AMERICAN RALLY® ASSOCIATION

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PRE-EVENT TEST GUIDE

the OVERMOUNTAIN RALLY TENNESSEE
18 - 19 SEPTEMBER, 2026

OVERMOUNTAIN-RALLY.COM

TEAM O'NEIL OVERMOUNTAIN RALLY TENNESSEE

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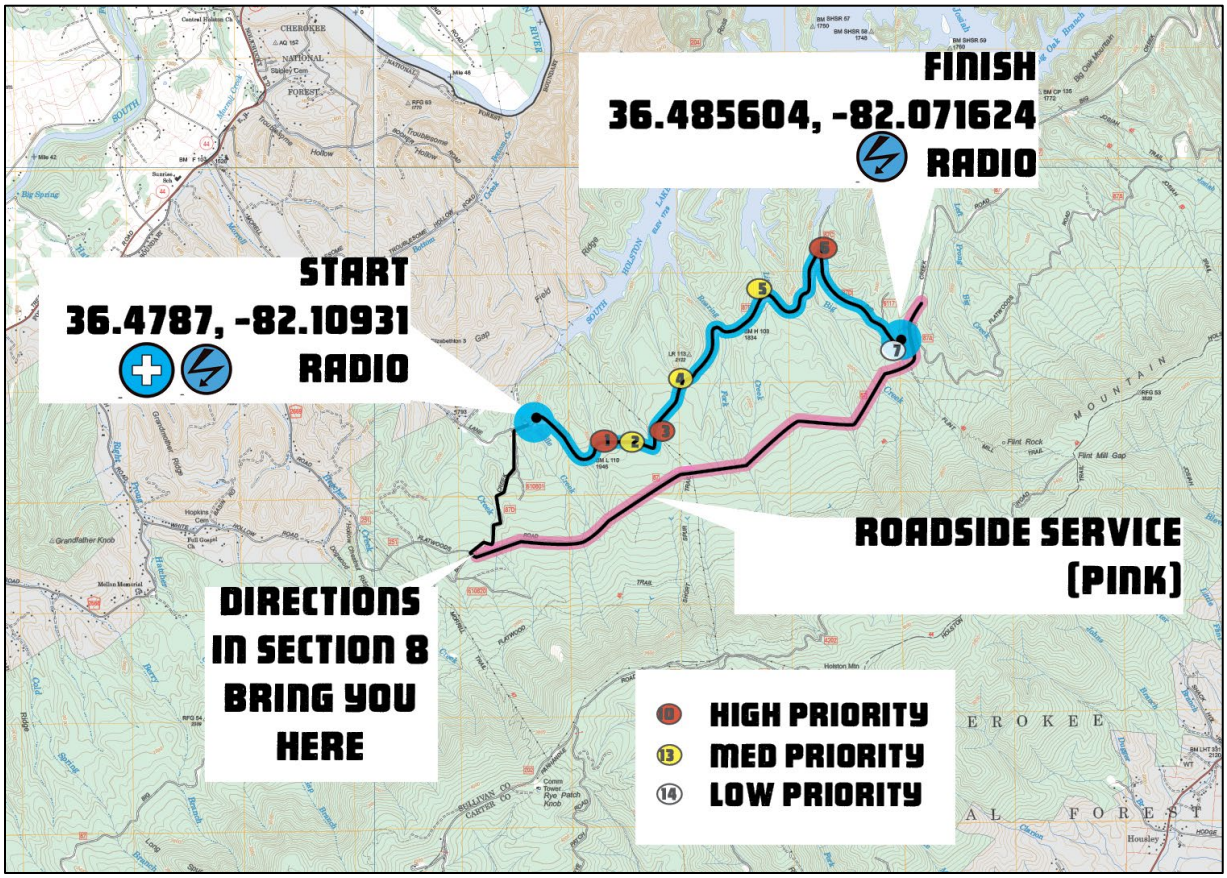
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1 DESCRIPTION OF TESTING PLAN

There will be one open testing session on a section of the Hellbender stage (2024). This section of stage connects to Flatwoods Road on both sides allowing a loop to be created with roadside servicing on Flatwoods Road between finish and start. Teams will loop the test stage clockwise.

