

## **NASCAR Hall of Fame Historian to speak at Halifax Historical Museum in February**

**Buz McKim**, a born raconteur and the historian of the NASCAR Hall of Fame is the special speaker at the Halifax Historical Museum on Wednesday, February 18 on his lifetime experiences in the auto racing industry. Doors open at 5 p.m. with the program starting at 5:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council.

**Eric Breitenback**, photographer and film maker is scheduled to be on hand to host the evening. Breitenback, a photographer and film maker, is producer and director of the acclaimed documentary *Hoppin Rattlesnakes*, which will be shown at the conclusion of McKim's talk.

McKim, narrates the documentary that recounts through interviews with some of the surviving early drivers, now in their 80s and 90s, the fascinating story of the early days of car racing in Ormond Beach and Daytona Beach. ("Hoppin' Rattlesnakes" is a reference to the rough, unregulated, often rattlesnake infested surroundings of the improvised beach race track shown in the documentary.)

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, *Hoppin Rattlesnakes*. It tells a great story about technology, showmanship, outlandish personalities, entertainment, and that irrepressible urge to drive fast." The documentary captures more than the history of the sport of auto racing, it also reflects on an America that has been largely lost.

A foremost authority on auto racing history, Buz McKim came by his passion for auto racing naturally. His father owned cars which competed in the NASCAR Sportsman and NASCAR Modified Divisions on northeastern race tracks in the early 1950s. While still in high school he attempted a driving career, but, as a natural-born artist, found it was more profitable to paint the numbers on the cars instead. His talents led him to a successful career as a commercial artist.

McKim created many artistic pieces of work that were used in Indianapolis 500 yearbooks of the mid-1970s and also designed many paint schemes for cars in NASCAR'S PREMIER SERIES during the 1970s, including the 1975 and 1976 Daytona 500-winning cars of Benny Parsons and David Pearson, respectively.

Among his credits, McKim was commissioned by Anheuser-Busch to paint the official portrait of 1997 NASCAR Busch Series champion Randy Lajoie and 1998 champ Dale Earnhardt Jr. He later developed a line of limited-edition racing prints dealing with historical NASCAR moments from the careers of Richard Petty, Mark Martin and NASCAR legend Fireball Roberts.

From the 1990s through the early 2000s, McKim made a name for himself on the Daytona Beach racing scene and beyond while serving as the Director of Archives for the International

Speedway Corporation and later Coordinator of Statistical Services with the NASCAR Public Relations Department.

The recipient of two Silver Tellies, which is the equivalent to cable TV's Emmys, McKim has appeared in numerous television productions on auto racing, including an episode of *American Pickers*.

A much followed authority on auto racing, McKim has written for the monthly publication, *Racing Milestones*, and has added his expertise to nearly 100 books on auto racing including *The History of the 24 Hours of Daytona*. Books written by McKim include the best-selling *NASCAR Vault* and its companion publication, *NASCAR Families*.

If you're an auto racing buff or have an interest in the history of America, join us at the Halifax Historical Museum located at 252 South Beach Street, Daytona Beach, on Wednesday, February 18 beginning at 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$8 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. Children 15 years of age and younger are \$5.

Ample, free parking is located in a public lot behind the museum on Palmetto Avenue between Magnolia and Orange avenues, which is best accessed from Magnolia Avenue, just west of Beach Street (behind the Kababji restaurant).

For more information and to make a reservation, please call the museum at [386-255-6976](tel:386-255-6976). Seating is limited.

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**HALIFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**  
252 South Beach Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
[386-255-6976](tel:386-255-6976)

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.***

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