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MARCH / APRIL 2002 — VOL.5 NO.2

AIRTIME

RALLY MAGAZINE

Biggest Tbird Ever
Novice Event #1



Richard Takes First Win

Rallye Perce-Neige

Doo Wops

Cherokee Trials

Cochrane Rally



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WCRA Novice #1: Wet bridge on Foley Lake stage.

Photo: Dennis Wende

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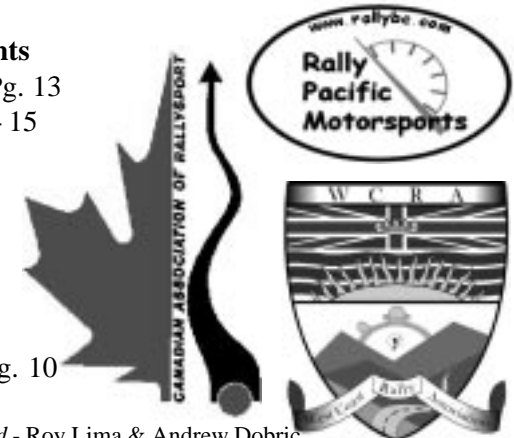
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Cover photos: Top by Betty Third - Roy Lima & Andrew Dobric, winners of 2002 Thunderbird Rally; Bottom by Vincent Fortin - Pat Richard Ian McCurdy, winners of 2002 Rallye Perce Neige.

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Pace Notes: Message from the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2002 edition of Airtime - and a bold new look for our cover thanks to Budd Stanley! In the past three months the WCRA has hosted no less than four rally events: the Thunderbird and Heart of Darkness TSD rallies, the first round of the Rallyequipment.com Novice TSD series, and our very first rallycross, the Merritt Rally Challenge. It makes you wonder what we're going to do for the rest of the year! Well, up next, will be our showcase event: the Pacific Forest Rally. In this issue you will find plenty of exciting rally action, with reports from around North America. Our emphasis on local news and events will remain, but with the pace of growth in the sport we hope to bring you continuing coverage of key events in the Canadian and US Rally Championships. Unfortunately, we have lost our most recent publisher, Mikael Heidrich, to a new job in the north. If you've been thinking about helping out the club, or have been wanting to get behind the keyboard to tell our story, please contact Ken Kwong and let him know.

Bill Westhead, Guest Editor/Publisher bill@rallybc.com

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First Event of 2002 Draws Very Capable Newcomers

by Budd Stanley

CHILLIWACK, BC - After the huge success of the West Coast Rally Association's TSD Novice workshops last year, organizers have put together an entire series of events geared to introduce competitors to the world of rallying. Sponsored by Rallyequipment.com, the four-event series kicked off April 6th in the mountain roads around Chilliwack. The Novice series consists of four separate events held throughout the lower mainland, which will award points towards a novice series championship. As the series moves on, emphasis on classroom teaching will give way to actual on road competition, with the last event being a two-day proper rally.

As the day began, true rallyists were happy to see the skies had clouded over, and the rain was falling hard. Everyone gathered at the morning headquarters as organizers Sid Kendall, Ken Kwong and other WCRA officials took students through the basics of TSD rallying. After the short classroom session it was out into the rain to inspect the cars, and prepare for the mud bath ahead.

A large field of 27 cars, plus the many check pointers, headed to Slease Road. The first stage was a perfect beginners stage, with everything from wide open straight sections, to narrow twisty sections and hairpins. The muddy conditions also gave the teams valuable car control lessons, not to mention the odd checkpoint crew.

The Clarkdale Audi TT of Andrew Tilston and Craig Calvert charged out to an early lead with only 25 points on the first stage followed closely by the Impreza wagon team of Ryan Matthews and Kevin Holter, with 28 points. The Legacy of Brian Wende and Dale Harvey, and Jeffery Yeung and Brad Heron's Impreza tied for 3rd with 33 points for the stage. As the leaders continued post top times, at the back of the pack the CRX of Garlic and Castex, the Jetta of Oliver and Dighton and the VW Golf of Francis and Switzer all made a charge for the top.

