

Subaru Rally Team USA Confirms 2018 American Rally Association Series Campaign

- Defending Champions will return to the ARA series with a 2-car team
- David Higgins to return with a full-time effort with teammate Travis Pastrana entering select rounds
- Subaru will enter former WRC stars Chris Atkinson and Patrik Sandell at select rounds

Cherry Hill, N.J., February 15, 2018: Subaru Rally Team USA (SRTUSA) is pleased to confirm it will return to the American Rally Association (ARA) Series in 2018 with a multi-car effort utilizing 2018 Subaru WRX STI rally cars prepared by technical partner Vermont SportsCar. The team's efforts will be spearheaded by multi-time rally champions David Higgins and co-driver Craig Drew, who will enter all seven rounds of the 2018 ARA series. Defending 2017 ARA Driver's Champion Travis Pastrana and co-driver Robbie Durant will join Higgins in a second team car at select rounds, owing to schedule commitments with his Nitro Circus live-event tour. SRTUSA will provide entries at select ARA rounds for former World Rally Championship star Chris Atkinson and former Junior World Rally Champion Patrik Sandell.

"Rally continues to offer both an exciting and challenging way to showcase Subaru production car technologies," stated Subaru motorsports manager Rob Weir. "We're fortunate to have a stable of proven rally drivers to complete a two-car team at all ARA rounds to defend our championship title."

The 2018 ARA season kicks off at the scenic Oregon Trail Rally on April 20-22 where Subaru Rally Team USA will enter David Higgins and Chris Atkinson to mount their championship defense. The Australian rally star Atkinson is no stranger to Subaru's motorsports programs. Between 2005 and 2008, he was the factory driver for Subaru World Rally Team alongside the 2003 WRC champion Petter Solberg. Atkinson has earned 41 WRC stage wins and 6 WRC podiums including podiums at the famous Monte Carlo Rally and Rally Mexico. Subaru signed Atkinson in late 2016 as part of the team's rallycross efforts, where he was joined by Patrik Sandell last year, but neither driver has yet to enter any stage rallies on behalf of the team.

"I'm really excited about this opportunity to do a rally in the USA, having had a glimpse through rallycross of how awesome the Subaru fans are in this part of the world, the atmosphere will be amazing," stated Atkinson. "It's been a while since I've done a high-speed rally and I don't underestimate the challenge, but know we have a great team and car so it will be fun. A big thanks to Subaru of America and Vermont Sportscar for this opportunity."

In addition to the five returning ARA events the series will debut two new events in which Subaru Rally Team USA is looking forward to; The Idaho Rally (Sept 14-15) and the Tour de Forest Rally, based in Olympia and Shelton, Washington, (October 6-7). The revived Tour de Forest event, last run in 1983, represents an exciting new challenge for ARA competitors, placing teams on stage roads unseen in rally competition for thirty-five years.

The complete 2018 ARA Series schedule:

1. Oregon Trail Rally ----- April 20-22, 2018
2. Olympus Rally ----- May 19-20, 2018
3. Susquehannock Trail Performance Rally ----- June 1-2, 2018
4. New England Forest Rally ----- July 20-21, 2018
5. Ojibwe Forests Rally ----- August 24-25, 2018
6. Idaho Rally ----- September 14-15, 2018
7. Tour de Forest Rally ----- October 6-7, 2018

Full coverage of Subaru Rally Team USA is available on the Subaru Motorsports App. To download from the iTunes App store, [click here](#), for Android App on Google Play store, [click here](#). Follow the team on Instagram [@srtusa](#), on Twitter [@srtusa](#), and on [facebook](#).

About Subaru Rally Team USA

Subaru Rally Team USA is managed by Vermont SportsCar and proudly supported by [Subaru of America, Inc.](#), [Method Race Wheels](#), [DirtFish Rally School](#), [KÜHL](#), [DMACK Tires](#), [PIAA](#), [RECARO](#) and [DBA USA](#). Follow the team online at www.subaru.com/rally

About Subaru of America, Inc.

[Subaru of America, Inc.](#) (SOA) is a wholly owned subsidiary of [Subaru Corporation](#) of Japan. Headquartered at a zero-landfill office in Cherry Hill, N.J., the company markets and distributes Subaru vehicles, parts and accessories through a network of more than 620 retailers across the United States. All Subaru products are manufactured in zero-landfill production plants and [Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc.](#) is the only U.S. automobile production plant to be designated a backyard wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. SOA is guided by the [Subaru Love Promise](#), which is the company's vision to show love and respect to everyone, and to support its communities and customers nationwide. Over the past 20 years, SOA has donated more than \$120 million to causes the Subaru family cares about, and its employees have logged more

than 40,000 volunteer hours. As a company, Subaru believes it is important to do its part in making a positive impact in the world because it is the right thing to do.

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Additional information and news from Subaru is available at <http://www.media.subaru.com>.

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