



Mark Fox and Jake Blattner averaged 68 mph over roads like this enroute to a Sou'Easter Rally victory.

Fox, Blattner claim Sou'Easter Rally win

Block and Gelsomino capture Olympus Rally

**STORY AND PHOTOS
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The fastest rally in the Northwest Rally Championship gave us two new winners when Mark Fox and Jake Blattner blasted through the Gene Nielsen Sou'Easter Rally at an average speed of 68 mph.

You read it right, that's the average speed for nine stages and 66 stage

miles. Top speeds were clocked in excess of 120 mph on the smooth, wide, gravel farm roads near the agricultural center of Pomeroy in southeastern Washington. The long straightaways and wide sweeping turns resulted in breathtaking speeds.

Fox and Blattner, driving a 1996 Subaru Impreza, spent most of the rally stuck in second place, but they raced through the last three stages of the day in record time to steal the win by less

than six seconds over John Lane and Jason Grahn.

Lane and Grahn in the rear-wheel-drive 1976 Volvo 262 turbo dominated the early stages. Claiming fast times on the two of the first three stages, the Group 5 Volvo edged into a 10-second lead. Fox and Blattner nibbled back with three stage wins, making up the deficit and slipping into the lead just two stages from the end.

Malcolm Davies and Bruce Parker fin-