

ROLEX MONTEREY HISTORIC



MARIO ANDRETTI GUEST OF HONOR AT MONTEREY 35TH ANNIVERSARY

The Rolex Monterey Historic Automobile Races presented by Toyota will celebrate its 35th anniversary this year by celebrating highlights from the event's illustrious past. The event will salute the Alfa Romeo, which was the first marque to be featured at the Historics in 1975.

To commemorate the event, a variety of featured marques from the past 34 Monterey Historic races will be recognized during the weekend of exciting and highly competitive races. Legendary driver Mario Andretti will be the official guest of honor for the event.

Andretti, who is widely considered the most accomplished driver in motorsports history, will participate in a variety of events throughout the weekend, including driving a few demonstration laps in his Formula One Championship winning Lotus 79 and autograph sessions both Friday and Saturday. Today, he remains the only driver ever to win the Indianapolis 500 (1969), the Daytona 500 (1967), and the Formula One World Championship (1978).

"The Rolex Monterey Historic is the premier historic auto racing event in the country," said Andretti. "Laguna Seca has always been one of my favorite tracks. For a driver, it's a truly technical and challenging course that provides immense satisfaction. For a spectator, it's phenomenal because of the many vantage points to watch the action."

Rolex will present their award-winning Motor Sports History Display "Moments in Time" honoring the singular achievement of a car and driver in racing history. Highlighting the display is the 1938 Alfa Romeo 8C-2900B Mille Miglia Spyder that Phil Hill drove to first place in the Del Monte Trophy Race in 1951 at Pebble Beach. Hill and the Mille Miglia Spyder have a long history, as he drove the Spyder again during the second Monterey Historic Automobile Races in 1975 where he took the checkered flag. ■

TIM SHARP TO RUN BABY AUSTIN 7 SPECIAL AT MONTEREY HISTORICS

Phoenix Automotive Press Association president Tim Sharp will be running his recently acquired supercharged Austin 7 Special GP car in the 35th Rolex Monterey Historic Automobile Races at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca this August 15-17. While we head to Monterey for the Russo and Steele Auction and the Pebble Beach Concours d'Élegance, our intrepid contributor HR Driver plans to follow Tim to Laguna Seca, to see how he does.

"The little Austin 7 Special must compete against much larger and far more expensive pre-war Grand Prix cars," Sharp says. "However, the Austin 7 Special is light and has an excellent power-to-weight ratio... good for the tight Laguna Seca race track."

"The difficulty with racing this little car with the larger GP cars is not to get run over by them while using the Austin 7's nimbleness in the corners to optimal advantage," states Sharp.

Sharp is a former SCCA and IMSA road racing champion with 10 series championships to his credit. However, he recognizes that the challenge of racing his new vintage car is different. "The expense and rarity of these historic race cars requires that you pass with care. These cars are rolling works of art."

Watch for results in the September/October issue of *Arizona Driver Magazine*. ■



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