THE OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX



FRIDAY



SATURDAY



SUNDAY



WHERE WOULD WE ALL BE WITHOUT THE HOSPITALITY TEAM?

The team led by Werdna Ault and Alyssa Vasquez is all about the people. The hospitality /service team numbers 43 people and they are the earliest group to arrive before all of the volunteer marshals and officials arrive. Arriving early in the week to get everything set-up well in advance of the event to make certain that the "marshals' tent" is set up, equipped and ready for the onslaught of volunteers. This team has the often-thankless job of taking care of all the meals, water, parties for all of the volunteers. They are first in and last out, helping clean-up at the end of the weekend and collect well used marshals' jumpsuits.



Pictured: Betina Foreman, Wernda Ault, Alyssa Vasquez

Werdna originally was planning to start as a marshal at the second F1 here and found this role much more suited to her personality. Alyssa is a full - time member of the COTA staff and started this job 2-1/2 years ago. She takes care of all of the details prior to the event and then works through the weekend with the volunteer teams, always with a ready smile and a helpful way. Asked what she likes most about her work and she also says "it's the people". Even when things don't go well they get to solve problems to make things and make folks happy and that in turn makes them happy! The smiles from all of the officials are their paycheck on the weekend and without them, everyone would be really hungry! DO NOT forget to thank this team!

SUZANNE ROYCE , ASN Chief Scrutineer



As the ASN Chief Scrutineer, Suzanne's role has covered more than just F1 events but it was at F1 in Detroit where she was first recognized as someone to be considered for the position because of her professionalism, precise technical skills, incredible organizational ability and the talent for pulling together a dedicated team. Detroit 1982 was Suzanne's first US F1 and she worked for her husband Michael who was the ASN Chief Scrutineer for Detroit in 1982-1984. Coming from Britain, she and husband Michael had a passion for motorsports and became very involved with the local SCCA Detroit Region. Suzanne was first named Tech Chief for her region in 1976 for the Ms. Event (an all-female Chief weekend). From then on she served as their chief for events whenever asked. In those early years of Detroit, John Timmanus, a well-respected technical director for SCCA Pro, told the folks from ACCUS and FIA to keep an eye on Suzanne as a potential leader in the technical area for F1.

In 1985 she took over the Detroit F1 event scrutineering reigns from husband Michael and in 1986 she was awarded her FIA license as ASN Chief Scrutineer and you might say the rest is history. History yes, because she was a woman in a typically male role and she was a force to be reckoned with! Long recognized as someone who is technically strong, exceptionally organized and incredibly determined to ensure precision in all of her work and that of her team by those FIA series technical managers who have worked with Royce.

Suzanne has been the lead technical person for all single event FIA races in this country (WEC, FIA FE, FIA World Rally Cross) as well as Moto GP events at Indianapolis and COTA. Michael and Suzanne have long been involved with Formula SAE and continue with that program today. She is a force to be reckoned with, tough as nails on the outside, with a gentle soft, but passionate heart on the inside. If you ask her favorite team, she will tell you that her team of scrutineers is her favorite. That team is loyal and works extremely well together and many of her folks have worked with her since that first Detroit event. Loyalty from Suzanne to her team and vice versa has produced a very effective and precise group of folks that are respected by many FIA Technical Directors.


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Catching up with DENNIS DEAN, TIM MAYER, SCOT ELKINS


Dennis Dean

Dennis Dean has been featured in this newsletter in the past as he has risen through the ranks of the sport. As a long-time scrutineer and then steward, Dennis can count in his accomplishments his roles as the SCCA Runoffs (National Championships) Chief Scrutineer, Overall Chief Steward for Runoffs for three years, ASN National Steward for F1 and FIA FE, member of the FIA Land Speed Record Commission for 10 years, nine as President of that commission and this past year, he was voted to a coveted position on the FIA World Motor Sport Council. The Council is comprised of 29 members of which 17 are designated and 12 are Titular members. He is one of the titular members that were voted in to serve a four-year term on the council. The World Motor Sport Council is the most powerful FIA body deciding on rules and regulation for all the various FIA Series. The Council has the responsibility for governance of the sport and meets 3-4 times a year. With that work and his travel to F1, FIA FE, or other International events to serve as a Steward, he is often overseas more than home in the US! This weekend, he is here on US soil and is serving again as the ASN National Steward. It is important to note that the US has not had a member on the Council since 2010 when Nick Craw relinquished his seat following his term.

Dennis is one of the few Americans, along with Tim Mayer, and Scot Elkins that are heavily involved with FIA events, commissions, and F1. Each of these men travel extensively around the globe to serve as F1 Stewards, and in Scot's case, as the new Deputy Race Director for Formula One. Additionally, they all work with many of the FIA level events being conducted here and overseas. Dennis Dean also works the majority of the FIA FE series schedule as a Steward while Elkins is Race Director for that series (so much for taking it easy with his new son for the summer!)