With the stage still fresh in teams minds, stage two was a rerun of the first stage, so it was no surprise that the scores were much lower than the first run. Garlic, Yeung and Wende posted vastly better times compared to the first run, taking a lead over the rest of the field. After lunch, the teams headed back into the stages, which by this time had become even more slippery as the rain continued to fall. Matthews and Holter took the 3rd stage by only one point over the Jetta of Oliver and Dighton. Wende, Yeung and the Toyota 4-Runner of August Ustare and Jason Baillie rounded out the top 5. Ustare showed that even a truck can compete with all those Subaru's. Winning the final stage was the crew of Cliff and Mitch Kosterman in a Subaru WRX, with Tilston and Calvert just one point back in the Audi TT. When the final scores were tallied, it was the Impreza of Jeffery Yeung and Brad Heron who finished with the least amount of points, winning the first novice rally of 2002. Second place was Brian Wende and Dale Harvey in the Subaru Legacy. Third goes to Novice Veterans Philip Garlick and Jaques Castex, in their Honda CRX. The next round of the Rallyequipment.com Novice series will be held on June 15 in Squamish.

B.C. Teams Ready to Battle Canada's Best

by Budd Stanley

EDSON & CALGARY, AB - British Columbia will have all the classes covered at the upcoming Big Horn and Rocky Mountain Rallies when no less than five teams make the trek to Edson and Calgary in Alberta this May. All eyes will be on them as the best of BC prepare to do battle with the sport's elite teams from the east. Among the BC-based teams in contention for the honours are: Rocket Rally, R-Sport Rally, DBR Rallysport, Rowdy Rally Racing and the ALS Rally team. After months of preparation these teams are legitimate contenders for their respective classes and each hope to upset the championship regulars, travelling west to meet their challenge.

The ALS Rally team will be competing in the P1 (P for Production) class in a freshly-built Subaru Justy driven by Martin Wilson and co-driven by Dennis Wende. This will be their first national event in the car and Martin will have a few adjustments to make driving a much lower-powered car than the highly modified Toyota Corolla he ran last year. Meanwhile, Rowdy Rally Racing will contend for P2 honours in a Toyota MR2 piloted by Canadian Budd Stanley and co-driven by Bajan (Barbados) Dwane Jackman. "We are confident of a class win, as competition is light. Our main goal is to annoy the more powerful All-Wheel-Drive Turbo's," noted Jackman.

R-Sport Rally will be entering the Alberta events in the 2000 North American Rally Championship-winning car once belonging to Pat Richard. This Subaru Impreza RS will be ably driven by young hotshoe Scott Trinder and co-driven by Andy White in the P4 class. Last year's top-finisher Dave Koszegi will also make an appearance in the Subaru Legacy GT of DBR Rallysport. This aging, but very competitive P4 class vehicle will be co-driven by Bill Westhead.

Finally Pat Richard and co-driver Ian McCurdy must surely be BC's best hope for overall victory in their factory-supported Subaru Impreza WRX. Competing in the Group N class, Richard currently leads the Canadian Championship over team mate Tom McGeer, who drives a much more powerful Open class WRX. Richard has reached the podium five times in the last seven rallies, winning his first-ever rally this past February at the Rallye Perce Neige in Quebec.

The Big Horn Rally, held on May 18th - 19th, has historically been one of Canada's fastest rallies. Wide, smooth and straight gravel roads can produce speeds in excess of 200kph. However, crews will have to preserve their cars, as one week later they're all back at it again, this time in the mountains near Calgary. The opening stage will be a spectator stage at a local motocross track and rally cars can be seen hurling through the air, with the Calgary skyline as a backdrop. The following day, the teams head for the mountains, racing between the trees and ditches for top bragging rights. If you're unable to come out and watch up close, be sure to catch the action later on TSN and OLN.

