

THE OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

Winner: MAX VERSTAPPEN (1)

Second: Lewis Hamilton (44)

Third: Lando Norris (4)









F1 ACADEMY




















JO BAUER



Jo Bauer, the FIA Formula One Technical Delegate since 1997 celebrated his 500th consecutive Formula One race this weekend. The Scrutineers surprised him Thursday after their two-hour Scrutineer briefing, with a cake, which he cut and served to the crew. He was concerned about celebrating too early for fear that it might jinx the weekend.





LYNNE'S WANDERINGS

Saturday's weather was warm but not killer brutal like Friday. There were clouds making it somewhat hazy. Humidity was 30% but to me it seemed muggy. Not much wind



One crew not usually seen at race series outside of F1 are Boundary Riders - the title given them on their obligatory tabards. At COTA they are called Moto Taxi. Same Same. This year there are eight and they have several versions of Kawasaki motorcycles. They are assigned strategically by zones, with an inside and an outside Floater. The Chief is Mike Whitley who has been with the crew awhile. The crew consists of experienced veteran bikers, many of whom are professional riders, instructors and the like. Their job mainly is to transport stranded drivers, as well as deliver messages or car parts back to the paddock.

Speaking of tabards, did anyone notice the Scrutineers tabard for those who worked with the F1 tires. This year they must have been designed by a European.

Another Oops - the first sign above Daniel Ricciardo's garage misspelled his name. That must explain why Ricciardo was the last sign to go up Wednesday - the correct one.



Camping Coordinator Crystal Morales reports final numbers for the COTA Marshals as 90 RV's and more than 335 camp site guests, of which 161 were marshals and the rest were families of the camping marshals. Camping is complimentary. F1 is a family friendly sport!

The schedule picked up Saturday. The support series all had races.

The Porsche Carrera Cup North American ran support races Saturday. They have full fields - 38 or so. They have rolling starts. This weekend is their season's finale - the eighth round. No results are posted.

Also having a season finale is the FIA Academy Series. They have standing starts, and undergo Parc Ferme inspections post-race.



All the support series get to have FIA style podium ceremonies on the F1 podium.

One thing I've not seen before is the ice packs used by F1 drivers prior to a race.

F1 had its Shootout for the Sprint Race, sort of an abbreviated Qualifying. The top three were Max Verstappen/Red Bull, Charles Leclerc/Ferrari, and Lewis Hamilton/Mercedes. The Sprint race was at 5 p.m. where it was 91F. The podium finishers were Max Verstappen/Red Bull; Lewis Hamilton/Mercedes and Charles Leclerc/Ferrari. American driver Logan Sargeant/Williams didn't fare well in either session, finishing last. Daniel Ricciardo/Alpha Tauri was 15th in the Shootout and 12th in the Sprint.



After all the podium ceremonies and interviews, the lads decamped to the Media Center and the Casual Couch. Max wasn't a fan of Sprint races, and somewhere along the line he let loose with a mild profane riposte. Lewis eloquently disagreed and was backed up by Charles.

Sunday's weather forecast is for somewhat cooler weather.














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THE OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER TEAM

The 2023 USGP F1 Officials Newsletter team consists of Ron Searle, photographer and design layout, photograhers Pablo Matamoros and Randy Jones, and editor Lynne Huntting. Ron, a retired Exxon chemical engineer, hails from Houston, via Australia and has worked on most COTA issues, both Miami issues, and is also a long-time member of the Australian Officials Gazette team. Pablo, an educator, comes from St, Paul via Chile and has been with the COTA team for eight years and both Miami years. Randy, a sales director, comes from Petaluma CA and this is his first issue. Lynne, a retired Child Welfare Worker and now free-lance journo, comes from San Francisco and started the COTA newsletter in 2012. She started the Miami Newsletter IN 2022 and the Australian Gazette in 1997.



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