

ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 5
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2004

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in your plans?*

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X-TYPE**

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Mercedes-Benz

2004 SLR.....Silver/Black.....Inquire
2003 S55.....Silver/Black.....100 mi.
2003 CL600.....Black/Black.....100 mi.
2003 CL55 Coupe.....Silver/Black.....2,179 mi.
2003 SL55 Roadster.....Silver/Black.....10 mi.
2003 SL55 Roadster.....Black/Black.....24 mi.
2003 CL55 Coupe.....Pewter/Ash.....200 mi.
2003 SL500.....Black/Black.....8,000 mi.
2002 S500 Sedan 4D.....Black/Java.....11,524 mi.
2002 S500 Sedan 4D Sport.....Silver/Ash.....15,100 mi.
2001 CLK 320 Cab.....Red/Black.....13,600 mi.
1999 S500 Sedan 4D.....White/Tan.....43,083 mi.
1991 SL500 Roadster.....Green/Tan.....35,055 mi.
1971 280SL.....White/Tan.....1,700 mi.
1971 280SL.....Red/Tan.....74,500 mi.
1959 220C.....Light Blue.....70,000 mi.

Porsche

2004 Carrera GT.....Silver/Black.....Inquire
2003 Cayenne Turbo.....Black/Tan.....50 mi.
2003 Cayenne S.....Blue/Tan.....50 mi.
2003 Turbo.....Steel Gray/Gray.....50 mi.
2002 995 Cabriolet 2D.....Steel Gray/Gray.....234 mi.
2002 Boxster.....Silver/Black.....10,400 mi.
2001 995 Turbo.....Arctic Silver/Gray.....9,024 mi.

INVENTORY

Ferrari

2004 Enzo.....Red/Tan.....Inquire
2004 Enzo.....Red/Black.....Inquire
2003 360 F1 Spider.....Black/Black.....100 mi.
2002 360 F1 Spider.....Yellow/Black.....500 mi.
2001 360 Modena.....Yellow/Black.....1,479 mi.
2000 360 Modena.....Silver/Black.....3,015 mi.
2000 550 Maranello.....Black/Black.....2,300 mi.
1999 360 Modena.....Yellow/Black.....2,400 mi.
1987 365 Berlinetta.....Yellow/Black.....16,300 mi.
1995 348 Spider.....Red/Tan.....13,000 mi.

Other Exotics

2002 BMW Alpina Conv. Titan.Sil/Gray.....200 mi.
2002 BMW 330ci Conv. White/Tan.....10,625 mi.
2001 BMW X5 SUV.....Silver/Gray.....45,100 mi.
2001 BMW 740i.....White/Tan.....10,050 mi.
2000 BMW M5 Sedan.....Titan.Sil/Black.....14,700 mi.
1998 BMW 750i.....White/Tan.....43,800 mi.
2003 Dodge Viper SRT-10.....Black/Black.....10 mi.
1966 Ford Cobra.....Black/Gray.....9 mi.
2001 Jaguar XK8 Conv. Pacific Blue/Ivory.....12,800 mi.
1999 Jaguar XK8 Conv. Topaz/Parch.....37,800 mi.
1996 Jaguar XK140 Conv. Black/Tan.....18 mi.
1996 Jaguar XK140 Conv. Red/Tan.....150 mi.
2004 Maybach.....Inquire
2003 Panaz Esperante.....Black/Parch.....70 mi.
1999 Panaz Roadster.....Silver/Black.....580 mi.
1998 Panaz Roadster.....Red/Tan.....1,500 mi.

Bentley/Rolls-Royce

2004 Bentley Continental GT .3 to choose.....Inquire
2002 Bentley Arnage T.....Black/Black.....1,100 mi.
2001 Bentley Azure.....Black/Tan.....1,600 mi.
1989 Bentley Turbo R.....Burgundy/Tan.....43,000 mi.
1987 Rolls-Royce Camiche.....Met./Black/Tan.....14,200 mi.
1987 Rolls-Royce Camiche.....Ivory/Magnolia.....59,599 mi.



2003 Mercedes SL55
Silver/Ash



2004 Porsche Carrera GT
Silver/Black, inquire

2004 Bentley Continental
Inquire



2004 Ferrari Enzo
Red/Black, inquire

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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2004

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A new program from Ford rewards students of higher education with X-plan discounted purchase and lease plans as good as those their own employees get. Qualifying campuses nationwide include ASU, ASU East and ASU West here in Arizona.

VEHICLE EVENT

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You can probably guess this isn't considered safe. A new survey checks drivers' own bad habits and attitudes.

TEST DRIVE

Jaguar X-Type all-wheel-drive

This full-time all-wheel-drive small sedan brings a degree of Jaguar luxury at a much lower price, unless you get into the option list.

By Barbara and Bill Schaffer 26

In a separate trip from Barbara and Bill's, we also try out the X-Type on a full variety of surfaces, from high Rocky Mountain passes with snow, ice and slush, to gravel, to the full track experience at the Bridgestone Winter Driving School near Steamboat Springs.

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CONCEPT VEHICLE

Will Smith and Audi RSQ in *I, Robot* 40

Who isn't a Will Smith fan?! And who won't be an Audi fan after watching this fanciful machine do its stuff in the near-future sci-fi epic *I, Robot*?! The design of this vehicle carries many cues of Audi's near future, too, we'd guess.

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COVER: Jaguar X-Type all-wheel-drive sedans lined up and ready to go at the Bridgestone Winter Driving School. Photo: Joe Sage



Winter driving is not foremost in a lot of people's minds in much of Arizona, though northern Arizona knows it well, and even Valley residents will find themselves behind the wheel and heading into the white stuff at times. There are many factors involved in safe, confident and even enjoyable winter driving ... from training to experience to understand the physics involved, to basic maintenance and care of your vehicle, from appropriate winter tires to good wiper blades, a clean heater core, proper antifreeze, a scraper, brush and even an extra blanket, warm jacket and some water and snack bars carefully stashed.

But one key way to prepare for winter driving is in the selection of the vehicle you purchase in the first place. Four-wheel- or all-wheel-drive vehicles are an obvious place to start. (Careful, though ... overconfidence in four-wheel drive is high on the accident list, right behind speed and liquor ... always train to master your new technology.) About half of Arizona's pickup and SUV buyers opt for four-wheel drive, though many don't need or use it. But a good all-wheel-drive sports sedan is a different animal, with enhanced abilities on not just snow, but monsoon-slicked pavement, gravel, and really just plain asphalt. One of these is the Jaguar X-Type sedan, which we were fortunate enough to drive on the specialized test and training track at the Bridgestone Winter Driving School in Steamboat Springs, Colorado (home to some 27 feet of snow per year). Let's see if we learned anything.



Joe Sage

Joe Sage
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QUIZ : CAR SMARTS



1. What percentage of vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2003 were not wearing seatbelts?
 a. 19.8 percent b. 31.4 percent
 c. 42.9 percent d. 55.1 percent
2. What percentage of vehicles purchased by college students (ages 18 to 30) were purchased from new car dealers?
 a. 8 percent b. 24 percent
 c. 39 percent d. 51 percent
3. Which auto company sold the largest number of vehicles per employee for 2003?
 a. Hyundai b. Suzuki
 c. Mazda d. Mitsubishi
4. How much is Subaru paying cycling champion Lance Armstrong to act as a spokesperson for four-years?
 a. \$4 million b. \$8 million
 c. \$12 million d. \$16 million
5. What percentage of the new vehicles purchased in 2003 were leased?
 a. 5.9 percent b. 10.5 percent
 c. 15.0 percent d. 21.6 percent
6. Which car company has the most employees worldwide?
 a. General Motors b. Ford
 c. Volkswagen d. DaimlerChrysler
7. Rock star Ozzy Osbourne and his wife, Sharon, became one the first families in the US to buy what new car?
 a. Bentley Continental GT
 b. Cadillac XLR
 c. Rolls-Royce Phantom
 d. Maybach 57
8. As of June 2004 how many customers were on the waiting list to buy a new Toyota Prius gas/electric hybrid?
 a. none b. 10,000
 c. 20,000 d. 40,000

9. What was the certified top speed for the new Ford GT during the high-speed stability and powertrain durability testing?
 a. 205 mph b. 210 mph
 c. 215 mph d. 220 mpg
10. How much extra is Ford charging for the gasoline/electric Hybrid version of the Escape SUV?
 a. \$1,500 b. \$2,500
 c. \$3,500 d. \$4,500
11. Which vehicle had the largest percentage of male buyers in 2003?
 a. Chevrolet Corvette convertible
 b. Dodge Viper convertible
 c. Porsche 911 Carrera
 d. Toyota Tundra
12. How many vehicles did US consumers buy in 2003 priced at \$100,000 or more?
 a. 5,000 b. 10,000
 c. 16,000 d. 21,000
13. Of all vehicles built in North America, the full-size Chevrolet truck platform is used most, with a total 1.84 million vehicles in 2003. How many different vehicles are built from that same platform?
 a. 7 vehicles b. 9 vehicles
 c. 11 vehicles d. 13 vehicles
14. Of 111 vehicles offering a navigation system in 2004, how many have it standard?
 a. None have standard nav
 b. 8 have standard nav
 c. 17 have standard nav
 d. 24 have standard nav
15. What percentage of Japanese brand vehicles sold in the United States in 2003 were built in the US?
 a. 29.8 percent b. 41.4 percent
 c. 52.9 percent d. 66.1 percent
16. In a recent survey of car owners, what percentage of the drivers said they use their cup holder daily?
 a. 31 percent b. 46 percent
 c. 64 percent d. 8 percent
17. How many automotive manufacturers worldwide offer an OnStar communications system in some of their vehicles?
 a. 1 company b. 2 companies
 c. 4 companies d. 6 companies
18. Which company is showing an inexpensive two-seat coupe concept called the Sling Shot?
 a. Honda b. Dodge
 c. Kia d. Saturn

