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Vettel Quickest in P1

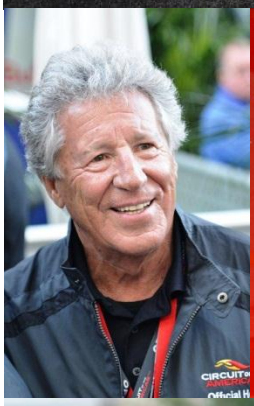
Vettel Quickest in P2

Vettel Quickest in P3

Vettel Quickest in Q1

Vettel Quickest in Q2

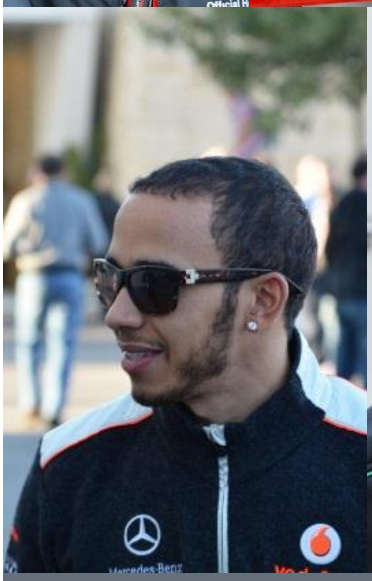
Vettel on pole for Sunday's Race













Smiley bunch aren't they – even Kimi



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Charlie Whiting in charge







CHARLIE WHITING, FIA F1 Race Director, sat down with the Newsletter for a chat. He said the workers are enthusiastic and ready go. Friday went smoothly enough so that they aren't yet tested. They adapted particularly well to the light boxes and were used well. In the meeting Charlie held with the marshals, he was pleased that they asked such good questions.

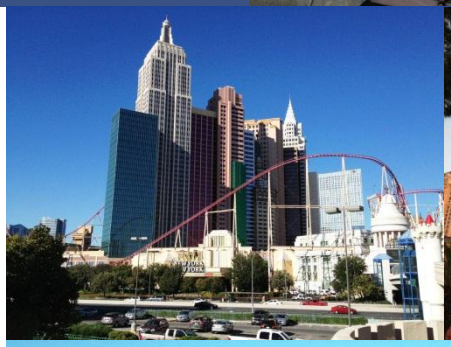
The light boxes belong to FIA and go race to race. This weekend there are 20 such light boxes, which augment, not supplant the marshal's flags. The FIA lights have both two and four hertz capabilities. The faster lights are used for the flashing double yellow flag condition.

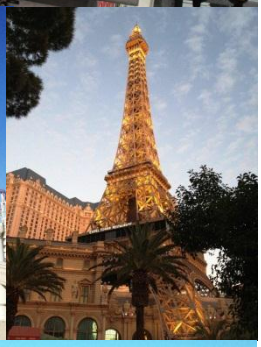
The only FIA circuit with its own light boxes is the Indian GP. An Indian flag marshal discussed them with Charlie, regarding a tweak to the light boxes which would enable a brighter, more visible light. His fix allowed the Indian boxes to use double yellow flag conditions. FIA position the flag points, and then discussed and worked with the plans with the track. The sight lines are done last with the circuit designer, HERMAN TILKE and his chief engineer CHRISTIAN HEPPEN.

FIA tries to be fair and issue each F1 team the same amount of garage space - 2 1/2 garages. At the far end of the pit lane is the Pirelli Garage, which leaves HRT and Marussia with only two. By and large, the Teams agree with the Concorde Agreement specifying equal garage space for all teams.

The Austin pit lane is 75 feet wide, the widest of any Formula One circuit. The track is the standard 14 meters/45+ feet wide. Turns One, Eleven and Twelve have wider entrances, designed to promote passing. The 'gravel pits' behind the tarmac runoff, in Turn One and some other corners are actually filled with 'river rocks.' FIA decrees that the river-washed stones measure 20 mm. The material used often depends upon what is available. COTA's pit has smooth 20 mm stones.

International Motorsports & Travel



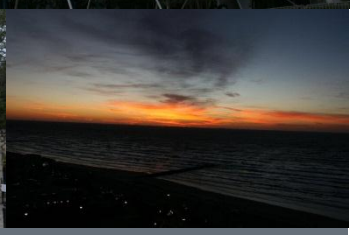












Since 1985 in Adelaide South Australia, International Motorsport Officials have attended the Australian Grand Prix. With many travelling from overseas at their own cost. Yours truly travelled across a couple of weeks ago and I have visited LA, Vegas, Phoenix, Houston, Galveston, San Antonio and now Austin. It's been an incredible trip meeting many great people in Motorsport along the way from NASCAR, Mobil 1, and COTA to ACCUS.

It was good to drive around Austin and understand the town, the areas and the complexity of this town. We dined at Rudy's Wednesday night with my roommate's son who has attended University of Texas (UT) for many years. He enjoys the laid back feel of Austin and so did we.

The landscape around southern America including Nevada, Arizona and Texas is very similar to Australia in many different areas as is the hospitality in each state. Visiting the river walk and the Alamo the highlights in San Antonio and now the highlight of the trip has been the Circuit of the Americas and of course F1. Vegas of course always rates.

The Melbourne Formula 1 GP is always looking for officials in March (our fall) so if like me, you intend to travel internationally for motorsport then don't overlook Australia. Whether it is an early look at the V8Supercars coming to Austin in May or the F1 race. Contact the Confederation of Australian Motorsport (CAMS) and tell them Rich sent you.

