



Live Updates

Friday, September 10, 10:30 AM:

Welcome to the next edition of the International Rally New York!

The cars are running the first special stage – Mortimer Schiff 1 – under the partly cloudy skies with occasional sprinkle that will keep the dust down.

The rally started this morning with the Shakedown on the beautiful and smooth roads of the Ten Mile Scout Reservation in Narrowsburg, New York. Because of the dusty conditions during the Shakedown, it was decided to start the rally with two-minute intervals. This will cause some delay in starting some of the special stages because the Itinerary was previously compacted based on the number of cars.

Last night, Volkan Isik, the six-time Turkish National Champion, lead the field out of the Ceremonial Start at the Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center and into the overnight Parc Ferme in the indoor Tennis Center. Local dignitaries as well as Rally Radio Thunder 102 were in attendance.

Local rally fans may follow the updates on Rally Radio Thunder 102 and five affiliated stations in the tri-county area for the duration of the rally.

Friday, September 11, 11:00 PM:

Today, we were hampered by the low quality of cell phone service at the Ten Mile River Scout Reservation. This explains the lack of updates and results. This situation may last through tomorrow.

Volkan Isik and Vendat Bostanci are leading overall and in the AWD category, followed by Tom Lawless and Brian Sharkey merely one minute behind and Danny O’Brian with Brendan McCabe another forty six seconds back. In the 2WD category, the leading crews are Wojtek Kulpa and Adam Pelc, Erica Detota and Jason Smith, and Tim Oliver and Kieran Wright.

Sunday, September 12, 10:00 AM:

The following updates are posted today as the Internet service was not functioning in the area since Friday night:

Isik/Bostanci Jump into Early Lead in International Rally New York

From: Rally New York Media

Contact: Thomas Barker, 203-229-0718

Narrowsburg, New York (Sept. 10, 2010, 2:00 p.m.) – The visiting Turkish team of Volkan Isik/Vedat Bostanci (Subaru Impreza WRX STi) has taken a narrow lead on the first morning of International Rally New York. With three of the scheduled 17 special stages completed, they are ahead of Ireland's Tom Lawless/Brian Sharkey (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9) by five seconds. This is despite a flat tire for Isik/Bostanci and problems with visibility through dust for Lawless. Enda McCormack/Tommy Doyle (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9) are third ahead of Danny O'Brien/Brendan McCabe (Subaru Impreza).

The dust is one of the main talking points among many of the competitors. A dry summer in New York's Catskill Mountains and some local regrading has left the dirt and gravel roads with a coat of powdery dust, which is kicked up by the cars, and hangs in the air for several minutes. When the breeze is blowing, it moves the dust away, and when it is not, rally drivers are often surprised to find visibility dropping to nearly zero. The only car which is not affected is the first one on the road, which at the moment is leader Isik/Bostanci.

Weather has been cool, comfortable, and partly to mostly cloudy. A light sprinkle fell in the morning, but was not enough to affect the dust problem.

The rally continues until this evening, before an overnight break at approximately 8 p.m. It will continue with a run from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

Other notes from the forest:

- Celsus Donnelly/Barry Smyth (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo) are holding fifth overall, but concerned about some loss of transmission fluid, and a noise from the car's rear differential.
- Michael and John O'Leary (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 10) hit something solid, damaging the car's right front suspension. They may be out for the weekend.
- Martin O'Flynn/Brian McNamara (Mitsubishi Eclipse) hit a tree. No word yet on whether the problem is repairable.
- Wojtek "Al" Kulpa/Adam Pelc (Volkswagen Golf) also hit a tree, while in a dust cloud. Mechanics have been dispatched to a local wrecking yard to find suspension and axle parts.
- Matt Gottlieb/Austin Gager (Subaru Impreza WRX) have been suffering from a clutch engagement problem, despite the fact that the team burned some midnight oil on the night before the start, trying to resolve it. They also had the car's intercooler come loose from the intake manifold. The mechanics are working to resolve both problems.
- Derek Dekar/Jessie Berry (Subaru Impreza) lost two driveshaft bolts in the morning, but their mechanics replaced them at the first service stop.
- Erica Detota/Jason Smith (Subaru Impreza) suffered a broken right front axle in the morning, but the service crew replaced it at the next break.

- Tim Oliver/Kieran Wright (Dodge Neon) found that the car's shock absorbers are failing, but are soldiering on.

International Rally New York is the next-to-last event in the U.S. Rally Championship. The individual Friday and Saturday legs are each scored as a round of the regional New York Rally Championship. The rally is being conducted in the Catskill Mountain region of southern New York State, about 90 miles from New York City.

