



WHO WE ARE – THAT'S US!

It takes nearly 300 volunteer race marshals on the ground to work the F1 COTA circuit. This isn't counting the various Race Control officials such as Clerk of Course, Comms, Stewards, etc. The largest crew is Flagging & Communication, led by Chief KATHY MALECK. The Scrutineers Team has thirty marshals with Chief SUZANNE ROYCE. Thirty more marshals work as Start Line/Pit Lane/Grid Marshals with Chief BEN COLMAN.

The smallest crew is Starters, under GORDON ENSING. He and his three marshals rotate between the Start and Finish Stands. They are RAYMOND ORR, BILL ROWDEN, and TERRY WALSH. This year's officials come from the United States, as well as Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain and the UK.

While the majority of the volunteer marshals come with years and years of experience, F1 and otherwise, there are some newcomers. As with all good managements, the replacements need to be trained and available as the veterans retire.











Officials Newsletter 2013

United States Formula 1 GP

YOU HAVE SEATS YOU CANNOT BUY

BEN COLMAN of Ann Arbor, MI, is the Chief of a varied group of Marshals with several functions, depending on the event of the moment. Among the duties for the team are Pit Lane Marshals, Start Line Marshals, Grid Marshals, Fast Intervention Teams, and Pushers. Ben tells his crew about their job and where they work "You have seats you could not buy." He said "The first two laps of an F1 race are awesome, with 18,000 rpms. It vibrates within you for two laps. There's nothing like it. Pretty cool."

The team works in the Pit Lane, and is especially important at the start of any session, especially a standing start. There are 22 Pit Lane Marshals, one assigned to each F1 car. They each stand by a specially-cut E hole - a break in the strong Pit Lane Fence separating the Pit Lane from the track. They each have a paddle and a yellow flag at the ready for the start and it flies immediately should a car stall.

Then the FITS come into play. There are three FITs (Fast Intervention Teams) with three members each. They staff the secured double gates along the Pit Lane. Their function is to react immediately to any cars which fail to start and push it quickly to the nearest up track gate. Those gates can be opened in less than thirty seconds. No such problems have occurred at COTA. The last time Ben had such an incident was at the Indianapolis USGP.

During the session, the Pit Lane Marshals patrol the Grid area, monitor safety and keep everything running smoothly in the Pit Lane. They are extra eyes and ears. There are two Start Line Chiefs, one in each Gantry or Starter Stand - One at Start and one further down track. That's where the push button start lights are, in a special control box. For the F1 race start, FIA F1 Race Director CHARLIE WHITING does the honors. He pushes the Start lights and remains on the stand for two laps before returning to Race Control. Throughout the weekend, until the F1 race, the Paddock Marshals staff both the F1 area and the Support Paddock which is up in another zip code around the track and overseen by PHIL LOWER. Then for the USGP it's all hands on deck in the Pit Lane. Ben is effusive with his praise for is crew. "They make me look good."

Ben is a professional photographer in his day job, and this indirectly led to him becoming involved in racing. He started out as geology major in college, traded some stereo equipment for a Halliburton case of Nikons, and he never looked back. Geology was a memory. Starting with the first Detroit Renaissance Grand Prix, Ben has worked all the Detroit F1's, starting out as a credential checker, and then moved up the ladder to Circuit Marshal, Captain, Paddock Chief, Pits, etc. He also works the Moto GP and Grand-Am races at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Pit Lane Marshal, BRIAN MANNING, has nothing but good things to say about COTA as a facility. "It's stunning and something of which to be proud. It is a very professional organization." Brian has good comparisons. He started working Formula One races in Europe - with Brands Hatch in 1984. He has worked all the UK circuits and Germany. Brian is a USAC member and this is his second visit to COTA. He's also worked all the Indianapolis USGP and eight Canadian Grand Prix's in Montreal. There Brian was an F&C Corner Captain. There would have been more American races, but he didn't emigrate from Ireland until the late nineties.





FIA ACKNOWLEDGES KATHY'S ACHIEVEMENT

In a surprise ceremony Saturday morning in Race Control, FIA's Race Director CHARLIE WHITING gave recognition to F&C Chief KATHY MALECK for her eighty Formula One Grand Prix's. In attendance were a host of FIA and Race Control officials including FIA Deputy Race Director; HERBIE BLASH, USGP Clerk of Course, JAMES FOYLE; PAT PIERSON, Secretary of the Meeting; BOB PIERSON, Assistant Secretary of the Meeting; SANDY BYRNE, Chief Communicator; JIM SWINTAL, Assistant Chief Communicator; DAN KEMBER, Deputy Clerk of Course; and DERRICK WALKER, IndyCars President of Competition.

Kathy was really surprised and caught unaware, a feat not easily done.