19. Which manufacturer sold the most vehicles priced \$100,000 or more in 2003?
 a. BMW b. Ferrari
 c. Mercedes-Benz d. Porsche
20. If the nine largest cities in the US replaced their 13,000 conventional buses with General Motors hybrid-powered buses, how much fuel could they save annually?
 a. 10 million gallons of fuel
 b. 20 million gallons of fuel
 c. 30 million gallons of fuel
 d. 40 million gallons of fuel
21. How much have Korean automakers cut initial quality problems in the last six years, according to J.D. Power and Associates?
 a. 24 percent b. 38 percent
 c. 57 percent d. 66 percent
22. How many vehicles have been bought and sold on the eBay Motors web site since they started selling cars in 1998?
 a. 500,000 b. 1 million
 c. 2 million d. 4 million
23. GM will change the name of Daewoo, which it owns, to what next year in Europe?
 a. Chevrolet b. Suzuki
 c. Saab d. Saturn
24. What percentage of the buyers of the new Dodge Magnum (wagon) are trading in SUVs and pickups?
 a. 23 percent b. 35 percent
 c. 47 percent d. 56 percent
25. Lotus plans to add 25 percent more US auto dealers to help sell the new Lotus Elise. How many dealers does Lotus currently have in the US?
 a. 40 dealers b. 80 dealers
 c. 160 dealers d. 320 dealers
26. Which automaker is planning to sell their new mid-size sedan the Fusion?
 a. Chrysler b. Ford
 c. Chevrolet d. Kia
27. When was the first Datsun car (now Nissan) produced?
 a. 1914 b. 1924
 c. 1934 d. 1944
28. How much gas is wasted annually due to under-inflated tires?
 a. 100 million gallons
 b. 500 million gallons
 c. 1 billion gallons
 d. 1.5 billion gallons

ANSWERS ON PAGE 8 >>

>> ANSWERS (quiz on page 7) >>



1. Answer: c. According to NHTSA's 2003 Early Assessment Estimates of Motor Vehicle Crashes 42.9 percent of people killed in automobile accidents in 2003 were not wearing seatbelts.
2. Answer: c. According to the annual 360 Youth College Explorer study, powered by Harris Interactive® 39 percent of the college students aged 18 to 30 bought a car from a new car dealer.
3. Answer: b. Suzuki appeared to be the most efficient auto company selling far more cars per employee than any other - 131.1 vehicles per employee. Hyundai 39.7. Mitsubishi 35.0. Mazda 29.5. As a comparison here are others: GM 26.4, Ford 18.7. Toyota 27.5. Volkswagen 14.9. DaimlerChrysler 12.0.

4. Answer: c. Subaru is paying cycling champion Lance Armstrong \$12 million to be their spokesperson for four-years.
5. Answer: b. According to Manheim's 2004 Edition of The Used Car Market Report 10.5 percent of the new vehicles purchased in 2003 were leased.
6. Answer: d. DaimlerChrysler has most employees worldwide - 362,063. Ford 350,321. Volkswagen 336,843. General Motors 326,000.
7. Answer: a. According to *Automotive News* rock star Ozzy Osborne and his wife Sharon recently bought one of the first Bentley Continental GTs sold in the US. The 552-hp V-12 coupe has a base price of \$156,485.
8. Answer: c. With high gasoline prices and the popularity of the new Toyota Prius gas/electric hybrid the waiting list to buy one was 20,000 customers long as of June 2004.
9. Answer: a. The Ford GT reached a certified top speed of 205 mph during testing at Italy's famed Nardo track.
10. Answer: c. The 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid is priced about \$3,500 more than the standard V-6 version. For example the Escape XLT with the V-6 engine and 4wd lists for \$25,090 while the same Hybrid is \$28,595.
11. Answer: b. According to statistics gathered by Strategic Vision the Dodge Viper had the largest percentage of male buyers at 91.0 percent. Porsche 911 90.1 percent. Corvette convertible 89.3 percent. Toyota Tundra 89.1 percent.
12. Answer: c. American consumers purchased 16,000 vehicles in 2003 that were priced at \$100,000 or more. This would include vehicles like high-end Mercedes-

Benz, BMW, Jaguar and Hummer H1 along with exotics like Ferrari, Bentley, Lamborghini, Rolls-Royce and many other niche vehicles. The 2003 sales exceeded 2002 sales by 43 percent.

13. Answer: d. General Motors builds 13 different vehicles on the same full-size truck platform. They are Cadillac Escalade, Escalade ESV, and Escalade EXT; Chevrolet Avalanche, Silverado, Suburban and Tahoe; GMC Sierra, Yukon, Yukon Denali, Yukon XL and Yukon Denali XL; Hummer H2.
14. Answer: c. Of the 111 vehicles that offer a navigation system, 17 have it as standard equipment.
15. Answer: d. According to Japan Automotive Manufacturers Association, 66.1 percent of the Japanese brand vehicles sold in the US were built in the United States in 2003.
16. Answer: c. According to the result of a recent survey conducted by Autobytel.com, the Internet vehicle shopping and research site, 64 percent of the driver's used their vehicle drink holder's daily. That's up from 46 percent in the previous survey taken in 2002.
17. Answer: d. OnStar communications systems are now available on certain vehicles built by General Motors, Acura, Audi, Isuzu, Subaru, and Volkswagen along with several brands of motor homes.
18. Answer: b. Dodge is showing a small lightweight, inexpensive two-seat coupe concept, the Sling Shot.
19. Answer: c. In 2003 Mercedes-Benz sold more than half of the 16,000 cars priced at \$100,000 or more. Mercedes-Benz sold 8,530. Porsche 2,501. Ferrari 1,350. BMW 963.
20. Answer: d. According to General Motors, if the nine largest US cities replaced their 13,000 buses with GM hybrid-powered buses they would save more than 40 million gallons of fuel annually.

21. Answer: c. According to J.D. Power and Associates Korean automakers have cut their Initial Quality problems by 57 percent during the last six years.
22. Answer: b. According to eBay, there have been 1 million vehicles bought and sold on the online site since vehicle sales commenced in 1998.
23. Answer: a. General Motors plans to change the brand name of Daewoo vehicles sold in Europe to Chevrolet.
24. Answer: c. According to early sales figures for the new Dodge Magnum (wagon) as tabulated by Power Information Network, 47 percent of the trade-ins are SUVs and pickups.
25. Answer: a. Currently there are 40 Lotus dealers in the US, but the company wants to add about 10 more by next spring to handle sales of the new Elise sports car. Lotus expects to bring about 1,100 of the \$40,780 Elises to the US annually and has plans to add other models.
26. Answer: b. Ford originally planned to call their new mid-size sedan the Futura, but Pep Boys, the auto parts chain, was already using the name. As an alternate, Ford decided to use the name Fusion.
27. Answer: a. Kwaishinsha Motorcar Works produced the first Datsun in Japan in 1914. Nissan Motors Co., Ltd. was founded in 1933.
28. Answer: d. According to the US Department of Energy, nearly 1.5 billion gallons of gasoline are wasted annually due to under-inflated tires. ■

The Car Smarts quiz includes news and trivia from industry sources, trade journals and consumer magazines compiled for *Arizona Driver* by **BILL & BARBARA SCHAFFER** of *Auto Digest*.

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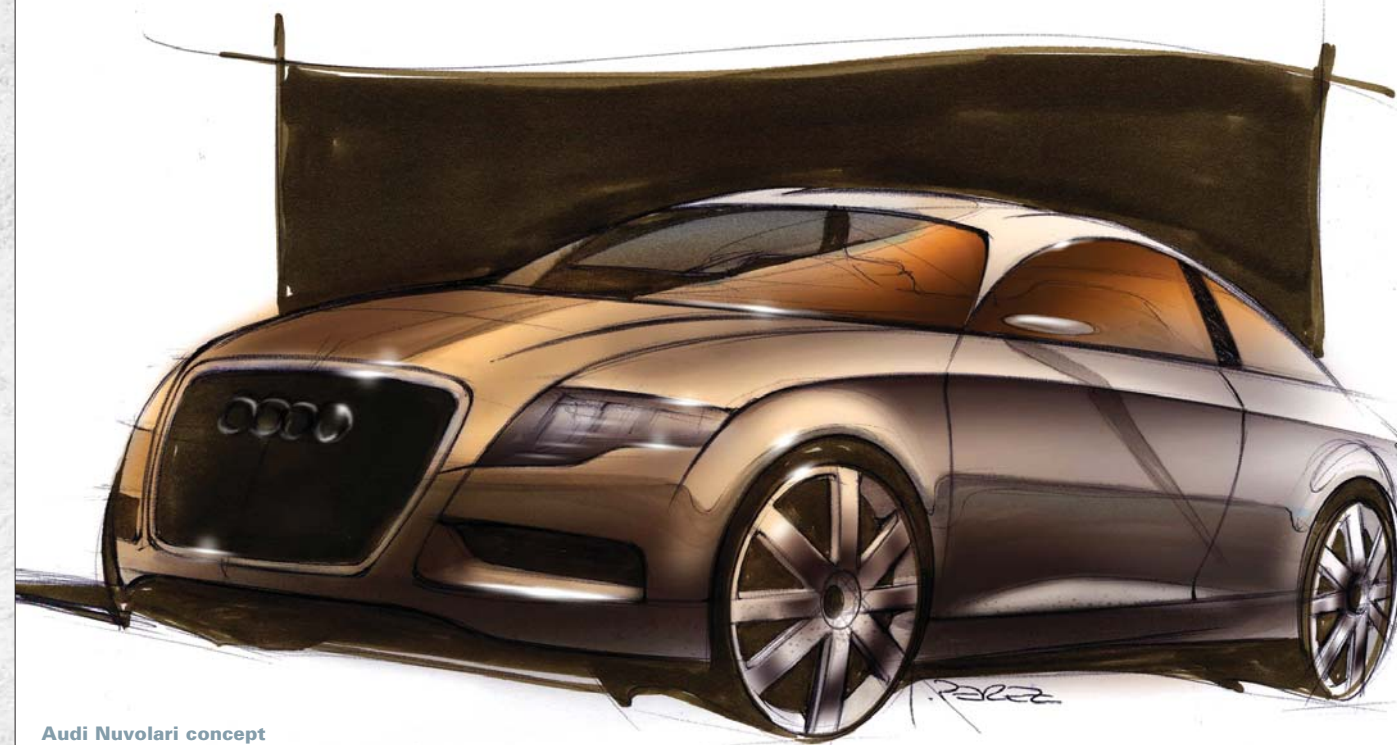
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COBALT TO QUIETLY COMPETE

Chevrolet expects its new Cobalt, which replaces the aging Cavalier, to surpass the expectations of even its most discriminating customers. Starting with the stiff GM Delta vehicle architecture, the Cobalt employs a host of sound deadening materials and technologies to create an exceptionally quiet ride. The independent front and torsion-beam rear suspensions – along with front and rear stabilizer bars, fluid-filled rear bushings, a wide-track, long wheelbase and large wheels all contribute to what Chevrolet says is outstanding ride quality and noise suppression. Even the Ecotec engines have been made quieter by using coated pistons, vibration reducing fuel line clips and a new acoustically designed engine cover that absorbs engine noise while still allowing easy access for routine maintenance. The Cobalt is due later this year. ▼



Chevrolet Cobalt



Audi Nuvolari concept

With the Audi lineup about to explode in variety, the unifying feature is expected to be the gaping grille shown in the Nuvolari concept car.

