

# plan b rally

"A small event with lots of challenges!"

Written by: Southwest RallyGroup

## The Event:

Plan b Rally came out of the grips of the Quartzite Rally which a lot of competitors would love to have it come back with the stage roads that were pretty awesome. This rally moved to Ridgecrest a year ago and now has settled in its new home and headquartered in Indio, California. Using one stage road from Desert Storm Rally and a brand new stage road it turned out to be a blast for all of the competitors between having day and night stages.

Also Bilstein of America management team and engineers came out to volunteer their time at the event and provided several starts and finish controls with their help. We like to thank them for supporting our sport and heard they had a great time.

This event is a coefficient 2 points event sanction by Rally America Inc.\*, Bilstein Southwest Rallycup Series/Bilstein Cup Class\* and CRS series.\* and the competition happen on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

## The Competitors:

Doug Chernis and Craig Macnair came out to conquer Grahams Pass and won the overall challenge. Then they found a new stage road that really pumped them up and truly enjoyed the new night stages. A lot of the competitors loved it that we put Grahams Pass in the Plan b schedule since they did not get to use it at Desert Storm and was bumming but was happy at Plan "b" to be able to use it.



Doug Chernis and Craig Macnair in their Racetechnik Subaru

George Doganis and Tom Smith were on Doug's tails the whole time and not going to give Doug and Craig no slack in the winning. They had to earn it. George took second place overall and 1<sup>st</sup> place in Group 2 in his 1997 Honda Civic. They are still in the lead overall in points for the Bilstein Cup Class.



George Doganis and Tom Smith

There Michel Hoche-Mong in his Group 2 class 1985 VW Golf GTI; who did not compete at Desert Storm...came out to compete at Plan b and came on strong to take 3<sup>rd</sup> overall/1<sup>st</sup> in Performance Stock with his co-driver Marie Boyd who is loving it to be able to get back in a rally car since her driver has retired from rallying. Michel is coming on strong to go after the challenge with George Doganis for the Bilstein Cup Class. Michel won a class RA national championship a year ago so watch out for him. It will come down to the last Bilstein event either with Pikes Peak Hillclimb, Seed 9 or Roxton Paris de Rally in the Bilstein SWRC series to see who wins this coveted award from Bilstein of America with the contingency funds up for grabs.



Michel Hoche-Mong and Marie Boyd

Alex Helton/Pat Lobban came out down the list from the speed rankings and came out on top as 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the event and took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Group 2 and in the Bilstein Cup Class and 1<sup>st</sup> in CRS-2. Marco Zapata/Francisco Arellano took 5<sup>th</sup> place overall with 1<sup>st</sup> in PGT class and 1<sup>st</sup> in CRS-GT.

Now our brother/sister team Andrew/Robin Lockhart was truly hardcore by competing at Plan "b" and then take 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the event with 4<sup>th</sup> Group 2 and Bilstein Cup Class and then 2<sup>nd</sup> CRS-2. They came to the awards and then left to take care of Mother's day and got the car prepped for Oregon Trail and left by Tuesday to get up to that rally in time to do recce. They finished that event 27<sup>th</sup> overall and 4<sup>th</sup> in Group 2. Not bad for a full two rally weekends worth...

Also Gaylord Van Brocklin/Steve Secvair did the same thing. They competed in Plan "b" and finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall and 5<sup>th</sup> in Bilstein Cup Class with 4<sup>th</sup> place in CRS-2 and then went on to Oregon Trail to compete to finish there between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Group 2 and 25<sup>th</sup> overall in the event. They were doing the Max Attack program and came in 4<sup>th</sup> place winnings. They had a great full two rally weekends.

#### **The rest of the field finished:**

Timo Hayosh/Eric Olson – 2<sup>nd</sup> in RA/SWRC-Open/CRS Open 4WD  
Jack Szanto/Jack Penley- 1<sup>st</sup> in RA/SWRC-Group 5/2<sup>nd</sup> -CRS-5  
John Black/Katianna Pihakari – RA/SWRC-1<sup>st</sup>-Production/2<sup>nd</sup>-Perf Stock  
Chuck Wilson/Jonathan Schiller- 5<sup>th</sup> in RA/SWRC-Group 2/3<sup>rd</sup>-CRS-2  
Javier Olivares/Brock Heinz – 7<sup>th</sup>-RA/SWRC- Group 2/3<sup>rd</sup>-CRS-Perf Stock  
Jojo Angeles/Jun Castrence – 8<sup>th</sup>-RA/SWRC-Group 2/5<sup>th</sup>-CRS-2  
Tyler Turnbull/Tony Holden- DNF  
Terrance/Nic Peterson - DNF

#### **\*About Rally America:**

Based in Golden Valley, Minn., Rally America sanctions the premier performance rally series in the United States, the Rally America National Championship Series. In 2010, Rally America will conduct six National Championship events at venues across the country, from Olympia, Washington to Newry, Maine. Rally America competitors reach speeds of well over 100 mph in modified street cars on natural-terrain courses consisting of gravel, dirt or snow. Additionally, through a partnership with ESPN, qualifying Rally America drivers will be invited to compete in ESPN's Summer X Games 16, the annual leading action-sports event that's broadcast live on ESPN. For more information, be sure to visit [www.rally-america.com](http://www.rally-america.com).

#### **\*About Bilstein Southwest RallyCup Series:**

Organized as a non-profit in 2004 and officially recognized by Rally America, the sanctioning body for national and regional rally events in the USA, the Southwest RallyCup series supports the advancement of the sport of performance stage rally in the Southwest region of the United States. The 2010 season currently features 6 events over 6 weekends, and is promoted as an attainable entry point for individuals interested in participating in the sport. In 2010, Bilstein of America proudly is the title sponsor for the Southwest RallyCup Series and to add in 2010 the Bilstein Cup Class. [www.southwestrallyseries.com](http://www.southwestrallyseries.com).

Bilstein offers a complete selection of shock absorbers for most vehicles. For more information visit the website at: [www.bilsteinUS.com](http://www.bilsteinUS.com) or call 1-800-537-1085

#### **\*About the California Rally Series:**

This is the 36<sup>th</sup> running season of the series. A association formed by event organizers and the officers of the series to support event organizers and provide/promote the sport of Performance Rallying.