

Cold weather and Snow are not that far away... and one of the traditions around here centers on my Snow Thrower, for as I put the Snow Thrower on the Yard Tractor I start planning for my late January Florida Trip to Daytona and the Rolex-24. Wanna join me?? Read on...

As in previous years I am planning to lead a contingent of DC Region Flaggers down to Daytona Beach to play with other flaggers from around the country and Canada at the 50th Running of the Rolex-24 of Daytona, January 26th thru the 29th. We will be supporting the Central Florida Region Flag Crew and just as in previous years I expect they will treat us very well. For the past several years I have been the Station Captain for the Bus Stop Chicane (Stations 6B, 7, & 8) and I really enjoy having DC Region flaggers on station with me. It's been a dream of mine to have an entire crew of DC Region folks, and while I haven't done it yet I have enjoyed having a DC Region Crew for at least my shift for the past several years. I have already heard from several folks expressing interest and a handful have already said they are going, and as with any endurance race there is always room for more.

The entire event covers 4 days beginning Thursday morning with Practice and ends around 3:30 Sunday afternoon with the Checker Flag for the 24hr. Practice and qualifying for both Rolex-24 and the Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge cars is the primary action Thursday, with an evening practice Session Thursday evening. In addition to final practice rounds Friday ends with the 2 ½ hr Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge Enduro at 1:30 that is followed by the ever popular CFR Worker Social. As in the previous years the Bus Stop will do our same work rotation, 4hrs on and 8hrs off with one shift on Drivers Left (Inside the track) and another on Drivers Right. There are plenty of opportunities to get around the track to see other areas of the track both on your off time during the race and during the 2 days of practice. Your credentials will get you anywhere at Daytona you may want to go - except for the Tower, and we can probably make that happen if you want to go. But I can tell you that as the recipient of more than one 'Stewards Invitation' to the tower that once you get over the view (which is GREAT) there really isn't much there. I am not expecting that our "routine" will change much but it is early yet. Lunches are provided both Thursday & Friday and Central Florida Hospitality Crew will have food going for just about the entire 24hrs. Dinner will start serving late Saturday Afternoon and continue till they run out of food Sunday. Traditionally the Saturday Night Dinner is has been Prime Rib and they do a great job. The Friday Evening Social is also a great time to relax and enjoy a beverage with workers from around the country.

Thus far there has been a LOT of Car announcements with Audi Debuting the new R8 LMS, Ferrari has been testing the 458 Italia GT, Corvette has had the new Corvette DP out for testing and the Viper will be returning this year. Some news on the Driver Front is Michael Waltrip plans to run the 24-hrs in a Ferrari, this would be the same team that he ran LeMans with earlier this year.

The 2 1/2 hr Enduro Friday with everything from Mini's to Boss 302 Mustangs starting is always interesting. That will be followed the next day with Group 2 for the weekend a 24hr event that will probably feature 60(?) starters which is always a challenge for the Cone Dancers.

As we have done in the past and in keeping with the traditions of the Bus Stop, I welcome any licensed flagger regardless of the grade on your license. My first Rolex-24 was as a newby Regional License holder and I was welcomed with open arms by Bill Salmon the Station Captain and now that the job has fallen to me that is one tradition that will continue.

If you're interested let me know and I will put you on a preliminary list of folks. It's a bit early to start shooting names to the Flag Chief's, but I have been approached by a few folks looking for Roomates to split hotel rooms or possibly share the drive down.

Questions can come to me and if I don't know the answer I probably know how to find it.

Thanks - and always remember Play Safe!!

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