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Los Angeles – California Rally Series (CRS) Championship season introduced new championship classes for Side by Side (SxS), vehicles, which have exploded in popularity of the last few years. The Frazier Mountain Rally, held on May 20, was the first event to feature these new classes, and what an exciting debut it was, with SxS occupying all of the top four spots on the leaderboard! The lightweight vehicles were well suited for the twisty stages that climb up and then down Frazier Mountain within the Los Padres National Forest.

Claiming the overall win and the SxS Production Turbo class victory was Stephan Verdier, a name familiar to Global Rallycross and Formula D drifting fans. Verdier bested second place finisher Rhys Millen, another Global Rallycross and Formula D veteran, by a margin of only six seconds after forty-five minutes of racing! Both drivers were piloting Polaris RZR XP 1000 Turbos.

Despite being down on horsepower at elevations approaching 7,500 feet, the normally-aspirated production SxS class still set times beyond even the fastest cars. James Hill took the class win, and third overall with Erica Sacks calling notes from the passenger seat of his Polaris RZR XP 1000. Not far behind was Cain Smead and co-driver Michael Henderson in a Yamaha YXZ 1000R, who finished fourth overall, almost a minute ahead of the fastest car.

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