

Tom at Mountain Trials Rally August 1982 Kamloops



Tom Burgess and Taisto Heinonen 1978 Pacific Forest Rally

TOM BURGESS

Pioneer - Sports Car Rallying

By Tom Burgess 2011, Edited by Tom Johnston

Tom started rallying in 1959, driving a 1952 MGTD in the Totem Rally, and has been active in the sport ever since, as a competitor, organizer and administrator. He won his first major event in 1963, driving a 1956 MGA to victory in the 1963 Thunderbird Rally.

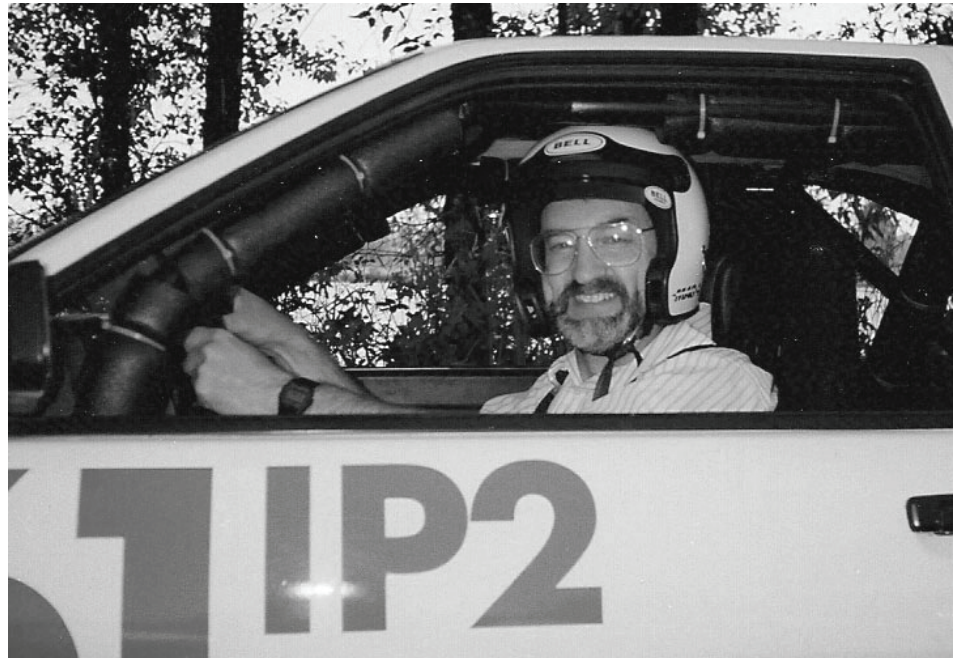
His accomplishments in rallying have been recognized at the highest levels. In 1998, he was presented with the Ken Vaughn Memorial Trophy; the highest honour rallying in Canada can give to an individual. In 1998, Tom was Inducted into the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame. Tom was the first rally person inducted into the Hall of Fame.

On the competition side, Tom has won a record six Canadian Rally Co-Drivers Championships, and two North American Rally Cups for Co-Drivers. His score of 39 overall wins in Canada, as well as a total of 6080 Lifetime points, puts him at the top of the list among rally competitors in Canada. Tom has also scored three overall wins in the SCCA Pro Rally series, and in 1992 placed second overall, first in Production GT in the SCCA championship. Tom has also won several regional championships in BC, Ontario, and the Pacific coast.

Although better known as a co-driver, Tom drove for about ten years, winning several national rallies. In 1969, he actually led the Canadian Driver's championship for part of the year.

On the organizing side, Tom has organized several regional and National rallies. In 1969, he organized the Petite Alpine, Rally de Kootenai, which received the Rally of the Year award from the Northwest Rally Council. In 1971 he was chosen as Clerk of the Course for the 5000 mile BC Centennial Rally, running from Ottawa to Victoria. It was the last of the famous Trans-Canada rallies.

On the Administration side, Tom has held various executive positions in several car clubs, bringing two of them into CASC (Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs). Tom served as Rally Director for BC Region from 1971 to 1973, and



Tom Burgess Mission Raceway Park 1993

was part of the team that rewrote the rule book when the Canadian Rally Championship was converted from a TSD format to a stage format. Tom was also instrumental in getting the North American Rally Cup organized, and in getting the Pacific International Rally Series organized.

Tom went on to become President of BC Region (1973 to 1975) and from 1984 to 1986 served as National Rally Director.

Tom served as an FIA steward for all three Olympus rallies, based in Seattle, that were World Rally Championship (WRC) events. He was also chosen as the senior steward for Rallye Charlevoix the first time it was observed for WRC status (2000), as the senior steward for the Corona Rally Mexico the first time it was observed for WRC status (2001), and as senior steward for the first running of the Targa Newfoundland (2002).

In 2001 and 2002, Tom was Chairman of the Rally Series of North America, a group of seven rallies (two in Canada, two in Mexico and three in the USA) that was trying to form an FIA recognized zone championship for North America.

Since retiring from working as an

engineer in 2002, Tom has stewarded National Rallies in Western Canada, as well as many rallies in the USA and Mexico.

In 2005 Tom was appointed the Series Steward for the United States Rally Championship, a series of eight rallies in the USA. He continues as the series steward until this day.

In 2007, Tom was chosen to give the Keynote Address at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Canadian Rally Championship.

In 2009, Tom was chosen as Chairman of a committee to produce a Manual for Rally Stewards. The manual was published in 2011.

At age 70, Tom also continues to compete, entering from one to three rallies a year, frequently proving that "Old age and treachery will overcome skill and youth".



1963 Thunderbird Rally