

# Merritt hosts rally

It's the only B.C. stop on nine-race circuit

By Gordon McIntyre  
Sports Reporter

Chad Manley's mom will finally get to see her 18-year-old son race.

"But she's a bit nervous," the Deep Cove native said Wednesday. "It's her first race watching me and I think she'll be closing her eyes."

Manley and 35 to 40 other rally drivers will take part in the Pacific Forest Rally on Friday and Saturday at Merritt.

## That's racing

It's the fifth of nine races in the Canadian Rally Championship series and the only one in B.C.

Some, like Manley, operate on a shoestring.

"I started with a \$300 car [an '81 Toyota Celica hatchback known as The Roach]," said Manley, who according to the West Coast Rally Association is the youngest licensed rally driver in Canada.

By staying in the production classes, all Manley — a science student at Capilano College — has to pay for is safety equipment, like a roll cage, harness and seats.

"I try not to go too cheap on the safety stuff," he said.

"I save my pennies and do all the work myself, that's how a student can afford to do this.

"It's tough sometimes, but it's worth it. There's nothing more fun."

At the other end of the equation is Pat Richard, a North American rally champion and paid driver.

As a member of Subaru Canada's World Rally Championship team, the Vancouverite drives for the only North American-based team in the international series.

Richard, a transplanted Quebecer



— Province photo

Patrick Richard's Subaru in action in the World Rally Championship.

who started rallying as a hobby on the logging roads outside Whistler, caught people's attention right away with his driving style.

In his first sanctioned race, a navigation rally in which the idea is not to go fast but to reach each stage in a precise, prescribed time, Richard went off the road.

"You're not supposed to go off the road in a navigation rally," Bill Westhead, co-driver of a local rally team, pointed out.

Driving internationally while trying to defend his North American title keeps Richard hopping.

After Saturday's race wraps up around 8 p.m., he has to get to Van-

cover for an 11:50 red-eye to Toronto. Then it's on to Nicosia via London for a world championship rally on the island of Cyprus.

His other car is headed there right now, after being packed in a crate in Argentina, shipped to Europe and ferried to Cyprus.

"I've really got to boogie from the rally," said Richard, sporting a soft cast on the right wrist he'll need to have surgery on come August. He broke it in a pre-rally ride around a track in Sweden earlier this year.

"I've never competed in a stage rally in B.C. before," he said. "I'm really excited to be here."

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