



**Attention News, Sports and Automotive Editors
For Immediate Release**

NOTE local interest for: Montreal; St-Jean-sur-Richelieu; Toronto; Calgary; Edmonton; Red Deer; Kelowna; Seattle, USA

Antoine L'Estage and Alan Ockwell dominate the Pacific Forest Rally

Merritt, B.C., October 25, 2015 – Antoine L'Estage (St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC) and Alan Ockwell (Toronto, ON) dominated the 2015 Pacific Forest Rally, L'Estage's eighth victory at the event. The Subaru Rally Team Canada WRX STI carved out a big lead on the first day of competition and managed their lead through the rest of the event, despite a mechanical failure partway through the second day.

"We had a great event with the team and car all doing a really good job," said L'Estage. "We hit a compression on the Clearwater stage which broke a control arm and then other parts broke, but we were able to make a repair and limp back to service."

"The Rocket Rally guys fixed the car in service and it was perfect for the final stage of the rally."

Driving steady from start to finish were Hardy Schmidtke (Red Deer, AB) and John Hall (Sherwood Park, AB). The team has run over 30 rallies together and quickly showed their confidence over the rest of the field, moving into second place early in the event and holding position to the finish.

"We drove quickly, but tried to avoid any big risks," said Schmidtke. "This rally has a way of forcing teams out, so the goal was to try to keep things clean and it worked out well, with a second place finish."

Josh Shewchuck (Kelowna, BC) and Adam Vokes (Edmonton, AB) struggled with problems on the first day of the event and started day two with strong hopes for changed fortunes. They were rewarded with excellent performances on the day's stages. As other teams dropped out because of the rough conditions, Shewchuck and Vokes managed to avoid trouble and were rewarded with a third place finish, a career-best for Shewchuck.

"I'm really happy with how today went," said Shewchuck. "Yesterday was a really bad start, but today we really made some good progress. To finish third is a really great way to close out our event. I'm really stoked!"

Dave Clark (Naches, USA) and Billy Irvin (Puyallup, USA) dominated the two-wheel-drive competition in their Merkur XR4Ti. Clark had fitted a new turbocharged engine before the event and found the power really worked to their advantage early in the rally. Despite a strong field of two-wheel-drive entries, the American pair went unchallenged to the finish.

"We took advantage of the new power on the uphill stages on Friday," said Clark. "We did have a small suspension problem on Saturday, but we were able to fix the car and get back to full speed."

The Pacific Forest Rally is the first western event on the 2015 Canadian Rally Championship calendar. Snaking along technical roads in the hills surrounding the Nicola Valley, the event takes place over two days and includes significant nighttime portions of competition. Clear skies and dry roads provided ideal conditions for competition.

The Canadian Rally Championship is comprised of six events held nationwide in a season that extends

from February to November. The series is presented by Subaru Canada, supported by Yokohama Tire Canada and features a contingency program from Subaru Canada. The Canadian Association of Rallysport (CARS) is the official sanctioning body for rallying in Canada.

Rally car racing is often described simply as “real cars, real roads, real fast.” The all-season motorsport sees drivers and their co-drivers take modified road cars to the limit as they achieve blistering speeds over closed-road courses that typically cover more than 150 kilometers of gravel, dirt or snow-covered roads. Fans can get up close to the cars in the service areas and catch all the action from designated spectator points located at the best spots on the route.

Full coverage of the championship will air on RDS and TSN. Check local listings.

For more information: www.carsrally.ca or <http://www.pacificforestrally.com>

Stay up to date with the Canadian Rally Championship by following the series on social media

www.facebook.com/CRCRally

www.twitter.com/CRCRally

www.instagram.com/CRCRally

www.youtube.com/CRCRallyTV

2015 Pacific Forest Rally final results

1. Antoine L'Estage – Alan Ockwell – one hour, 25 minutes, 0.4 seconds

2. Hardy Schmidtke – John Hall – 1:28:34.1

3. Josh Shewchuck – Adam Vokes – 1:33:16.9

4. Matt Binczewski – John Kessler – 1:34:19.1

5. Dave Clark – Billy Irvin – 1:36:51.6

6. Stu Ford – Robin Chapelski – 1:39:34.0

7. Justin Bayliff – Christine Bayliff – 1:40:47.8

8. Travis Nease – Corey Salsbery – 1:46:40.9

9. Jason Bailey – Michael Milos – 1:47:41.9

10. Boris Djordjevic – Chris Kremer – 1:48:24.6

FOR MORE INFORMATION - Canadian Association of Rally Sport offices : (855) 640-6444

Photo Credit: Andrew Snucins