

AMELIA ISLAND – RM AUCTION & CONCOURS, MARCH 12TH TO 13TH, 2006



The view that greeted the visitor to the Amelia Island Concours.

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I set off at Sparrow's farm on Saturday morning to go look at the annual Amelia Island Concours on Sunday, now in its eleventh year and to take in the RM Auction, held the day before at the Ritz Carlton. I had some cars to bid on for customers, so wanted to get there early to take a close look at some of them.

The auction was VERY well attended, every seat in the marquee being taken and a horde of people standing at the sides and back to watch the cars come through on this one day only auction.



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The Porsche 935 display at Amelia Island.

Judging by the prices paid, it was a very successful auction, a 1961 Ferrari 250 Berlinetta, (aluminum bodied) selling for \$2.65M and a Ford Mustang 350 GTR going for almost \$1M.

Sunday morning saw me at the Concours bright and early. It was held on the Ritz Carlton's Golf Course and a delectable assortment of cars were on display, including a class devoted to Porsche 935s. There was also a display of Can Am cars, which included the old Dan Gurney driven Lola T70 from 1966 and the Mark Donohue driven T70 Mark 3b Spyder from 1967. A McLaren M6 and an M20, Porsches 917/10 and /30 and the Shadow Can Am car were also there.

Johnny Rutherford was the invited star of the show and he was there with several of the Indy Racecars he'd driven in his career. (See photo below.)

Personally, I dislike racecars at Concours d'Elegance, seeing them as being taken completely out of context. For me, they belong at a vintage race meeting but readers of this web page probably already appreciate that I have very firm views on Concours d'Elegance!



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Dan Gurney's 1966 Lola T70.



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Dan Gurney's 1966 Lola T70.

No matter, the organizer(s) of the Concours did a magnificent job and I'm quite sure the great majority of the vast crowd who attended the Concours had a memorable, enjoyable day. Having taken a look around and taken the photos you see here, I was out of the event by 10 a.m. and back home by 2 p.m., in time to watch the (repeated) Grand Prix of Bahrain in which Michael Schumacher chased Fernando Alonso to the flag, with Kimi Raikkonen finishing third after starting from the back of the grid. This shows that:

- 1: Alonso is a faster driver than Schumacher.
- 2: Ferrari have recovered their form, having stumbled (probably over their Bridgestone tires) badly last year and...
- 3: Raikkonen is probably faster than both of them!



Dan Gurney's 1966 Lola T70.



The cockpit of Dan Gurney's 1966 Lola T70.



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Mark Donohue's 1967 Can Am challenger.



The voluptuous air intakes for the carburetors on the Donohue T70.



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The Mercedes McLaren on display.



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A McLaren M20 Can Am car.



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The Brumos Porsche 917/10.



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Mark Donohue's Porsche 917/30 Can Am dominator.



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1974 Shadow Can Am car.



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Johnny Rutherford in the cockpit of one of the Indy cars that he drove during his long career.



Bob Akin's second 935 K3.