



A DELINEATION OF ALL THE REALLY GOOD REASONS WHY I'M GIVING PRO-RALLYING ANOTHER YEAR OF ALMOST UNDIVIDED ATTENTION.

1. Because my TH insists it was in the vows and I had other things on my mind that day and neglected to make a copy of them.
2. Because the economic health of the local auto supply business seems to be directly linked to how we fare at each event. Given our perfect record this year, they are all in fine shape... and wish to remain so.
3. Because it's important to our Yuppie friends to have one couple they can talk about to their other Yuppie friends.
4. Because I am a strong proponent of zero-based budgeting.
5. Because I have become immune to statements by my TH like: "Guess where we're going," "Boy did I make a deal today," and "You're going to hate me for what I just did."
6. Because I can finally spell the names of all the parts of the car and know what at least half of them do. It will take another year to figure out why they do it.
7. Because the occasional wearing of my driving suit is the best indicator of the status of my dietary habits and also because I have a red nail polish that is the exact same color as the racing stripes on said suit. This was not easy to accomplish so it deserves the occasional public viewing.
8. Because our cats would really miss eating that really expensive cat food that my sister buys for her cat but my cats eat when she takes care of them while we are away at an event.
9. Because Fred the Mailman is totally fascinated with the number of car part catalogs and automotive periodicals we subscribe to. So much so, in fact, that he named his hernia THE MASS!
10. Because my driveway wouldn't look right without a pool of green liquid on it.

11. Because I can't think of anything better to store in the basement but spare Datsun body parts and fiberglass molds.
12. Because I don't have any other use for four coolers and a year's supply of Gatorade and Granola bars.
13. Because this sport is totally foreign to 99% of the people one runs into in the course of things and it's a terrific mental challenge to attempt to explain it to them without sounding like a mud wrestler.
14. Because tennis is boring and requires me to wear a micro-mini with frilly pantaloons and anklets with those silly fluffy pom-poms on the back.
15. Because next season couldn't possibly be worse than this one was.
16. Because I once read that a healthy marriage consisted of activities that both spouses could enjoy together but not necessarily for the same reasons. If this is the case we have the healthiest marriage on record!
17. Because if we didn't rally this column would consist of recipes, helpful household hints or advice to the lovelorn.
18. Because both TH's and my parents knew we were destined for great things and they are very patient folks.
19. Because if one pays too much attention to their garden it just won't grow. Conversely, if one pays too much attention to the general condition of their house people come to expect it to be in order all the time.
20. Because our insurance company has gotten used to adding and subtracting automobiles from our policy twice a year and I don't want to disrupt their routine.
21. Because without rallying I would probably have written the definitive all-American novel, become ridiculously rich and famous; Chateau Walrich would have been featured on the cover of *House Beautiful*; Oprah

would be begging for an interview; our life story would be made into a made-for-TV movie; we would be recognized wherever we went; the paparazzi would shadow our every move; the *National Inquirer* would carry stories about our early days with a demonically possessed car.

Considering the options, rallying is far less stressful. Know what I mean?