ON-THE-ROAD PROTOCOL

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FEB 4, 2017
LIFE ON THE ROAD

Driving- Starts & Stops
- Route planning & navigation
- Caravan driving
- Human Resources- who does what when and why
- Turning left vs right
- Radio communications

Fluid Capacity- volatile and organic
- Human needs
- Internal combustion needs (papers- registration & insurance)

Newly appointed team member- aka Observer Care
- Seating location
- Luggage transportation
- Feeding instructions
- Sleeping
- Rule interpretations
Caravan driving

- Lead  Solar  Chase (lots and lots of traffic)
  - Lead- navigation & warns of road hazards ahead
  - Chase- ~3 seconds behind solar car (no drafting)
    - primary communicator with solar car driver
    - observer has full view of solar car
    - solar car and chase as one unit thru an intersection

- Lane changes (input from others)
  - chase first to block any on coming traffic
  - solar car follows along with lead
  - try to follow a protocol & confirm with radio communications

- Turning (Principia)
  - chase to block on coming traffic- shield the solar car
Dealing with traffic

- **Letting traffic pass**
  - lead can pull ahead and dump traffic without having to stop solar car
  - traffic should pass chase & solar car as ONE unit

- **Pulling over to let large amounts of traffic pass**
  - driving on shoulder- ends abruptly!
  - Review route ahead- many towns are 4 lane or doing speed limit

- **Team passing**
  - trailing team to drop traffic first
  - communicate using CB channel
  - lead team to maintain target speed
  - increase in speed during passing will be noted by observer = penalty
DRIVING THE ROUTE

Pit Stops (planned and unplanned)

▪ **SAFETY FIRST**
  - flagger and cones out first
  - **Be an aggressive flagger!**
  - everyone has a hi-visibility vest on before exiting

▪ **Predetermined roles for everyone**
  - strategy – driver swap / tire change / battery inspection etc

▪ **Lead and chase**
  - drivers remain in the vehicle

▪ **Park lead and chase at an angle**

▪ **Safety checks before moving again**
  - blinkers/horn/ballast- everyone IN?

▪ **Major changes have to be re-inspected @ Check point/Stage**
  - spin out, smoke, impact with another object etc
Time on the clock

- Have a plan
- Know the timing rules
  - When can you start driving (forward progress)
  - When does your day end (thank you Adem)
- Stage start vs Non-stage
- Check point closing times
  - What if you miss the check point - drive thru?
HOW TO AVOID PENALTIES

Avoiding penalties (10.5)

▪ Pushing- 2 min for 15 seconds of pushing
  ▪ How can this effects your final elapsed time
▪ Driving past end of day?
▪ Missing a check point- keep driving!
▪ Battery seals- observer documented
▪ Battery impound- 2 min for every min late
▪ Traffic back log- minimum of 10 min!
▪ Impeding the progress of another team- minimum 10 min
TYPICAL RAYCE DAY-MORNING

Sleep is over rated!

- 6:00 wake up (assuming you even went to sleep)
- 6:30 breakfast – feed your observer!
  - Can you camp where you stopped the night before?
  - Travel to charging location- doesn’t have to be end of previous day
- 7:00 battery out of impound- charging!
  - strategy update- target speed
  - daily checks – electrical & mechanical
  - roles & responsibilities for all
- 9:00 Rayce time- driving  MUST start from previous end point
- 12:00 lunch on the road – feed your observer!
- 3:00 mandatory driver swap (keep hydrated)
Sleep is over rated!

- 4:00 Strategy update - where to stop for the night
  - Scout ahead
  - Flex your time window when allowed
  - Get past a busy town?
  - Amenities for team and solar car
    - Sunset & Sunrise charging - lake nearby?
    - Sleeping arrangements

- 6:00 rayce day ends - recharge & daily checks
  - **Feed your observer!**

- 8:00 battery impound –
  - Strategy - overview of the day, needs, improvements

- 10:00 fall asleep to the sound of dremel tools
OBSERVER 101

Assigned observers
- Treated just like any other team member
- Get choice of seats in chase
- Best view of solar car
- Prefer to have view of chase speedometer
- Able to hear driver communications
- Just another opinion when it comes to race rules
  - many are seasoned veterans and tell good stories
- Their luggage is carried by chase!
- Changed at check points and stage stops
- They are the eyes and ears for the officials
- They document all you do - read their logs before you sign!
Non solar cars need fluids!

- Support vehicle
  - Where to get fuel during check point?
  - Check other vitals- helps to know your vehicle
  - Air pressure
  - Insurance & registration papers

- Human needs
  - Restrooms
  - Team members left behind
  - Food & water-
    - Keep hydrated