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## 100 mpg Challenge - National Monte Carlo-Style Rally – May 13-14, 2005

**(Boulder, CO) – Apr 26, 2005** – \$10,000 in awards will be given to the most fuel efficient vehicles in the National Monte Carlo-style Rally this May. The prizes will be given to production hybrid or bio-diesel vehicles that travel a minimum of 150 miles, at an average of over 50 mpg.

A \$5,000 prize will be given to the single most fuel efficient vehicle with the highest avg. mileage exceeding 100 mpg, over a 500 mile range. Vehicles can start at **Slipstream Autocare, 4770 Sterling Dr. in Boulder, Colorado** or at any of 15 locations across US and Canada, and must arrive in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. by noon on Saturday May 14, 2005

“The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association has created this all-new **Monte Carlo-style Rally** for people with advanced vehicles that **reduce petroleum use** and **greenhouse gas emissions**” says Nancy Hazard, exec. director of NESEA, organizer of the 2005 Tour de Sol. “Scores of advanced vehicles will converge at the Tour de Sol finish line at Saratoga’s Spring Auto Show, to celebrate how we can reduce our need for foreign oil TODAY.” see [www.NESEA.org](http://www.NESEA.org).

**\$5000 award for best mileage over 100 mpg** - Entrants will drive to Saratoga Springs, NY at their own pace, starting at any of 15 pre-selected starting sites across the US and Canada. Many entrants have already registered from as far as Washington state, 2500 miles away. There are ten categories of vehicles, with a minimum rally distance of 150 miles, with no limit on range. To be eligible for the \$5000 award, a vehicle must achieve better than 100 mpg for at least 500 miles. The Rally finish ceremony and award presentation will be part of Saratoga’s Spring Auto Show on Sat. May 14 at the Saratoga Spa State Park in Saratoga Springs, NY [www.tourdeSol.org](http://www.tourdeSol.org)

**TEST of NEW 30 mpg HYBRID SUV’s** – A special challenge has been thrown out to FORD, Toyota and Lexus to see which of the new Sport Utility Hybrids will get the best mileage with their new SUV’s. This is the first such event that will demonstrate the efficiency of the 3 NEW Sport Utility Hybrids, which the public will also get to see in Saratoga, at the finish line, and Albany on May 16.

**Self paced Monte Carlo-style Rally** – Monte Carlo-style Rally participants are invited to join at one of 15 starting sites around the US and Canada. After they have been inspected at **Slipstream Autocare** with a full tank of fuel, their fuel tanks will be sealed, and they will drive on any route they choose, to the finish line at Stewarts’ Shops in Saratoga Springs, NY. There, they will get a free fill up with gasoline or biodiesel, compliments of Stewarts’ and Environmental Alternatives – and the fuel used will be measured, and the odometers read to determine the mileage driven. There are ten vehicle categories, including all US and Japanese hybrids and any diesel vehicle running on Biodiesel fuel for a minimum rally distance of 150 miles. After refueling, Rally participants will join the Tour de Sol, the clean energy and transportation festival and competition, on Saturday, May 14 at Saratoga’s Spring Auto Show. Up to \$10,000 in awards will be presented at 3 PM. The Automotive Career Development Center of Worcester, MA. is helping to organize this exciting rally, and starting sites.

## **Tour de Sol – From the drawing board...to the show room...to the customer's garage**

“The Monte Carlo-style Rally is a perfect addition to the Tour de Sol,” says Nancy Hazard of NESEA. “While the Tour de Sol pushes the envelope so that we can all have cost competitive, zero carbon, non-toxic, domestically-produced energy and transportation, the Rally demonstrates what everyone can do today to help reach that goal.”

Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, the Tour de Sol challenges auto companies, students, entrepreneurs, fuel suppliers, and government to work together, and design, build, and market vehicles that can meet our transportation needs without compromising our future.

From May 13-16, 2005, the general public is invited to see what Yankee ingenuity has created. In addition to talking with advanced vehicle owners participating in the Monte Carlo-style Rally, and students who have built vehicles to compete in the Tour de Sol Championship, attendees will have an opportunity to see three new hybrid SUV's, Honda and Toyota's hybrid sedans, electric bikes and scooters, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

After participating in Saratoga's Spring Auto Show, which is organized by the Saratoga Auto Museum, On Monday, May 16, the Tour de Sol will parade to Albany for a free display on Albany's Empire State Plaza.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and the Center for Technology Commercialization are Premier sponsors of the Tour de Sol and Monte Carlo-style Rally. Supporting Sponsors include the New York Power Authority, the U.S. Department of Energy, Toyota, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Honda, and the Federal Highway Administration.

The Tour de Sol is organized by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA), the nation's leading regional education and advocacy association that aims to accelerate the deployment and use of renewable energy, and energy efficiency. NESEA produces major sustainable energy events that inspire and motivate large numbers of people to get involved and make a difference. For more information on the Tour de Sol and Monte Carlo-style Rally registration, go to [www.TourdeSol.org](http://www.TourdeSol.org) or call 413-774-6051.

### **Monte Carlo Vehicle Categories**

- 1- Toyota Prius Classic ('01-'03)
- 2- Toyota Prius ('04-'05)
- 3- Honda Insight
- 4- Honda Civic Hybrid
- 5- Honda Accord Hybrid
- 6- Hybrid SUV - Ford Hybrid Escape, Toyota Highlander Hybrid, Lexus 400 Hybrid.
- 7- Custom Built hybrids (modified or built from scratch)
- 8- Modified Factory Hybrids, including plug-in factory hybrids
- 9- Biodiesel, and Turbo Diesel vehicles operating on B-20 fuel
- 10 Modified BioDiesel or other Diesel vehicles operating on B-20 fuel

**Slipstream Autocare, Inc.** was founded in Boulder in 1981. Slipstream has been a consultant to Swarthmore College's Department of Engineering and their hybrid electrical vehicle program since 1996. They are leaders in the state for Pre-Purchase Inspections. Slipstream was awarded a perfect score by Air Care Colorado, and is under application review with the City of Boulder Office of

Program, which recognizes environmental achievement. For more information, please call Terri Lee for a media kit at 303-926-5148. Photos are available and photo opportunities are welcomed.