Scot Elkins

Discussions with Mayer and Dean were somewhat focused about recruitment of marshals as it is becoming a challenge worldwide and how to grow our ranks so that we always have sufficient to operate. This country has its challenging recruiting people because of the demand for their services either as paid staff for weekday or weekend track days or because the professional and club racing schedules are so jammed. We have also experienced the aging out of our ranks in many areas without backfill of younger recruits. It was discussed how Baku handled their recruitment and it actually sounded somewhat feasible but maybe on a less grand scale. First think corporate team building opportunity in a sport that really requires coordinated team effort and second think of community involvement.

Baku coordinated efforts with professional service companies in their county and the event city to "adopt worker posts". They coordinated efforts to supply the marshals through a team training program that was conducted over numerous weeks in advance of event so that the marshals developed a thorough knowledge of the roles they would be playing at the events. As a result, the company has workers learn critical team building skills while also being involved in a large local but international event. All of the workers that participated were young professionals and they ended up becoming great marshals with some even traveling to the US for FIA FE and F1 at COTA! It's is a great thought but might be challenging for the tracks or a local club here to organize but you get the idea – we need to get them in to try it on to see if they like what they get to do and then we keep them enthused and positive to get them hooked. Tim Mayer suggested going a different route after observing at a Daytona event. The club that weekend opened up a regional or national level amateur event to spectators and gave them a chance to come out to any one of the various specialties to "try them on" for part of a day. They could show up for a couple hours to try flagging or tech or pit lane and it worked, there was interest and, in the end, they created interest and maybe recruited some new young talent.


Tim Mayer

The FIA has a new Volunteer Council and we will see where that what that will generate in the years to come. What is great for our country is how often these men are participating in events worldwide and representing the US and the talent comes from here. Thanks to them for spending many weeks on the road and in hotels to make our motor sport better – we can be certain there will be a positive trickledown effect for all of us!


USA 253
FLAG MARSHAL



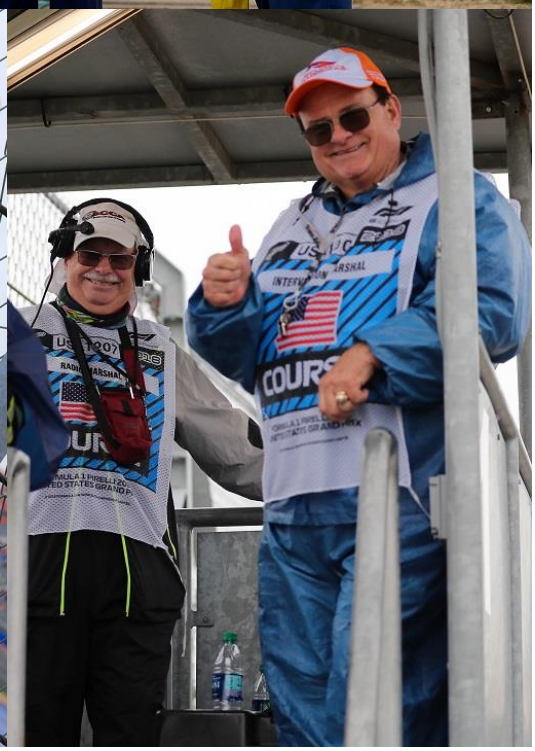

USA 212
RADIO MARSHAL
COURSE

















Some Rough Stats:

- *Total volunteers combined for F&C/Intervention, Pits/Grid, Starters, Scrutineers, Motor Taxi = 393 people*
  PLUS: Hospitality = 43 people
- *For the operating specialties:*
  - *161 are at their first COTA F1*
  - *36 are experiencing their 7th*
  - *There have been a total of 1029* different volunteers in the operating specialties since the first year*
- *If you count the official schedule time only – the 393 operating specialty members will provide approximately 13,853.25* man hours starting w/Thursday meetings. Hospitality team will have approximately 1,849* man hours over the four days!*

**Numbers estimated based on original list of workers*

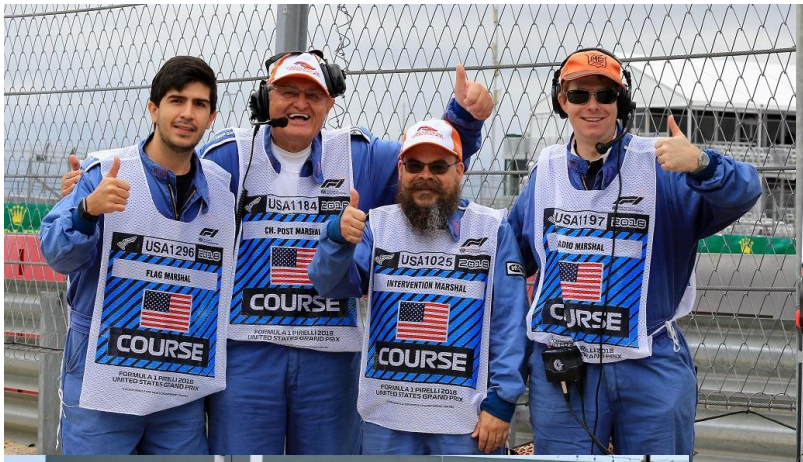








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Haas F1 Team
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PARAMEDIC




11:00
FERRARI
FIREMAN
FIREMAN
PIT LANE


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