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Article published Aug 11, 2009

Beliveau chasing his dream

LHS student on fast track to becoming rally racer

LACONIA — Rally racing has been Jamie Beliveau's sport of choice since the age of 10 when his father Scott Beliveau taught him how to drive his standard Toyota Tacoma truck. He became a navigator or co-driver, rallying competitively with New England Region Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), and was named Rookie of the Year at age 13 in 2005.

With Jaime's experience as navigator, his teams captured first place finishes in both 2006 and 2007 seasons.

"I loved the rally cross sport because it was competitive and exciting, with pretty aggressive driving," Jamie Beliveau said.

"When I got my New Hampshire driving license in 2008, I had my mind set on two things: to make my own rally team because my father had no plans of giving up the driver's seat, and to use the rest of the 2008 rally cross season to gain experience," added Beliveau. "Both plans worked out and I even had some top three finishes in the Stock Front Wheel Drive Class at the Rally Cross events."

His latest rally event was the Rally America-sponsored New England Forest Rally (NEFR) held in July, where Beliveau, as Co-Driver for car owner and driver Alan Moody, placed second in their class and ninth place overall during Friday's rally in the Production GT Class (PGT) of the Eastern Regional Competition series. They endured Adrenalin pumping, speed-filled, winding rally stages to the excitement and cheers of thousands of spectators along the way.

Moody is currently in first place overall in the series for the Production GT Class.

The Maine-based NEFR event was hosted over the weekend of July 17-18 at Sunday River Resort in Newry, the sixth of nine National rally events of the Rally America National Championship. The Moody/ Beliveau team competed in the Mexico, Maine "Drive Your Future" rally, sponsored by the Army National Guard, against dozens of Regional rally teams from across the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada.

Moody and Beliveau competed in a 2000 Subaru Impreza 2.5 RS that needed literally no major service during the rally stages. The only service needed was tire pressure and fluid level checks, and to install light pods for the night stages.

The NEFR was contested over two days on over 125 miles of gravel and forest stages for the National competitors, while the Regional rally teams such as Moody/Beliveau competed on the very same roads as the National teams in two separate 1-day Regional rally events run simultaneously with the National rally. Sponsors for NEFR included Subaru of America, DC Shoes, Endless Brakes, Exedy Racing Clutches, Q Racing Oil, Army National Guard, Sunday River Resort, Team O'Neil Rally School of Dalton, N.H. and the United States Department of

Agriculture (USDA).

Beliveau is still in high school, who during the summer works at a local go kart track and at Team O'Neil Rally School and Car Control Center in Dalton, and in winter, works as a ski instructor at Gunstock Mountain. He plans on going to college and to continue working his way up the rally circuit.

"I plan on buying my own rally car after college and running regional events," Beliveau said. "Right now I see Rally America as a good place for young stars to get a good start and that's just what I'm doing. So for the future, don't be surprised to see my name on the entry list of Pro rallies here in the Eastern area!"

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. For more information, updates and results on upcoming rallies visit the official Rally America Web site at www.rally-america.com.

Known for some of the longest stages on the circuit, the New England Forest Rally is always a favorite with rally drivers due to the technical demands of the course. Headquartered at the Sunday River Ski Resort in Newry, Maine, and running east to Mexico, Maine and west to Berlin, New Hampshire, this rally is held on a series of gravel and forest stages. With fantastic spectator viewing areas, this rally event's philosophy remains "We Always Enjoy Ourselves." For more information, visit www.newenglandforestrally.com.

Editor's note: Nancy Flynn is the Media Assistant for NEFR.
