



MONACO MOUSETRAP CAR GRAND PRIX

Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix 2016: a mousetrap in the engine racing dragster style!

Monaco, Friday May 27th 2016 – On the occasion of the Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix, for the third time in Monaco the Mousetrap Car Grand Prix brought together 10 different schools, with a total of 10 finalist teams from Europe and the USA.

The idea, to build a moving object powered by a mousetrap and optimise it to cover the 10 meter track in the least time possible: this was the challenge launched by the Monaco Mousetrap Car Grand Prix founded by M. Marco CASIRAGHI and under the High Patronage of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco.

Organised with the participation of the Automobile Club of Monaco, Engeco, Riva, CMR, Monaco Boat Service, the aim of the Monaco Mousetrap Car Grand Prix is to encourage science and engineering. Mousetrap car races are not common in Europe, but are used by some American High Schools to encourage students to apply their knowledge of physics. A fun and original project, each student is assisted by a teacher to design and build these tiny cars and to race them against their fellow students.

The ten finalists teams (secondary and high school students) of the Monaco Mousetrap Car Grand Prix 2016 were selected by a jury of professionals based on the results obtained during the qualifying sessions held at their schools.

Welcomed by Mrs. Lia RIVA, who opened the famous Riva Tunnel near the Monaco F1 Grand Prix Paddock Club especially for the occasion, the students aged 13 to 19 put on a fine display full of intelligence and ingenuity.

It was under the watchful eyes of Mr. Jacky ICKX and Mr. Marco Casiraghi, initiator of the project, that the finalists showed off their skills.

The Italian national anthem was heard in honour of the winners from LICEO APROSIO of Ventimiglia, Italy, whose car was built by Andrea DI GIULIANTONIO & Lorenzo PIOTTOLI under the supervision of the Professor Felice BALESTRA following their victory, they received the Cup of the Automobile Club of Monaco from His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco. The Minister of Interior of Monaco, M. Patrice CELLARIO honoured the team in 2nd position: Vittorio MAZZA from LICEO MALPIGHI of Bologna, Italy, followed by Mme Isabelle BONNAL, Director of the National Education of Monaco, who rewarded the 3rd position to Nassim BOUHRAN & Mohamed DHIB from LYCEE APOLLINAIRE of Nice, France. All were congratulated by Jacky ICKX, who after having signed a few autographs for the students and their teachers, gave an A.C.M. prize to the 3 winning teams.

The “Aquarama Young Designer Award” was awarded by Mme Lia Riva to Filippo FIOCCHI & Giovanni RE from COLLEGIO SAN CARLO of Milan, Italy, while the “Best Lesson” prize was given to the professor Gilles DURAND, from LYCEE APOLLINAIRE of Nice, France, to Jim WILLEN from GIFFT HILL SCHOOL of St. John, US Virgin Islands and to Olivier CERRI from LYCEE EDISON of Lorgues, France.

M. Marco CASIRAGHI presented the “Design, Innovation and Creativity Award” to Amaël CATANEO-LEDOUX & Flavien BERWICK from LYCEE EDISON of Lorgues, France.

“We are now on our 3rd year of the mousetrap race, and I am very pleased to see the great enthusiasm of teachers and students. Each year more and more schools are participating in our program that is educational and entraining. The mousetrap cars also are getting better and faster. This year the 2015 Mousetrap records were completely smashed!” said Mr. Marco Casiraghi, the founder of the MONACO MOUSETRAP CAR GRAND PRIX.

The next meeting is already planned for 2017 and it looks set to be an even more creative and intellectual challenge!

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