Isik/Bostanci Extend Lead in International Rally New York

From: Rally New York Media

Contact: Thomas Barker (203)-229-0718

Narrowsburg, New York (Sept. 10, 2010, 10:00 p.m.) Volkan Isik/Vedat Bostanci (Subaru Impreza WRX STI) have extended their lead in International Rally New York to over one minute. The Turkish championship team has suffered a couple of flat tires, but apparently this has resulted in little loss of time.

Tom Lawless/Brian Sharkey (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9) are second following a problem at day's end. The team admit that they had started to go the wrong way at a junction, but caught themselves. However, when they attempted to back out, the car's gear selector mechanism malfunctioned, so that they could not engage reverse gear. By the time that Sharkey was able to push the car backward, approximately one minute had elapsed.

Danny O'Brien/Brendan McCabe (Subaru Impreza) are holding third place at day's end, from Enda McCormack/Tommy Doyle (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9).

In the two wheel drive category, Erica Detota/Jason Smith (Subaru Impreza) are leading by five seconds from Tim Oliver/Kieran Wright (Dodge Neon). Both teams have suffered from occasional mechanical bothers (poor brakes for Detota, poor shock absorbers for Oliver), but are determined to finish.

The dust on the event's dirt and gravel roads continues to be a point of concern. This afternoon the officials took the rare step of increasing the separation of the cars at the start of special stages to three minutes for safety. Most teams report that this had helped visibility over most of the route.

The cars are now being impounded until morning, when the rally will resume.

Other notes from the forest:

- Martin O'Flynn/Brian McNamara (Mitsubishi Eclipse) are back in the rally after their "off." The crew was able to repair the body damage with a hammer.
- Enda McCormack/Tommy Doyle (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9) had a loose rear bumper in the evening, but repaired it before the overnight impound.
- Wojtek "Al" Kulpa/Adam Pelc (Volkswagen Golf) report that their service crew has repaired the car, sourcing a new suspension A-arm and axle shaft from a local wrecking yard.
- Matt Gottlieb/Austin Gager (Subaru Impreza WRX) are out of the rally, following an excursion onto the shoulder of the road, where a stump damaged the right rear suspension.
- Derek Dekar/Jessie Berry (Subaru Impreza) had a flat tire on a special stage, but managed to change it on the following transit zone. They tell us that it was burning at that point, so they threw it into a creek, but retrieved it later in the day.

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Lawless/Sharkey Are Repeat Winners in International Rally New York

From: Rally New York Media

Contact: Thomas Barker 203-229-0718

Narrowsburg, New York (Sept. 11, 2010, 9:00 p.m.) – Defending winners Tom Lawless/Brian Sharkey (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9) made it two in a row at International Rally New York 2010. The Irish duo overcame mechanical glitches and a spin to take another first place trophy. But the leaders for most of the distance were Volkan Isik/Vedat Bostanci (Subaru Impreza WRX STI), who lost the rally on a rules infraction.

Lawless/Sharkey were close behind Isik/Bostanci late on the first of two days, when a problem with the car's power steering caused them to spin into the wrong road at a junction. Compounding their difficulties, the a gear selector malfunction didn't allow Lawless to engage reverse, forcing Sharkey to jump out and push the vehicle back on course. The team never managed to recover he lost minute.

Also on the first day, Isik/Bostanci suffered two flat tires. Neither caused a serious loss of time, in each case they could be changed on the next transit (public road) section. However, during one of those tire changes, the team's service crew was spotted near the car – a violation of rally regulations. (There was no proof that the mechanics ever changes the tires, or provided any tires or equipment, but service crews are allowed near their car only in designated service areas.) The officials assed a 45-minute penalty at the end of the rally, which moved the successful Turkish crew down the finish order.

Enda McCormack/Tommy Doyle (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9) finished second with no problems greater than a loose rear bumper. Derek Dekar and girlfriend Jessie Berry (Subaru Impreza) finished third, an excellent result for their first outing in an all wheel drive car.

Erica Detota/Jason Smith (Subaru Impreza) won the two wheel drive category, overcoming, at various times, under-performing brakes, a broken shock absorber, and a blown fuse. Tim Oliver/Kieran Wright (Dodge Neon) were the 2WD runners-up, despite a suspension system which was obviously too soft for the Catskill Mountains' dirt and gravel roads.

Other notes from the forest:

- Celsus "Charlie" Donnelly/Barry Smyth (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo) were sidelined by an engine management system malfunction. They were classified sixth based on times and distance run.
- Danny O'Brien/Brendan McCabe (Subaru Impreza) went out with unspecified mechanical problems. But the team was kind enough to volunteer to help the organizers by running as the course opening "00" car for part of the day.
- Michael and John O'Leary (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 10), who were put out by a broken strut in the right front suspension on Friday, returned to the competition this morning, but were forced to withdraw later. To get them

going again, the mechanics installed stock springs and shocks on both sides of the front, but these proved to be too soft for the roads.

