best NA rally at the time. It was tough enough and long enough to meet the WRC standards of the day: 80 stages over 1700 kms of backroads Michigan in the messy month of October.

The October date turned out to be a handicap. While public interest wash, the championship had been decided earlier in the season so most of the top European teams stayed away.

This left the door open for a privateer team to take a rare WRC win. It would be a particularly sweet win as well. A private driver behind the wheel of a car he owned as well as prepared. It was also a resounding win: 24 minutes ahead of the 2nd place Volvo 142 team of Jim Walker & Terry Palmer and 41 minutes ahead of John Buffum & Wayne Zitkus in their Ford Escort RS1600.

The team that beat them? Canadians Walter Boyce and Doug Woods in Walter's own Toyota Corolla. There are a small number of North American teams who have demonstrated real rally speed on the world's special stages. The only ones to have a WRC win to show for their efforts are Boyce & Woods. Let's hope their achievement gets matched soon.