Western Canadian Rally Championship: Cochrane Rally Results

Cochrane Rally Proves Unpredictable

by Budd Stanley

COCHRANE, AB (March 23, 2002) - Deep snow, sheer ice, slush, mud and great performances were the order of the day, as the 2002 Western Canadian Rally Championship got under way in Cochrane Alberta on March 24th. The first few stages were run right in the centre of town, and the spectators who braved the -15 degree Celsius weather, were treated to a great display of rallying. Cars ripped through the snowy streets as last year's winner Janusz Komorowski and new co-driver Keith Morison took a demanding lead, winning both stages, in their Open class Eagle Talon. After the fun in the streets the true rally fans headed for the mountains, as teams raced through varied road conditions. Most stages had a mix of all 4 conditions (snow, ice, mud and slush) sometime all in one corner, making tire choice particularly difficult.

The slippery conditions on some stages saw Peter Hill with Barry Gurnsey in a Toyota Corolla stuff it in a snow bank. Martin and Graham Burnley in a Subaru Impreza RS also found the attractive force of snow banks irresistible while Scott Trinder performed a donut in the middle of stage 9.

Through out the rally four cars were proving to be dominant over most of the others: Komorowski and Morison in their Eagle Talon, Trinder and White in a Subaru Impreza RS, Szewczyk and Karzynski in their Toyota Celica GT4, and Jim Dewitte and Joe Proteau, driving a highly-modified Isuzu Impulse RS. Szewczyk took himself out of the equation when he drifted the Celica into a bridge, ending his day on the 9th stage. However, Komorowski and Dewitte continued to battle most of the day, with Trinder following close behind. Unfortunately Komorowski's engine could not handle the punishment, losing two cylinders just four stages from the end. After limping through the final four stages, the team wound up 2nd overall.

After crashing out of last year's event, Dewitte was eager for revenge. Running with the lead pack all day, Dewitte proceeded to pick off each of his competitors as the day went on. Once Komorowski lost the use of two cylinders, Dewitte was able to make the pass and won the rally by over a minute.

The story of the day went to Richard Michaluk and Eric Grochowski in a Production 2 class Toyota Corolla GTS. Running in their first-ever event, the pair drove a near faultless rally winning the P2 class, and finishing 4th overall. Meanwhile, Trinder and White took P4 class honours in their Subaru Impreza RS. Behind them, Bradley Bengston and Wade Anderson brought home their VW Golf to a P3 win, 5th overall. Next up were Richard and Tony Penrose in Group 2 modified Toyota Corolla. And finally Martin Wilson and Dennis Wende debuted their freshly built Subaru Justy with a P1 victory and 8th place in the overall standings.

Next event in the Western Canadian Rally Championship will be the Pacific Forest Rally in British Columbia on June 8th. Check out www.rallybc.com for details.

Thunderbird Rally...continued

About midway through the morning, many teams were caught out by a double 90 left. It was surprising to find that many of the Subaru teams, who thought they had maximum traction, ended up ploughing the road a bit wider for those who followed behind them! Some nice sideways driving was witnessed as cars tried to stay on the road. For some these driving attempts were all in vain, and the snow banks claimed many a passing car, including the Chevy Sprint Turbo of Dan McLean and Michelle Toffler who ended up well off and ABOVE the road on top of a large snow bank. After a long cruising stage, the rally finished up in Merritt, where it had all begun the day before. Sadly, one last, cruel trick came down upon the stout Honda Civic of Dave Stringfellow and Aaron Newmann, who had their engine expire just a few kilometres from the finish.



Matt Hoekstra & Ryan Jansen get their Ford Fiesta into shape *photo by Mark Crawford*

After all the scores were counted, Roy Lima and Andrew Dobric in a Calculator class Subaru Legacy had won the rally with a mere 26 points, narrowly beating Satch Carlson and Russ Kraushaar's Historic class Saab Sonnet by only 1 point. In an even bigger fight, John Fouse and Dennis Wende's WRX tied Lee and Rod Sorenson's Impreza for 3rd place overall, and first in Unlimited class. Peter and Owen Parsonage put in a great performance to win Novice class and even finished 7th overall amongst many of the Unlimited teams. Dan and Stuart Fealk brought their Subaru XT6 home to first in Paper class, and 16th overall, with only 181 points.