AUDI FILLING IN THE ODD NUMBERS

▲ Audi will start to fill in the odd numbers of its naming sequence with an A3, A5 and A7 during the next two or three years. A new entry-level model called the A3 will debut late this year as a 2005 model. The A7 is a new Volkswagen Touareg-based SUV (probably by mid-2006). The A5 name will go on a new cabrio, which is based on the A4 sedan and by a coupe based on the A6 platform. A5 coupe style will likely resemble the Nuvolari concept and will come to the U.S. by the 2007 model year.

HYUNDAI MAJOR EXPANSION PLANS

Hyundai wants to take their brand to the big time and has plans to expand annual sales from the current 400,000 vehicles to more than 1 million by 2010. If the company directors approve of the plans, Hyundai will add a luxury division (similar to Acura, Lexus or Infiniti) with an SUV, mid-size sedan and full-sized sedan. Hyundai is also studying the demand for a full-size pickup truck. During the next three years, Hyundai plans to launch six new or redesigned vehicles. Hyundai is currently building new manufacturing facilities in Montgomery, Alabama, to build cars and small sport utility vehicles.

The company also scored very high in the latest J.D. Power's Initial Quality Study. Kia, which is owned by Hyundai, will start to differentiate products more, with Kias becoming sportier while Hyundais will be more upscale with higher levels of standard equipment to appeal to more mature customers.

MERCEDES REDUCES ELECTRONICS

Mercedes-Benz announced at an industry symposium in Germany that the company had removed more than 600 electronic functions from its vehicles. The official said these were not functions that anyone really needed, or even knew how to use, or probably didn't even know they existed. In some cases they caused chronic problems in vehicle operation that irritated owners. An example of an unnecessary function was the individual memory settings on the key fob for seat adjustments. In the future Mercedes will require suppliers to certify new products before they are added and it will reject gadgets that offer marginal benefits.

AUDI A3 SPORTBACK DUE IN US

The Audi A3 Sportback that has been rumored for years will debut this fall at the Paris motor show and should find its

way into showrooms in May 2005. The five-door A3 Sportback will be in the "premium compact class" and will compete with cars like the Mini Cooper, new Saab 9-2X and Volvo S40. It will be powered by a 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine rated at 200 hp with either a six-speed twin-automatic clutch Direct Shift Gearbox or six-speed manual transmission. The following model year the A3 will get an optional 3.2-liter, 250-hp V-6 and quattro all-wheel drive. AutoWeek magazine said the price should be about \$25,000 or just under the base price of the A4.

IPOD WITH BMW AUDIO SYSTEM

BMW and Apple computer have developed a seamless integration system that allows the iPod digital music player to play through the sound system of some BMW vehicles. The adapter allows the iPod to be attached to a cable located in the vehicle's glove compartment with power coming from the vehicle. Once plugged into the BMW system, radio control buttons located on the steering wheel then control the iPod. The system sells for \$149 plus installation at BMW

KEEP RIGHT >>



NEW BEETLE IS ONE OF A KIND, LITERALLY

Don't hold your breath waiting for the next generation of the Volkswagen New Beetle, because it appears the company has no plans to redesign the popular small car. Because of its distinctive retro look it will probably be limited to only an occasional design tweak or interior upgrade. After all, the original Beetle was produced for 40 years with only minor changes. According to Stefan Krebsfanger, manager of product strategy for Volkswagen, the car will continue indefinitely as long as there is "natural demand" without massive incentives. If and when the New Beetle wears out its market it will probably be replaced by another car that is "hip, cool and affordable, to add to the lineup at the bottom end." ▼

Volkswagen New Beetle

Land Rover LR3



The newly-engineered Land Rover LR3 replaces the midsize Discovery, slotting this SUV between the Range Rover and Freelander in the lineup.

>> AUTO NEWS UPDATE - cont'd

dealers. It is available on the 3-Series, Z4 roadster and the X3 and X5 sports activity vehicles along with BMW's Mini Cooper. For more information go to www.ipodyourbmw.com

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY OUT, LR3 IN

▲ The all-new Land Rover LR3 will take the company's mid-level SUV to an entirely new level of innovation, power and luxury when it debuts this fall. The LR3 is powered a 300-hp 4.4-liter V-8 engine with electronic six-speed automatic transmission. It sits on a new Land Rover-developed Integrated Body-frame™ architecture that provides refined on-road performance, while maintaining the Land Rovers outstanding off-road capabilities. The Terrain Response™ four-wheel drive system, also new, allows the driver to choose from a variety of terrain settings, thus providing flexible and automatic control of the vehicle in all on- and off-road conditions. It has an electronically controlled air suspension with automatic load leveling, multiple vehicle heights and suspension stiffness settings. Styling resembles the great looking Range

Rover. The LR3 comes in two models the SE and HSE, priced at \$44,995 and \$49,995 respectively.

MERCEDES WANTS S-CLASS ON TOP

Mercedes-Benz plans to put its flagship back on top of the luxury car lineup when the next generation S-Class stops at next year's Frankfurt motor show before arriving at North American showrooms in early 2006. The evolutionary design includes large single-piece headlights with bi-xenon lamps with Active Light. Control technology that swivels with the front wheels and a higher more dramatic trunk. The S-Class will use a more conventional steel monocoque frame and some aluminum body parts to reduce weight by about 10 percent to near 3,800 pounds. Dimensions will remain nearly the same, but with a longer wheelbase and wider track to create more interior room. Power will come from new engines: a 3.5-liter 272-hp V-6, 4.7-liter 325-hp V-8 and a 5.5-liter 410-hp V-8. The top-level version gets a twin turbo V-12 rated at 500-hp and the AMG model will have a naturally aspirated 6.3-liter 500-hp V-8. The new MB seven-speed automatic transmission will be on all models, but with steering wheel mounted shift

buttons on the AMG version. There will also be new high-tech features, but controls will be simplified.

SUBARU TO BREAK \$40,000 LEVEL

Subaru plans to take on SUVs like the BMW X5 and the Volvo XC90 with a new crossover vehicle next year. The large seven-passenger vehicle will be called the XUV when it arrives in the US by mid 2005. The goal is to create a large, more fuel-efficient vehicle with fuel savings coming from a lighter weight and 3.0-liter horizontally-opposed six-cylinder engine. The company expects the price to be about \$40,000.

SAAB HELPS FIGHT DRUNK DRIVING

Saab has a concept device called "Alcokey" that includes a small mouthpiece attached to the car's key fob. When the driver presses the "unlock" button on the car's remote-control key fob, the alcohol sensor is also switched on. The driver then blows into a small mouthpiece at the end of the fob to provide a breath sample. If the sample indicates the driver is under the acceptable alcohol level a green light

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FORD'S NEW FLAGSHIP FIVE HUNDRED

Ford's new flagship sedan, the Five Hundred, goes on sale this fall. Created from an architecture developed by (Ford-owned) Volvo, the Five Hundred is about the same length as the Ford Taurus but has about twice the rear-seat knee room and a trunk that is larger than Ford's full-size Crown Victoria. In fact, the trunk is large enough to hold up to eight full-size golf bags. Unique to the Five Hundred is the Command Seating™ position that sits up to four inches higher than the comparable Toyota Camry seating position. A sophisticated 3.0-liter Duratec V-6 engine with a choice of all-new six-speed automatic or continuously variable transmission powers the sedan. It also has an available all-wheel drive system. ▼



Ford Five Hundred



Mercedes-Benz CLS55 AMG

AMG, the Mercedes division comparable to BMW's M or Audi's S/RS, will introduce the CLS55 AMG four-door coupe in early 2005 as a 2006 model.

>> AUTO NEWS UPDATE - cont'd

illuminates, or if not, the light is red. A transponder in the system transmits an "all clear" signal to the car's electronic control system and allows the driver to drive the car. The prototype is about 4 inches long and 1.5 inches wide, but future miniaturization could allow the system to be combined into the remote control. Saab anticipates the system will cost about \$300, which is much less than existing vehicle-mounted systems. No timetable for production has been announced.

MERCEDES CLS AMG SUPERCAR

▲ Mercedes has been leaking pictures and details on its upcoming high performance four-door coupe, the CLS55 AMG. A 5.5-liter supercharged V-8 engine producing 476 hp and 516 lb.ft. of torque will power the new CLS AMG. Mercedes says it will accelerate from 0 to 62-mph in 4.7 seconds and it has a top speed limited to 155 mph. The suspension is a tuned version of the Mercedes air suspension with 18-inch alloy wheels sporting 255/40ZR tires in the front and 285/35ZR in the rear. The sleek looking sedan will debut in September at the Paris

International Motor Show and will go on sale next January in Europe with a price around \$100,000. This is about the same time the regular versions of the CLS will debut in the US market; the AMG will likely come stateside in 2006.

GERMAN HORSEPOWER WARS

As Mercedes-Benz introduces AMG versions of the upcoming CLS four-door coupe, with power for the first AMG coming from a 5.5-liter V-8 rated near 500-hp, then in 2006 a second AMG model, the CLS65 AMG, powered by a 6.0-liter twin turbo V-12 rated near 600-hp, BMW is taking notice. Not to be outdone, BMW will be adding M versions of the new 6 series cars. The power will be coming from a new 5.5-liter V-10 engine rated at 550-hp. The BMW will also get a new seven-speed sequential manual gearbox.

CHEVY TRAILBLAZER SS

Chevrolet has been testing a high performance version of the Trailblazer SUV at the famous Nürburgring track in Germany. This is the same track used to develop the outstanding handling of the Cadillac CTS along with many high performance German vehicles. A 6.0-

liter 345-hp Corvette V-8 engine powers the Trailblazer SS concept being tested, but it's not known if the production model will have the Corvette version or a truck version. The SS concept is lowered and has an electronic air suspension, stability control and the latest traction control system. The standard model is expected to be rear-wheel drive, with all-wheel drive as an option. The SS is scheduled to go on sale late in 2005 as a 2006 model.

