

# Rally Master Instructions for Setting up a Richta Rally

September 30, 2019

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I have been tutored by Jim Crittenden on the best practices for using the Richta Rallymaster app to create a successful event. I do not think it is possible to carry out a GPS rally without this information. I will share it with all our club members and anyone who wants to set up a GPS rally successfully. I have created the Ron Dunlop Birthday Rally for January 3<sup>rd</sup> with this program and am currently making test runs. It seems to work very well with my iPhone.

This app opens up an exciting new chapter for our club. Rally clubs around the world are experiencing a resurgence of the sport by younger people who run their lives by their smart phones. I can certainly relate as so much of my life and control of everything from my garage door to my alarm system to my entertainment to my wake up time are controlled by my iPhone. As Google maps and Street View have allowed us to create a rally from the comfort of our home computer, the Richta app allows us to work checkpoints without crews. It reduces the huge task of creating a rally to a much more chewable meal.

The Richta app has quirks like any program and Jim's guidance is much like having Mark Twain guiding you around the snags in the great Mississippi river. I am setting up my first rally for January 3, 2020 with his help and will explain it all here.

Step one.

Android phones have all the features of the Rallymaster app available. iPhones are missing some parts which should be resolved in a few months, but I set up a rally with one and you can too. Start by loading the Richta GPS: Rally Master app and registering your rally with Rich Bireta by sending an email to [rbireta@gmail.com](mailto:rbireta@gmail.com).

1. You can choose to run the rally in seconds or tenths of seconds. If you choose seconds there is a very good chance for tie scores. The maximum penalty is 300 points (5 minutes times 60 seconds). In a simple rally, a lot of people will hit zeros. (Much easier than hundredths of minutes that we are used to.) By changing the event to tenths of seconds there will be additional digits. On a recent rally that Jim ran, the winning score was 33.7 and the second place was 35.5 and third was 39.5 so the skill of hitting the checkpoint exactly on time becomes much more important. I believe that this will add a lot of excitement to the game. You must tell Rich Bireta your choice in your email.
2. Once you get the confirmation from Rich that your rally is registered, you can go out and set up your checkpoints.
3. Close all other apps on your phone.
4. Then, open the Rally Master app, find your rally name and sign in with your password.
5. Note about passwords. This program uses three of them:
  - a. The first one is assigned by Rich Bireta for you to use to log into the Rally Master app.
  - b. The second one is created by you, the Rally Master and given to people who sign up for the rally. They use it to log into the rally in the Competitor app.
  - c. The third one is created by the competitor to register his car number in the app so no one can use the same car number.
6. Continuation of Rally Master rally set up. Go to your start location and stop your car about two car lengths before the start line for the rally. (This is important for the actual rally night. You want the cars lining up for start to pass this point and receive the “Ding” and verification that their registration is actually working when they are at the start line. The GPS needs about 15 feet to detect that the car is moving away from the GPS point to send out the notification.)
7. Touch the Checkpoints button at the bottom of your screen.
8. When the screen opens, click the + button at the top right. This will open a new screen for Checkpoint #1.

9. Under "Location" is a button "Set to current location", click this and watch as the phone detects the GPS coordinates and fills in the boxes. This usually takes 2 to 10 seconds.
10. The next choice is "Type" and the button to the right says "Change". When you touch it, a roll up list appears at the bottom of your screen.
11. Choose CZT. This is a Start or Restart control.
12. The last choice is Car 0 Time. Press the "Change" button to the right and choose the start time for the pre-run car in military time. For FFN's this will be 20:00:00 (8:00 PM). Note that the Rally Master program assigns Checkpoint #1 to this location.
13. Now you drive to the End of Odometer Check location. Again, you stop two car lengths before the actual sign. You go through all the settings and set Checkpoint 2 exactly like you did for CP-1 except for the time. Here you set the time that they are supposed to leave this point. If car zero is supposed to leave at 8:20 PM, you set 20:20:00. This becomes the actual starting point of the rally. Note that the Rally Master program assigns Checkpoint #2 to this location.
14. Next, you drive to your first timed checkpoint location. Choose a sign that is easily seen. This is especially important at night. It is best to find a location where people in rally cars can see the sign from some distance away so they can adjust their speed as they approach it. It is also a very good idea to choose a location where waiting cars can get off the traffic lanes and onto a shoulder. As Rally Master, stop with your front tires lined up with the sign. I like to get as far off the road as I can and turn my emergency flashers on while doing this.
15. At the checkpoint #3 screen, click the + button at the top right. This will open a new screen for Checkpoint #3. Your first timed checkpoint becomes the Richta Checkpoint #3, not #1.
16. Under "Location" is a button "Set to current location", click this and watch as the phone detects the GPS coordinates and fills in the boxes.
17. The next choice is "Type" and the button to the right says "Change". When you touch it, a roll up list appears at the bottom of your screen. Choose "Since last start".
18. The last choice is Car 0 Time. Press the "Change" button on the right and choose the arrival time for the car 0. **Example:** If you plan for the

