

## **Internationally Recognized Hobby Car Collector and founder of the acclaimed Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance to speak at Halifax Historical Society on auto racing history**

The Halifax Historical Society with funding from the Florida Humanities Council presents Hoppin' Rattlesnakes: Oral histories of Beach Racing in Volusia County, and keynote speaker Bill Warner, owner/operator of Bill Warner Racing and founder and chairman of the internationally acclaimed Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance.

The event is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 beginning at 5 p.m. at the Halifax Historical Museum, located at 252 South Beach Street, downtown Daytona Beach. Admission is \$8 for Halifax Historical Society members and \$10 for non members, and includes a wine and cheese reception. No advance tickets are needed; however, reservations are strong recommended as seating is limited to 70. To make a reservation, call 386-255-6976.

Bill Warner is founder and chairman of internationally acclaimed Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, chairman of the Amelia Foundation, and also serves as president of his own business, H. C. Warner, Inc., an industrial filtration company. He also owns and operates Bill Warner Racing. He won the 2002 Meguiar's Award for Collector Car Hobby Person of the Year. Known as the 'Oscar' of car collecting, this award recognizes those who make a significant contribution to the quality, visibility and growth of classic car collecting.

In 2001, Warner was voted into the Road Racing Drivers' Club, one of road racing's highest honors. Brian Redman, world famous endurance racer and club president, says Warner deserves the recognition for creating, sustaining and propelling the Amelia into such an innovative annual event, often described as a "beauty pageant for rare and elegant cars."

Mr. Warner's foundation has donated over \$2 million to a wide range of charities, which earned him the 1997 Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year award given by the National Society of Fundraising Enterprises. He is also the recipient of the Frank W. Sherman Award presented by the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville, FL for his exemplary community service.

Following Mr. Warner's presentation, the HHS movie Hoppin' Rattlesnakes: Oral histories of Beach Racing in Volusia County will be shown. A wine and light fare reception follows.

"Hoppin' Rattlesnakes" (a reference to the rough, unregulated surroundings of the improvised beach race track) is an engaging and informative documentary that recounts the fascinating story of the early days of car racing in Ormond Beach and Daytona Beach. The documentary captures more than the history of the sport of auto racing, it also reflects on an America that has been largely lost.

At the heart of the film are the interviews with some of the surviving early drivers, now in their late 80s and 90s, as well as their colleagues, friends, and family members. These talking heads provide viewers with an

intimate sense of the freewheeling character of the sport. The film is narrated by Buz McKim, a born raconteur and historian of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

According to the Journal of Florida Studies, "Everyone interested in the state's history, economy, culture, and race relations in general or the history of American car racing in particular should see this delightful, often exciting documentary. It tells a great story about technology, showmanship, outlandish personalities, entertainment, and that irrepressible urge to drive fast."

HALIFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM  
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Contact: Fayn LeVeille, Museum Director

TAG: The Halifax Historical Society was established in 1949. It is the oldest historical society in Volusia County. The first museum was opened to the public in 1959. The mission of the society is to preserve the history of the Halifax Area by maintaining an extensive collection of artifacts and providing educational programs and films that chronicle that history.