

# Executive Director's REPORT



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## TEQUILA PATRÓN ESM HONDA PROTOTYPE WINS SECOND STRAIGHT

### Backs Up Daytona Victory At 64th Twelve Hours Of Sebring

Coming off of a stirring victory in the season-opening Rolex 24 At Daytona, the No. 2 Tequila Patrón ESM Honda Ligier JS P2 returned to Victory Lane with

a second consecutive triumph in the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship. Pipo Derani captured the checkered flag in a final sprint in Saturday's 64th Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring Fueled by Fresh From Florida. With five minutes and 45 seconds

to go, Derani passed Dane Cameron in the No. 31 Whelen Engineering/Team Fox Corvette DP from Action Express Racing to take the lead and the eventual victory, sweeping Daytona and Sebring in back-to-back rounds of the Tequila Patrón North American Endurance Cup.



*What a tough race this was," said Derani. "We had some contact, some spins, and moving our way back to the front was just unbelievable. God had an eye on me and everything I executed was perfect.*

### WOMEN IN AVIATION BREAKS RECORDS

#### The 27th annual Women in Aviation International (WAI) Conference took place last week in Nashville, Tennessee.

This year's conference broke attendance records with nearly 5,000 people getting a chance to see top-notch speakers and network with potential employers. During the three-day show,

4,640 Fast Passes — slots for interviews with airlines — were handed out to 2,064 members. In addition to airline pilot interviews, there were networking and job opportunities for aircraft maintenance technicians and engineers, military aviators, flight attendants, law enforcement, general aviation and more. Beverly Glarner and Christine McGann attended the event on behalf of SRA and Expo.



### EXPO NEWS

**Aviation safety speaker and AOPA columnist, Rod Machado** will be one of Expo's Keynote Speakers for 2017. He is the author of numerous flight-training textbooks, including Rod Machado's Sport Pilot Handbook. Rod will also be presenting two programs on Thursday, January 26, and two programs on Friday, January 27.

**Rapid Systems, Inc.** based in Tampa, FL has just signed on as the exclusive

communications sponsor for Sebring's Sport Aviation Expo for January 25-28, 2017.

Rapid System's rs|air Broadband Experience will offer ubiquitous WIFI coverage by showcasing the latest high-speed broadband technology. Every year, Rapid Systems deploys the latest gear and sets the Expo for an amazing live streaming, social media and broadband experience for vendors and guests.

**World Fuel Services** has signed on as a sponsor for the 13th annual Expo event. World Fuel is a global leader in fuel logistics, specializing in the marketing, sale and distribution of marine, aviation and land fuel products and related services.



## SIR & SEBRING AIRPORT PARTNER TO FORM HENDRICKS FIELD MEMORIAL PARK

Color guard members from the Highland's County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard joined those from Patrick Air Force Base Friday afternoon, March 18, 2016, for a rededication ceremony at Hendricks Field Memorial Park at the Sebring International Raceway. The rededication ceremony marked the ceremonial ground-breaking on a rebuilding of the park to include a paved walkway with a representation of a B-17 bomber from World War II in honor of local B-17 pilot Lt. Laird Hendricks, the park's namesake, who lost his life flying the planes in 1941.

Hendricks Field, the predecessor to Sebring International Raceway and Sebring Regional Airport, was honored Friday at a special ground-breaking ceremony. The ceremony kicked off a funding campaign to preserve and enhance

the original military airbase flagpole and surrounding area, which will be known as Hendricks Field Memorial Park.

A WWII United State Army Air Force base, Hendricks Field opened in 1942 and played a vital role in training B-17 combat crews and supporting personnel. Originally called the Sebring Basic Flying School, the name was changed to Hendricks Field in honor of Lt. Laird Hendricks, a Floridian who was killed while training Royal Air Force pilots in England. Several thousand men who trained at Hendricks Field served in the European and Pacific war fronts, with an estimated one-fourth never returning.

"The sacrifices made by all the men and women who served here must be remembered," Wayne Estes, president of Sebring International Raceway, said. "This ceremony kicks-off a funding

campaign to complete our vision of a park-like setting that appropriately pays tribute to this important time in our history."

The original 72-foot Hendricks Field flagpole, which served as the geographical center of the base, still stands behind Turn 3 of the famous Sebring International Raceway circuit. Plans for Hendricks Field Memorial Park include landscaping, lighting, and fencing. Lisa Celentano with Sebring International Raceway will lead the fund-raising campaign.

The dignitaries who attended the ceremony included John Hendricks, nephew of Lt. Hendricks; Wayne Estes, president and general manager of Sebring International Raceway; and Mike Willingham, executive director of the Sebring Airport Authority.

## OTHER NEWS AND PROJECTS

### Highland Art League Artist of the month: Simon Ward

For the month of March, Highlands County's Race Month, HAL will celebrate the artist Simon Ward as their Artist of the Month. Highland Art League partnered with Sebring Airport Authority to provide



the oil based paintings that are showcased out at the Sebring Airport Authority Galleria.

"Art is an expression, a medium capable of forming the atmosphere of a room – art is my passion. Motorsport is a love, a way of life, a dedication." stated Simon Ward.

Sebring's Marva and Mike Willingham hosted the opening reception for Artist of the Month together with the Art League's operations manager Anastasis Saunders. Thanks to Beverly Glarner for a great job with the set-up.

Simon Ward, motorsports artist, was born in 1964 and is currently in the process of relocating to the United States of America. Simon's work has been honoured with exhibitions both in the United States and in Britain, some of his work can be found on permanent exhibition at the Sebring Regional Airport. Simon is closely associated with the Sebring circuit, having also created the cover art for past official race programs.

### Bill Johnson President and CEO of Enterprise Florida, Inc. will visit SAA 3.29.16

Bill Johnson became President and CEO of Enterprise Florida, Inc. on March 2, 2015 following a 35-year career with Miami-Dade County government. Governor Scott appointed Bill to lead the agency that is the state's principal economic development organization serving as a public private partnership between Florida's business and government leaders. The position also serves as Florida's Secretary of Commerce.



The purpose of his visit will be to tour the Sebring Regional Airport and Commerce Park and see first-hand the unique economic de-

velopment taking place. He will also meet with the Economic Development Council and community leaders during his trip.

### CITRAPAC BUILDOUT UPDATE



1. Site work - mostly complete including the first lift of asphalt for the parking lot
2. All exterior concrete, ramps, stairs & tank foundation are in place
3. 75% of the security fence is installed
4. The PEMB is completely erected
5. Insulated metal panels are being installed with 1 freezer being completed and the other at 75% (all IMP are on site)
6. Offices are completely framed with utilities rough in
7. The fire sprinkler system is 90% completed
8. The refrigeration piping is being installed throughout the plan (all equipment and controls on site)
9. Most all of the electrical switch gear is in place and rough in is taking place throughout the plant
10. The emergency backup generator is installed



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**With strategic access** to major markets by land, sea and air—Sebring Regional Airport and Commerce Park offers a wide range of business advantages and incentives to support your company's future. In the heart of Central Florida, the 2,000-acre park is conveniently situated within a 150-mile radius of 85 percent of the state's population. Already home to Sebring International Raceway, a premier sports car racing facility, the park is uniquely positioned to accelerate your business.

#### SITE MAP

- Future Development
- Existing Industrial Park
- Catalyst Site
- Airport
- Future Commerce Park
- Sebring International Raceway



**A C C E L E R A T E Y O U R B U S I N E S S ' S P O T E N T I A L**