

The official news source of SCCA's Northwest Region

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Adam Crane and Britta Nielsen finished third in Group 2 on the Gene Nielsen Stages with a 1986 Toyota Corolla.

set top regional time with 12:59.3 in the 233, a 2004 Subaru WRX STi. (Eklund-Price would go on to set two more top regional times, but took an hour "off" on Skookum late in the day, plummeting to last place regional finisher). By contrast, the fastest two-wheel drive was 13:13.7 from the Ford Focus of Kyle Sarasin and Mikael Johansson, who unfortunately would retire a few stages later.

A very short transit through the woods brought the rally to Skookum. SS6 began with a slight uphill into crest with the road dropping left, followed by another crest into hairpin right. This flow continued through most of the stage, including the approach to spectators where an acute-right, with an embankment straight ahead to curb the enthusiasm, slowed the cars briefly at about 3 miles in, with a little over 5 miles to go.

Spectator corner saw a good crowd of onlookers along the high bank above the road. Within a mile the road character changed dramatically, getting narrow and rough, and a photo-op for the official photographer standing above a right-at-T, continuing with rough sections, into a downhill, on loose 3-inch rock, into a tight-uphill-left with exposure on the outside. The route leveled a bit, then suffered from potholes before a rise and fall, and a downhill-rough-right that gave the VIP spectators quite a show with the top teams catching air before settling in for the final .17 miles to the Flying Finish. At just under 8 miles

flag to flag, Pinker and Durant were getting the feel of the Olympus roads, posting 8:36.7 and would finish the day at the top of four of the last five stages.

Out onto the pavement for 4 miles, then a half-mile of gravel to SS7, Taylor Towne. This stage runs 6.34 miles of potholes, rough rock, hairpins, tight 90-degree turns with exposures, interspersed with a flowing gradual climb through thick timbered areas, a crest into medium left into crest again, dropping past another video crew at about 3.8 miles into the stage. At 5.3 the road drops through a gate, tight-right, triple-caution, into water bar, passing an active quarry, very rough transition, then onto the mainline, slowing briefly to negotiate a stockpile of crushed rock, then full out to the downhill medium-left into Flying Finish.

Unfortunately the first run of Taylor Towne was interrupted by motorcycles gaining access to the course and racing the competitors. All cars in the second half of the pack transited slowly out of the stage and received the same computed 7:43 times. Pinker-Durant, with 6:40, kept two seconds on Faust-Beavis and also Car 74, a 2003 Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution, with Ramana Lage-mann and Mark Williams hot on the trail of the leader.

Teams traveled back to the ORV for a regroup and service before a second running of Wildcat, Skookum and Taylor Towne. Travis Pastrana and Bjorn Edstrom, in the 199 Team Subaru USA