VW TO MAKE A FEW W-12 TOUAREGS

Volkswagen is building a small number of special order Touareg SUVs powered by the same 450-hp 12-cylinder engines that are being used in the top Phaeton luxury sedan. VW CEO Bernd Pischetsrieder was showing a prototype recently at the Bahrain Grand Prix. The company hopes to sell 100 of the W-12 models in the Middle East and perhaps another 333 in the US and Europe. Each model will be built to customer specifications in a special order that is expected to have a base price of about \$118,000. It's expected to turn 0 to 62 mph times of under six seconds and have a top speed

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of 168 mph, which should compete favorably with the Porsche Cayenne twin turbo. The Touareg and the Cayenne were developed jointly.

GMC SPORT WAGON FOR 2008

While GMC trucks have traditionally been body-on-frame, this new vehicle will be a crossover style wagon with front- or all-wheel drive. It will be developed on the GM Lambda architecture that will also carry the second generation Buick Rendezvous. The wagon was originally scheduled for Pontiac but now may be a reward to GMC dealers who have pushed that brand's sales to the number two position in the GM lineup with total sales of 563,479 in 2003.

NEW GM STARTER SYSTEMS

General Motors plans to convert the Malibu from its traditional starter system to a new belt-alternator system by 2008. With the traditional starter replaced by a reworked alternator and a belt, Chevrolet expects to improve fuel economy by about 12 percent, if the car also uses a CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission). The system saves fuel by shutting off the engine during stops and restarts when the driver presses the accelerator. The new system will also use a 36-volt battery but with a 12-volt electrical system.

TOYOTA DROPPING CELICA, MR2 SPYDER

Slow sales of the Celica and the MR2 Spyder have caused Toyota to pull the plug on the two sporty models at the end of the 2005 model year. Both of the cars came to the US market in 2000 to help Toyota attract a younger buyer. The Celica sales peaked the first year and have declined each year to only 14,856 last year and even lower so far in 2004. The MR2, a great little sports car, but with virtually no cargo space, never did take off in the US Sales the first year were only 7,233 units, but last year dropped to only 3,000. Toyota has not yet talked about replacement vehicles.

BMW CUTS ENGINE WEIGHT

One of the best ways to improve performance and fuel economy is to reduce the weight of a vehicle. BMW has

developed what it claims is the world's lightest six-cylinder engine in an effort to make those improvements. The new engine is designed with a magnesium-alloy composite crankcase. The 3.0-liter in-line six-cylinder engine weighs 22 pounds less than its predecessor at only 354 pounds. In addition to the lower weight the engineers have increased performance by 12 percent and dropped fuel consumption also by 12 percent. The lighter weight might have been helpful, but according to Klaus Borgmann, BMW's head of powertrain engineering, most of the fuel savings is thanks to further refinement in the Valvetronic engine management system which was introduced three years ago. The new engine will debut in the upcoming 630Ci coupe and convertible and will also go into the 7 and 5 series, X3, X5 and Z4. The 3 series won't get the new engine until the next generation is launched.

FORD FREESTYLE BRIDGES GAP

Combining traits of both a traditional sedan with SUV design cues and available all-wheel drive, the new Ford Freestyle will be one of the most versatile Fords ever built. It has seven-passenger chair-like seating in three rows, or can carry cargo as long as a 10-foot extension ladder when the front passenger seat and the second and third rows are folded flat. The Freestyle has many new technologies like a CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) and Safety Canopy air curtain system that protects all three rows in side-impact collisions and rollovers. It arrives at dealerships in the fall.

MAZDA CHALLENGES WRX & EVOLUTION

Mazda plans to enter the high performance rally car war currently being waged by the Subaru WRX and Mitsubishi Evolution. Mazda will use the Mazda6 model with a 2.3-liter four-cylinder engine with twin turbochargers, intercoolers, six-speed manual transmission and all-wheel drive. The engine is said to produce 276-hp and 265-lb.ft. of torque. Look for the Mazda entry around mid-2005. ■

Auto News Update includes a summary of auto news from industry sources, trade journals and consumer magazines compiled for *Arizona Driver* by **BILL & BARBARA SCHAFFER** of *Auto Digest*.

ARIZONA DRIVER

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Arizona

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HCR 2, Box 6500 • Willcox AZ 85643
520-824-3560

Grand Canyon National Park

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923-638-7888 Visitor Info Recorded Message

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928-855-2784

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

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California

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MOTOR MUSEUMS

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MOTOR MUSEUMS

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303-516-9565



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Nevada

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www.imperialpalace.com/auto.html

National Automobile Museum

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775-333-9300 • www.automuseum.org

New Mexico

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Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce

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CP 31000 Chihuahua, Chihuahua
(14) 29-3421

Sinaloa State Tourism Office

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Edificio Banrural 4 Piso
CP 82100 Mazatlán, Sinaloa
(69) 16-5160

Sonora State Tourism Office

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MOTOR MUSEUMS

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Imperial Palace Auto Collections

(see Nevada listings)

Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum

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National Corvette Museum

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Petersen Automotive Museum

(see California listings)

Shelby American Collection

(see Colorado listings)

FORD REWARDS STUDENTS OF ADVANCED EDUCATION PROGRAM WITH NEW VEHICLE DISCOUNTS

- Students enrolled in universities participating in the Ford Advanced Education Program will now be offered convenient, discounted X-Plan vehicle leasing or purchasing options
- Students at over 120 campuses nationwide will have the opportunity for economical leasing benefits
- Arizona State University (Tempe), ASU West (Phoenix) and ASU East (Mesa) are eligible

Students at colleges and universities participating in Ford's Advanced Education Program (FAEP) just received another benefit for their dedication to an advanced education—a discount on a new car or truck. Ford's Partner Recognition X-plan allows participating college students to receive significant discounts when leasing or purchasing new vehicles through any Ford Motor Company dealers. This program runs through December 31, 2004.

The new plan for students replaces the \$400 cash towards a new vehicle that was previously offered as part of the program. Students will now receive a discount of hundreds or even thousands of dollars off retail value, depending on their choice of vehicle. Along with a great discount, on a

par with that given Ford employees themselves, the FAEP has been redesigned to provide students with increased convenience and efficiency when using the vehicle program.

Students from a participating FAEP school who are currently enrolled full-time and in good academic standing by their school's guidelines, have graduated or will graduate between May 1, 2002 through December 1, 2004, or who are currently enrolled in a graduate program are all eligible for this benefit.

A website has been created specifically for the FAEP participants to provide eligibility requirements, vehicle options with pricing and anything else students will need in order to receive the special offer.

The FAEP is a comprehensive partner-

ship between the Ford Motor Company Fund and select schools around the nation. Program grants to the institutions are utilized to expand opportunities, promote diversity in education and help both students and faculty members reach their academic goals. The program incorporates 33 college institutions including their satellite properties, reaching to over 120 different campuses nationwide.

Ford Advanced Education Program participating schools are selected for the caliber of educational programs, research capabilities, quality of the institution's graduates, overall diversity of geography and student mix. Ford has produced this program in the belief that all of this can ultimately have a positive impact on the Ford Motor Company. ■



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THE ASTON MARTIN DB7 REPLACEMENT:

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The new Aston Martin DB9 adds V12 power to the formula of agility, smoothness, beautiful design and hand craftsmanship represented in the DB7, the most successful Aston Martin in history (see *Arizona Driver*, Jul/Aug 2003). Starting with a radical new aluminum-bonded body frame, the DB9 is powered by the latest Aston Martin 6.0-litre V12, producing 450bhp and a top speed of 186 mph. The DB9 is the first car to be hand-made at Aston Martin's new state-of-the-art facility in Gaydon, Warwickshire, where all future Aston Martin models will be developed and built. All cars built at Gaydon will be based on Aston Martin's new VH [Vertical Horizontal] platform. This is the first time in our history that the low-volume automaker has had a totally flexible yet dedicated Aston Martin platform. The DB9 is the first car to use it, leading the company to declare that this is the most important Aston Martin ever.

The body frame is the most structurally efficient in the world, taking into account strength, torsional rigidity and weight. It has double the rigidity of many rivals, as well as being lighter, resulting in superior handling and agility. All body panels are either aluminum or lightweight composites, with magnesium on the steering column and inner door frames. Even the gear selector paddles are magnesium alloy. The total weight is 3762 lbs., extremely light for a V12-powered car with a long list of luxury features. This weight savings delivers a top speed (manual transmission) of 186mph and 0-162mph acceleration in just 4.9 seconds.

Other technologically radical features include a ZF 'drive-by-wire' six-speed automatic gearbox that dispenses with a traditional gear lever. Instead, the drive, park, neutral and reverse controls are selected by buttons. Touchtronic manual mode enables the driver to change gear using paddles mounted behind the steering wheel. The automatic gearchange has been tuned to provide the perfect balance between super-fast operation and comfortably smooth shifts. A conventional six-speed manual gearbox is also offered.

Agility is optimized with a perfect 50:50 weight distribution, achieved partly by putting the gearbox at the rear. A carbon fibre shaft, running in a cast aluminum

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DB9 TOUR IN PHOENIX

Aston Martin created a North American "Driven To the 9's Tour" to launch the all-new DB9 Coupe and DB9 Volante. The Tour set up camp at Scottsdale Aston Martin this summer. Basically a showroom event, there was no driving in store this time around. The DB9 Coupe arrived this summer, and the Volante is available later this year, so the event was part first-look and part sneak-preview. Current Aston Martin drivers, hand-picked prospects and a selected mix of automotive and lifestyle media were invited. We were among the first to see the DB9 in both its Coupe and Volante forms. And they look great. Last year's "Power, Beauty and Soul Tour" brought the DB7 GT great acclaim, and it is attributed with the limited edition Aston Martin DB AR1 (American Roadster) selling out in only seven weeks. No wonder there's another Tour. ■

>> cont'd from page 21

tube, delivers torque from the engine to the gearbox. Handling is further improved by a light aluminum wishbone suspension and aluminum bodied dampers. The whole DB9 cabin is hand-finished in premium materials but has a simple, functional feel. Aluminum is used in the interior, also; even the instrument dials are aluminum. If you get tired of listening to the V-12's glorious soundtrack, there is a state of the art music system specially developed for AM by British sound experts Linn.

Of course, no Aston Martin would be an Aston Martin without a beautiful body. The DB9's is a modern interpretation of a traditional Aston Martin, the successor to such benchmark designs as the DB4 and DB5. The aluminum hood is long and extends all the way from the car's leading edge. There is a minimum number of 'cut' or 'shut' lines, to aid styling simplicity and beauty. The Aston Martin DB9 is new from the ground up. It is available now. ■



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DRIVER SAFETY : EATING AND DRIVING



“Eating a Meal” Tops List of Most-Common Distracting Activities

Drivers Rate Danger Level of Common Driver Distractions in Insurance Poll

They may not think it's safe, but most drivers admit to keeping one eye and one hand on a meal while driving, according to a PEMCO Insurance poll on driver distraction released in Seattle. Eating a meal turned out to be the most-common distracting activity—65 percent of drivers stated they eat while driving. Fifty-eight percent of drivers acknowledged they talk on a cell phone while driving. Drivers also thought both the activities were unsafe, along with several other common distracted driving activities.

