

INFINITI MOTOR COMPANY

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MEDIA INFORMATION

BIOGRAPHY – NICOLE WAKELIN
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Nicole Wakelin

Freelance Automotive Journalist

New Hampshire native, Nicole Wakelin has been covering the auto industry for more than a decade. Her bylines span across dozens of news outlets, blogs, and podcasts including *The Boston Globe*, *Autobytel*, *CarGurus*, *BestRide* and *U.S. News and World Report*, just to name a few. She is also a member and former Vice President of the New England Motor Press Association, a member of the International Motor Press Association, and a Women's World Car of the Year juror.

This year Wakelin will add yet another accolade to her automotive resume as a first-time competitor in the fifth annual [Rebelle Rally](#), the first women's off-road navigation rally raid in the U.S.

From October 8 to 17, Wakelin will join dozens of other women from around the world (a mix of professionals and novices) who will test their driving and navigation skills over eight days of competition. The unique and demanding rally – which spans more than 2,000 kilometers across the Nevada and California desert – is based on the elements of headings, hidden checkpoints, time, and distance using maps, a compass, and roadbook. No GPS or outside help is permitted.



I N F I N I T I

EMPOWER THE DRIVE

What sets Wakelin apart from her competitors? She and her teammate and fellow journalist, [Alice Chase](#), will take to the terrain in an **INFINITI QX80**, which is a rarity for a luxury SUV to be competing.

"I first attended Rebelle Rally years ago as media covering the event for several outlets. I had no idea what to expect and it was such an amazing experience that I thought to myself, I'd really like to do this someday," said Wakelin. That thought is now becoming a reality.

Once Wakelin and Chase made their decision to enter the competition, step one was securing a car. After discussing the opportunity with INFINITI - who offered up one of their QX80 models for the rally - the pair knew instantly that this would give them an edge. "Who runs an off-road rally in a luxury SUV? Apparently, me and Alice," said Wakelin. In addition to providing the vehicle, INFINITI will also make the limited off-road modifications to the QX80 prior to the rally - staying true to the road to track motto of the rally.

Wakelin currently resides in Nashua, N.H. with her husband and their two daughters, and will begin her physical Rebelle Rally training in California in August for her role as driver; Chase the navigator. As a first-time competitor, she compares her nerves to that of sending her daughter off to college this fall.

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About Rebelle Rally

The Rebelle Rally, entering its fifth year, is the first women's off-road navigational rally raid in the United States. The event has a unique challenge and scoring system where precise navigation, not speed, is the ultimate goal. Participants trade in cell phones and GPS for old-school navigation in a competition for the elements of time, distance, headings, and hidden checkpoints. Armed with just maps, compasses, and roadbooks, 40 teams of two will be pushed to their limits as they make their way across 2,000+ kilometers of Nevada and California's iconic terrain. Starting October 8 in Lake Tahoe and finishing October 17 along the famed Glamis Dunes, the competition is the longest competitive off-road rally in the nation. For more information including live show and tracking, visit www.rebellerally.com



About INFINITI

INFINITI Motor Company is headquartered in Yokohama, Japan with operations around the world including regional offices based in the Americas, China and INFINITI International Markets based in Dubai. The INFINITI brand of premium automobiles are assembled in manufacturing facilities in Japan, North America and China. INFINITI design studios are located in Atsugi-Shi near Yokohama, London, San Diego and Beijing.

More information about INFINITI and its industry leading technologies can be found at www.INFINITI.com. You can also follow INFINITI on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and see all our latest videos on [YouTube](#).

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