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**INDY RACING GREAT JOHNNY RUTHERFORD HEADLINES  
2006 AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE**

*Popular 3-time Indianapolis 500 Winner Kicks Off Amelia's Second Decade*

**JACKSONVILLE, FL;** September 28, 2005 -- Indy great "Lone Star JR" Johnny Rutherford will be the honoree for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance scheduled for March 10-12, 2006. During his career, Rutherford notched 27 victories in Indy car racing, including three Indianapolis 500 wins.

"America has its share of racing champions, but there aren't many like Johnny Rutherford," says Bill Warner, Concours founder and chairman. "We are very excited that he has accepted our invitation to be the 2006 honoree. He was a fierce competitor and his phenomenal career is highlighted with three victories at the Indianapolis 500. Even though he hung up his helmet over 10 years ago, he still remains one of motor sports' biggest stars."

Brilliant Career Enough To Pack Several Highlight Reels

Nicknamed the "Texas Tornado" early on in his career, Rutherford shocked the stock car world in 1963 by being the fastest qualifier in his first Daytona 500 with a speed of 165.183 mph – demolishing the track record by more than nine miles an hour. In addition to notching three Indy 500 wins ('74, '76, '80), he was the 1965 United States Auto Club (USAC) National Sprint Car Champion, CART/PPG Series Champion and Olsonite Driver of the Year in 1980, and at age 48 became the oldest 500-mile race winner when he took the checkered flag at the 1986 Michigan 500. During his 1980 championship season in CART, he won five races and finished in the top five in 10 of 12 races. Rutherford also was the first driver to win two 500-mile races in the same season when he won the Pocono 500 in 1974 along with that year's Indy 500.

"This is a real honor for me because the Amelia is a lot of fun and so well known for its big focus on all forms of racing and the personalities that make it such a great sport," says Rutherford.

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“Bill Warner has a unique way of finding the most diverse collection of automobiles and grouping them into classes like no other concours. I’m looking forward to a great time down there.”

Johnny Rutherford was born in 1938 in Coffeyville, Kansas, and today makes his home in Fort Worth, Texas. He began racing in 1959, driving “modifieds” at Devil's Bowl Speedway near Dallas, Texas, and made his debut in Indianapolis-type cars in 1962. Rutherford’s first victory on that circuit came in 1965, when he captured a 250-mile race at Atlanta, Georgia.

A popular motor sports analyst for television since retiring from racing, Rutherford makes numerous speaking appearances and was the first special events director for the then new Indy Racing League (IRL). He now pilots the pace car for the series’ races. Rutherford has been inducted into the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame, Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame, Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame, Motorsports Hall of Fame of America and, the International Motorsports Hall of Fame. He earned nearly \$4 million during his 35-year career.

“Johnny is a very engaging person, and above all, a true ambassador for racing,” adds Warner. “Along with being one of oval racing’s greatest drivers, he has been a knowledgeable and well respected judge for us over the past several years. The Foundation felt that the start of our second decade was an ideal opportunity to honor Johnny for all of his contributions to motor sports, so people are in for a real treat in 2006.”

The 2006 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance will be held March 10-12 at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. The featured marques will be Jaguar and Stanley Steamer. The show’s foundation has donated nearly \$1.4 million to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Inc. since 1996.

*The Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is one of the nation's most innovative vintage auto shows featuring over 250 rare classics from seldom-seen private collections nationwide. The show is scheduled for March 10-12, 2006, on the grounds of The Ritz-Carlton. For more information, visit [www.ameliaconcours.org](http://www.ameliaconcours.org) or contact them at 904-636-0027.*

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