The poll of 600 respondents also asked drivers to rate the danger of the following common distracted driving activities. Drivers rated each activity on a scale from one to five, with one being “completely safe” and five being “very dangerous.”

Distracted Driving Activity	Percentage of Drivers Admitting Driving While	Average Driver Danger Rating
Eating a Meal	65%	3.8
Talking on a Cell Phone	58%	4.0
Steering with Legs and No Hands on Wheel	25%	4.7
Applying Makeup or Shaving	14%	4.6
Reading a Newspaper or Book	6%	4.9
Writing a Text Message	3%	4.8

1 = Completely Safe > 5 = Very Dangerous

“We found that when drivers eat food or call a friend, they do so despite thinking it's dangerous,” said Jon Osterberg, PEMCO Insurance spokesperson. “Our goal is to help drivers understand that when they do that, they're going against their better judgment.”

The poll showed drivers admit to other distracting activities in varying amounts, including applying makeup or shaving, reading a newspaper or book, steering with their legs and writing a text message. Drivers thought reading a newspaper or book while driving was the most dangerous distracted driving activity, with drivers rating it a 4.9 out of 5 on the danger scale. Drivers also felt that writing a text message while driving was particularly dangerous, rating it a 4.8.

Drivers handle dozens of distractions routinely, from conversations with passengers to music on the radio to roadside events. PEMCO polled drivers to learn what they perceive to be the most dangerous distractions. PEMCO will use that information in its safety-related consumer-education efforts, which include fact sheets, the Perspective customer newsletter, and the consumer tips section of pemco.com.

The poll showed a significant trend: the more drivers admitted to performing a distracting activity, the less dangerous they saw the activity. PEMCO sees danger in any type of driving distraction and encourages drivers to take responsibility for their driving habits and decide for themselves which habits are safe.

“(Use) your own common sense,” said Osterberg. “Don't fall into that ‘group mentality’ and think that eating while driving must be safe, just because you see so many people do it. Even a second or two of distraction can be dangerous. We see it all the time with rear-end collisions.”

PEMCO offers these tips for drivers tempted to eat and drive:

- If you know you'll be stopping for a quick bite on the trip, try to leave a little earlier to allow time to eat away from the car.
- If you pick up food from a drive-through, take a few extra minutes to park in the restaurant lot and eat. You'll be safer, and you'll enjoy your food more.
- If you're traveling with someone, take turns eating and driving. ■

Jaguar luxury now starts at just \$29,950

By Barbara and Bill Schaffer



Every Jaguar X-Types comes with a standard Traction 4 all-wheel-drive system that splits the power 40 percent to the front wheels and 60 percent to the rear, giving it a rear-biased torque split to reinforce its sporting character.



More than just another pretty face, the new Jaguar X-Type offers all-wheel-drive capability, a full range of features, and a surprisingly low base price.

Luxury transportation is accessible to more consumers thanks to the Jaguar X-Type. You may still not know that you can buy an entry-level Jaguar for just \$29,950 including delivery. I just can't understand why there aren't more on the road.

The base level X-type is a great value, but it's also easy to run the price into the mid-\$40,000's when you add the larger engine, automatic transmission and a half dozen options. But if I were going to spend that much on a Jaguar, I'd probably step up to the larger Jaguar S-Type.

Still the car has a Jaguar flavor with much of the elegance and charm we expect from the famous Jaguar brand.

The distinctive wedge-shaped exterior of the X-Type features the characteristically sleek grille, quad halogen headlamps along with crisp detailing.

The interior uses classic Jaguar themes while introducing contemporary touches that provide a more comfortable and functional cockpit. Bird's-eye maple wood veneers along with soft, luxurious trim materials and leather-covered seats add to the luxury of the interior.

The X-Type rides on a four-wheel independent suspension with standard all-

wheel drive with traction control, four-wheel disc brakes and a very good speed-sensitive steering system. The chassis and suspension give the compact-size sedan very good manners on all types of roads with a smooth Jaguar style ride.

The front seats are elegant and comfortable in a manner befitting a smaller Jaguar. The controls are well placed and easy to use. Rear seat legroom is a bit snug. The trunk is spacious, holding 16.0 cubic feet, or several large pieces of luggage and supporting bags.

Coming standard on both the 2.5-liter and the 3.0-liter models are the all-wheel-drive system, eight-way power driver's seat, climate control, one-touch open/close power windows and AM/FM/cassette audio system. It also has remote entry, central locking with security system, tilt-telescoping steering wheel, heated and power door mirrors, puddle lights and the leather seating surfaces and bird's-eye maple trim, driver and front passenger front and side airbags plus front and rear side curtain airbags.

An optional Sport Package is available on either model. It adds sport seats, a spoiler and 17-inch sport wheels. The X-

Type 2.5 has an entry price of \$29,950 and the 3.0 starts at \$36,950 including transportation.

An ultra smooth 3.0-liter DOHC V-6 (231-hp) engine with the no-charge optional five-speed automatic transmission powered our test car. The automatic has the traditional Jaguar J-shifting pattern that allows the car to be shifted manually or automatically. While we like the automatic transmission and the linkage, we found the idea of pulling the shift lever toward the rear of the car to shift up a little backward and a little disconcerting, especially the first few days of driving. Most cars with manual shifting automatics require a forward push to shift up or a sideways movement. We're sure this would be totally natural after a week or two behind the wheel.

Our test X-Type 3.0 was also equipped with many of the available options—like special metallic paint, xenon headlamps with auto leveling, moonroof, split/fold rear seat, heated front seats, and the sport package that includes sport tires,

KEEP RIGHT >>



The interior of the 3.0-liter Jaguar X-Type is stunning, with partial leather and electronics galore. Controls are convenient and easy to read, with a full range of steering-wheel-mounted controls.

sport alloy wheels, sport seats, sport suspension and dynamic stability control. With all these options and delivery, the price came to \$43,145.

Acceleration is strong and smooth with the automatic transmission. We recorded 75 mph in a run from where we pull onto the highway and accelerate to the first mailbox, or about one-eighth mile. Jaguar lists the 0-to-60-mph times for the automatic transmission version at 7.1 seconds, while the 5-speed manual is listed at a very impressive 6.6 seconds. We were comfortable around our 25-mph, 90-degree test corner at 51 mph, which is above average for this type of car. EPA fuel economy estimates are 18 mpg in the city and 25 mpg for highway driving. We averaged

21.3 mpg.

Nothing turns us on as quickly as luxury, elegance and performance and the X-Type was a real turn-on. As the entry level model for the Jaguar brand, the X-Type is Jaguar's bread and butter car, making up more than half of the brand's sales in the US market. Combining a rigid body, fine handling and elegant decor, the X-Type certainly has a luxurious feel in a compact size. It also fits the bill as a good drivers car that accelerates, corners and stops very well. The only downside is the pricing. While it is possible to get a nicely equipped car in the low \$30,000 range, a few options can easily raise the price to equivalent base of the middle size Jaguar S-Type. ■

Jaguar X-Type 3.0

STANDARD EQUIPMENT

Traction 4 all-wheel drive; Speed sensitive steering; Remote entry system; Anti-theft engine immobilizer; Automatic climate control with filter; Leather trimmed seats; Bird's eye maple wood trim; 8-Way power driver's seat; Tilt/telescoping wheel.

Base Price: \$36,305

Options:

X1 Premium package (Auto Headlamp Control, Trip Computer, Rain-Sensing Wipers, 8-Way Power Passenger's Seat Adjuster, 2-Way Power Lumbar Support, & Garage Door Opener)\$895
 Heated front seats\$500
 Metallic paint.....\$575
 X2 Sport package (P225/45HR17 tires, Sport alloy wheels, leather surfaced sport seats, gray-stained bird's eye maple trim, Sport suspension & Dynamic Stability Control).....\$2,000
 Xenon headlights with auto level.....\$675
 X0 Package (Moonroof and split folding rear seat)\$1550.
 Total Options\$6,195
 Freight\$645
 Price as Tested.....\$43,145

DIMENSIONS

EPA SizeCompact
 Weight.....3,516 lb.
 Wheelbase106.7 in.
 Length.....183.9 in.
 Width.....70.4 in.
 Height54.8 in.
 Fuel Capacity16.0 gal.
 Cargo Capacity.....16.0 cu. ft.

MECHANICAL

Engine3.0L DOHC V-6
 Horsepower231@6800
 Torque209@3000
 Transmission5-Spd. Auto
 Drive.....Four wheel
 BrakesDisc ABS
 Tires.....225/45HR17

