

VEHICLE PREPARATION

“To Finish First, One Must First Finish!”. A saying that still holds true. Whether you're racing an F1 car, a 500GP motorcycle, or a Land Rover in the *NEVADA TROPHY*, vehicle preparation is paramount, for without it...

Believe it or not many a competitor over the years has been sidelined due to lack of proper preparation of their vehicle, and reasons can vary, such as; Does not know any better, no time, poor mechanical skills, or doesn't really care. None of these excuses are valid, and are just what they seem, excuses. If you don't have time, *make time*. If you're not skilled enough, find someone who is. Those who've taken the time to prepare their vehicle to it's fullest extent usually end up taking home the winners prize.

These pages were put together to help *you* prepare your vehicle. Since the *NEVADA TROPHY*, like other “*ORE*” & “*LROA*” events, are amateur status, we'll just assume that you've never prepared a vehicle for competition. While reading this material you'll see that the term “Check/Adjust” or “Check/Replace” are mentioned often. Why?, you ask. Well, quite simply, when it says “Check/Adjust” it means just that, “check” the particular item and “adjust” it as necessary; or, “replace” it as necessary. None of these item are required items to adjust or replace (as some assumed last year), but suggested items that should be looked at in order to bring your vehicle to its peak performance and reliability.

The Rules. As with any form of motorsports there must be a set of rules, these rules should govern safety, procedure, vehicle eligibility and modifications. A set of 1998 rules are enclosed, it is *your* responsibility to read them and understand them. The last thing you want it to be told your vehicle is illegally modified or equipped on race day.

Picking Your Team-mate. Before we go any further... The *NEVADA TROPHY* is a navigational event, and as such, each entrant vehicle is required to have two (2) occupants; 1-Driver & 1-Navigator. Let's assume you're the car owner/driver and you're in search for a navigator. Here's a few things to consider... A) Do they have any off-road experience? B) Can they navigate? C) Can they read a map & compass? D) Are they willing to spend hour upon hour in the car? E) Do you get along with this person? Food for thought. The bottom line is *fun*.

Service Crew. Unlike other events, the *NEVADA TROPHY* permits the use of a “Service Crew”. This crew is limited to one (1) vehicle crewed by no more than two (2) occupants. Areas of use is limited (for details consult Race Director @ Registration), and no navigational help or aids are permitted from the “service crew” to competing vehicle. However, if you are considering the use of a “Service Crew” you might first consider... A) Are they mechanically inclined? B) Can they navigate? C) Are they will to be out all night? Something to think about.

Preparing Your Vehicle. Whether you're part of a NASCAR team or *WCBR*, if you're going racing, you have a ton of work to do before hand. To help keep you on track, we highly suggest that you begin preparing your car as soon as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to the event itself.

The following pages contain a check list to aid in your dirty deed of preparation. Make sure you read the rule book, comply with it, and obtain and secure those items you're required to have. Take an inventory if need be. Remember this... Before you compete you'll have to go to *Registration*, followed by *Tech Inspection*, and it is here that your day could end or become frustrating if everything is not in order.

After watching a few vehicles in the *1997 Desert-Pro Challenge*, it came to our attention that many had loose cargo in the rear of the vehicle, This is a Bozo's No-No! Everything, we mean everything must be secured completely. Practice loading & un-loading your vehicle, putting those items that may be used more often closest to the door(s), near the top, etc. All emergency items should be with in reach of the driver/navigator, thus avoiding costly delays in searching for a fire extinguisher for example.

Turn the page and we'll begin...

