

## Rallye solaire 2006



### Girona, Spain to Toulouse, France

1st - 4th June 2006

#### Day 3

We were the only guests at breakfast, which consisted of chocolate milk, large toast, pineapple juice, more large toast, stiff coffee, and home-made raspberry jam. Then it was time to prepare the solar car and support vehicles for the four-day rally ahead. This took most of the morning, but at the end of it the Aurora 101 solar car was in the best condition ever. The clear Spanish sun had our solar panel casually producing 1350 watts. The batteries were fully charged. The tyres checked. The warning lights and two-way radios fitted. The equipment cleaned and packed into the trailer and the back of the Land Rover. We were ready.



Our support trailer outside the Can Bellevitge

Ready for lunch. Nearby there was a training restaurant. It specialised in training orphans, delinquents and underprivileged young people. As we came in, we could see that downstairs 30 trainees were finishing lunch. In the fancy upstairs area we were shown a round table for six and a menu that was, of course, written in Spanish. Our waitress was unable to translate, so one of the social workers from downstairs came to assist. This was done by sign language, by patting parts of her body, and by sketches. One description was a small animal that lived in the forest, ate vegetables, and had horns that made "click click" noises. It was not a rabbit. It was not a mouse. It was a snail. Actually, the food was terrific. Even David, who insisted on having the same meal as the trainees, was well satisfied.



Lunchtime charades

During the afternoon, many of the contestants for Rallye Solaire arrived. The field included electric scooters, electric assisted bicycles, small pedal-electric vehicles (two Twikes and a Mini-EI) and small electric cars. Then there was regular sized electric vehicles which French auto makers had produced. Finally, there were five solar cars: Aurora 101, Helios, Solelhada, Kamm and Heliodelt. All but Kamm had previously competed in the World Solar Challenge, so Aurora was in familiar company. Kamm had previously competed in the Tour de Sol, and was the winner in 1993 and European champion on two other occasions.

Registration formalities, distribution of shirts, event identification, dinner and the first event briefing completed the day's activities. The briefing was conducted in French, Spanish and English; in fact, entries came from five different countries.



World Solar Challenge versus Tour de Sol

Tomorrow, Rallye Solaire starts with the relatively short Spanish section from Gerona to Vilafant, under police escort.

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