



Pit Notes

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

Construction Starts March 2 on Grand Prix Track

Construction on the 14-turn, 1.8-mile Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg track gets under way Monday, March 2 with the construction of the pit lane area and track sites along Bayshore Drive. In this first phase of the construction process, placement of concrete block and fence is scheduled to begin on Bayshore at Demens Landing, working south. Bayshore Drive south of Progress Energy Center Gate #4 to 1st Street will be closed on an as-needed daily basis for the purpose of installing the barrier system. Temporary closure barricades and/or signage will be placed at the intersections of 1st Avenue South and Bayshore Drive and 5th Avenue South and 1st Street. When complete, the Honda Grand Prix track will include 20,000 feet of concrete block resulting in 20 million pounds of concrete, 44,000 feet of fencing lining the track and a front straight that is 2,350 feet or 4/10 of a mile long.

RV Club Reservations Booking Quickly

Located on the south side of the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg track between the exit of turn 14 and the start/finish line, the RV Club Village offers one of the most dramatic and accessible viewing points on the 1.8-mile race circuit. Reservations for the RV Club Village are now being accepted. Benefits to the RV Club Village include one 15' x 50' RV parking space for three days, one Tow Vehicle parking pass, eight (8) three-day general admission tickets and eight Saturday/Sunday IndyCar Series paddock passes. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Craig Campbell at ccampbell@gpstpete.com or at 727.898.4639 x229.

Three Questions with American Le Mans Series CEO Scott Atherton

1. *The American Le Mans Series is very focused on green initiatives. What is the biggest step the organization has taken in the last 12 months in this area?*

One was the highly publicized and successful running of the inaugural Green Challenge at Petit Le Mans and Road Atlanta last season. Our alliance with the U.S. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency, along with SAE International, created a competition based on a number of environmental factors. That same competition will be part of all our events in 2009, including the Acura Sports Car Challenge of St. Petersburg. The second was bringing Michelin, which has a long history of leadership with environmental issues and is well known for both its road-going and on-track technologies, on board as the title sponsor of the Michelin[®] Green X[®] Challenge for 2009.

2. *The American Le Mans Series is well known for providing unique access for race fans through programs like your open grid prior to the start of each race. How did this program come to be?*

The concept of opening the grid to all fans just prior to the start of the race actually happened by accident. Our race in Portland was being broadcast live but the event leading up to the race ran long. There was a brief - but spirited - debate about potential for car damage, clearance issues, etc., but the decision was quickly made to open the grid. It was a huge success (we got emails and phone calls from fans for weeks) and immediately become a signature element of all American Le Mans Series events.

3. *An American Le Mans Series race features several races within a race as different divisions/classes are competing on the track at the same time. What is one tip you can give race fans about how best to watch a Series race?*

One of the features our fans find most useful is our Leader Lights System. We introduced it in 2002 as a way for fans to keep track of the top runners in each class. Another option is find a favorite car or driver and follow it, much like the gallery does in golf. Watch from several different corners or straights to get a feel for the character of the track and the dynamics of the competition.

For more information on the American Le Mans Series, visit www.americanlemans.com.

Next week we catch up with racing legend Michael Andretti.