



We're Off to See The Wizard presented February 6, 2010 by **The Rallye Club**

Review by Tom Bomben

With help from Good Witch Glinda, the clouds held back their droplets for a rain-free evening as **The Rallye Club** presented "**We're Off to See the Wizard**". Rallyists, accompanied by Toto, encountered munchkins, the scarecrow, the tin man and the cowardly lion en route to the Emerald City. Thankfully, flying monkeys were not invited to the rallye.

My navigator, Karim, had only been on one rallye, so Rallyemasters Dave Graubart and Chris Wendt allowed us to attend the Rallye School (as Master Experts!). It was great to see both Chris and Dave take the time to teach the school and guide "newbies" through various concepts and instructions. I liked the interactive aspect of the school, where the attendees needed to supply the reasoning behind some of the gimmicks. It was also a nice touch to see the legs of the crushed Wicked Witch of the West beneath the start CM. Alas, the ruby slippers had already been taken. Curse you, Dorothy!

Out on the route, we were immediately perplexed by CM ZZ, which could only be obtained by U'ing at Rengstorff (the first RI). After exhausting 73% of our brain cells, we concluded ZZ to be a FISH CM, strategically placed because many rallyists would see it on the way to the start. The critique confirmed our conclusion, and we congratulated ourselves for wasting 17 minutes on a fish CM. We fell right into the rallyemasters' trap that fishing creates.

Each of the denizens of Oz caused various effects, but fortunately, none of them over-lapped. The Scarecrow's effect changed L's to R's (and vice versa), so our RI Page was an OZ Page and the Scoresheet was a Points Page. Thus, we were not faced with the prospect of an "LI Page" and a "Scolesheet". Nevertheless, Karim and I managed to botch the gimmick, recording CM L (as R) and then again (as L) when the effect was cancelled. Proper execution would have resulted in a double-number in space L, which cost us full credit. Or is that furr cledit?

More embarrassing for us, however, was failing to see a CM (on Camp) that led to another CM. Ouch! Those are the kind of mistakes that induce ridicule from your friends and increase beer sales. On the other hand, it gives a Beginner a chance to catch a CM that an Expert missed, and that's always fun. For the Beginner, anyway.

One of our favorite gimmicks was to HIDE (L, R, R, L) from Wagner. We recorded a CM after the first L, whose SUPP instructed us to U and go L. Doing the U (no conflict), then finishing the other three parts of the HIDE, **and then** finishing the SUPP gave us a well-earned CM. How often do you get to do 4 turns to earn your 10 points? Sweet!

A special "congratulations" to munchkins Adam and Rona (and mom, Cheryl Graubart) for singing "Lollipop Guild" to us, and then giving us a lollipop! Thanks to Dave and Chris and TRC for a "wonderful wizard" of a rallye.

Tom's Totally Meaningless Factoids :

RIs : 20 **CMs** : 47± (1 true FISH) **U turns on a perfect rallye** : 30

Misspellings : 2 (Sea Air Ah Vista and Vasser)

Word that looked misspelled but wasn't: Ormonde

Most used gimmick : Effects of L and R switching (6 times / up to 70 points)

Funny mental picture : Laying on our left side and driving the car.

Another funny mental picture : A car carrying a driver, navigator, dog, scarecrow, tin man and lion

Best reeker not used : The roads we travelled on were not really made of yellow bricks

Free goodies : Magnetic dash plaque and CP lollipops

CP phrase/task: "Hail, the witch is dead"