

NEWS



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ELECTRIC RACE CARS GATHER FOR ANNUAL EVENT

HAYS, KS—Four western Kansas electric cooperatives joined with Fort Hays State University (FHSU) on October 14 to hold the seventh annual High Plains ElectroRally in Hays, Kansas.

FHSU organized the race along with Pioneer Electric, Inc., Ulysses, Kansas, Midwest Energy Inc., and Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, Hays, Kansas and Western Cooperative Electric Association, WaKeeney, Kansas.

Steve Miller, Sunflower's Senior Manager, External Affairs said, "This event certainly shows how cooperatives working together with the University can bring exciting opportunities to our high schools." He added, "None of us could do this alone, but working together we are able bring this exciting and environmentally-progressive sport to our young western Kansas leaders."

The rally featured eleven high schools from Kansas and Nebraska who brought 23 cars to the event which was sanctioned by Electrathon America, the national organization that sets design and racing rules.

The cars are single person, lightweight and aerodynamic vehicles with three or four wheels that are built by each school. Each car must meet specific design and safety rules and is powered by deep cycle lead acid battery packs not exceeding 67 pounds.

The cars race around a quarter-mile course that features two straight-aways and three wide-sweeping curves. The winner is determined by how far each car can go in one hour.

The cooperatives across western Kansas have provided cash grants to the schools so they have the resources to build their cars. On race day, besides assisting with all phases of the course preparation and officiating, the co-ops also provided burgers and brats cooked on a large mobile grill for all the participants and their families.

Joseph Chretien, assistant professor of technology studies at Fort Hays, in a newsletter to the participants said, "Let us continue to thank the sponsors of these races for their continued support year after year. Without them, there would be no High Plains Rally."

The 2004 Rally consisted of races in both the standard (battery-powered) and the experimental (solar-powered) classes. The race results are as follows:

In the Experimental Class:

Great Bend, KS	#99X	91 laps
Ulysses, KS	#29X	88 laps
Mulvane, KS	#154X	86 laps
Ulysses, KS	#17X	83 laps
Wichita South, KS	#160X	36 laps
Deerfield, KS	#78X	0 laps

In the Standard Class:

North Platte, NE	#A15	95 laps
Scott City, KS	#23	94 laps
North Platte, NE	#S16	93 laps
Scott City, KS	#95	90 laps
Deerfield, KS	#278	80 laps
Deerfield, KS	#78	80 laps
Deerfield, KS	#178	74 laps
Wichita South, KS	#60	66 laps
Great Bend, KS	#99	65 laps
Hays, KS	#120	64 laps