After two days of great competition, roads and conditions, the 2002 Thunderbird Rally will go down as one of the best ever. Even with the huge number of entrants, only 5 teams didn't make it back to the finish line. The 2002 Yokohama B.C. Rally Championship is off to a blistering start with 3 more rallies still left to be run.

Specialty Subaru Thunderbird TSD Rally: February 16-17, 2002

Biggest Thunderbird Ever!

Round 1 of 2002 Yokohama BC Rally Championship

by Budd Stanley

MERRITT, BC - Like Daytona is to NASCAR, the B.C. Rally Championship starts off its season with the biggest and most prestigious event of the year. The Thunderbird rally was based out of Merritt this year, and would run on past familiar stages through to Kamloops on the opening day. Second day would see competitors run a different route on the way back to Merritt for the awards ceremonies.

Saturday morning brought mild temperatures for February, and a parking lot jammed to capacity as over 70 rally cars made their way through morning scuteneering. The familiar gang of Saab Sonnets, lead by Satch Carlson, were on hand from Alaska, as well as at least 24 Subaru owners eagerly waiting to test their cars in the white stuff. As soon as the scrutineering and driver meetings were completed, the herds of rally cars, with drivers smiling ear-to-ear, filed out of the Nicola Inn, and into a long day's rallying.

This year's Thunderbird was much milder than those of years past, with much of the road surface clear of snow and ice. This made for more predictable driving and competitive scores. The teams pushed into the day's stages, with the first cars taking the lead in points. Television and other media crews were set up along the route, along with a few spectators who were also taking in the action. Further down the pack there were a couple of miscues by some novice teams. A few instructions were missed and longer routes to the finish were taken, but all were fine in the end.

At the mid day gas break, local TV media were on hand to greet the teams as they came in for a much needed rest and fuel replenishment. After a couple of quick interview and a full tank of gas, it was back out into the mountains. The evening of the first day would see a few stages run at night, just north of Kamloops. Icy roads, combined with poor night time visibility, led to a few encounters with snow banks - even by a couple of very cautious checkpoint crews! From certain vantage points, the hour-long procession of head lights could be seen winding their way down into a valley, along the side of a mountain. Finally arriving in Kamloops, the teams had a chance to get together, tell their stories from the day's action and compare scores.

The second day began much like the first - bright sunshine, mild temperatures and a parking lot full of much more dirty (and a few a little more battered) rally cars. However, the second day's route saw more snow and ice, and much more aggressive driving. The opening stage was a wonderfully narrow and icy stage, run through the forest. This was immediately followed by a marathon stage that had more snow, giving the drivers much better traction. All of the front running cars passed through these sections without much difficulty. However, as the middle of the pack started making its way by, the cars started to spread out and lose their running order, as teams lost time in the conditions.

...continued on next page.

Subaru Canadian Rally Championship: Rallye Perce Neige

Richard Takes First Win and Championship Lead

by Budd Stanley

MANIWAKI, QUE. (February 23, 2002) - Pat Richard, widely-viewed as Canada's most promising up-and-coming rally driver, claimed his first overall victory in a national event on February 23rd when he won the Rallye Perce-Neige Maniwaki in a Group N prepared Subaru WRX. The 28-year-old from Whistler, BC, finished two minutes and 12 seconds ahead of second-placed Jean-Sebastien Besner in a Mitsubishi Lancer Evo. The win puts Richard into the lead of the Subaru Canadian Rally Championship, presented by Yokohama, after two rounds.