PERFORMANCE

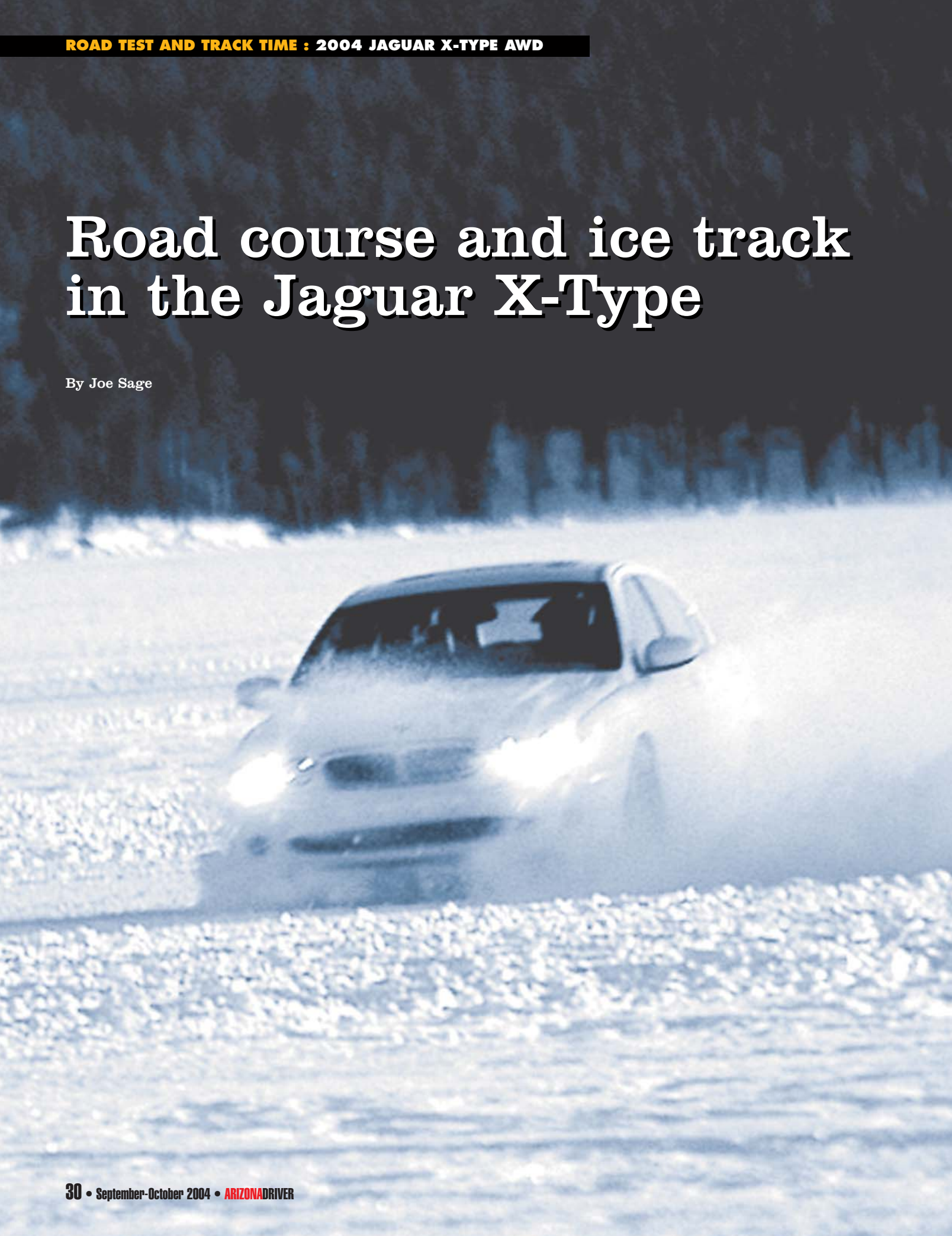
0 to 60 mph.....7.1 sec.
 EPA economy rating18/25 mpg
 Our actual fuel economy21.3mpg

COMPETITORS

Acura 3.2 TL Type-S, Audi A4 3.0, BMW 330i, Cadillac CTS, Infiniti G35, Lexus IS 300, Lincoln LS, Mitsubishi Diamante, Mercedes-Benz C320, Nissan Maxima (2004 model) Saab 9-5 Aero, Volkswagen Passat, Volvo S60 T5.

Road course and ice track in the Jaguar X-Type

By Joe Sage



We arrived at Eagle County Airport, west of Vail, on a beautiful midwinter Colorado day. Our destination was just west of Steamboat Springs, some two hours to the north in good weather, and just minutes from Yampa Valley Regional Airport at Hayden, but the travel gurus had calculated this as the closest place to arrive. As such, we were whisked to the Cordillera Resort, which was, of course, hot on the heels of infamy as the locale for Kobe Bryant's room service or lack thereof. Nice facility.

After orientation and a good night's sleep, a small army of new Jaguar X-Types headed east on I-70 to Wolcott, then north on Colorado 131, destination: Kremmling, Colorado, Sportsman's Paradise (no baseball or football; that would be elk-hunting and fishing). The route would take drivers over Colorado 134 and Gore Pass, a little-traveled fine generally well-maintained two-lane blacktop. The weather was still great. Or was it? At the heights of Gore Pass, there was an isolated but significant winter storm in progress, and this gave the X-Types' all-wheel drive their first test, and a decent test it was. A test that was passed with flying colors by all concerned, as we arrived at the Subway in Kremmling at our designated time and

with our designated appetites. (Some drivers took an alternate route, off the tour map, by cutting through Gore Canyon to connect with Colorado Highway 9 south of Kremmling, giving a chance to try the drive system on gravel roads, and to take in what we know to be glorious scenery along and then high above the Colorado River, where it has cut a canyon dramatic enough that one rail line and one dirt road are both engineering challenges that only augment the scenery. Arriving in Kremmling, those cars were actually cleaner than the paved-highway set, as they had completely missed the snowstorm (and the volcanic scoria and general slop that splash all over a vehicle in those conditions on Colorado's highways).

The next day, we headed north again, but this time straight into Steamboat Springs, taking Highway 131 its full distance from Wolcott to US 40 just west of Rabbit Ears Pass (and just south of Steamboat). As we had broken a vital pair of polarized prescription sunglasses, whacked with a metal camera case, while exiting the small plane at Eagle, we had to deviate from the authorized travel route by some 100 yards for a quick repair, for which we apologize again to the Jaguar logistics team, but it certainly is better to

have those glasses on the white-on-white ice track. After cookies and wraps and another bit of orientation, it was track time.

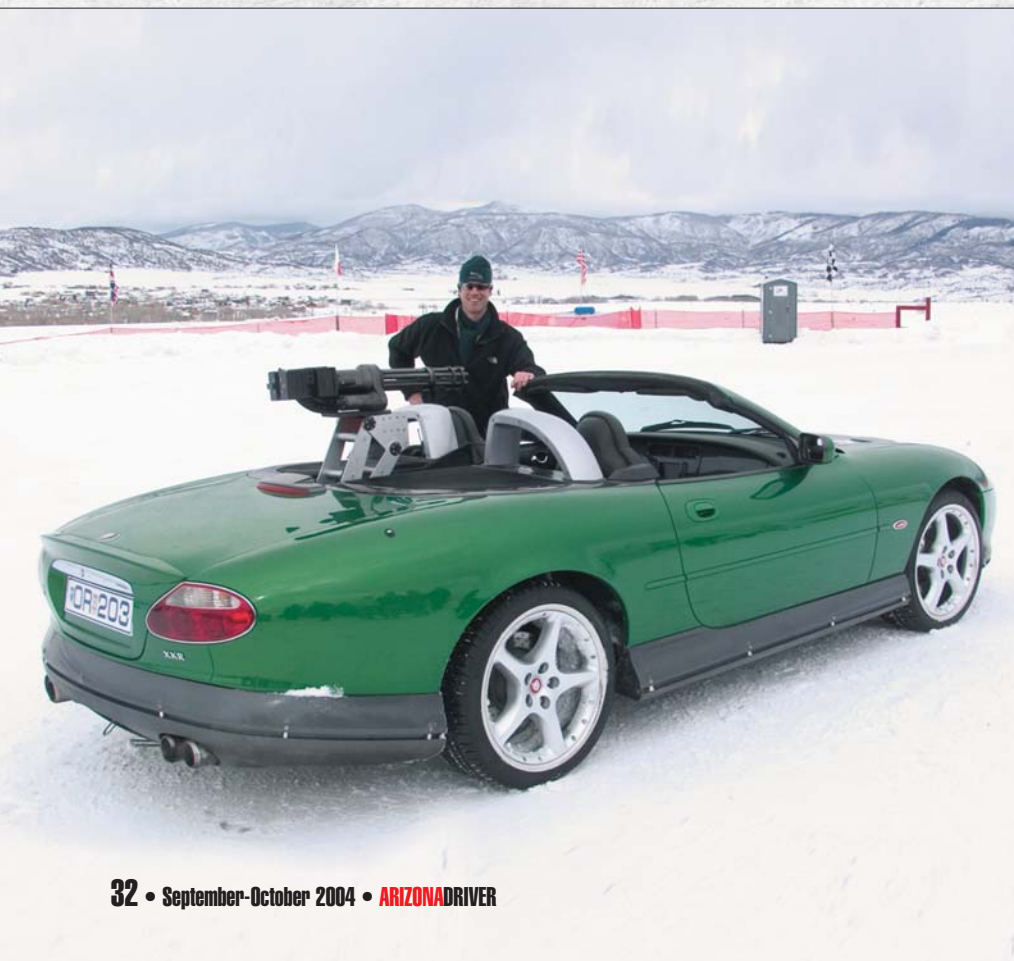
[Correspondent's note: I did actually live in Colorado for awhile before (and actually, originally, after) Arizona. Right in Northwest Colorado, in fact. In fact, right in Steamboat Springs, home of the Bridgestone Winter Driving School. In fact, the School was our client, and we produced their manuals, brochures and demonstration displays and such. In fact, I lived there for 28 years. And drove some 30,000 miles a year on the local roads, where it snows an average 27 feet per year. And on the roads to and from Denver, some 175 miles each way, with three traverses of the Continental Divide in each direction. In a sequence of vehicles up through Audi quattros... four total, three turbo quattros and two S-quattros. Without an accident. And on schedule. So I would never brag—Murphy's Law and knock on wood and all that—but I would claim some experience at this type of driving.

Track time was the big thing for much of this event, though, and that turns out to be a whole 'nother story. Surrounded by stop-watches, cameras, instructors, seasoned

KEEP RIGHT >>



As the day wore on, the weather took a turn for the worse, which is just what you hope for at an event like this. Below, the James Bond Jaguar XKR.



journalists with serious gazes. I sometimes felt as though I might as well have just flown in from Tallahassee.

Of course, our hosts were new to Routt County winters, too, flying in from Jaguar's North American headquarters in Mahwah, New Jersey. Funny thing, I'm used to that winter, too, having gotten my first license there, back in high school. With a birthday in the fall, I learned to drive in their Bergen County winters. So there's some perspective. Back to our story!

The Jaguar X-Type boasts a full-time all-wheel-drive system with a 60% rear-drive emphasis. Not quite like the familiar Audi quattro's engineering, but each with its purported advantages. On top of that, it features Dynamic Stability Control (with Emergency Brake Assist), with an on/off switch. And that's where the fun kicks in. In short, we had many laps on the challenging track at the Bridgestone Winter Driving School. We were timed, filmed, critiqued, reviewed, and sent to try some more. Some sessions were done with DSC on, some with it off, each with



Key members of the Jaguar X-Type development and engineering team flew in from the UK, to explain the vehicle's finer points, and to enjoy the snow.

