The Broken Spoke

The nights are starting

at just 6pm again, and that can only mean one thing… tarmac events are settling down for the season, and ice events are ramping up! We also come up to our last two rallies of the WCRC year; Big White Rally, and of course, Kananaskis Rally!

Kananaskis is being sponsored by the Stoney Nakoda Resort & Casino this year, as well as VEX Performance. The resort offers lodging for spectators and competitors alike, and a gorgeous view of the Rocky Mountains, as well as an indoor pool and waterslide. The casino has nearly 300 tables and 14 slot machines, offering a great chance to decompress after the rally. It is only a 22 minute drive from downtown Canmore, making it a perfect spot to spend the night after a long day of watching cars go fast.

VEX Performance is a huge contributor to said cars going fast. Established in 2008, VEX prides itself on providing the highest standard of workmanship for sports cars as possible. They are a critical member of the community, and have helped many teams such as Gravel Co. and Frontech, as well as their own team with driver Johnny Summers and co-driver Celine Pepperdine. They even aided Samsonas in bringing their rally car from Lithuania to Canada for Rocky Mountain Rally in May 2026.



Stoney Nakoda Resort & Casino

WCRC's Newest Team!



Beans Rally Team, photo by Emily Trojan

With Kananaskis being so close to Calgary, it makes itself a perfect first rally for people who have never spectated a rally before to get out and see what the events are like. However, having one of the longest stage rally roads in Alberta, Kananaskis is a true test of a driver's skill and a co-driver's precision, making it a challenging first rally for new teams. This test of teamwork did not stop our newest team, Beans Rally Team, from setting out to conquer this challenge. Beans Rally Team has been working tirelessly to be as prepared as possible for this event.

Ben Welcher and Jennifer "Jen" Samaco met in June of 2025, at Jen's first ever rallycross event. They became fast friends, and after a few months of chatting, Ben shared that he wished to attend the 2026 Kananaskis rally as a driver. Ever since his brother had shown him Dirty Rally 1 on the computer, Ben held onto the dream to drive in a rally. Since he had already participated in a TSD rally (Time, Speed, Distance) as a driver, he wished to attempt a stage rally next. Jen offered to co-drive for him, as she had previous co-driving experience, also in TSD rallies, as well as experience marshalling and as media for previous rallies. She even stepped up to *cont…*

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cont… help with the social media and marketing for Rocky Mountain Rally in May of 2026. One of the first rallies she attended in recent years was actually Kananaskis, where she managed to get herself a spot at the coveted hairpin turn on Powderface. This was by no means her first rally, however. Jen had attended European rallies in her teenage years, and in the 90's she took a course for stunt driving out in Vancouver. She has also been known to take her bright yellow Bronco Sport, Carmen, out overlanding in her free time.

Unfortunately, the road to getting a car prepped and ready is not always perfect. Beans Rally Team has run into many challenges, and though some of these challenges are still present (such as an overheating issue), others have been worked through in time for Kananaskis. Between engine misfires, suspension components breaking, and parts arriving on a schedule that did not fit the timeline, Ben and Jen have had their work cut out for them. They have managed to turn Ben's stock Volkswagen Golf into a bona fide race car, ready to conquer whatever the mountains throw at them. While they may not feel 100% ready for the race, they are excited to conquer this challenge and face the unknown as they experience stage rally in a way that so few people truly get to experience it.



Ben Welcher in the VW Golf, photo by Emily Trojan

Survey Participation



Samsonas Motorsports at Rocky Mountain Rally, photo by Shawn Bishop

Thank you to everyone that participated in the survey that went out about the Broken Spoke! If you have not completed the survey but wish to do so, links to it are on the CSCC Instagram and Facebook pages!

Interest in the Broken Spoke seems to be high, so we are hoping to get it on a regular posting schedule with articles on everything the CSCC helps run and organize. It may take a little while to get into said regular schedule, so we thank you for your patience as I settle into the role of writing the paper.

-Grace Laing,
Director of Communications

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