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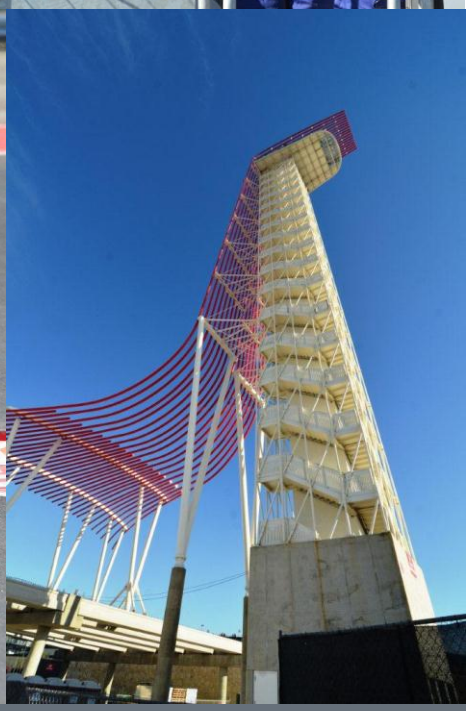
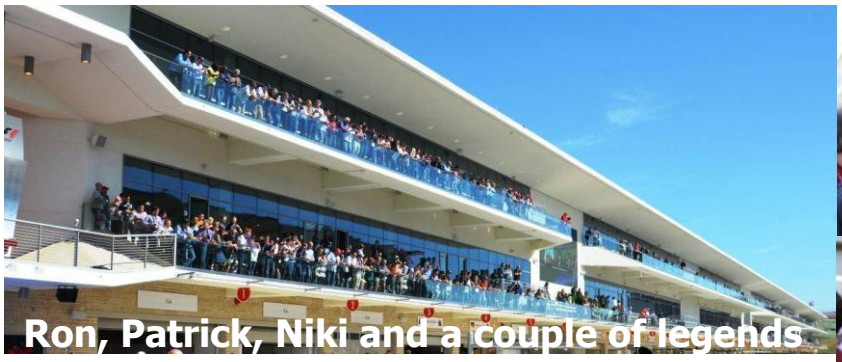
SEBASTIEN VETTEL of Red Bull Racing has another pole to add to its bow, after capturing the top Formula One spot at the inaugural United States Grand Prix at Circuit of the Americas. His lap on the 3.34-mile/5.375km circuit was 1:35.567 minutes.

Second through tenth were LEWIS HAMILTON/McLaren; MARK WEBBER/Red Bull; ROMAIN GROSJEAN/Lotus; KIMI RAIKKONEN/Lotus; MICHAEL SCHUMACHER/Mercedes; FELIPE MASSA/Ferrari; NICO HULKENBERG/Force India; FERNANDO ALONSO/Ferrari; and PASTOR MALDONADO/Williams.









Ron, Patrick, Niki and a couple of legends

Actor/Director/Producer RON HOWARD has been cruising the F1 pit and paddocks, alone and sometimes in the company of NIKI LAUDA. Howard said "Racing is the perfect modern sport. It takes courage and technology. The driver still has to be athletic and competitive; there is state of the art technology, money spent for the best, plus the team spirit. Racing has its own culture."

Circuit of The Americas had a great inaugural day for its debut into Formula One. The announced attendance was 63,560. All the tickets have been sold out for a while. Those who have used the free shuttles, and shuttle to the shuttle stops for what consider a nominal fee, have been positive on the results so far.

Another sought-after actor, who races professionally, is PATRICK DEMPSEY. It was easy to see where the two were at any given time. Patrick was like a kid in a candy store. "Isn't this exciting?" The 3.34-mile/5.375 kilometer elevated course was designed by noted F1 circuit designer, HERMAN TILKE, who is at the track this weekend.

Among those seen so far are RUBENS BARRICHELLO; TOWNSEND BELL; PATRICK DEMPSEY; ADRIAN FERNANDEZ; DARIO FRANCHITTI; EDDIE JORDAN; GEORGE LUCAS; TONY KANAAN; DANNY SULLIVAN; and DIDIER THEYS. And those are only the ones we saw in person. There are more to be found.

ALEXANDER ROSSI of Grass Valley in Northern California is the only current American to hold a FIA Super License. He is the new reserve driver for Caterham F1 Team. Although it was earlier announced that the young driver would drive in the USGP First Friday F1 Practice, this was later changed. Alexander was very gracious in acknowledging that Caterham driver, VITALY PETROV, would benefit from as much practice as he could get on a race track new to everyone.

Alexander has been racing in the World Series by Renault F 3.5 this season, and also just completed a very successful GP2 test in Spain. He also tested with Caterham in the Young Driver's Test at Abu Dhabi.

Alexander hopes to run GP2 next season, moving to Formula One in 2014. "Formula One is a very interesting place. Even though I won't be racing, I attend every race with the team. I learn a lot. Driving the Formula One car is not the big step for me in F1. For me that's the easy part, after my Renault and GP experience. For me it's the F1 World. There are external pressures in addition to driving. I will be attending the debrief, melding with the crew and team to build the chemistry which is needed. I moved to Europe at 17 - four years ago."

Here for the weekend at Austin, Alexander has been keeping busy. By Wednesday he'd led three track walks, for media such as BBC and Sky Sports, for VIP's and others. He really likes the track. Another plus is that it's in America, so he can bring his family and friends to the circuit. Not only did the first day of the inaugural Formula One race at Circuit of The Americas sell out well in advance - both grandstands and General Admission - tickets were sold in fifty countries.

Day Two is even better with an approx. attendance of 83,000.













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