

F1 Grand Prix Austin weekend happenings

By LINDSEY LOVE, STYLE COLUMNIST | November 20, 2012 | Updated: November 20, 2012 5:52pm

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Mica Mosbacher, left, Nicholas Frankl, Lisa Niemi Swayze, and Charles Nixon at My Yacht F1 Club. Photo: Courtesy My Yacht F1 Club, Stringer / 2012 WireImage

and **David Cockrell**, Joyce and **Hugh Echols**, Susan and **Mike Plank**, **Becca Cason Thrash** and John Thrash to name a few - resembled team owners rather than spectators in their understated couture wardrobes (Isabel Marant wedges, Chanel bags, Current Elliot leather jeggings and Hermes bangles).

Between the deafening sounds of 600 horse-power engines and the throngs of beautiful people, Austin looked more like a Texas version of Monte Carlo than a college town.

Only an F1 event could create the the following scenes: Gov. **Rick Perry** posing with **Bai Ling** during sunset cocktails at the McLaren VIP event; **Patrick Dempsey** discussing strategy with **Mario Andretti** at the track; director **Ron Howard** and producer **Brian Oliver** talking shop about their movie "Rush" during dinner at Bob's; **Cederic The Entertainer** stopping by Lounge 88; **Eloise** and **John Paul DeJoria** having their close-up in the Patron photo booth; and drivers **Sergio Perez**, **Sebastian Vettel** and **Fernando Alonso** drinking Comte de Mazeray's 24-karat champagne at **Nicholas Frankl's** My Yacht F1 pop-up club.

Houstonians had their own celebrity encounters that are sure to make for decades of memories: **John Thrash** getting his picture with Ferrari's **Fernando Alonso** in the Four Season's elevator; **Richard Fant** driving the track during a Saturday Challenger race where he placed sixth; **Elizabeth Petersen** jamming to **John Legend's** live performance while her hubbie **Gary** chatted with **Carmen Electra** at **Robert Smith's** McLaren fete; and **Estella Cockrell**, **Susan Plank** and **Joyce Echols** dancing alongside **Clay Walker** during his post-race concert for 40,000.

McLaren winner **Lewis Hamilton** could not have summarized the weekend better when he shouted, "This is one of the best, if not the best Grand Prix, we've had all year." And Hamilton can thank Texans' festive spirits for this one.

As the primary investor for the Austin-based Circuit of the Americas track, **Red McCombs** should be sporting a Cheshire-cat-wide grin after the uber-successful, inaugural Formula 1 Grand Prix that drew 120,000 internationally-chic fans.

Between the swarm of helicopters and **Rolling Stone**-worthy tour buses, suite owners arrived in style at the 890-acre venue and some Houstonians made sure that the world knows "everything is bigger and better in Texas."

Racing boosters **Mica Mosbacher**, **Ginni** and **Richard Mithoff**, **Melissa** and **Michael Mithoff**, **Elizabeth** and **Gary Petersen** hosted a friends for the three-day affair where sunglasses and ear plugs became vital accessories. The In Car Crowd - **Katie** and **A.J. Brass**, **Estella**