- Martin O’Flynn/Brian McNamara (Mitsubishi Eclipse) also returned to the fray, in this case after repairing body damage inflicted by a tree. They went out for good when the car contacted a large rock.
- Wojtek “Al” Kulpa/Adam Pelc (Volkswagen Golf) likewise returned to the rally after an off-course excursion and repairs – using a suspension arm and axle shaft from a wrecking yard. They placed third in the 2WD category.

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Final results:

1. Thomas Lawless/Brian Sharkey (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9), 1st AWD, score = **1:28:47**
2. Enda McCormack/Tommy Doyle (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9), 2nd AWD **1:31:40**
3. Derek Dekar/Jessie Berry (Subaru Impreza), 3rd AWD, **1:44:09**
4. Erika Detota/Jason Smith (Subaru Impreza), 1st 2WD, **1:54:12**
5. Tim Oliver/Kieran Wright (Dodge Neon), 2nd 2WD, **1:57:24**
6. Celsus Donnelly/Barry Smyth (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo), 4th AWD, **2:05:34**
7. Danny O'Brien/Brendan McCabe (Subaru Impreza), 5th AWD, **2:10:23**
8. Volkan Isik/Vedat Bostanci (Subaru Impreza WRX STI), 6th AWD, **2:11:56**
9. Martin O'Flynn/Brian McNamara (Mitsubishi Eclipse), 1st Production AWD, **2:33:20**
10. Wojtek Kulpa, US Adam Pelc (Volkswagen Golf GTI), 3rd 2WD, **2:35:04**
11. Michael O'Leary/John O'Leary (Mitsubishi Evo) 2nd Production AWD, **3:16:47**

International Rally New York 2010, car by car results

(Cars are listed in order of finish in the national event)

car number, driver, home country/ co-driver, home country

car (and team or sponsor if any)

notes

score in USRC event

U.S. Rally Championship (USRC) result

N.Y. Rally Championship (NYRC) 1 result

N.Y. Rally Championship 2 result

1st - #3 Thomas Lawless, IE/Brian Sharkey, IE

Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9 (Kiss Construction)

The team said that they were bothered by dust from Isik/Bostanci at times on Saturday morning, but they were posting competitive times anyway. Got a rock caught inside a wheel on special stage 2, which caused noise but little or no damage. Power steering problem caused them to spin into the wrong road during the next-to-last stage Friday (ss8), then a gear selector malfunction kept Lawless from getting reverse gear. Sharkey had to get out and push them backward onto the right road, costing a minute.

Paced themselves Saturday.

USRC: 1st overall, 1st AWD

NYRC 1: 1st overall, 1st AWD

NYRC 2: 1st overall, 1st AWD

1:28:47

2nd - #4 Enda McCormack, IE/Tommy Doyle, IE

Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9 (McCormack Contracting)

Rear bumper came loose late Friday, but they fixed it at the end-of-day service stop.

USRC: 2nd overall, 2nd AWD

NYRC 1: 3rd overall, 3rd AWD

NYRC 2: 2nd overall, 2nd AWD

1:31:40

3rd - #11 Derek Dekar, US/Jessie Berry, US

Subaru Impreza (Pro-Care Physical Fitness, Heath's Sign Co.)

The team's first rally with an all wheel drive turbo-car. Lost two driveshaft bolts on the Friday morning stages, but the service crew replaced them during the morning service break. Flat tire on special stage 4, which Dekar/Berry changed on the following transit. Since the flat tire was burning, they threw it into a creek, but retrieved it later in the day. Friday evening went better. Problems with catching O'Leary's dust on Saturday morning. Lost oil in left rear strut when they hit a stump on special stage 12, Saturday, but the team nursed the car to the finish.

USRC: 3rd overall, 3rd AWD

NYRC 1: 5th overall, 5th AWD

NYRC 2: 3rd overall, 3rd AWD

1:44:09

4th - #12 Erica Detota, US/Jason Smith, US

Subaru Impreza (Broken Motorsports)

Broken right axle on special stage 2 Friday, which the service crew fixed at the next stop. Horn stuck on special stage 3. Service crew fixed poor braking (needed fluid) and an exhaust leak late Friday. Found broken right front strut Friday, and decided to coax the car to a finish rather than replace it. Leaving the last service stop, the car would not start, but the crew diagnosed a blown fuse, replaced it, and they were able to take the class win.

