THE OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX

RAIKKONEN











NADJA POLLARD – Chief of Pit/Paddock/Grid



Nadja Pollard who is from Wimberley, Texas is another of the first time F1 chiefs for this year's event but she is no stranger to this track, that pit lane and this event as she has been on the Pit/Paddock/Grid team for 6 of the 7 GPs at COTA and this track is one of her home tracks to which she dedicates a lot of time. When in college at Texas A&M, Najda first got involved in motor sports. Her dear friend Sydney Yagel (who provided these details) says that Nadja and her husband Jeff have a very large car obsession so we can surmise that her interest was there at an early age and she is not about to shake it anytime soon! Nadja first worked as a flagger at Texas World Speedway and also races an STO Miata in SCCA Club Racing. Nadja has always been able to pull a team together and is usually jazzed to be managing the pit lane! We know she would like to thank her Brian Manning who is in charge of the team in the support paddock and her entire talented crew for their work this event. Thanks to Nadja for jumping in and taking on the role of chief!





QUALIFYING TIMES

1. Lewis HAMILTON (44) 1:32:237
2. Sebastian VETTEL (5) 1:32:298 (*)
3. Kimi RAIKKONEN (7) 1:32:307 (*)

(*) Due to penalties, RAIKKONEN starts 2nd, BOTTAS starts 3rd and VETTEL starts 5th







MEET THE PRESS



This year our team has been:

Kathy Maleck, Ramsey, MN - writer
Pablo Matamoros, St. Paul, MN - photographer
Nico Matamoros, St. Paul, MN - photographer
Ron Searle, Melbourne Aus, - layout/photographer
Lynne Huntting of Oakland CA, the originator of this publication was unable to attend this year but she was prime in its organization

The Newsletter is very much a team effort and we want to thank ACCUS, FIA, and COTA for their support.

F3 AMERICAS RACE 2 PROVISIONAL RESULTS

1	Kyle KIRKWOOD (8)	21:07:517
2	Benjamin PEDERSEN (24)	21:07:768
3	Parker LOCKE (66)	21:15:024









F4 RACE 2 PROVISIONAL RESULTS

1	Christian RASMUSSEN (6)	26:54.577
2	Joshua CAR (33)	26:55.355
3	Kory ENDERS (55)	26:57.254

Soaring Eagle





A Moment with GEORGE SILBERMANN, President of ACCUS

We had the chance this weekend to sit down to talk with George Silbermann about his first year as President of ACCUS. Silbermann was quick to say, "It's been like drinking from a firehose", referring to learning the people in the interim as he re-familiarizes himself to the international people George left NASCAR after 20 years where he was Vice President to take on the senior ACCUS position but he was very used to the structure of the board and because of the number of international level NASCAR programs, he was never really far from the work of the FIA. He is "spending half of his time on international stuff and half of his time on domestic stuff". During part of his 20-year tenure at IMSA, he represented that sanctioning body on the ACCUS Board. "The FIA is a different organization than what I knew back in my IMSA days in many respects but it is still a very large bureaucracy, it takes a long time change things."

Silbermann came into motor sports during college and was "roped" into working a race at Daytona by his college friend Mark Raffauf (Senior Director of Race Operations at IMSA) who was actively involved so he worked in pit lane and was hooked! The two have worked together on and off since then!



What does he love about the new job? He talked to all of the clubs and feels he is the right guy for this position. He has a strong international background and has always attended other forms of motorsports to stay informed about what is happening in the sport. George stayed informed and in touch with international players and the US sanctioning bodies even when he was with NASCAR. From his point of view, it was important to see what everyone else was doing and to learn about their programs as well. Now knowing each sanctioning body is part of his job every day, he has made a concerted effort to spend time at a number of events for each sanctioning body and it is good to see all the different programs and get a better understanding. A fine example is the SCCA Solo Nationals. He said, "I knew the program at SCCA called Solo racing and thought I understood but had never really been to a big event and it was a mind-expanding experience. They had around 1400 cars and to see how it was organized, the roles everybody played and how fierce the competition was, and this is just another thing I learned this year and come to further appreciate the sport."

We asked him if there is truly an appetite in this country for us to have a second F1, he says, "it is hard to tell. In the past there have been many failed attempts but the organization was different. A city or promoter had to pay big dollars to Bernie to host and event to have that prestige. The new organizers of F1 are being strategic about creating events and so if they look at a market like Miami, which is an international city, has a large population and is an important business center, that is attractive just like Las Vegas might be but we will have to see how that develops."

Silbermann reflected about volunteers saying, "Marshaling and volunteers are important and the dilemma is the same as faced with all motorsports but I would argue all sporting events in general. Everyone is trying to understand millennials, Gen X & Z and what attracts them but that is the key – we need to figure out from what we know about why people volunteered to be marshals or race officials in the first place and translate it to these younger generations." We need to find a way to help sell the social aspect of the sport more effectively and he does not think it is the technology necessarily but the opportunity to be involved in a team-based activity. "The key is getting young people to experience this sport in a way that is welcoming and natural for them to come, whether it is interaction on their smart phone when they are away from the track or staying connected even when not at the track", George suggested. He thinks we might be able to come up with a program like Track Night in America to attract marshals where you can walk in off the street for a couple hours and try it to see if they like it.

We are looking forward to his vision for ACCUS in the future and to the work amongst the sanctioning bodies to grow and strengthen our sport. Thank you to George!

NOTE: We incorrectly credited Tim Mayer for the story about the event at Daytona where the club group running the weekend allowed people in from off the streets to come in and try the different specialties on for size. In fact it was George who witnessed the success of that in one of his visits at Sanctioning body events.