

Northwest Rally Season Opener: 2002 Doo Wop's I & II Rallies

By Bill Westhead

(Hoquiam, WA) On the weekend of March 2nd and 3rd performance rallying in the Pacific Northwest got underway for the 2002 season with the annual running of the Doo Wop's Club Rallies in the foothills of Washington's Olympic Mountains. Organized and hosted by the Northwest Region of the SCCA, this event has established itself in recent years as the annual coming out party for rallyists from around BC and the northwestern US. A special combination of organizer's hospitality and friendly competitors have produced a rare mix of competitive motorsports and laid back good times — so much so that the event was named "ClubRally® of the Year" for 2001 by the SCCA.

Fortunately the weatherman delivered the goods as the teams lined up for the sunny Saturday morning start in Hoquiam, WA. The number and variety of entries present demonstrated clearly that rallying in North America is growing at a phenomenal pace. From the 2002 Subaru WRX of eventual winner Nat T-Stow, to the 1980 Canadian Championship-winning Toyota Corolla of Ted Wilkinson, the forty-six car field spanned two and half decades of automotive technology.

However, the story of the weekend was the appearance of last year's winner, Carl Jardevall of Half Moon Bay, CA and Amity Trowbridge of Seattle, WA in an all-wheel drive Mitsubishi Evo IV. Over the last few years Carl has developed quite the reputation as a rear-wheel drive showman in his old rally car, a Volvo 740 Turbo, frequently beating much newer and more technically advanced cars at events all over the US. It came as no surprise then, when Carl and Amity absolutely dominated Saturday's stages, winning Doo Wop's part one.

The pair would have continued this run of success in Doo Wop's part two if it weren't for teething problems on the first stage of the second day. It seems that Carl is still unlearning his rear-wheel drive rally techniques and over-corrected when swinging too wide on a tight left hand corner. This slight off-road excursion resulted in the car getting high-centered, and they were unable to continue.

With Carl and Amity out of the running, the battle for the lead fell to Nat T-Stow of Duvall, WA and co-driver (and ex-Vancouverite) Ben Bradley of Portland, OR in a Subaru WRX, who were being chased by Paul Eklund of Tigard, OR and Scott Huhn, of Seattle, WA in a Subaru Impreza. Nat and Paul traded stage wins throughout the day, but at the finish it was Nat T-Stow in the WRX on top by a mere eleven seconds.

Also competing at the Doo Wop's rallies were several teams from the lower mainland, among them the father and son team of Bob and Adam Trinder in their 1985 Toyota Corolla GTS. While maintaining a quick pace throughout the weekend, Bob and Adam struggled during one of Saturday's stages when the front end got hung up on a stump, tearing the left side fender off in the process. Recovering quickly, the pair wound up 5th

in class on Saturday, and picked up the pace Sunday when they finished 14th overall and 4th in class.

Making his rally debut at Doo Wops was North Vancouver native Mehran Areh, ably co-driven by West Coast Rally Association President, Ken Kwong. A fan of rally for many years, Mehran realized his personal dream of competing by taking his own street car, a 2002 Subaru WRX, to Cascade Autosport for rally preparation. Mehran ran a steady, determined pace, successfully completing his first-ever rally, and bringing the car home in one piece to a 5th in class finish on Sunday.

Once again this year the Doo Wops rallies showcased the efforts of dedicated local rally organizers and workers. The organizational infrastructure and world-class roads—once used by the WRC as part of the Olympus Rally in the mid-1980's—continues to deliver exciting rally events for both competitor and spectator alike. Although it is a long wait until September 7th, when the US National series returns to the same area for the running of the Wild West ProRally®, you can bet these folks will come through once again with a rally that is not to be missed. Next event in BC will be the Pacific Forest Rally on June 8th in Merrit. Check out www.rallybc.com for details.

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For more information

Doo Wops Rallies

<http://www.nwr-scca.org/rally/doowop.html>

or contact

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<http://www.ProRallyPix.com>

BC Rally Info

<http://www.rallybc.com>

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Canadians at Doo Wops

56 Subaru WRX

Driver: Mehran Areh

Co-Driver: Ken Kwong

275 Subaru WRX

Co-Driver: Ben Bradley

225 Ford Focus

Driver: Mark Durley

Co-Driver: Allen McGuirl

#252 Toyota Corolla GTS

Driver: Bob Trinder

Co-driver: Adam Trinder

8 Toyota Corolla

Driver: Ted Wilkinson

Co-driver: Bill Westhead

Doo Wops I Results, March 2, 2002						
Pos	Car#	Driver	Co-driver	Vehicle	Class	Time
1	39	Carl Jardevall	Amity Trowbridge	Mitsubishi Evo IV	Open	36:54
2	275	Nat T-Stow	Ben Bradley	Subaru WRX	Open	38:46
3	32	Paul Eklund	Scott Huhn	Subaru USX	Open	39:07
4	201	Todd Hartmann	Shawn Callahan	VW Golf GTI	Gp 2	39:44
5	205	Todd Lengacher	Tina Lengacher	Audi 4000S	Open	40:13
6	210	John Lane	John Allen	Volvo 262 turbo	Gp 5	40:16
7	248	Mike Mailman	Don Flagg	Audi Quattro Coupe	Open	40:31
8	264	John Teeter	Kyle Flanigan	Mitsubishi Galant	Open	41:03
9	207	Dave Hintz	Rick Hintz	Mazda RX-7 turbo	Gp 5	41:14
10	8	Ted Wilkinson	Bill Westhead	Toyota Corolla	Gp 2	42:06

Doo Wops II Results, March 3, 2002						
Pos	Car#	Driver	Co-driver	Vehicle	Class	Time
1	275	Nat T-Stow	Ben Bradley	Subaru WRX	Open	48:31
2	32	Paul Eklund	Scott Huhn	Subaru USX	Open	48:42
3	248	Mike Mailman	Don Flagg	Audi Quattro Coupe	Open	49:06
4	217	Janice Damitio	Larry Nielson	Eagle Talon	Open	49:54
5	51	Jay Streets	Chris Aksdal	Volvo 740 turbo	Gp 5	50:11
6	264	John Teeter	Kyle Flanigan	Mitsubishi Galant	Open	50:25
7	201	Todd Hartmann	Shawn Callahan	VW Golf GTI	Gp 2	50:36
8	207	Dave Hintz	Rick Hintz	Mazda RX-7 turbo	Gp 5	50:49
9	245	Carey Wright	David Kean	Mazda RX-7	Gp 5	50:50
10	255	Andy Sharples	Julie Sharples	Subaru Impreza RS	PGT	52:13