2 HOURS

Recce:	12:00 – 13:30
Session:	14:00 - 18:00

3 SERVICE LOCATION

Service is allowed on Flatwoods Rd between stage ends. See map. Flatwoods road is wide with flat sections and large pull-offs. There is plenty of room for all teams to roadside service.

4 STAGE STATISTICS

Max length:	~3 miles
Surface:	Bumpy packed gravel – some potholes (representative of the rally)
History:	Used in the past as the “Holler Puts” and “Hellbender” stages

5 SAFETY RULES

- ARA approved driver safety gear must be worn.
    - ARA legal helmet (ARA RTR 1.1)
    - ARA legal fire suit (ARA RTR 1.3)
    - ARA legal head and neck restraint (ARA RTR 1.2)
- Fire extinguishers must be in place and armed; this includes the onboard fire suppression and fire extinguishers.
- The stage may be halted for periods of time if re-zeroing is required.
- Fire Response and Medical will be on site.

6 NET CONTROL

Net control will be present on site at stage start. Net may use a repeater or simplex. If the repeater is used, see info below.

146.67 minus with no tone
Back up: Simplex tbd frequency

7 TESTING RIDE-ALONGS

Ride-alongs are allowed during the paid testing session. Anyone is allowed to ride in any car provided they have signed the USAC insurance waiver. The waiver will be available at the test session – see the stage captain.

All riders must wear the following safety equipment at a minimum:

- ARA legal helmet (ARA RTR 1.1)
- ARA legal fire suit (ARA RTR 1.3)
- ARA legal head and neck restraint (ARA RTR 1.2)

8 MEDIA

On-stage media must be approved as ARA unrestricted media for the 2026 Overmountain Rally. ARA media vests should be worn, but hi-vis clothing can be substituted if evidence can be provided of proper ARA unrestricted media credentials.

It is recommended that media hike into the stage from the ends only. Media vehicles must be escorted on and off the stage by event officials. There will not be a course car to follow or an SOP for sending vehicles on specific minutes. Media are encouraged to have 2M radios and listen on the stage frequency. Media who are also radio operators may call net control and request assistance to move locations on stage.

9 DIRECTIONS TO TEST STAGE START FROM RALLY HOTEL

Best Western Newport Inn
1015 Cosby Hwy, Newport, TN 37821

Get on I-40 from US-321

1 min (0.5 mi)

1. Head southeast toward US-321

26 ft

2. Turn left onto US-321

0.2 mi

3. Turn left

52 ft

4. Take the Interstate 40 W ramp to Knoxville

0.2 mi

Take I-81 N to TN-394 E in Blountville. Take exit 69 from I-81 N

1 hr 13 min (82.8 mi)

5. Merge onto I-40

13.6 mi

6. Take exit 421 for I-81 N toward Bristol

0.6 mi

7. Continue onto I-81 N

68.3 mi

8. Take exit 69 toward Blountville/Bristol

0.3 mi

Continue on TN-394 E. Take TN-358 S/Weaver Pike and TN-44 N to Flatwoods Rd

31 min (19.2 mi)

9. Merge onto TN-394 E

6.0 mi

10. Turn right onto White Top Rd

2.5 mi

11. Turn left onto Pleasant Grove Rd

1.0 mi

12. Turn right onto TN-358 S/Weaver Pike

3.1 mi

13. Turn left onto TN-44 N

3.3 mi

14. Turn right onto Flatwoods Rd

1.1 mi

15. Turn right to stay on Flatwoods Rd

Destination will be on the right

2.1 mi

Big Creek Rd
Bluff City, TN 37618

OVR MTN

OVERMOUNTAIN RALLY TENNESSEE



MEI ENTERPRISES

TEAM O'NEIL RALLY SCHOOL

BACKROADS OF APPALACHIA



OkRallyPro Advanced Rally Training

9HIO

Cocke County Partnership

9 Lakes

ON OFFROAD