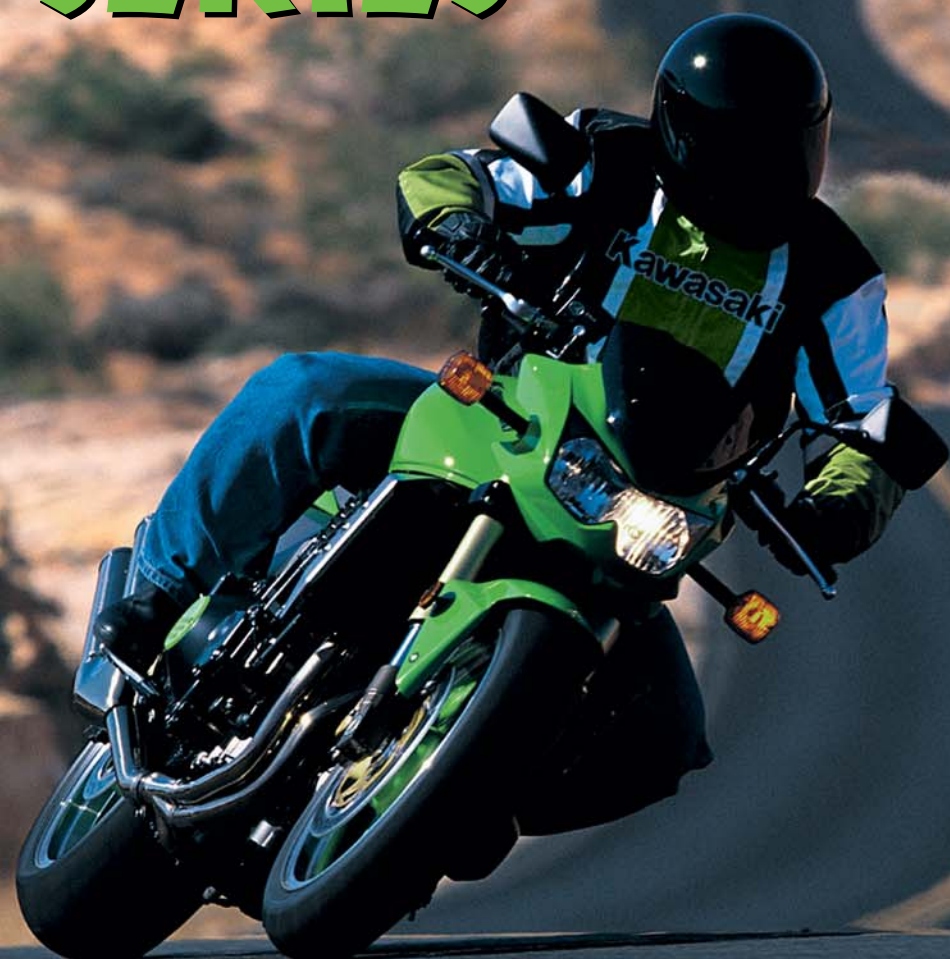
other variables in technique balanced against the absence or presence of electronic assistance and/or override.

All-wheel drive has its proponents and its detractors. We like it; detractors say it adds weight to the vehicle, which is true, and that it limits some of their fun. We say it is like a cat on rails and provides supremely accurate performance right where you point it, on dry roads, wet roads, icy/snow roads, gravel, or the juncture between or among any of the above. Similarly, front-wheel drive has its proponents and detractors. Most heated debates about such things can be settled by an agreement that if you are used to one system and take up driving with another, some track time and training about the characteristics of the new and unfamiliar system are heartily recommended. Our bottom line on the traction control, stability control and other enhancements of the X-Type is quite similar: the reason it can all be turned on or off is that there is no perfect answer as to whether performance and safety will

always be better with or without it in play. The engineers may suggest that this is, indeed, the point, that careful (and/or perhaps intuitive) analysis of conditions will lead the driver to know exactly when to turn the feature on or off. Much as we lean against automation and override, we are inclined to think many drivers will not acquire the skillset to select the best settings themselves at all times. But we suspect this isn't a problem. We were able to muster great performance (and bad) using the systems involved, activated or deactivated ... and we would anticipate that any owner will find their own best comfort and performance points with regular use. We also continue to recommend training and experience, so it's always worth considering a flight to Hayden, Colorado's Yampa Valley Regional Airport ... or Eagle Airport if you prefer ... for some serious time at the Bridgestone Winter Driving School. And, with or without snow on your horizons, we can assure you the Jaguar X-Type with AWD is worth a serious look. ■



KAWASAKI STREET SERIES



Kawasaki's 2004 lineup includes six NINJA® sportbikes, five street bikes and no fewer than a dozen Vulcan® cruisers. (We'll have to save the Dirt Series for another time.) The small sampling here is enough to give you an idea of the range and whet your appetite. Now head out to the dealer's and see what kind of late model deals may be in store just as winter comes on... everywhere else.

Ninja® 250R Kawasaki's smallest NINJA sportbike: fun and affordable

Engine/Displacement248cc
Four-stroke, DOHC, 8-valve parallel twin
Compression ratio12.4:1
CarburetionKeihin CVK30 x 2
TransmissionSix-speed
FrameTubular diamond design
Seat height29.3 in.
Dry weight304 lbs.
Fuel capacity4.8 gal.
Wheelbase55.1 in.
ColorsMetallic Nocturne Blue, Pearl Chateau Gray, Galaxy Silver, Ebony Pearl, Chrome Yellow



Ninja® ZX-6RR Engine refinements make this contender even stronger

Engine/Displacement599cc
Four-stroke, DOHC, inline four cylinder
Compression ratio13.5: 1
InductionFuel injection with four 38mm throttle bodies
TransmissionSix-speed
FramePerimeter, pressed-aluminum
Seat height32.5 in.
Dry weight355 lbs.
Fuel capacity4.8 gal.
Wheelbase55.1 in.
ColorLime Green



Ninja® ZX-12R Open-class: power and braking enhancements for 2004

Engine/Displacement1,198cc
Four-stroke, DOHC, inline four
Compression ratio12.2:1
CarburetionFuel injection with 46mm throttle bodies and sub throttles
TransmissionSix-speed
FrameAluminum monocoque
Seat height32.3 in.
Dry weight463 lbs.
Fuel capacity5.0 gal.
Wheelbase57.1 in.
Colors ...Candy Thunder Blue, Galaxy Silver





ZZR®600
600cc sportbike performance with sport touring comfort

Engine/Displacement599cc
 Four-stroke, DOHC, inline four, 16 valves
Compression ratio12:1
CarburetionKeihin CVKD36 x 4
TransmissionSix-speed
FrameAluminum perimeter design
Seat height30.7 in.
Dry weight430 lbs.
Fuel capacity4.8 gal.
Wheelbase56.3 in.
ColorsMetallic Ruby Red

Vulcan® 1500 Drifter®
Style from another era and technology from the present

Engine/Displacement1,470cc
 Four-stroke, SOHC, V-twin, 8 valves
Compression ratio9.0:1
InductionDigital fuel injection with dual 36mm throttle bodies
TransmissionFive-speed
FrameHigh-tensile steel, double cradle
Seat height28.7 in.
Dry weight670 lbs.
Wheelbase65.2 in.
ColorsBlack, Galaxy Silver



Z1000
Super Naked Bike: radical looks, functional performance

Engine/Displacement953cc
 Four-stroke, DOHC, inline four, 16 valves
Compression ratio11.2:1
InductionDigital fuel injection with four 38mm throttle bodies
TransmissionSix-speed
FrameDiamond, high-tensile steel
Seat height32.3 in.
Dry weight437 lbs.
Fuel capacity4.8 gal.
Wheelbase55.9 in.
ColorsLime Green, Passion Red

Vulcan® 1600 Classic
Heavy weight cruiser Classic returns for 2004

Engine/Displacement1,552cc
 Four-stroke, SOHC, V-twin, 8 valves
Compression ratio9.0:1
InductionDigital fuel injection
TransmissionFive-speed
FrameHigh-tensile steel, double cradle
Seat height27.4 in.
Dry weight675 lbs.
Wheelbase66.7 in.
ColorsPearl Mystic Black, Metallic Majestic Red, Pearl Crystal White



ZZR®1200
Class-leading sport tourer with NINJA® heart

Engine/Displacement1,164cc
 Four-stroke, DOHC, inline four, 16 valves
Compression ratio10.6:1
CarburetionKeihin CVKD40 x 4
TransmissionSix-speed
FrameAluminum perimeter design
Seat height31.5 in.
Dry weight520 lbs.
Fuel capacity6.1 gal.
Wheelbase59.3 in.
ColorsMoonlight Silver

Vulcan® 1600 Mean Streak®
Kawasaki puts more "mean" in the Mean Streak

Engine/Displacement1,552cc
 Four-stroke V-Twin, SOHC, eight valves
Compression ratio9.0:1
InductionDigital fuel injection
TransmissionFive speed
FrameHigh-tensile steel, double cradle
Seat height27.6 in.
Dry weight637 lbs.
Wheelbase67.1 in.
ColorsMetallic Black Spark, Candy Thunder Blue, Candy Lime Green, Pearl Blazing Orange



THE INSIDE TRACK: BRIEFS & RUMORS

■ The new **Jaguar XK** has a self-restraint device called the Automatic Speed Limiter (ASL) that allows the driver to set a speed that he doesn't want to exceed. The ASL



Jaguar XK

will not allow the car to go beyond that speed, even if the accelerator is floored. When the brakes are applied, the system is deactivated.

■ A Chrysler insider has confirmed the upcoming sedan version of the **Dodge Magnum** wagon will bring back the Dodge Charger name from the 1960's. The large sedan will be built on the same rear-wheel drive platform and use styling similar to the popular new Chrysler 300 when it debuts for 2006.

■ **Infiniti** is building a coupe and convertible based on the second generation M45 sedan (2005). All three will use a stretch version of the same architecture as the critically acclaimed G35 (or the Japanese GT-R Skyline). Both the new coupe and convertible will be four-seaters and will likely be 2006 models.

■ When it comes time for **Toyota** to replace the Scion xB, don't look for a dramatic change, in fact, don't look for the xB at all. According to Scion Vice President, Jim Farley, when the time comes for a change to a Scion vehicle, they will probably be dropped and replaced by an entirely different vehicle with a different name. Is this the start of disposable cars?

■ **Motorola** says it will have cell phones soon that will be able to locate your car, start it, check the fuel level, the temperature, lock or unlock the doors and honk the horn from anywhere in the world. It sounds like a personal OnStar system.

■ **Honda** may add a cylinder deactivation system to the V-6 engine in its Honda Pilot and Acura MDX SUVs in order to increase fuel economy. Honda has developed the system that cuts off three cylinders when the vehicle is running at cruising speeds. The system will be used in the upcoming Accord Hybrid and the Odyssey minivan, which are due out later this year. The technical challenge for Honda is to tune the engine to reduce vibrations and noise.

