

REPORT FOR WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2009

Our morning commenced in the Crowne Hotel in Alice Springs waiting for the Southern Aurora to make its short downhill run into this check point. The stop was buzzing with entries as many solar cars trailered to this point for a start to the days event. We were just half way and instead of reaching Alice in 2 days here we were three days into the race.

Jack McArthur had the team running well. They had removed a cranky battery block to eliminate that as a problem. Another careful tire check and that was it for the stop. When they got going again it was at a steady speed of 90 km/hr. Just ahead was the Goko team and Southern Aurora needed to pass them to reach second place in the Adventure class. First place in Adventure was OSU and if all went well there was no way of catching them.

About 90 minute ahead was Aurora 101. The stop at Kulgera would reveal whether they could catch the unlucky Twente team. Still ahead lay Principia, UNSW and MIT.

The conditions were ideal except for some headwind.
The sky was clear blue without any cloud

Kulgera was another 10 minute mandatory stop included for the first time. It was so that teams could change drivers in the very long stretch between Alice Springs and Coober Pedy. By Kulgera, Aurora 101 had already passed Twente and were just 57 minutes behind Principia. UNSW were going very well. They were just 35 minutes behind MIT. Aurora 101 was about 3 hours behind MIT so hopes were fading that we could catch them by the end of the race.

On to Coober Pedy. Even 30 km out of town the conical minig heaps are evident. Upright cones of white, brown and orange. Many call it a moonscape. The media stop was in town not far from the opal retailers, the underground motels. This is serious tourist country and opals are the thing.

The times into Coiober Pedy had MIT 2 hours 56 minutes ahead of Aurora 101. But UNSW were cthching MIT fast and were trailing by just 4 minutes. Aurora had caught Principia another 14 minutes and were only 43 minutes behind.

Only a short run remained before the official close for the day at around 5.00PM.. UNSW continued their great run and had reached Glendambo. MIT were 30 km further back, then Principia a lot further back but only 30 km apart.

Meanwhile the leading car Tokai had made it to the end of timing at 2.39 PM to win the event. Nuna stopped for the day 30 km before the end of timing and Michigan were stopped 100 km before the ed of timing

Unfortunaly Aurora will not finish on Thursday. What about Peter's speaking duties on Thursday night?



