

Vallejo CA – July 7, 2006



It is early morning in San Rafael, CA as I sit downtown watching the transformation to a Great Race Venue. The X-Cup teams are here helping set up the gates and arrange the Finish gates for today. This is the end of the line for all of us and there is much to reflect about. Yesterday's run to Vallejo was much like the last 12. There are stories to tell at the finish gate and contemplation at what you did right and wrong.

The city of Vallejo welcomed us with great weather and a beautiful venue. Buck Kamphausen hosted a dinner for the racers and support in his museum. I heard one staff person comment on the "real" food finally. We are all tired of continental breakfast and fast food!

We were visited by the Batmobile and the Dynamic Duo themselves as well as other unique and interesting vehicles. There was a restored 1958 San Rafael transit bus and the Good Humor truck serving Ice Cream.

As the teams came in there were greeted with their accumulated score through stage 13. For a rookie team that is a startling number because you are not expecting it. Once the shock wears off you are aware that it is not your stage score. By this time, everything is in place for the final run and the total scores. They will know where they stand by noon as the staff line them up for the return trip to the finish line.



We are tired but we will be sad when it ends. There is such a rush with the sound of these cars and the teams heading out each day in the hopes that they will at least do better than yesterday. We have not fared as well as we had hoped but we are still in the race. At least 10 cars have fallen by the roadside and will not be crossing the finish today. For us, that has always been the goal and we will achieve it again on Saturday.

For now I sit back and wait for Abigail to bring my team home.