pre-check car to arrive at this checkpoint at 20:32:00, you have to subtract the last Restart checkpoint time (20:20:00) from this and enter the difference. In this case 00:12:00 (12 minutes).

19. You continue driving to each checkpoint location and doing steps 12 through 16 the same way. If your second timed checkpoint location is set for 8:36.00 PM you set the Richta Checkpoint #4 to 00:16:00.
20. With the current state of this program, you can record up to 12 checkpoints this way.
21. If you have a lunch break during the rally, go back to step 13 and create a new restart, two car lengths before a designated point. This will use an additional checkpoint number.
22. At the bottom of the Rally Master app screen is a Route Map button. Press this and it will bring up a map and show you the relative positions of each checkpoint. You can verify that they are at the correct places.
23. There is also a verification program that you can run on an Android phone to verify that your checkpoints are set up correctly. More info on this when I learn how to do it.
24. When the whole rally is set up, you need to test run it. In the Rally Master app, set a competitor password. (So no one else can mess with the settings until they have registered for the rally) Close the Rallymaster app.
25. Open the Competitor app. Register as car 1 with the competitor password. Drive through the rally, checking the results at each checkpoint. It is important that you do not stop near the checkpoints. If you stop within 100 feet of the checkpoint, the system may log your car in at that time. If you back up, the system will definitely register the wrong time for you. Note any changes that your times are being recorded and you can adjust them after the test run.
26. After the first test run, you can make changes in the checkpoint times in the Rally Master app. You do not want cars stopping near the checkpoints, more on this below.
27. Run another test run as car 2. And, possibly more, with successive car numbers.

28. Jim told me his trick. He runs the test run with an iPhone, an Android phone and his iPad. He sets the iPhone up as Car #1 and chooses a 2 minute, 30 second time delay. He sets the Android as Car #2 and sets the time delay at 1 minute, 30 seconds. He sets the iPad as Car #3 with a 30 second time delay. In this way he is able to test all devices and the scoring system in one pass of the rally route.
29. Before the actual rally starts, clear all of the test run data by deleting all the car numbers that you entered.
30. Make sure that CP-1 and CP-2 are set to the correct times.
31. At the start line, make sure that each car receives the beep with their correct car number in their Competitor app.
32. At the Finish you need an Android phone. Scoring is only working with Android phones at this time. In a few months, it should be available on iPhones.
33. Go to Scorepad in the Rally Master app.
34. Follow the steps to send the score to your email address.
35. You will need to bring a laptop and connect it to the restaurant's TV with an HDMI cable or large monitor so everyone can see the results. (No paperwork!)
36. On the computer, open an Excel spreadsheet. On the main tab, set up the car numbers and names of the competitors.
37. Open the 2<sup>nd</sup> tab, copy the .CSV file from your email and paste in into the spreadsheet. It may take a little practice to get this positioned correctly.

#### Additional Information

38. If a competitor uses Airplane or stealth mode on their smart phone during the rally, the system does not get their scores and you cannot include them in the event. You must let everyone know this.
39. If a competitor uses a Wi-Fi only tablet, it will work for the competitor during the rally, but the Richta system will not get their scores. Discourage this. All the competitor devices must have a cell phone data plan connections to get scoring results.

40. If a competitor stops within 100 feet before a checkpoint, the system may register this as their in time. If they back up, it definitely will and they will get a bad score. We must warn people about this.
41. The average iPhone is accurate to about 25 feet with our country's GPS system. An average Android phone is accurate to about 15 feet. If you choose to purchase a Dual Electronics XGPS160 and connect it via Bluetooth to your phone, you can reduce the error to about 5 feet. This can be purchased on Amazon for \$127.98. It is not necessary for competitors but allows Rally Masters to prepare very accurate checkpoint locations.