



Robin Hood Rally Executive Producer Stephan Condodemetraky was in Berlin last weekend working out details for the rally which will be held May 22 and 23 in Berlin. He posed for a picture with assistants Beth Rayner and Amanda Harrin. (BARBARA TETREAUULT PHOTO)

Robin Hood Rally details worked out and race is set

By BARBARA TETREAUULT
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BERLIN — The final details have been worked out and the Robin Hood Rally is coming to Berlin May 22 and 23.

The reality TV racing series promises exciting competition and national exposure for Berlin and the Androscoggin Valley.

Berlin will be the first stop on the ten race series that will feature amateur racers driving their own vehicles on public roads.

Executive Producer Stephan Condodemetraky said the race will begin in the Laidlaw parking lot, cross Hutchins Street, and travel up the Mount Carberry Road. The spectator area will be set up at

the scale house where the public will have a view of almost the entire race course.

Producing and directing the reality television show is Michael Noval, former producer of the CBS hit, 'Amazing Race' and the winner of four prime-time Emmys.

Condodemetraky said the show will be shown starting Oct. 16 on a cable channel that is available on most cable boxes. He said the cable deal has been finalized and there will be a rollout announcing the cable company in a couple of weeks.

In an exclusive interview with the Berlin Daily Sun, Condodemetraky and Noval said the idea behind the Robin Hood Rally is to bring some exciting entertainment to rural areas and to feature the beauty of

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those areas for a national audience.

"We don't consider this a racing show. This is a show about the heartland here in America," said Condodemetraky.

Noval stressed the show will be family-oriented and not trashy. He plans to include 15 minutes of footage in each show about the host area.

Noval said the organizers hope the rally can provide a shot-in-the-arm and raise some money for the host communities. Spectators will pay \$15 for a pass that allows them to view both days of racing. All the spectator fees will go to the host city.

Condodemetraky said drivers will reach maximum speeds of over 150 mph with average speeds 75 to 85 mph. He said the twists and turns as well as the occasional pothole make road racing an exciting sport to watch. Drivers, he said, take risks and have to use their entire gear box.

Five-four drivers, including one woman, were selected out of over 1,500 applicants to compete in the overall rally. Drivers pay a \$5,000 fee to compete in the rally.

Condodemetraky said there will be a wide variety of cars, from a Cadillac sedan DeVille to a Ferrari F430. Corvettes are a popular entry.

Each driver gets to make three timed runs per day at staggered intervals. All vehicles are handicapped based on a variety of factors including horsepower and vehicle weight.

Racers do not have to compete in all ten events. The overall winners will be determined by their five best scores. But don't expect to learn the winner of the individual races including the one in Berlin. Results remain secret to preserve the suspense of the show.

Prizes in excess of \$500,000 will be awarded. First prize is a Ferrari F430, second prize is a Porsche 911 Turbo, and third prize is a Corvette Z51.

The Berlin rally gets underway Friday with a technical review at the Town and Country Motor Inn in Shelburne at 2 p.m. The review is open to the public at no charge. After the review, the vehicles will be moved to the Laidlaw property where the race will be staged.

To accommodate the opening of the city's ATV trail on Sunday, Condodemetraky said they have agreed to hire four police officers to handle ATV traffic on that section of Hutchins Street that will be closed to traffic. He said the officers will stop ATV traffic when cars are on the course and then release the ATVs when the course is clear. He said the ATV riders should not experience delays longer than 10 minutes.

A private competition party will be held Sunday night at Berlin city hall that will be open by invitation only.

Condodemetraky praised state Rep. Paul Ingersoll, (D-Berlin) for his work in making the rally in Berlin a reality. He also cited state Senator John Gallus who introduced him to Ingersoll and the support of the mayor and city council.