October Surprise TSD Rally

The October Surprise TSD Rally was the fifth and final rally of SVR's 2026 TSD Rally Series. The Rally which was held on October 10th was approximately 120 miles in length and 4 hours in duration. The Rally which started at the Taylor Park-n-Ride in Roseville utilized mostly low volume rural roads through lightly populated areas of Placer, Yuba, and Nevada counties. The length allowed for the use of roads not utilized for recent events. The simple to follow route instructions allowed contestants to concentrate on staying on time and enjoying the drive. The Rally included 21 scored checkpoints. Scoring was done using the Richta system.

Eleven teams started and finished the October Surprise TSD Rally. Winning teams in each Class were Brad Call and Tom Morstein-Marx in Expert Equipped, Bob and Genny Paauwe in Expert Unequipped, John Bruce and Craig Chester in Experienced Equipped, Chris and Traci Callanan in Experienced Unequipped, and Sergio Florence and Jane Jiao in Beginner. Awards were also presented to 2nd and 3rd place finishers in Beginner Class. The following is a table showing the total score achieved by each team:

Scores by Class:

Car	Team	Class	Total
4	Sergio Florencio /Jane Jiao	Beginner	396
10	Mike Halfhill/Chris Shirley	Beginner	484
7	Mike Lang/Teresa Trapani	Beginner	511
5	Gary Griffiths / Mike Wilson	Beginner	716
2	Chris/ Traci Callanan	Experienced Unequipped	271
3	John Bruce / Craig Chester	Experienced Equipped	243
11	Bob / Genny Paauwe	Expert Unequipped	247
9	Tom Panacci/Craig Marshall	Expert Unequipped	260
1	Brad Call/ Tom Morstein Marx	Expert Equipped	75
13	Ron / Sally Boeck	Expert Equipped	237
12	Rod/Marilyn Sorenson	Expert Equipped	858



The above photo shows the winning Beginner Class team, Sergio Florencio, Jr., and Jane Jiao plus their two children, receiving their awards at the finish of the October Surprise TSD Rally. The following was provided by Sergio.

Four in a Porsche: Our Family's Introduction to TSD Rallying

When we signed up for our first TSD rally in August, we weren't entirely sure what we were getting ourselves into. We knew it involved driving, navigation, and maintaining precise speeds, but understanding the concept and actually putting it into practice turned out to be two very different things!

After our first experience, we decided to give it another try at the October Surprise Rally. This time, we came a little better prepared, having learned a

few lessons from August. Our timing strategy worked better, although we quickly discovered there's still plenty of room for improvement.

One of the things we've enjoyed most about rallying is that it's truly a team effort. My wife, Jane, takes care of following the route instructions, keeping an eye on our progress, and telling me what speed I should try to maintain. My job is to drive and follow her directions. It sounds simple enough, but coordinating everything while trying to arrive at exactly the right time is surprisingly challenging!

The driving itself is fantastic, and the beautiful scenery along the route makes the experience even more enjoyable. But for us, the best part isn't necessarily the driving or the competition. It's working together toward a common goal.

We also brought along our two children, ages four and six. As you might expect, their enthusiasm comes and goes throughout the rally. They're excited and engaged for part of the drive, and then eventually get tired or lose interest. But that's part of the adventure of doing something together as a family. And seeing their excitement about the awards at the end made the day even more special.

Something else that has really impressed me is the amount of work that must go into organizing these events. After participating in two rallies, I'm amazed by the planning and coordination required to put everything together. From designing the routes to calculating the timing and coordinating the checkpoints, it's clearly a tremendous undertaking. We're very grateful to the rallymasters, organizers, and volunteers who make these events possible.

We're still very much beginners, and we certainly haven't figured everything out. But that's part of what makes it fun. Each rally gives us an opportunity to learn something, improve our teamwork, and enjoy another day together.

For anyone who's considered participating in a TSD rally but hasn't taken the plunge, I'd encourage you to give it a try. You don't need to be an expert to enjoy yourself, and you might discover, as we have, that the real reward isn't necessarily getting the perfect score, but the experience along the way.

Sergio Florencio Jr