USRC: 4th overall, 1st 2WD

NYRC 1: 6th overall, 1st 2WD

NYRC 2: 5th overall, 2nd 2WD
1:54:12

5th - #14 Tim Oliver, US/Kieran Wright, US
Dodge Neon

Oliver's first time in the driver's seat, and the car's first rally, turned out well. Went off the road on the shakedown stage. Discovered that the stock shock absorbers were too soft for these roads on special stage 1, but decided to pace themselves rather than over-drive the car. Flat tire on special stage 2. Trunk coming loose on special stage 3, but they fixed it on the next transit.

USRC: 5th overall, 2nd 2WD
NYRC 1: 7th overall, 2nd 2WD
NYRC 2: 4th overall, 1st 2WD
1:57:24

6th - #2 Celsus "Charlie" Donnelly, IE/Barry Smyth, IE
Mitsubishi Lancer Evo

Discovered a transmission fluid leak on special stage 1 and a rear differential noise on stage 3. Despite those, the team was well placed until a problem with the engine's electronic control system sidelined them at mid-day on Saturday.

USRC: 6th overall, 4th AWD
NYRC 1: 4th overall, 4th AWD
NYRC 2: 8th overall, 5th AWD
2:05:34

7th - #5 Danny O'Brien, IE/Brendan McCabe, IE
Subaru Impreza (Midtown Concrete Corp., Mc & O Contracting)

Bothered by dust Friday – hit a culvert at speed on special stage 4 in one dust cloud – but that stage was subsequently cancelled due to the dust. Unspecified mechanical trouble put them out during the day on Saturday. Spent some time helping out the officials as the course-opening "00" car after that.

USRC: 7th overall, 5th AWD
NYRC 1: 2nd overall, 2nd AWD
NYRC 2: 9th overall, 6th AWD
2:10:23

8th - #1 Volkan Isik, TR/Vedat Bostanci, TR
Subaru WRX STI (Lassa Racing Tires)

The Turkish team was here to promote Turkish-made Lassa tires, which are now available for competition use in the U.S. Two punctures on Friday, but they didn't have to change either on the stage, and there was little loss of time. In one case, however, the service crew was spotted near the car in a transit zone by a competitor, who reported it to the stewards. (There was never any proof that the service crew actually touched the car.) Since Lawless/Sharkey dropped 1 minute to them late Friday, Isik went into "safe mode" and protected his lead. After the rally, they were penalized 45 minutes by the stewards, who pointed regulations which forbid the service crew to be in the area of the car in a transit.

USRC: 8th overall, 6th AWD
2:11:56

9th - #8 Martin O'Flynn, IE/Brian McNamara, IE
1997 Mitsubishi Eclipse (PCT Construction, Bronx, NY.)

Hit tree on Friday, in a corner where O'Flynn had gone off previously. The team repaired the bodywork using a hammer, and was able to continue. Changed a cracked windshield on Saturday morning. Hit a large rock just before the end of special stage 14 (of 17), which put them out.

USRC: 9th overall, 7th AWD, 1st Production AWD & Group N
NYRC 1: DNF Pre-modern AWD
NYRC 2: 7th overall, 4th AWD, 1st Pre-modern AWD
2:33:20

10th - #9 Wojtek "Al" Kulpa, US/Adam Pelc, US
Volkswagen Golf GTI

Hit a pair of trees in the dust on special stage 2, Friday. The service crew sourced a replacement right front A-arm and axle shaft at a wrecking yard, and repaired the car. Restarted Saturday morning, but found that the right side shock absorbers were damaged, so that the car rode "like a Cadillac" according to Kulpa. They drove carefully and finished the day's run.

USRC: 10th overall, 3rd 2WD

NYRC 1: DNF 2WD

NYRC 2: 6th overall, 3rd 2WD

2:35:04

11th - #6 Michael O'Leary, IE/John O'Leary, IE

Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 10

Hit something solid on Friday morning, breaking the right front strut. The team put stock springs and shocks in both front corners in order to restart Saturday, but the suspension was too soft for the roads, and the alignment was incorrect. Car was backfiring Saturday morning, due to an exhaust leak, which they eventually fixed. Withdrew during the Saturday run due to the handling problems.

USRC: 11th overall, 8th AWD, 2nd Production AWD & Group N

NYRC 1: DNF Production AWD

NYRC 2: 10th overall, 7th AWD, 1st Production AWD

3:16:47

Did Not Finish - #10 Matt Gottlieb, US/Austin Gager, US

Subaru Impreza WRX (Broken Motorsports)

Clutch engagement problem Friday, despite the fact that the team had burned much midnight oil on Thursday to fix the clutch. The intercooler was coming loose from the intake manifold on Friday morning. Went off the road Friday afternoon, caught a stump with the right rear wheel, and damaged the suspension.

USRC: DNF, Production AWD

NYRC 1: DNF, Production AWD

NYRC 2: Did Not Start, Production AWD