

GRAND-AM Coming to Road Atlanta April 20, 2013



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GRAND-AM Road Racing announced the most dynamic schedule in its history on Friday, highlighted by three new events including Road Atlanta on April 20.

Road Atlanta will also host the American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patrón later in the year with the traditional Petit Le Mans.

"We are looking forward to hosting the GRAND-AM Rolex Series in 2013," stated Road Atlanta President and General Manager Geoff Lee. "Our fans will have the opportunity to attend two great sports car racing series next year before they merge."

Also new on the GRAND-AM calendar is a unique combined weekend with the American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patrón at Road America. The two organizations are in the process of merging and will operate as one, new sports car entity beginning with the 2014 season.

Both the GRAND-AM Rolex Sports Car Series and Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge schedules will feature inaugural races at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Tex.; Road Atlanta; and Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas.

"Last year we raced for the first time at Indianapolis and Detroit, and GRAND-AM will continue to break new ground in 2013," said Ed Bennett, GRAND-AM president and CEO. "We're excited about going to historic Road Atlanta - plus the new road courses at Austin and Kansas City - for the first time. And with the combined event at Road America, sports car fans will get a glimpse of the future."

GRAND-AM's flagship race - the 51st running of the Rolex 24 At Daytona - opens the 2013 schedule Jan. 26-27 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

AMS Friday Night Drags to Feature Christmas Tree Starting Light for 2013



Atlanta Motor Speedway's Friday Night Drags will be bringing several changes to the competition for the 2013 season, with one major addition highlighting the racing action on the pit lane drag strip.

In addition to a new 250-foot concrete launch pad, racers will be launching from the starting line at the command of a brand-new starter tree. Atlanta Motor Speedway has added the starting light after six complete seasons of hand-flagged starts that were reminiscent of drag racing's early days in the 1960s.

The tree is a Race America 2650 Dual Lane XL Advanced Pro Drag Race Starter Tree. The starting line beams will set competitors in pre-start and staging lights. If a car interrupts the beam before the green light is displayed, a red light will appear and the driver will be disqualified. This move eliminates the starter official's decisions on jumping penalties. The starter tree will operate in the "Pro" format, with random intervals for the yellow lights prior to the green. The "Pro" format will have all three yellow lights illuminate prior to the green, while the random interval will range between two-tenths of a second and

five-tenths of a second. All divisions will compete using the "Pro" format.

The new surface and starting light system will debut on the opening night of the seventh full season of Friday Night Drags & Show-N-Shine at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Friday, April 26. The weekly series will feature street-style drag racing for all makes and models of cars, trucks and motorcycles. Similar vehicles will be placed within divisions competing in a nightly, single elimination tournament for trophies and bragging rights.

Each week's drag racing show also includes a Show-N-Shine open competition car, truck and motorcycle show, featuring a number of class awards, speedway cruise and fan showcase.

Events are set for April 26, May 3 and May 17 with the 2013 points season opening on May 31 and continuing through Aug. 16.

For more Friday Night Drags information, divisional rules and Show-N-Shine specifications, visit www.atlantamotor-speedway.com/drag or call the Atlanta Motor Speedway Ticket Office at (877) 9-AMS-TIX or (770) 946-4211.



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