Kathy talked about her F1 racing career and how it intersected with Whiting and FIA, what it was like to be an American woman working races overseas, and how much fun it's been - one big, happy family.



















HATS OFF TO F1 IN SCHOOLS

A1Racing Team from Australia received its glass Bernie Ecclestone World Champions F1 in Schools Competition trophy from BERNIE ECCLESTONE Friday afternoon in the Ferrari hospitality area. They also received Motorsport and Automotive Engineering Scholarships for City University London. The young students each had a replica of their winning race car, and all were autographed by Bernie.

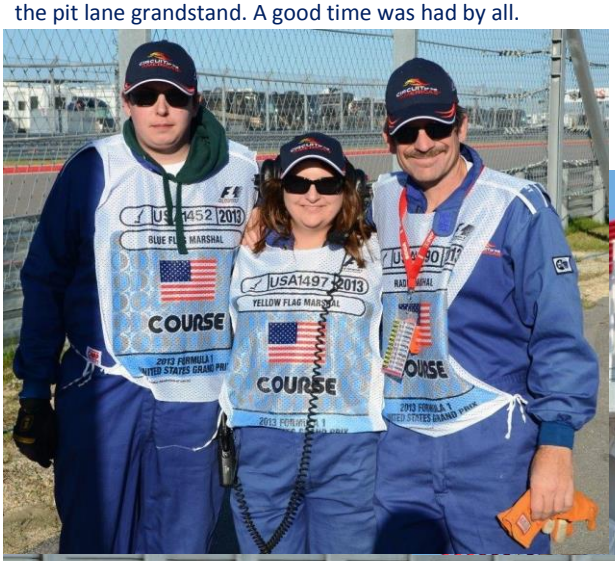
Thursday A1 Racing and the other 37 F1 in Schools teams were guests of COTA, with pit tours, track tours and meeting drivers. They posed for a photo op at the iconic Turn One and all threw their Texas cowboy hats in the air.

Later, all the female students had a special tour with MONISHA KALTENBORN, Sauber Formula 1 Team Principal, hosted by the FIA Women in Motorsports Ambassador, driver KATHERINE LEGGE. The students all were hosted to grandstand seats for the weekend in Turn 4, with the winning team seated in the pit lane grandstand. A good time was had by all.









RACE STEWARDS

This weekend the Formula One Stewards are PAUL GUTJAHR from Switzerland, JOSE ABED from Mexico, TIM MAYER from the US and former F1 driver, NIGEL MANSELL.









FUNKY FRIDAY

FERNANDO ALONSO/Ferrari was the fastest in the morning session – 1:38.343. He ran 16 laps. Second through fifth were JENSON BUTTON/McLaren, VALTERIE BOTTAS/Williams, ESTEBAN GUITIERREZ/Sauber, and NICO ROSBERG/Mercedes.

Button was penalized a drop of three grid positions for overtaking a car under the Red Flag. He said "It wasn't a dangerous situation, and I didn't do it on purpose – the other car slowed down – but the rules are the rules, and it was the wrong thing to do."

Three Reserve Drivers were in the session: RODOLFO GONZALEZ/No.22 Marussia; DAVIDE KVYAT/Toro Rosso; and ALEXANDER ROSSI/Caterham. Gonzalez didn't fare that well, coming in last after off/on course maneuver and a kill-switch problem. Kvyat, whose name is pronounced K-Fiat, comes on board full time with Toro Rosso in 2014. Rossi ran as high as third in the first nine minutes. After the prolonged delay, he continued to run for a total of 21 laps and finished nineteenth of 22 drivers.



HEIKI KOVALAINEN/Lotus got his first run in the car, turned 18 laps and finished thirteenth, 0.249 seconds behind his teammate, ROMAN GROSJEAN. He stayed late to work with his crew on fine-tuning the car.

New F1 World Champion, SEBASTIAN VETTEL/Red Bull Racing was only eighteenth fastest. This caused NCSN TV commentator, DAVID HOBBS, to opine that 'sly Sebastian was holding back trying out some new things." Well, guess who was fastest in the second session, nearly the entire time, turning two fastest laps. Vettel overtook early leader, Grosjean, and held on. For a while, his teammate, MARK WEBBER, led, before being passed by Seb.