■ The new **Mercedes-Benz SLK** hardtop/roadster has a great optional device for people who like to drive with the top down on cool days. The optional Active Vented Headrest circulates warm air through vents in the lower part of the seat head rest. This effectively warms the head, neck and upper back of the two passengers. The conventional heated seats warm the rest of the back. The system has been available in Europe for several years and is called the Airscarf.

■ **Rolls-Royce** is offering 35 Centenary special-edition Centenary models to celebrate 100 years of Rolls-Royce. The super rich can pick one up for \$347,500 (\$27,500 more than the base Rolls-Royce Phantom's sticker price). The Centenary gets special paint, aluminum dashboard, mahogany veneer inlays, all-leather roof lining and commemorative plaques, plus red-on-chrome Rolls-Royce badges.

■ With the success of the **Bentley Continental GT** coupe (the first year's production is already sold out) Bentley has plans to expand the line with a cabriolet and four-door sedan based on the same platform as the GT coupe. The sedan debuts in November and the convertible, which will be built by Karmann, are expected in the spring of 2005. Like the coupe, both new models will have the 560-hp W-12 engine and all-wheel drive.

■ **General Motors** is changing some of the world order. According to GM chairman Rick Wagoner production of the Saab cars may be moved from Sweden to Japan to be produced in conjunction with Subaru (which is partly owned by GM). The plant in Sweden could then be used to build Cadillacs so that GM can sell the American luxury brand in Europe without paying EU import duties.

■ Now that **Carroll Shelby** has again partnered with Ford, there is a rumor the pair will produce a special edition Shelby Expedition concept vehicle to show at the SEMA show in November. It is expected to



Mercedes-Benz SLK

have upgrades inside and out, along with suspension and engine enhancements.

■ **Chrysler** is planning to offer a high performance SRT version of the already potent 300C early in 2005. The 5.7-liter Hemi engine will be increased to 6.1-liters and the horsepower will be increased to 425. There will also be upgrades to the suspension, wheels and tires.

■ **Toyota** is expected to introduce a hybrid MR-2 Spyder two-seat sports car before the end of the decade. The powertrain will be the 3.3-liter V-6 engine and electric motor hybrid system developed for the Highlander SUV Hybrid and the Lexus RX 400h hybrid. With at least 300 horsepower, all-wheel drive and its light weight the new MR-2 hybrid should offer a much higher level of performance and handling than the current model.

■ **Mercury** will stop building the Sable wagon in August and there are rumors that Ford will also discontinue the Taurus wagon as early as January 2005.



Mercury Sable wagon

■ **Ford** is looking at the Australian Ford Falcon platform as a replacement for the aging Ford Crown Victoria and Mercury Grand Marquis. The rear-wheel drive Falcon is a little smaller than the US models it may replace.

■ **Dodge** will use the Jeep Liberty platform to create a second SUV for the Dodge brand. An inside source claims the Dodge version will be very different from the Jeep and it will be the first time Jeep has shared a platform with another brand. The new Dodge will give dealers a smaller SUV to sell. It should debut at the Chicago Auto Show in February 2005 and will go on sale in the fall of 2006.

■ **Dodge** will begin to offer a police version of the Magnum wagon in the fall of 2005. The SXT model will have a 3.5-liter, 250-hp V-6 which will more likely be used for K-9 and administrative work, while the optional 340-hp Hemi will power the pursuit models.

■ Based on the popularity of the new Golf R32, **Volkswagen** is considering bringing a full-line of R cars to the US. The factory-tuned performance cars would be similar in concept to the Mercedes-Benz AMG and BMW M vehicles. With new versions of the GTI, Golf, Jetta and Passat due within the next years, look for VW to commit to the program soon.

■ The latest rumor about



Volkswagen R32

Mercedes bringing the smaller A-Class to the United States has taken a new twist lately as reports say longer wheelbase version will be offered next year as a 2006 model. It's likely to get a new B-Class designation and it's expected to have design elements similar to the upcoming GST sport wagon.

■ **Mazda** is planning to introduce a turbo version of the four-door RX-8 sports car at the Tokyo auto show in 2005. Rather than an exhaust-driven turbo, the RX-8 will use a new electrically assisted turbocharger designed to meet increasingly stringent emission regulations and reduce the turbo lag.

■ The upcoming **Saab 9-7x** sport utility, which is a very good-looking reconfiguration of the Chevrolet Trailblazer SUV, will be short-lived. The truck based SUV



Jeep Liberty

will be replaced in a year or two by a new unibody crossover platform that will be developed from the upcoming seven-

passenger Subaru crossover. The first Saab SUV will get the same 4.2-liter (275-hp) inline six-cylinder or 5.3-liter (300-

hp) V-8 as the Trailblazer, but there is no indication what engine the 9-7x crossover will get.

■ A six-year-old Chinese car company called **Geely** said it plans to export its Uliou sedan to the United States. The four-door hatchback Uliou sells for about \$7,000 in China and is near the same size as a Kia Rio. Geely still has several hurdles to cross before it can sell here including passing EPA certifications, National Highway Traffic Safety Administrations tests and establishing a dealer base.

■ **Chrysler** performance parts division, Mopar, has developed a variety of aftermarket upgrades to improve performance on the Dodge Neon. The packages come in stages. Stage one adds 10 hp for \$399. Stage 2 adds 30 to 50 hp for \$999. Stage 3 can boost horsepower from 230-hp to 310 to 355 horsepower. The price of Stage 3 has yet to be announced.

■ **Mazda** is expected to offer a hybrid version of the Tribute SUV. The Tribute would likely be a rebadged version of the Ford Escape Hybrid, which it currently shares a majority of elements with in the non-hybrid version. Ford owns 33.4 percent of Mazda. Ford plans to offer a Mercury version of the hybrid as the Mercury Mariner in 2006, but no dates were confirmed for the Mazda hybrid. ■

Briefs & Rumors is a summary of auto news from industry sources, trade journals and consumer magazines compiled for *Arizona Driver Magazine* by **BILL & BARBARA SCHAFFER** of *Auto Digest*.

The future looks bright

An Audi for the year 2035



Together with Twentieth Century Fox, Audi raises product placement to a new level: the German premium automobile manufacturer developed a spectacular concept car specially for this film. Audi tackled its most ambitious product placement project ever: for the epic event motion picture *I, ROBOT*, Audi Design developed the spectacular vehicle, which helps leading actor Will Smith—a homicide detective in the year 2035—solve a mystery that could have grave consequences for the human race.

In the near future, technology and robots are a trusted part of everyday life. In *I, ROBOT*, that trust is broken and one man, alone against the system, sees it coming. The film employs spectacular visual effects and innovations beyond any ever put on screen, to bring a world of robots to life. The film is directed by Alex Proyas (*Dark City*, *The Crow*) and is set in a world created by famed science fiction writer Isaac Asimov in his short story collection *I, ROBOT*.

For the first time ever, Audi developed a car specifically for a major Hollywood motion picture, creating a car for an incredible world

of 2035. The resulting Audi RSQ sport coupe is a visionary interpretation of Audi's typical design language. The most important thing was that despite its extreme character the car should still be recognized as an Audi. The cinemagoer will therefore see the new Audi front-end with the typical single-frame grille in the movie.

The RSQ includes special features

suggested by movie director Alex Proyas. The mid-engined sports car, operated by the story's police department, races through the Chicago of the future not on wheels but on spheres. Its two doors are rear-hinged to the C-posts of the body and open according to the butterfly principle.

In addition to the RSQ concept car, Audi supplied further series- produc-

tion cars which appear—in disguised shapes—in the movie's traffic scenes. Audi also supplied the interior mock-up used for interior car scenes.

With this project Audi opens up a new chapter in product placement. Previously, Audi has always supplied volume-production cars to movie productions. In individual cases, such as *Mission: Impossible II*, these cars were even used in movies before their market launch. With *I, ROBOT* and the systematic development of a "car of the future," Audi goes far beyond its previous product placement activities.

Audi has been participating as an automobile partner in major movie productions for many years. In addition to John Frankenheimer's action classic *Ronin* with Jean Reno, Robert De Niro and an Audi S8 (1998), Audi played the automobile lead in *The Insider* (1999) featuring Academy Award® Winner Russell Crowe, *Mission Impossible II* (starring Tom Cruise, 2000), *The Mothman Prophecies* (starring Richard Gere, 2002), *About a Boy* (starring Hugh Grant, 2002) and Reese Witherspoon's *Legally Blond 2* (2003). ■



ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL



Where the roads are dry and the cars are slick.

Arizona Driver Magazine

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UPCOMING FEATURES

BMW 6 Series: 645Ci Convertible



The new BMW 6 Series has been eagerly awaited by those who remember it well from earlier times. We will be getting our hands on the restyled 645Ci convertible and will report back.

Ford Innovation Tour



Ford brought their new Five Hundred, Freestyle and F-Series Super Duty pickups to Firebird International Raceway recently. We'll have info on all of these vehicles in the next issue.

Collector Auctions and Auto Shows



The season of auto shows is upon us, from SEMA to LA to Detroit, with Arizona's world-famous auctions right on the heels. We'll bring you highlights of all of these as they unfold.



NEXTBox and IMME Technology

Through the creation of an Integrated Mobile Media Environment (IMME), NEXTBox brings the power of a world without wires right to your fingertips. With voice commands or the simple touch of the monitor, the power of the Internet, your favorite office tools, and a limitless stream of entertainment can be accessed and executed with ease.

NEXTBox in Your Vehicle

IMME technology, applied through our various NEXTBox platforms, provides the solution to consumer demand for telematic devices that are scalable, upgradeable, and customizable. The benefits and applications of IMME technology and NEXTBox platforms are as diverse and unique as the vehicles and lives they will enhance. A NEXTBox platform, coupled with a flat panel touch screen monitor and a voice recognition system, creates a simple-to-use interface that allows you ways to navigate around the computing environment that you never thought possible. Some of NEXTBox's functions include, but are not limited to, Media Player, DVD, Wireless Internet, Voice Recognition, Navigation controlled through GPS, and Mobile Area Networking. These state-of-the-art features, combined with the best business and entertainment tools, allow the NEXTBox to seamlessly integrate into any automotive computing environment.

NEXTBox Functionality

CD/DVD Player • Mobile Office • GPS Navigation System • Mobile Area Network • Roaming Internet Capability

Services

Custom Installation • Variable Length Service Plan • Remote Assistance • Scalable & Upgradeable Components



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