

Written by Erik Christiansen
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Los Angeles – Rally Colorado made its debut on the California Rally Series (CRS) Championship calendar last month in spectacular fashion. Set in the mountains in the north-west corner of the state, Rally Colorado featured complex stages with large elevation changes and breathtaking scenery. Variable weather also played a factor with monsoon thunderstorms rolling through adding to the drama. On Saturday August 24th the CRS championship returns to the Hungry Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Park for the Gorman Ridge Rally, one of the oldest events on the calendar at 40 years since the first running. Located just over an hour north of Los Angeles, the rally features a compact, spectator friendly format with twelve stages packed into a single day of racing. As in years past, the roads comprise a twisty and technical course, with big air expected over the famous jumps on Wheatfield Trail.



Open Lite was the class to watch in Colorado, with brothers Dave and Mike Brown winning not just the class but the event overall in their Subaru Impreza RS. They had a clean sweep of stage wins in their home event, which solidifies their lead coming into the Gorman Ridge Rally. Second place in class went to Krishna Gandhi who rolled his Subaru Impreza wagon on the last stage, but kept going to cross the finish line in true press-on-regardless fashion! Going into the Gorman Ridge Rally there is a close battle for second place between last year's championship

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team of driver Kurt Northup and co-driver Will Smith, and Michael Seidman and co-driver Tommy Luhrs. The pair of Subarus will be battling each other on the twisty stages and keeping the Brown brothers honest. The Gorman stages can be unforgiving, with many overconfident drivers ending up stuck on a berm, car teetering over the edge of a cliff.



CRS members in the Open Four-Wheel Drive class had some hard luck in Colorado, with both the teams of Travis Fienhage / Ryan Dunham and Ernie Manansala / Steven Harrell retired by the end of the first stage. Manansala's heroic crew was able to replace the transmission in his Subaru overnight and return for Saturday's stages. The stages at Gorman will provide Manansala an opportunity to move up the championship standings.

Drama at Rally Colorado Sets the Stage for the California Rally Series Championship Return to the Gorm

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