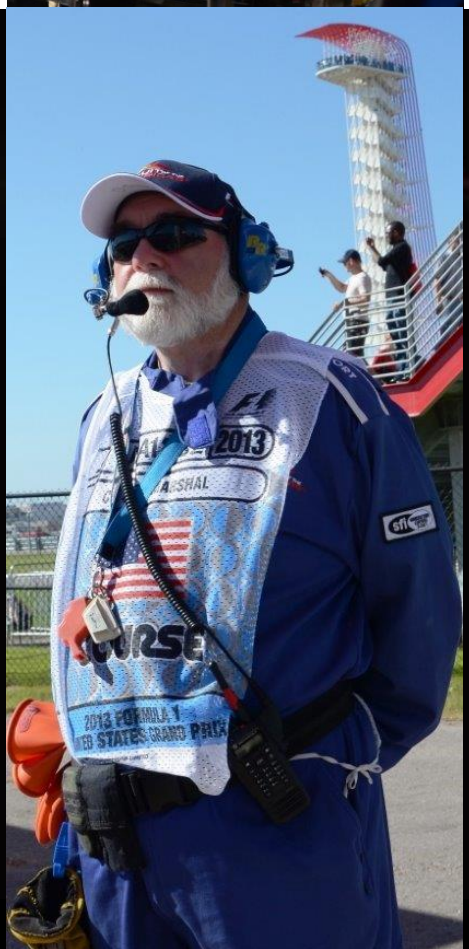


Vettel's top run in P2 was 1:37.305. He and the next eight drivers were faster than Alonso in the first session. They were Webber, NICO ROSBERG and LEWIS HAMILTON/Mercedes, Kovalainen, ESTEBAN GUTIERREZ AND NICO HULKENBERG/Sauber, Grosjean and Button.

By the time the first practice ended, the sun was out in full bloom and the day warmed up quite nicely, with no threat of rain. And the forecast is for even more heat Saturday and Sunday.

The second F1 practice at least ran its allotted 90 minutes, but it wasn't without its moments. There was a rash of off/on course moves by multiple drivers. The spin-off location of choice seemed to be between Turns 19 and 20. A marshal from T19 said the cars were coming into the corner 'scary fast.'

Kovalainen turned the most laps in that session, and ended his session with a practice tire change pit stop. JULES BIANCHI/Marussia ran the fewest laps and had the most moments. Marussia teammate, MAX CHILTON, stopped in turn 20 and had to be craned out – a scenario which played out with prolonged, awkward attempts before the car was successfully moved out of harm's way. This caused the local TV commentator to joke about how long it was taking to "take his car away."



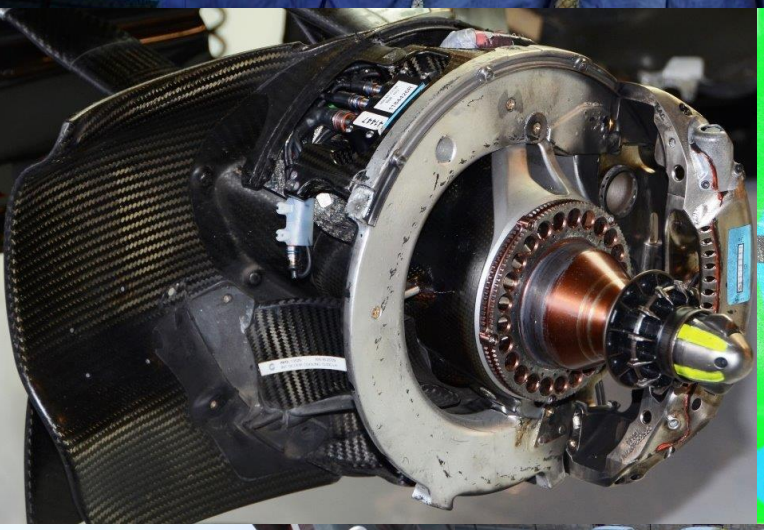
Webber was another driver who stayed after school to be with the team. He and his Dad were in the garage long after the Friday night Marshal's Pit Walk.

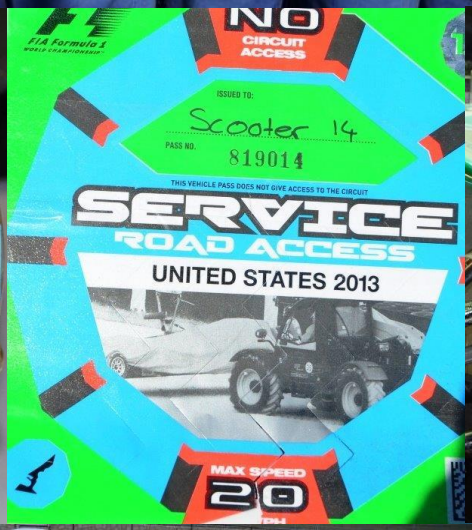
DAVIDE VALSECCHI, the Lotus Reserve driver, was in civilian gear Friday morning in the F1 paddock, after not being chosen to fill in for KIMI RAIKKONEN. Early rumors had Valsecchi getting the nod, but as we all know now, HEIKKI KOVALAINEN got the ride for the USGP and Brazil's season finale race.

The two support categories had their day in the sun. Ferrari Challenge MARK McKENZIE was fastest in Practice 1 at 2:13.619.

