

## **The Canadian Association of Rally Sport and the Proposed Cell Phone Ban**

The Canadian Association of Rally Sport (CARS) is pleased to support the measures in Bill 118 designed to eliminate the dangerous use of cell phones and other distracting devices on Ontario's roads. While CARS is supportive of these measures, as the sanctioning body for rally sport in Canada, CARS is also concerned that the bill's present wording may have unintended consequences for Amateur Radio, a public service activity which plays a vital role in the safe operation of our sport. We are therefore seeking your support to ensure that when drafted, the regulations made in Council will allow the continued operation of Amateur Radio throughout Ontario.

### **What Is Amateur Radio?**

Amateur Radio is better known as HAM radio. Since the infancy of radio, amateur operators have conducted technical trials and provided public safety, emergency, and community communications in the public interest. Operators are licensed and regulated federally by Industry Canada which, in co-operation with other national regulating bodies, assigns frequencies and bandwidths for use by the Amateur Radio Service. Nationally, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) is the umbrella organization recognized by Industry Canada. Radio Amateurs may organize "traffic nets", operating through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) or the National Traffic System (NTS). Most ARES groups have formal agreements with their local municipalities and are included in the municipal Emergency Plan, for callout in an emergency. The Canadian Red Cross, as the lead relief agency, coordinates support for other relief agencies and has a formal agreement for ARES across Canada. In areas that are prone to tornadoes and hurricanes, many Amateurs are involved in CANWARN, under Environment Canada.

When providing public safety, emergency, and community communications, a very large percentage of amateur radio operations are mobile. It is the ability of amateur radio operators to take their equipment where it is needed, and to operate it under often difficult conditions which makes the radio amateur an important part of emergency preparedness plans, search and rescue operations, and communications for community events.

### **Rally Sport Explained**

- Rally is a type of competition which is almost as old as the automobile. It exists in various forms worldwide.
- In Canada, rally sport has been popular since the 1950s with events held all over the country. It is one of the only motor sports run in all seasons of the year.
- Rally is divided into two parts which may be explained as follows:

The Performance Rally consists of two parts: *Special Stages* and *Transit Sections*. The *Special Stages* are the competitive sections of the route and are closed to public traffic during the event. These are flat-out runs against the clock, at speeds that the average

motorist would never imagine possible. The *Transit Sections* are routes between Stages, in which the teams must obey all traffic laws. Ample time is provided to allow teams to arrive at the start of the next Stage without speeding, and penalties are assessed for arriving too early or too late. Any moving violation in a transit section is grounds for disqualification. The accumulation of times from the Special Stages and transit penalties makes up the final score and helps to determine the winner.

Navigational Rallying has been practised in Canada since the early 1950s, and tests both driver and navigator. Instead of running flat-out, as in a performance rally, navigational events use the Time-Speed-Distance (TSD) formula. In a TSD section, a particular average speed is listed and the teams must drive as close as possible to that speed. Checkpoints are placed at unknown locations in the TSD section and teams are penalized for passing them early or late. Average speeds are always below posted speed limits, with allowances made for delays at traffic signals and busy intersections. The road is not closed to the public, so teams must obey all traffic laws. The route usually follows roads that are similar to those used in performance rallies: narrow, winding forestry roads, concession roads, and other less-traveled routes. Route finding is generally not difficult, but the navigator has a lot of work to do to keep the driver on time. At its most basic, navigational rally includes treasure hunt and novelty events of a sort organized for various charities and businesses. At the most sophisticated, it includes events such as the Around the World in 80 Days Rally which attracted participants from all over the world.

### **Amateur Radio's Role in Rally Sport**

Throughout Canada, HAM operators provide essential communications for rally sport. Because many rally events are conducted away from cell phone service and over large areas, Amateur Radio is often the only way in which communications can be maintained. On a typical performance rally, emergency plans, crowd control efforts, marshalling of vehicles, scoring, and command and control of the event all rely on licensed amateur operators and their mobile equipment. These operations, by their very nature, require the operators to be able to use their equipment while on the move.

Similarly, on the navigational side of rally sport, radio amateurs are a vital part of monitoring rallies, communicating scoring information, and tracking the whereabouts of competitors.

### **The Canadian Association of Rally Sport (CARS)**

The Canadian Association of Rallysport, a federally registered society, is the official sanctioning body for the sport of rally as recognized by ASN Canada FIA and the Federation Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA). As such, CARS is the sole body responsible for making all decisions concerning the organization, direction, and management of the sport in Canada. The Association is administered by a Board drawn from each region of the country. In Ontario, Rally Sport Ontario (RSO) is the

administrative and organizational authority and derives its powers from CARS. The President of RSO is a member of the CARS Board.

CARS is a relatively new organization being incorporated in 1991 after the break up of the previous national automobile sporting body. CARS runs the only national motor sport championship series in Canada, the Canadian Rally Championship.

Our member clubs organize rally events at club, regional, and national levels. These events are organized within the various provincial Highway Traffic Acts and are closely monitored for compliance with both CARS regulations and provincial laws. Performance Rally road closures are made in cooperation with Provincial and Municipal levels of government and are subject to various regulations across the country.

**Contact Information:**

Alasdair A. Robertson,  
Executive Director, CARS  
Phone: 416-223-3870  
Fax: 416-223-1478  
Email: [executivedirector@CARSrally.ca](mailto:executivedirector@CARSrally.ca)