

Monday, October 24, 2016

Contact:

**Chris Cyr, General Manager
Team O'Neil Rally School
178 Miller Rd, Dalton, NH 03598
(603) 444-4488-Office
(720)-934-7092-Mobile
chris@teamoneil.com**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New England Forest Rally Announces New Chairman and New Sanctioning Body

Dalton, NH

New England Forest Rally (NEFR) is excited to announce Chris Regan as its new chair. Regan has held numerous positions with the NEFR including Stage Captain, Spectator Captain and Assistant Chief of Spectator Safety.

Former NEFR Chair, Tim O'Neil, will continue to support Regan in his new role. "Chris is very experienced and is exceptionally motivated to continue improving NEFR for everyone involved," said O'Neil.

Additionally, NEFR is pleased to formally announce its affiliation with the American Rally Association (ARA) as its new sanctioning body, as well as its participation in the ARA's National and Regional Rally Championships.

Regan said, "NEFR's organizers are very encouraged by the direction being taken by ARA. The ARA is formed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is being run by a volunteer board of directors comprised of representatives from each participating rally, along with veteran rallyists and technical experts. "

Regan continued, "The ARA has stated it plans to focus on safety for competitors, teams and spectators; improve the quality of competition; improve promotion and engage in public education about the many elements of this incredibly exciting form of motorsports. The ARA has also pledged to be transparent in its operation."

Regan added, "We're also honored that the ARA's first elected Chair is my predecessor, 5-time US Rally Champion and Team O'Neil Rally School owner, Tim O'Neil."

The independent national stage rallies which have already affiliated with the ARA and committed to its National Championship series are Perce-Neige in Québec, Canada, the Oregon Trail Rally in Oregon, the Olympus Rally in Washington, the Susquehannock Trail Performance Rally in Pennsylvania, the New England Forest Rally in Maine and the Ojibwe Forests Rally in Minnesota.

Along with the announcements, the organizers of the New England Forest Rally also wish to take this opportunity to recognize the recent passing of Ted Goddard, one of the rally's founders, and a true icon of US motorsports, who died of natural causes, July 23rd, at the age of 80.

To learn more about the New England Forest Rally, go to www.newenglandforestrally.com

---MORE---

HISTORY OF THE NEW ENGLAND FOREST RALLY

The New England Forest Rally (NEFR) is a stage rally, run against-the-clock, one car at-a-time, on forest roads and closed public roads, in race-prepared production-based cars, with a driver and a co-driver who provides timing and navigation information to the driver. The NEFR began as the regional Maine Winter Rally in 1991 sanctioned by the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) as part of its ProRally series. In 1994 the regional Maine Summer Rally was added. In 1995 the Maine Summer Rally changed its name to the Maine Forest Rally, with additional stage miles qualifying it as a national-level event. In 2005, following SCCA's departure from stage rallying, the New England Forest Rally came under the sanctioning auspices of RallyAmerica, an organization which had provided timing and scoring for SCCA ProRally events and acquired the rights to the series. In 2007, the event changed its name to the New England Forest Rally after the event added competition stages in New Hampshire. The 2001 New England Forest Rally holds the North American record for the greatest number of entries at 121. The New England Forest Rally thanks its landowners, sponsors, volunteers, competitors, the media and spectators for their support.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN RALLY ASSOCIATION

American Rally Association (ARA) is a member-driven organization dedicated to the sport of stage rally and is a transparent and inclusive sanctioning body. As a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, ARA is led by elected and appointed board members who guide the sport in the best interest of the members. ARA is delivering a framework for safety, competition, promotion, and educational forums for all aspects of stage rally. The success of the organization is dependent on many experienced volunteers working toward the common goal of a thriving stage rally program in North America. For updates, "like" ARA at: www.facebook.com/AmericanRallyAssociation and go to www.americanrallyassociation.org.

###