In the Formula Vintage group, for which no information was provided, T.DeSILVA in No.98 was fastest at 2:12.809. Second fastest was ART HEBERT/No.19 at 2:15.743. He felt that was pretty good, considering the circumstances. He literally heard about this weekend's race as he came off the FJr grid at the recent COTA SVRA vintage race weekend. He spent Thursday and Friday morning tearing into the car to change just about everything – rebuilding the car – input shaft, clutch, gears and CV joints.


USA1513 2013
YELLOW FLAG MARSHAL
USA1063 2013
INTERVENTION MARSHAL
USA1394 2013
USA1350 2013
C.H. POST MARSHAL
USA1074 2013
INTERVENTION MARSHAL
COURSE
2013 FORMULA 1
UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX

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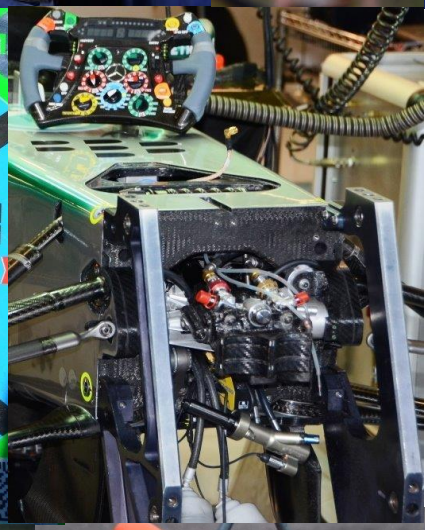




EMS
USA1563 2013
FIRE CAR DRIVER
USA1553 2013
FIRE CAR FIREMAN


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FIA WANTS YOU

FIA - Federation de l 'Automobile has a relatively new Commission devoted to the encouragement, support and recognition of volunteers and officials in motorsports. It is just getting started and will have some results out early next year. The Commission is the project of GRAHAM STOKER, FIA Deputy President for Sport, and HERBIE BLASH, FIA Deputy Race Director, who, along with other FIA officials elected in 2009, reviewed all the FIA Commissions and saw that there was nothing which recognized volunteers and race officials. The Commission became official in September 2012. There are 14 nationalities and all motorsports disciplines represented on the Commission.

Volunteers are valuable contributors to the sport, no less because they volunteer. In England recently someone calculated the number of volunteers in all forms of sports, multiplied that by the minimum wage and came up with a staggering figure of what it would cost to have paid the volunteers. FIA is now a full, official and critical part of the International Olympic Committee as of September 2013. It was a major, two-year process which had 100 percent backing from the FIA Senate. One of the most rewarding things the Commission does is to honor and recognize race officials - the Official of the Year, and Best Official in a variety of categories. The Official of the Year is invited to attend the World Council Dinner, after the General Assembly, in December, where the award is presented. It is up to each country to make nominations and there is no limit to the number of nominations.

Nominations for the official's awards can be given throughout the year to the local ASN, which in the United States is ACCUS. NICK CRAW is President of ACCUS and FIA Senate President, with an office in Denver CO. Another US official who can put forth a nomination is TIM MAYER, of United States Race Management. Anyone can make a nomination. And the FIA dearly would like to receive American nominations for these awards. So far, there have been none from the U.S. - something the FIA would like to remedy. The nomination cutoff deadline is in September, so it's time to be thinking of nominations for 2014. Another thing the Commission does is to have Ambassadors who will honor and recognize officials at various events.

One of the Commission's projects is to create some kind of interactive social media site where international marshals can be proactively involved with each other and the sport. The Commission's goals include recognition, recruitment and retention of race officials. FIA wants to create and give officials licenses, to bring them into FIA. The Commission is starting the process to channel resources to support and encourage volunteers. Components to be included are Recruiting, Training, Motivation, Capturing and Retention. Motorsports needs young people. The Commission wants to show the volunteers their importance to racing. In addition to awards and recognition, the Commission wants to help with working conditions, equipment, training and support. So, Yankee volunteer's, marshals and race officials – the FIA wants you.

2013 OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER – PDF COPIES

So how do you get a copy of all the 2013 Officials Newsletter's? Easy! Email Richard McLean at richjo@outlook.com and I will email you all three editions.















THANKS TO ALL THE OFFICIALS FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

It's the end of another long but rewarding weekend at the second USGP at Circuit of the Americas. The race couldn't have happened without all of you volunteer race marshals and officials. FIA, race management, drivers, teams and officials appreciate that you give of your time, money and effort to make this event happen. It's been our pleasure to again bring you the Officials Newsletter, to showcase you, your energy, endeavors, and your fun.

So thanks to all of you, be safe out there and happy trails.
JON CRONK, LYNNE HUNTTING, RICHARD MCLEAN and RON SEARLE