

CARS Board Meeting Minutes January 28, 2026 7:00pm ET

Item	Discussion
1	<p>Meeting was called to order by Bill Westhead on Wednesday January 28 at 4:00 pm PT</p> <p>In attendance: BW Bill Westhead (President) RO Rose Oakhill (RPM Director) MSz Michael Szewczyk (RW Director & Vice President) DC David Cotie (RSO Director & Treasurer) ED Éric Dubé (RSQ Director) MSw Mal Swann (ARMS Director & Secretary) JH John Hall (Admin rule committee) MA Mikaël Arsenault (Competitors' Representative)</p> <p>We have Quorum with 5 Region Directors present.</p> <p>BW welcomed the new board members, Éric Dubé (RSQ Director), Mikaël Arsenault (Competitors' Representative) and the re-elected board members: MSz Michael Szewczyk (RW Director & Vice President), RO Rose Oakhill (RPM Director).</p>
2	<p>Agenda: <i>Motion to approve</i> the agenda was made, seconded and carried. (DC & MSz)</p>
3	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes. <i>A motion to adopt</i> the Jan 7, 2026 board meeting minutes as distributed, was made, seconded and carried. (MSz & DC)</p>
4	<p>Financial & Admin Updates</p> <p>2026 Budget was passed at the January 10 AGM – no current updates.</p> <p>ED - Revisit discussion on one-day licenses.</p> <p>Ability to purchase one day licenses then pay the difference to upgrade.</p> <p>Example purchased one day license, then had opportunity to do more.</p> <p>Only available for a first-time license holder. Can we open it up?</p> <p>JH: Only income CARS gets, is from licenses. Manual system so needs to be kept track of.</p> <p>BW Follow up with Debbie to fully understand how this has worked practically in the past.</p> <p>Number of requests and amount of additional work required.</p> <p>Concern with loss of revenue and additional work for Debbie. Do we or how can we accommodate special cases.</p>
5	<p>CRC Report</p> <p>BW Big White Winter Rally NSM and Stewards reports have been received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up and discussion on RallySafe Neutral Zone trial. <p>ED 2026 Rallye Perce Neige</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on preparations and progress. Everything is on schedule. • Stewards assigned, DC confirmed as NSM <p>BW 2025 CRC Awards</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned for Thurs, Feb. 5 at RPN in Maniwaki CRC, NARC, ECRC- CREC, RSQ, and RSO awards to be presented. <p>BW 2026 CRC Calendar confirmed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rallye Perce Neige, Feb. 6-7 Rocky Mountain Rally, May 30-31 Pacific Forest Rally, June 5-6 Baie de Chaleurs, June 26-28 Rallye Défi Beauce-Appalaches Sept 11-12 Rallye de Charlevoix, Oct. 30-Nov 1 Tall Pines Rally, Nov. 20-21 Big White Winter Rally, Dec. 4-5 <p>Rally Collective new podcast episode 1, released today to Spotify and YouTube. Hosted by Frédéric Senterre. Talking with Bill and Jason Nugent about the 2026 season.</p>
6	<p>Region Event Updates</p> <p>MSw update from ARMS – Rally cross coming up this weekend.</p> <p>ED update from RSQ – Rally X this weekend in New Richmond, 20 entries. Perce Neige coming fast. Then Rally X in Rimouski and La Gross Ride (Road Rally) February 21.</p> <p>DC updates from RSO – Polar Bear Road rally coming up Feb 14, the KWRC SNATR series starts Feb 21st, KWRC also planning a RallyX, PMSC has 5-6 RallyX planned; Voyageurs Rally in May might have livestream broadcast through a TV2Go/Bowes Media partnership</p> <p>MSz update from RW – Snowball Road Rally planned for Feb 7; Getting ready for Cochrane Mar 7-8</p> <p>RO update from RPM – Thunderbird Road rally next weekend. 33 entries.</p>
7	<p>Club Updates</p> <p>RO – The Kootenay Club is going to work under the umbrella of the Interior Rally Sport Association for now, with a plan to affiliate with CARS down the road.</p>
8	<p>Request to Review CRC Events Points</p> <p>BW - From the recent Competitors’ Round Table a request was made to review the CRC events points structure. We need to look at this now, for consideration and discussion prior to the 2027 season.</p> <p>NRR 24.1.4 [page 157, 2026 CARS Rule Book] “The selection of events for the Canadian Rally Championships is made by the CARS Board based on past performance and recommendations of the National Series Manager. Competitors will count all events run if there are six or fewer events in the series. If there are more than six events, competitors will count a total of 6 events with maximum of 3 events from any one region.</p> <p>There ensued a lively discussion regarding ideas and thoughts about restructuring the championship, with the expressed goal of increasing participation.</p>
9	<p>Sponsorship</p> <p>The Pirelli program is continuing for 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are looking to get a second arch, so there is one East and West. Arch could be used by Pirelli for more than just rally events. We are following up on the contingency for the competitors. Discussion on how to smooth out requirements and responsibilities. Events would like to have extra hats to have as volunteer prizes or to sell? <p>Two other potential sponsors are in discussion.</p> <p>Reminder that sponsorship deals open to all competitors or available to a series need to be approved by CARS as commercial rights at CRC events are owned by CARS. We need to know there are no conflicts between sponsors.</p>

	<p>Re Podiums, to save time and to make it easier, can we move to no vehicles for podiums except for the top 3 overall?</p> <p>The dance with all the cars in every class is <i>very</i> time consuming.</p>
10	<p>Organizers' Group</p> <p>The Organizers group has decided they will not have a specific representative to the board this year.</p> <p>As decided at the January 9, 2026 meeting with the event organizers, we will start by holding two meetings with the event organizers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 25, 2026 at 7:00 pm EST • July 15, 2026 at 7:00 pm EST • Additional meetings TBA
11	<p>Safety Delegate – regrets</p>
12	<p>Competitors' Rep – looking for a competitor's e-mail list.</p> <p>CARS has the ability to assist with Zoom meetings.</p> <p>MA will be at Perce Neige next weekend to talk with competitors.</p>
13	<p>Technical Director – regrets</p>
14	<p>Admin Rules Committee – JH</p> <p>Updates and discussion from John</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed proposed Bulletin 2026-01 - Use of RallySafe for Speed Neutral Zones • Updated penalties for virtual chicane and speed neutral zone. • Support for use of Sportity by events <p>If CARS was on Sportity platform year-round we could use it to host the rule book etc. as well as for each event platform. Can we look at a CARS level license?</p> <p>Currently events have the option of declaring physical or virtual notice board. Some wording change to the rules would be needed to mandate a virtual notice board (<i>i.e.</i> Sportity)</p> <p>Can we use the window between Perce-Neige and Rocky to look into and possibly get this in place?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Violations rules update: John and Matt to work on this and bring to the board for discussion • Boost Monitors update: still in process. Working with the ARA on this. John and Matt to develop a boost penalty grid. • Tow Strap Issue with FIA vehicle homologation, requires a FIA logbook. If running with a CARS logbook, they must adhere to CARS rule set. Specifically, 12.3.13 • Are our events providing extraction or only sweep? There is no requirement that CARS events provide extraction. Both are purely voluntary by the sweep teams. <p><i>A Motion to create Bulletin 2026-02 "Use of RallySafe for Speed Neutral Zones" and post for two-week review period was made, seconded and carried. (MSz & DC)</i></p>
15	<p>New Business</p> <p>Short directors only call post meeting.</p>
16	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Wed Feb. 25, 2026 at 7:00pm EST/4:00pm PST.</p>
17	<p>Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM PST</p>

