



# Media Information

Subaru Of America, Inc.  
One Subaru Drive  
Camden, NJ 08103  
Main Number: 856-488-8500

CONTACT: William Stokes  
(856) 488-8578  
[wsto@subaru.com](mailto:wsto@subaru.com)

Dominick Infante  
(856) 488-8615  
[dinfante@subaru.com](mailto:dinfante@subaru.com)

## OLIVER SOLBERG JOINS SUBARU MOTORSPORTS USA FOR 2019 RALLY SEASON

Camden, N.J., Feb 14, 2019 - Subaru of America today announced the addition of rising rally talent Oliver Solberg, son of Subaru World Rally Team legend and 2003 World Rally Champion Petter Solberg, for the 2019 American Rally Association (ARA) championship season. The younger Solberg will bring back one of rally's most iconic pairings – the Solberg name on a blue and gold Subaru WRX STI – and join David Higgins and Travis Pastrana in a loaded driver lineup for America's most dominant stage rally program.

At the age of seventeen, Oliver Solberg has already established a name for himself in international rallying; the recently crowned RallyX Nordic champion has also seen success in Crosskart racing, taken overall wins in European stage rally events, and become the youngest driver ever to compete in a World Rallycross Supercar. Solberg and British co-driver Aaron Johnston will compete for the 2019 ARA title in a total of six U.S. events alongside defending ARA champions and seven-time U.S. rally title-winners David Higgins and co-driver Craig Drew. Action sports icon and five-time national rally champion Travis Pastrana will also return to the Vermont SportsCar-prepared Open 4WD class WRX STI for select events alongside co-driver Robbie Durant.

This star-studded stage rally lineup will aim to bring even more success to the team that has captured 13 of the last 14 U.S. national rally titles and in 2019 will return to the blue, yellow and gold made famous by the Subaru World Rally Team – and worn by Oliver's famous father.

"I don't think anybody could begin to understand what a big deal this is for me," said Oliver. "I was two years old when my father was World Rally Champion and remember so well how proud I was of dad wearing blue and yellow and driving a car of the same color. I even still today have the Subaru bed sheets.

"For me to have the chance to wear the same colors and drive under the same name is something unbelievable. I have to say a very big thank you to Subaru Motorsports USA for this opportunity."

Higgins said, "It's very cool to have a Solberg driving a Subaru again. A generation of rally fans grew up watching Petter doing incredible things in a blue and yellow car with gold wheels – to see that Solberg name on the side of one of these cars will be mega."

"We did Wales Rally GB in a Subaru liveried the same as Colin McRae's 1995 title-winning car in 2015 and the response to that was huge. People have such fondness and affection for these colors; when I heard we were going

back to the blue and yellow livery for this year I was delighted. I don't know Oliver all that well, I haven't competed against him before, but he's a Solberg and I think we all know what that means! It's fantastic to have him on the team with us this season."

Solberg and Johnston will kick off the team's 2019 campaign March 15-16 at Missouri's Rally in the 100 Acre Wood, alongside Higgins and Drew in the first event of their ARA title defense.

Travis Pastrana is scheduled to return to the stages at two U.S. rounds in 2019; he will compete in the fan favorite Oregon Trail Rally (May 13-June 2) and again at the Ojibwe Forests Rally (August 23-24).

<b>ARA Event</b>	<b>Entrant 1</b>	<b>Entrant 2</b>
<b>100 Acre Wood</b> Salem, MO – March 15-16	Higgins/Drew	Solberg/Johnston
<b>Olympus Rally</b> Shelton, WA – April 27-28	Higgins/Drew	Solberg/Johnston
<b>Oregon Trail Rally</b> Portland, OR – May 31-June 2	Higgins/Drew	Pastrana/Durant
<b>Idaho Rally</b> Idaho City, ID – June 22-23	Higgins/Drew	Solberg/Johnston
<b>New England Forest Rally</b> Bethel, ME – July 19-20	Higgins/Drew	Solberg/Johnston
<b>Muscatell Ojibwe Forests Rally</b> Detroit Lakes, MN – August 23-24	Higgins/Drew	Pastrana/Durant
<b>Susquehannock Trail Performance Rally</b> Wellsboro, PA – September 13-14	Higgins/Drew	Solberg/Johnston
<b>Lake Superior Performance Rally</b> Houghton, MI – October 18-19	Higgins/Drew	Solberg/Johnston

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Subaru Motorsports USA is managed by [Vermont SportsCar](#) and proudly supported by [Subaru of America, Inc.](#), [Yokohama Tires](#), [Method Race Wheels](#), [DirtFish Rally School](#), and [KÜHL](#).

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[Subaru of America, Inc.](#) (SOA) is a wholly owned subsidiary of [Subaru Corporation](#) of Japan. Headquartered at a zero-landfill office in Camden, N.J., the company markets and distributes Subaru vehicles, parts and accessories through a network of more than 630 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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