

NNJR to host 20th Annual Toys for Tots Road Rally

By Peter Schneider

For those of you who were around back in 1990 Northern New Jersey SCCA in associated with the Motorsport Club of North Jersey and the United States Marine Corps Reserve created the 'Tots for Tots' Teddy Bear Rally.

This year's event will mark the 20th Annual Toys for Tots Road Rally. And we are looking for your help to make it the best year ever.

The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

This event is a very simple road rally using the back road of Morris, Warren and Hunterdon Counties. The event will start at SUBARU OF MT. OLIVE on Sunday December 5, (see event flyer in this issue of Pole Position) and will end at the Long Valley Brew Pub at the intersection of Route 517 and Route 24 in the center of Long Valley.

The event is open to the general public and requires only a car or light truck with a working odometer and a pen to compete. The fee, per car, is a brand new Teddy Bear worth at least \$25.00 retail which will be donated to the USMC Reserve Toys For Tots Program. Registration opens at 10:30 AM, first car off at Noon. There is a thirty car limit, but we will make room if an additional team arrives the morning of the event. Pre registration is requested (but not required) by email to NJRALLYE@aol.com. For more information visit www.mcnj.org or contact Peter Schneider at 908-938-8750.

Awards for 1st and 2nd in each of 3 classes (Expert, Intermediate, & Novice), Best First Time, Best Subaru, Best Family, Best Husband & Wife, Best SCCA & Dead Last But Finished.

Stuart Lasser, veteran New Jersey auto retailer and NNJR SCCA member has sponsored this local rally for each of the 20 years. The beginning location of the rally has included various dealerships locations owned by Stuart including Saturn of Denville, Morristown, Livingston and Mt Olive.

Toys for Tots began in 1947 when Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. Just one year later it became a national program. Since then more than

370 million toys have been distributed to 173 million children according to the official USMCR publication.

For those of you who have not been on the Teddy Bear rally over the past 19 years, this is an easy to follow, NON-TIME-SPEED-DISTANCE event, that uses PHOTO CLUES and write instructions to successfully navigate the team through the route to the finish. Each Team is “awarded” 100 points for each mile over or under the official route and low score wins.

Subaru of Mt. Olive is located at 364 Route 46, about two miles west of Budd Lake, and can be reached at 908-509-9000. The dealership is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information and directions, visit www.subarunj.com.

Hope to see you there on December 5th.