

# The Days the Rain Came

## Review: Mountain Trials ,2005

Photo by Shawn Bishop

*It was cold.  
It was wet.  
It was dirty.  
It was FUN!*



*Mountain Trials*

Twenty-five die-hard pro rally cars turned out for one of the muddiest events of the year at Mountain Trials 2005. It wasn't enough that the roads were all brand new, they were also wet and muddy all weekend long.

Overshadowed – literally - by dark and ominous clouds, the first section of the event was held at Active Mountain Speedway in Merritt, a short, barely-over-a-kilometer spectator stage. Rally fans poured into the viewing areas to watch the cars tear around the technical track. The rally cars gave the fans exactly what they were looking for: Loud noise, quick turns, and gravel spitting from burning rubber.

From the spectator stage Mountain Trials headed into the unexplored (aside from the marshals and course

organizers) backcountry around Merritt. This is where it all started to get a bit tricky.

Many cars gave accounts of the muddy roads being slippery like ice, but the majority of them adapted and finished the race. Only seven cars Did Not Finish (DNF) the event, with five cars succumbing to mechanical difficulty, one orange VW Golf with a mangled wheel, and a yellow Mitsubishi Lancer that caught fire but was quickly extinguished.

The winners: B.C.'s own Scott Trinder and Bill Westhead (Cover Photo) finished first overall in a 1995 Subaru WRX-RA (Open), Peter Van Bogart and Alan Perry of Washington State finished second overall in a 2002 Mitsubishi Lancer EVO VII RS (Open), and Terry

Christensen and Terry Woltman of Washington placed third overall and first in P4 Class in their 2000 Subaru 2.5 RS.

Recently being added to the Cascade Cup this year, and of course part of the Western Canada Rally Championship (WCRA), Mountain Trials was a fun event for both our hometown competitors and our cousins from South of the border. Also new this year was the introduction of PIAA as a sponsor of the WCRA, who provided new sets of windshield wipers to the competitors, a much-needed auto part for the duration of this event.

By Geoff Gauthier



*Amazing PIAA Wipers were more than a match for the wet conditions*



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