While the Rallye Perce-Neige typically has open class cars fighting for top position, this year's event proved to be strictly a Group N battle. 2001 Champion Tom McGeer chose to sit this rally out, and the only Open class car to make a challenge was the Subaru WRX of Montreal native John Nichols. The opening stages saw Richard holding back while Besner, Nichols and Sylvain Erickson in his Mitsubishi Lancer Evo battled for the lead.

Deep snow made tire choice difficult and on the 44 kilometre long 6th stage, Richard chose snow, rather than ice, tires - a decision that would either make or break his entire rally. Drama was running high on the 6th stage as rally leader Nichols rolled his WRX several times after a large jump, then Erickson broke a half-shaft, also ending his day. Meanwhile, Richard, running on his snow tires, actually caught up to Besner near the end of the stage, taking the lead and leaving some paint on Besner's rear bumper.

Once he had taken the lead on stage 6, Richard never looked back, driving to his and co-driver's Ian McCurdy's first-ever rally win. Jean-Sebastien and Jacques Besner came home 2nd overall, while Andrew Comrie-Picard and co-driver Dave Shindle debuted their new car, another Mitsubishi Lancer Evo, to a surprising 3rd overall, 1st Open class, finish.

Some of the other class winners included Antoine L'Estage and co-driver Yanick Napert winning Production (P) 4 in their Eagle Talon. Veteran Jean-Paul Pérusse and Marcel-Paul Raymond posted incredible times in their two wheel drive car, finishing 1st in Group 2, 6th overall among some very powerful all-wheel-drive, turbocharged cars. Meanwhile, back in P3, Charles Hammer and Patrick Péloquin triumphed over regular Steve Walkington. And finally, Stéphane McNeil and Annie Duranceau wound up winning P1 in their Subaru Justy.

After two rounds, Richard now has 30 points in the overall championship chase, while Besner has 27 and reigning titlist Tom McGeer has 20. Next round of the Subaru Canadian Rally Championship will bring the crews out west to the fast and dusty Big Horn Rally held in Northern Alberta in May. Check out www.carsrally.ca for details.

Northwest SCCA Club Rally: Doo Wops I and II, March 1-2, 2002



Northwest Rally Season Opener

Photo by Mark Crawford

by Bill Westhead

HOQUIAM, WA (March 1-2, 2002) - 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

Specialty Subaru Heart of Darkness TSD Rally: April 13-14, 2002



Round 2 of 2002 Yokohama BC Rally Championship

by Fred Wiedemann

It was a dark and stormy night. Those who were there won't forget it anytime soon! Heart of Darkness 2002 proved to be to be a rally that Mother Nature was going to direct! 22 brave souls braved the elements of this all-night TSD event starting in Hope, moving up to Princeton, proceeding through Coalmont and Tulameen, and, later, heading to Peachland, Summerland and back to Princeton for the trip home.

Mother Nature started dabbling with the weather right from the start. The first transit to Princeton saw torrential rain and high winds turning four lane highways into two lane creeks. Once arriving in Princeton, and a chance to get out of the rain at the first fuel stop, it was off to Tulameen for the first stage. However, a car blocking the road greeted the checkpoint crews and it turned out there were two washouts on the first stage, effectively canceling the first part of the rally. After re-grouping in Princeton, the competitors were off to Bates Road for the second regularity, which was wet, but clear of washouts. After the second regularity it was off to the third regularity, which was quite high and actually had some snow! The normally muddy conditions of the Peachland forestry road were further augmented by the wet weather, making the entire stage very slippery and challenging for all the drivers. This stage was slippery enough that the check point crew of Shelley Donaldson and Mike Wiebe required a tow out of a particularly muddy corner.

After proceeding to Summerland for the second fuel stop, it was off to the Princeton-Summerland road for the trip home. During this reasonably uneventful stage a clear, sunny morning dawned, as the rally headed back to Hope for scoring and breakfast. Alas, Mother Nature had one more surprise for us: the torrential downpour we had left in Manning Park on the upward transit had turned to snow over night! The transit home became a driving event in itself. As some competitors remarked, it's not often that the transit is as exiting as the regularities!

