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### **AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE & SEBRING INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY TEAM UP**

After Amelia, Sports & Sports Racers Invited To Head South To Run At Famous Track Before Annual 12-Hour Race

**JACKSONVILLE, FL & SEBRING, FL;** May 15, 2006 -- The Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance Foundation, Inc. and Sebring International Raceway jointly announced plans today to invite sports and sports racing entries from the Concours to participate in a series of on- and off-track exhibitions during the week of the annual Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring race. Next year's Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is scheduled for March 9-11, 2007, with the 55<sup>th</sup> edition of Sebring being held the following week.

At the 2007 Concours, officials from Sebring will also award for the first time the "Spirit of Sebring" trophy to the racing vehicle that best exemplifies the heritage of this world famous circuit and the many sports racers it has hosted over the past 50 years. A special class devoted to cars that competed at Sebring will be on the field and would become an annual class. Following Amelia, concours entrants will have the opportunity to "exercise" their cars in parade lap sessions during race week at Sebring, and a special display area for the vehicles will be set up for the public to enjoy.

"This is something that I have wanted to add to the Concours for a number of years and Sebring is the ideal venue for it," says Bill Warner, founder and chairman of the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. "Amelia's concentration on racing makes it unique and a lot of these owners would like

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nothing more than to drive their cars on a track as famous as Sebring. It's easy for them to head a little further south while they are in Florida, so what an opportunity!"

Each year a racing great is honored at Amelia and many of the previous honorees have raced and won at Sebring, the site of America's oldest endurance race. Past honorees with a Sebring victory on their resume include Sir Stirling Moss OBE (1 win), Phil Hill (3 wins), Brian Redman and Hurley Haywood (2 wins), and John Surtees MBE and Jim Hall (1 win).

According to Tres Stephenson, President and General Manager of Sebring, "This is an incredible opportunity to partner with one of the country's top automotive events. Amelia's respect for vintage racing machines and Sebring's great history is a perfect match. Many of the vehicles that have passed through Amelia's 'field of dreams' have raced on this track in the past, but haven't been back in years. It will be great for the public to have the chance to see them again."

To many drivers, an overall victory at Sebring ranks with winning the 24 Hours of LeMans or the Indianapolis 500. Made from a series of connected airport runways built for WWII, the 3.7-mile road course is famous for its changing surfaces and grueling toll on drivers and cars. Sebring's first 12-hour race was held in 1952, and this year's race-winning Audi R10 TDI made history by becoming the first diesel-powered race car in the world to win a major sports car race.

"Sportscar Vintage Racing Association (SVRA) is honored to team with these two great partners to coordinate this portion of the Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring. It will be a great two weeks in March," adds Carl Jensen, Competition Director of SVRA.

With its unique themes and automotive diversity, the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is recognized today as one of the country's top automotive events and annually donates a portion of its proceeds to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. The 2007 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance will be held March 9-11, and the honoree will be five-time LeMans winner Derek Bell. Since 1996, the Foundation has donated nearly \$1.3 million to this very deserving organization.

*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 9-11, 2007, on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> fairways of The Golf Club of Amelia Island at Summer Beach adjacent to The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. For more information, visit [www.ameliaconcours.org](http://www.ameliaconcours.org) or call 904-636-0027.*

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