

Saturday morning would have the teams rallying around the same Active Mountain spectator stage as previously used on recent rallies. The hoped for blast around the forthcoming racetrack was not possible as construction delays have left the track unready. As it was, the stage had to be shortened at the last minute by organizers when they learned that recce traffic had struggled through the final 600m, suitable only for Tanks.

Scott Trinder's fun run came to an early end when he clouted a LARGE boulder at the left side of the stage. Poor navigator Bill Westhead, the right-hand drive car means that it is still the co-driver's side that takes all the hits in rallying.

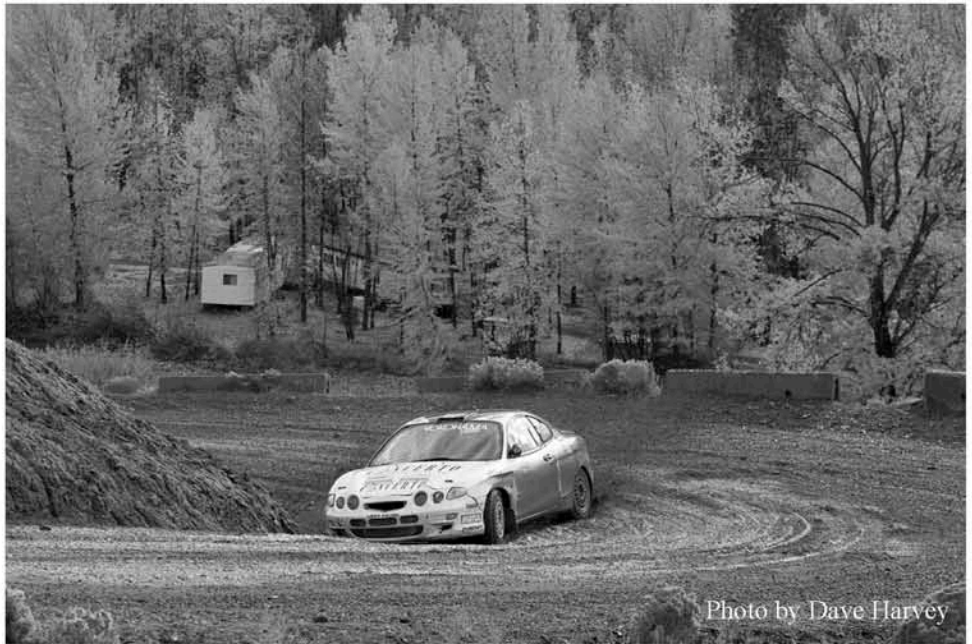


Photo by Dave Harvey



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were the Armstrongs who went off in front of spectators that were unable to get the car back on the road. Eventually the team was tugged back into motion by car #28 as it passed. Less lucky was Chad Manley when his Golf exited the road onto a pile of rocks in a series of tight bends. He was eventually extracted by organizers but retired with damage on the subsequent road transit. Norm Leblanc was competing again for the first time since a heavy accident earlier in the season. He knows these roads well and as the day progressed you could tell his former speed and confidences in the rebuilt car were returning. Some quick times were putting him into the pack of leaders.

Pacific Forest Rally ended as it had

If PFR is the flagship rally, then Helmer Lake must be the flagship stage. A wonderful 23km run downhill that is great fun to drive and good fun to watch. The top drivers need only 13 minutes to get to the bottom and with the road a little slick, the plentiful spectators were given a great show. The big drama on Helmer would go unwitnessed though, Warren Currie slid wide on a downhill left and rolled heavily, the car coming to rest upside down against a tree. Both crewmembers were OK and kicked their way out through the windshield. A disappointing and rare accident for the team but they demonstrated excellent sportsmanship by cheerfully accepting the misfortune as "that's rallying". Other victims of Helmer



Photo by Louren Sansregret

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