We would like to thank all the check pointers who took the time to come out and help us with this very difficult event, without them, there is no event. If you see a check pointer, show your gratitude by thanking them and maybe even shake their hand, they are as vital to the event as the route book. We would also like to thank Rolly's Family Restaurant for hosting us, Yokohama Tires, Driver's Edge Autosport, Specialty Subaru, Polaris Water and Western Driver for their contributions to us and the sport of rally in B.C.

SCCA Cherokee Trails Rally Results...continued

Mark Lovell rounded out an entirely European podium with a third place finish. After dominating the 2001 season with the factory Subaru team, Lovell can expect 2002 to be a bit more of a challenge with the Higgins brothers about.

Mark Higgins also put on an excellent show. He had a bad “off” on SS 1, but luckily there was no mechanical damage. The car looked horredous, with three of its four corners damaged. The Libra Racing team did their best to put the car right, but unfortunately collected some big road penalties by going over service time. Their efforts were soon rewarded however, as Mark went on to win every stage after that, going on to an excellent fifth overall finish in the slightly battered Hyundai.

Top Canadians in the field included Subaru Canada teammates Tom McGeer and Patrick Richard. The pair put in comendable performances, when compared to the machinery they were up against. The Top 10 were all Subaru Imprezas and Mitsubishi Lancer Evo's, with McGeer finishing 6th overall, and Richard finishing up 10th.

Doo Wops I and II...continued

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 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.

SCCA National ProRally: International Cherokee Trails Rally



Higgins Wins Cherokee Trails International Rally

by Budd Stanley

CHATTANOOGA, TN (March 17, 2002) - The second round of the SCCA National ProRally Championship took place in Chattanooga, Tennessee on March 17th. David Higgins, from the Isle of Mann, and co-driver Calvin Cooledge, from Ruthin, UK drove their Open class AV Sport Subaru WRX into the lead right from outset on special stage (SS) 1. The pair increased their lead by over a minute on SS 2, making the most of the wet and slippery conditions.

SS 3 saw a change of fortune for the leaders when their engine over heated in the humid conditions. They managed to get through SS 3 and 4 okay, but they had a few tense moments as the engine kept cutting out. Behind them, Polish National Champion Janusz Kulig in a Mitsubishi Lancer, promptly took advantage of the situation.

The AV Sport team worked hard on David's car, but were unable to bring the temperature of the engine down at competitive speeds. The team cut away some of the bumper to allow for better air flow, but with the tight service time they couldn't complete repairs and David had to drive conservatively to preserve the engine.

Despite all this, SS 5 saw David take 10 seconds off Kulig's lead, leaving him only one second behind. The shorter stages worked to David's advantage, allowing more cooling and less chance of the engine shutting down into “safe mode”. Stage 6 was a little bit longer and tighter which meant there were times when they had to slow down as temperatures rose. However, at the end of the stage they were delighted to find they had taken 1 more second off Kulig's lead.

The cancellation of SS 8 left David and Kulig going into the final stage tied for the overall lead. Before In preparation, the AV Sport crew moved the intercooler from the front and placed it back in the engine bay before David entered the stage, allowing more flow-through cooling (and hopefully reducing the likelihood of over heating). This meant David could push the car that much harder on the final stage of the rally. The impromptu modifications paid off, and David Higgins finished the stage one second quicker than Kulig, taking took the win and leaving Janusz Kulig in 2nd.

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VANCOUVER, BC - The West Coast Rally Association (WCRA) is pleased to announce the offering of a contingency program from Yokohama Tire (Canada) Inc. for all remaining regional rallies in 2002. Through their partnership in this program, WCRA and Yokohama hope to increase awareness of rallying in BC and to promote Yokohama's quality products.

Yokohama is well-known to motorists in British Columbia as a provider of high quality passenger car and light truck tires. For over 80 years, Yokohama has been a world leader in the development of outstanding tire designs and technology that give drivers better control on the road.

