



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Top Rally Drivers from North America Headed to New England to Compete in the 2009 New England Forest Rally

Round Six of the Rally America National Championship Series

**(Newry, Maine)** – With the first five rally events of the 2009 Rally America National Championship in the record books already, the top Regional and National rally teams from across the United States and Canada will soon be making their way to the tiny resort village of Newry, Maine for the New England Forest Rally – home to the Sunday River Resort and round #6 of the 9-event Rally America National Championship.

Thousands of spectators are expected for this two day event happening Friday and Saturday, July 17 & 18, 2009. As many as 45 or more top-level rally teams are expected to be competing on some of the fastest gravel and forest roads in the country for top honors at this always-popular rally event.

Sitting atop the Rally America National points championship right now and expected to be competing at this year's New England Forest Rally is 3-time Rally America Champion and Freestyle Motocross legend Travis Pastrana who drives for Subaru Rally Team USA – the factory-backed rally team based in Colchester, Vermont. Along with his teammates Ken Block, co-founder of DC Shoes USA, and X Games & BMX legend Dave Mirra, the Subaru rally team will be looking for another overall rally victory at this year's New England Forest Rally.

Closer to home, this year's New England Forest Rally will feature a larger contingent of Regional teams from across the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada. Confirmed entries are Maine's own former regional champions Chris Duplessis, of Team O'Neil, and John Cassidy, of Last Ditch Racing, as well as New Hampshire's Wyatt Nnox, also of Team O'Neil, coming off a big weekend winning both regional contests at the recent Susquehannock Trail Rally.

Many of these regional entrants will be competing for their share of \$15,000 in prize money as the New England Forest Rally will be just one of three events in the United States that include the 3-round MaxAttack! Championship – a two wheel drive competition happening in addition to the national championship.

Although the New England Forest Rally will be contested over two days and 125 plus miles of gravel and forest stages for the National competitors, the Regional rally teams will compete on the very same roads as the National teams, but in two separate 1-day Regional rally events run simultaneously with the National rally.

Friday's Regional rally will be known as the "Drive Your Future Rally" presented by the National Guard and will be highlighted by a "Super Special" in the town of Mexico, Maine. Taking place at the Mexico Recreational Area located just off Rt. 17 in Mexico, spectators will have the opportunity to watch their favorite rally driver or team complete an entire gravel rally stage, complete with a jump, from start to finish right in front of them. Fans will also have the chance for an up-close look at the service crews as they take care of their rally cars at the Service Park which will also be based at the Mexico Recreation Area. As a special attraction for fans of all ages, National Guard units from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont will be on hand at the Mexico Recreation Area with a large display of state-of-the-art military vehicles to check out.

On Saturday, July 18, 2009, the rally action moves west along Route 2 to Coos County and the city of Berlin in Northern New Hampshire where rally teams will compete on a series of gravel and forest stages from Berlin north along the Androscoggin River to the sleepy village of Errol and beyond. A number of scenic spectator areas will be available along the competition stages where fans will be able to watch their favorite drivers compete. They will also be treated to a "Super Special" in Berlin on Saturday morning where teams will test their skills on a half-mile course that winds its way in and around the old Berlin paper mill site located on the north side of the city.

Also available throughout the 2-day New England Forest Rally will be a number of spectator buses provided by the Sunday River Resort in Newry, Maine. The busses will depart from a variety of locations and take interested spectators out to the designated viewing areas along the rally course. Tickets for the spectator busses can be purchased the day of the event and will cost just \$5.00 per person!

For ongoing live updates through out the New England Forest Rally visit the official Rally America web site at [www.rally-america.com](http://www.rally-america.com) or follow the action on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/rally\\_america](http://www.twitter.com/rally_america)

For more information regarding a detailed event schedule, lodging and an on-line Spectator Guide, please visit [www.newenglandforestrally.com](http://www.newenglandforestrally.com)

Sponsors for this year's New England Forest Rally include Subaru of America; DC Shoes; Endless Brakes; Exedy Racing Clutches; Q Racing Oil; the Army National Guard; Sunday River Resort in Newry, Maine; the Team O'Neil Rally School from Dalton, NH and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

#### About Rally:

Rally car racing is considered the extreme sport of automobile racing and is often described simply as "real cars, real roads, real fast." This all-season motorsport sees drivers and their co-drivers taking modified road cars to the limit as they achieve blistering speeds over courses that cover more than 100 miles of gravel, dirt or snow-covered roads known as stages.

The 2009 Rally America National Championship series consists of nine exciting events that take place throughout the United States in many different weather and road conditions. Top teams in the Rally America Championship are also invited to compete in ESPN's Summer X Games, the leading action sports event broadcast live on ABC and ESPN. Eight top teams have already been invited to this August's contest. Among the marquee typically represented in Rally America events are Subaru, Mitsubishi, Dodge, Ford and Volkswagen.

#### More Information:

[www.rally-america.com](http://www.rally-america.com) or [www.newenglandforestrally.com](http://www.newenglandforestrally.com)

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