PREPARATION CHECK LIST

- 1) Wash vehicle completely; Including engine, gearbox, axles and inside.
- 2) Change Motor Oil & Filter (Box additional oil for emergency use).
- 3) Change all Gearbox, Transfer, Axle, Overdrive fluids. Clean/replace filters as required.
- 4) Clean/replace Air Filter and Crankcase breather(s).
- 5) Clean/replace Spark Plugs (use old ones as spares).
- 6) Clean/replace/adjust Points, Condenser, Rotor as required. Lube Advance Unit.
- 7) Check/replace all Water Hoses (spares?).
- 8) Drain/refill Radiator (could be cold, get that ratio right).
- 9) Check/replace/adjust all Drive Belts (spares?).
- 10) Check/replace Brake Pads/Shoes. How about Hand-brake?
- 11) Check/replace Brake Hoses/Lines & fittings.
- 12) Check/replace/lube U-Joints.
- 13) Fit rear drive shaft Safety Loop (suggested).
- 14) Check/replace Rear Axle Shafts (spares?).
- 15) Check/replace/adjust axle U-Bolts.
- 16) Check/replace/fit rear Axle Check-Straps.
- 17) Check/replace Shocks.
- 18) Check/replace Road Springs, Torque Suspension Bolts.
- 19) Check/replace/adjust Wheel Bearings (Greased/oiled? Pre-load set?).
- 20) Check/replace Wheel Studs/Nuts (Tight? Good condition?).
- 21) Check/replace Tires (max 35" inflated dia. Tread legal?).
- 22) Check/replace/tighten Steering Shock.
- 23) Check/replace/adjust Steering System (Ball joint, Swivels, Drop-arm, etc).
- 24) Check/replace Wipers. (Washer system?).
- 25) Check/replace all Glass.
- 26) Check Horn.
- 27) Check/replace/adjust all Lights (spare bulbs?).
- 28) Check/replace/lube Speed-o Cable. Odometer working?.
- 29) Check/adjust Seat Mounts.
- 30) Check/replace/adjust Seat Belts.
- 31) Check/adjust/lube Door Hinges & Locks.
- 32) Check/Tighten Roll-Bar mounts.
- 33) Check/tighten Skid-Tray(s).
- 34) Check/replace Spare Wheel Mount(s).
- 35) Check/replace/tighten Exhaust System (Muffler required).

- 36) Check/replace Gas Cap (Seal okay? Fuel Hoses & Filter?).
- 37) Check/replace all Gauges.
- 38) Road Test. Make note of suspect items and re-check.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- 1) CB Radio (you will be assigned a channel. And... you're required to keep radio on).
- 2) Cel-Phone Number (if phone carried, please supply officials with #).
- 3) GPS (Lap-tops are permitted for 2003).
- 4) Compass.
- 5) Nevada State Map by DeLorme.
- 6) Fire Extinguisher, re-charge tags in place? Secured in vehicle? (suggest minimum of 2).
- 7) First-Aid Kit, complete?
- 8) Food & Water for 24-hours.
- 9) Suitable clothing (additional set in car in case you get wet, and for extreme weather).
- 10) Suitable shoes, ie: Boots (NO Tennis shoes).
- 11) Work Gloves, 1-pair per occupant.
- 12) Reflective Triangles, 2-each.
- 13) Tug Strap, 20,000 lbs rated.
- 14) Recovery Gear.
- 15) Flash Light, 2 minimum.
- 16) Shovel. Is it secured?
- 17) Snow-Chains, 1-set minimum.
- 18) Tools: Are they secure? Have everything you need? Are you sure?

ACCESSORIES (not required)

- 1) Winch: Is it secured? All in working order?
- 2) Winch Accessories: All complete?
- 3) Hi-Lift Jack: Is it secured?
- 4) Roof-Rack: Is it secured? Free of cracks? Not over-loaded?
- 5) Sand-Ladders: Are they secured?
- 6) Ground Anchor: Is it secured? Free of cracks?
- 7) Gas Cans? Secure?
- 8) All Loaded Gear strapped in securely?
- 9) Anything you can think of? Double Check it all... If in doubt, make notes.

NOTE:

Read over the **TECHNICAL INSPECTION CHECK LIST** and complete **only** the first two (2) lines, then submit with you entry pack.

This Vehicle Preparation section was supplied by....

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