"We are very happy to partner with Yokohama in bringing their support of rallying to competitors in British Columbia," said WCRA president Ken Kwong. "They have a demonstrated interest in promoting all levels of the sport and with their help we plan on delivering exciting rally events for both competitors and spectators."

The **2002 Yokohama BC Rally Series** contingency awards program is designed to reward successful rally competitors with prizes of these coveted tires. There are built-in incentives for competitors to attend multiple events and to try for the top spots in the finishing order. In the end, of course, it will be the challenge of rallying that settles who gets to drive home with new tires!

Eligible Entries:

- Members of WCRA who carry suitable Yokohama Tires decal(s)
- All decals will be provided by event organizers or can be obtained by calling Ken Kwong at (604) 808-0536

Eligible Events:

- BC Regional Performance Rally Championship events presented by WCRA
- BC Regional TSD Rally Championship events presented by WCRA
- BC Rally-Cross events presented by WCRA

Eligible Classes:

- **Performance Rally** : Open, Group2, P4/N4, P3/N3, P2/N2 and P1/N1 as defined in the CARS General Competition Rules and Regulations.
- **TSD Rally**: Unlimited, Calculator, Paper, Historic or Novice as defined in the BC Region TSD Rules.
- **Rallycross**: Open, Group2, Production GT and Production as defined in BC Rallycross event Supplementary Regulations.

Awards - Per Event:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1st Overall | 2 Yokohama tires |
| 1st in Class | \$150.00 Rebate Certificate towards Yokohama tires |
| Random Draw | \$100.00 Rebate Certificate towards Yokohama tires |

Period: - 2002 Season



**June 7th and 8th
Merritt, BC
Round 4 of
2002 Western
Canadian Rally
Championship**

MERRITT, BC – The Western Canadian Rally Championship makes its debut in a new location this June as the fourth round of the 2002 series moves to British Columbia. The city of Merritt will host the Pacific Forest Rally on June 7th and 8th when rally teams from around western Canada come here to compete. This motorsports event for production-based cars has pre-qualified as a National status event for the 2003 Subaru Canadian Rally Championship.

Last year's Western Canadian Champion, Janusz Komorowski, has already made his intentions clear by almost winning the opening round in Cochrane, Alberta. While leading this event Komorowski lost a couple of cylinders just three stages from the finish and wound up second. This time, however, he will face a host of local teams ready to challenge him for supremacy on some of BC's finest back roads. Local driver and last year's Pacific Forest Rally winner, Scott Trinder, will surely be among those to threaten Komorowski's plans. Competing against some of the best driver's in North America, Trinder followed-up his 3rd place finish at this year's Cochrane Rally with an 8th place overall at the grueling Rim of the World Rally, held May 3rd-4th in California.

Meanwhile, the organizers of the Pacific Forest Rally are working feverishly to deliver a national-caliber event in and around the Merritt area. This year marks the final "dress rehearsal" for the event before it joins the national series in 2003 as part of the Subaru Canadian Rally Championship, which is broadcast regularly on TSN and the OLN. Many officials will be on hand to evaluate the rally and the city of Merritt promises to deliver a venue well-suited to events on the national stage.

There will be plenty of opportunities to catch the teams in action, both on the mountain roads and right in Merritt. It all begins with a display at the Railyard Mall on the evening of June 7th and the rally officially starts there on Saturday morning. Later, teams will return to the mall for service stops throughout the day, before heading back into the hills and finally winding up at the Merritt Civic Centre at the end of the day.

For those fans keen on trying their hand at driving their own cars sideways through gravel, the organizers have planned to hold a Rallycross on the Sunday following the Pacific Forest Rally. If the opportunity to slalom your daily driver around a large, dirt and gravel lot appeals to you, get in on the action at the Merritt Rallycross Challenge on June 9th! For more information about these events, check out the BC rally website: www.rallybc.com or contact organizer Paul Westwick at (604) 682-3296, or via e-mail: paul@rallybc.com