



## Pit Notes

*Issue No.12 // March 31, 2009*

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***Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg – Friday, April 3 through Sunday, April 5, 2009***

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### **Special Entertainment Activities at Grand Prix Include Air Show, Concerts, Drifting Exhibitions and More**

If you have ever been to the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg you know that it is much more than a race – it's an event. In addition to the annual running of the featured races from Firestone Indy Lights (on Saturday and Sunday), the American Le Mans Series (on Saturday) and the IndyCar Series (on Sunday), fans will be treated to a number of special event activities including a daily air show, drifting exhibitions, concerts and more.

**Michael Mancuso's air show** returns this year with one performance daily on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Mancuso will perform precision stunt flying maneuvers including inverted flying, loops, rolls, tumbles and more -- at times within just a few feet of the ground. This year he is debuting his new formation show with fellow performer CC Gerner. Michael and CC will fly a complete air show sequence with their Extra 300 aircraft just 3-5 feet apart including tricks like the mirror pass and canopy to canopy roll. Mancuso will perform Friday at 12:45 p.m., Saturday at 3:45 p.m. and Sunday at 1:15 p.m.

Sunday, prior to the start of the IndyCar Series race will feature a **performance by the United States Special Operations Command Parachute Team**. Known as the Para-Commandos, the team performs precision freefall parachute demonstrations across the United States, informing the public about the Special Operations Command, its mission, and the great work being performed by the Special Operations Command's Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen deployed to over 100 countries around the world. The team normally jumps from an altitude of 12,500 feet above the ground, freefalling approximately 2 miles and reaching speeds in excess of 120 miles per hour wearing smoke canisters on their feet to make them visible to the public below. During their freefall, the members of the team maneuver their bodies like an aircraft to form formations in the sky. When the jumpers approach an altitude of 4,000 feet, they break their formation and glide in different directions, opening their parachutes approximately 2,500 feet above the ground. Once open, the members steer their parachutes and land one behind the other with precision accuracy in the landing area. The Para-Commandos are all active duty military or Department of Defense civilians assigned to the Special Operations Command. Most are combat veterans and have a Special Operations background.

An **exhibition of the popular drifting style of racing** will be held two times Friday and once on Sunday at this year's Honda Grand Prix. Popularized through its display in movies over the last few years, Drifting is always a big hit at the St. Petersburg event and is produced by California-based Karbon Entertainment. Drifting exhibitions are planned for 12:20 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. on Friday and 11:30 a.m. on Sunday.