



PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

A Coursemarker-Gimmick Car Rallye

Presented by the El Dorado Touring Club on May 15, 2010

Starting from the Sun Valley Mall in Concord

Review by Steve Kline

The El Dorado Touring Club was back to their usual antics of altering the pedestrian crossing signs as in previous rallyes. But this time instead of carrying an axe as in *Things That Go Bump In The Night*, or wearing a 3 point hat ala *George's 278th* the pedestrian graphic sported a pirate's sword and became the *Dread Pirate Roberts*, which when sighted lead attentive rallyists to record a number on their *charts*, which for the *savvy* brought a *Flag Instruction* into effect.

The pirate themed event was run earlier than most rallyes, starting at mid day and finishing in the late afternoon just in time for the usual pizza and drinks. Participants became *Captain Jack Sparrow* in pursuit of *Blackbeard the Pirate, the terror of the high seas*. Rallyemaster Lloyd Hill and the gang at EDTC showed their usual attention to detail with an elaborate start which included a *pirate hideout, pirate booty, pirate tattoos* (which we all were required to wear), our very own photos with a pirate, and special pirate candy which contained a *Treasure Instruction*, cleverly hidden between the candy wrappers!

Rallyists were kept busy with a generous collection of conventional gimmicks which included *Pirate Instruction* (route instruction) #1 not being in effect, misspellings, undefined terms, onto and at gimmicks. Special pirate themed gimmicks were also encountered by all including several hidden *Treasure Instructions*, watching for the *Jolly Roger*, hunting down the *dreaded Blackbeard*, and searching for the *X that marks the spot*. Participants watched for times when odd numbers didn't exist, and for times when certain instructions could not be completed, then being rewarded with *Flags* (coursemarkers) adorned with *pirate treasure chests*.

Rallyists were instructed to *drop anchor* when a hideout (checkpoint) was encountered and to avoid *walking the plank*. Careful pirates found that they were directed back past the hideout for a total of three visits to the same hideout!

Gimmicks missed by yours truly included not listing our class as *sexy*, per our pirate ID, not remembering that multiples of X are the same as a single X, and thinking that a T encountered was *uninstructed* when it was actually an *instructed T*. Arrrrr!

The adventure concluded at the Round Table Pizza in Martinez, where we were presented with the usual amazing EDTC color coded *Critique* where each page of clear explanations was opposite a corresponding map page complete with graphics and pictures taken on the route!

Thanks Captain Lloyd and EDTC for another fun and amazing adventure!