



Ron Sorem photos

Roger and Kit Toevs wait to start the Blackwater TSD in the sidecar BMW.

Have bike, will travel

2010 Alcan draws twice as many cycles as cars

BY RON SOREM
Contributing Editor

KIRKLAND — Seven cars and 14 motorcycles departed Kirkland, in near record high temperature weather, heading north to the border and beyond. Jerry Hines and the Rainier Auto Sports Club presented Alcan 5000.

For 2010, Steve Brown and I had been paired in one of the Legacys, as course marshals. A late change moved Steve to the front of the rally with Jerry. I moved to Sweep 2 with Joe Gardner. “Sweeps” on summer

Alcan are the “backup plan” for the motorcycles — alone, on a bike, in the middle of nowhere, could be trouble with just a minor repair.

The Mosquito Lake TSD was revised this year. The scenic, twisting, narrow drive was lost to easy meanderings to Sumas, then east on Highway 1 to Hope, B.C., and north through the Fraser Canyon. An easy trip to Williams Lake, except for the construction. As Sweep, we did checkpoints then followed the route north, watching every gas station and restaurant for “our” bikes. It became clear with the last road closure

for construction that we weren’t going to make our checkpoint assignment. I called on the radio and had another crew switch location with us. From years of TSD rallies around Williams Lake, I knew the back way into the section and we were in place, with three minutes to spare before first car. It was getting very smoky from nearby forest fires, and by the time we were ready to go, there was ash on the car and the sun was just an orange dot in the sky.

Day Two: Quesnel to Dawson Creek, B.C. Early in the day the smoke was so bad your eyes hurt and