



2017 GREAT RACE

Following ARC
Along the Way!



Gary, Stu, & Gertrude

The Start

It is finally race day. After weeks and months of preparation, now is the time for the competition to begin. Sleep comes hard the night before. Thoughts about "Is the car ready?" How are we going to do? And What am I doing here? Too late!

The official start of the race is a **BIG** deal! Tens of thousands of people show up to cheer on the competitors. The racers all know their starting positions (Gertrude is #70) and are given a time to leave the hotel to get to the start line. On this day only, the start is scheduled for 10 AM. Also, on this day only, the cars will leave in 30 second intervals. It is important to point out that this is a **ceremonial start**. There is no way you could start the rally in such a crowd. The announcer will call off each Driver and Navigator's name and hometown as they take their moment at the famous start line. This gets your heart pumping! Then in a few seconds, you wind your way down the streets and through the crowds to get somewhere out of town where the official race begins.

Now the racers are clear of town and starting to line up in order at a secluded spot on a two lane black top road. No big deal now!. You know your official time to start the "real race." Now when it is time to start, the navigator will simply tell the driver "GO!" You are now headed north toward Michigan. Today you will have two stops. Today (because of the late start) there will not be a scheduled lunch, but you will finish the day in Tifton, Georgia.

Our first contact with the racers after the finish is great! In their first Great Race, on the 2nd leg, they recorded an "ACE." That is incredible!!!

1st Leg	2nd Leg	3rd Leg	4th Leg.....	5th Leg	6th Leg	ADJ HDCP
16 Sec	000	2 Sec	31Sec	15 Sec	13 Sec	1:03
Late	ACE	Early	Early	Early	Early	

Overall Finish Day #1 79 10th Overall Rookie Division

I just talked to Gary Masak and he said "the town of Tifton, Georgia has really gone out of their way to show their southern hospitality." He was extremely impressed with the turnout of this little town of 40K.

As with all stops, the crowds are big! The racers are required to leave their cars parked in a "Parc Ferme." It is a French word that means your car is confined to a certain area until 8 PM so the locals can see the cars and visit with the racers.

Tomorrow the race goes around Atlanta and ends in Chattanooga, TN.