

ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 5
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007

Copperstate 1000

Sonoran Desert • Grand Canyon • Zion National Park • Lees Ferry • Flagstaff and more

PLUS...

- Jaguar spy gear for charity
- Arizona team enters Red Bull Soapbox Race
- Arizona Auto Show and Motorcycle Show preview
- Russo and Steele Monterey
- Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance
- Monterey Historic Races
- Mercedes-Benz E320 Bluetec
- Harley-Davidson VRSC
- MINI Clubman and more

VEHICLES EQUIPMENT SAFETY PERFORMANCE MAINTENANCE MOTORSPORTS EVENTS DESTINATIONS ATTRACTIONS

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THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

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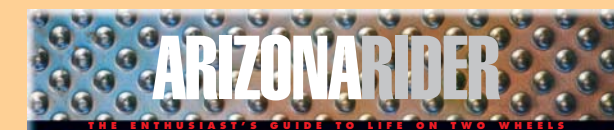
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COVER: Priceless Ferraris head out of Lees Ferry, in northern Arizona, during the Copperstate 1000. Photography by Howard Koby.



© Brenda Priddy & Company



Howard Koby Photography



There has been a lot going on. The Copperstate 1000 is certainly one of the biggest automotive events of any year here, and we have a full report on this spring's drive from southern Arizona, through northern Arizona, into southwest Utah and back, by photographer/author Howard Koby. Not all the big events are here, though, but isn't August a great time to pack off to Monterey? Arizona's own Russo and Steele Collector Automobile Auctions (famous for their January event in Scottsdale, in the same general timeframe as Barrett-Jackson and three others) has just run their seventh annual Monterey auction, and just in time for us to cover it in this issue. As usual, we end up wishing our dad had never sold the '57 Chevy and we had never sold the '65 GTO convertible or the '70 Boss 302. While in Monterey, we managed some face time with Reggie Jackson, who was there to auction off a few of his famously large collection of muscle cars. Then we fanned out in two directions: down to the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, for two days of prep and one day of the event, and up to Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, for a quick visit to the Monterey Historic Races. Lots of sun, sea breezes and temperate temps all around. Speaking of special events and more temperate weather, coming up in late October and November are the *Cycle World* International Motorcycle Show and the Arizona International Auto Show, both in Phoenix. Previews and ticket sources are presented in this issue. With cycles in mind, we bring you info on Harley-Davidson's updated three-model VRSC lineup. And with four wheels and fuel-efficient driving in mind,



Joe Sage
Publisher/ Executive Editor

we bring you the Mercedes-Benz E320 Bluetec and the new, longer MINI Clubman. You'll also find info on aftermarket products, enthusiast websites, Corvette literature and more. Enjoy the ride.

ARIZONA DRIVER

MAGAZINE

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Corsa Performance Exhaust

Chosen by celebrities for SPEED Channel's "Payback"

It's only natural for the world's highest profile celebrities to choose CORSA® Performance premium exhaust systems when designing custom vehicles for projects on the hit SPEED Channel series "Payback."

The "Payback" series, which debuted in 2006, blends the worlds of automotive customization and celebrity lifestyle. Celebrities pay back someone in their lives who helped them along the way to their success by building them a tricked-out, one-of-a-kind new car designed specifically for them. A premium CORSA Performance exhaust system has been included on most of the series' projects.

CORSA Performance premium exhaust featured on "Payback" has included customs for Jay Leno (Corvette C6), NASCAR® great Dale Earnhardt Jr. (Chevrolet Tahoe), E!'s "Wild On" host Brooke Burke of Tucson



(Cadillac SRX), Arizona Cardinals running back Edgerrin James (Cadillac Escalade ESV), comedian Tim Allen (Cadillac STS), Boston Red Sox slugger Manny Ramirez (Cadillac Escalade EXT), actor and musician Robert

Downey, Jr. (Hummer H3) and actress and model Jaime Pressly (Corvette C6). "Payback" currently airs on Monday, Tuesday and Friday on SPEED Channel. Visit www.corsaperformance.com.

Delphi Nav300 GPS

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The Nav300 from Delphi is a GPS device that integrates the latest cutting-edge hardware and software into a lightweight, portable package with an easy, intuitive interface at an extremely compelling price point. Nav300 celebrates features like...

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Voice Command—Use the built-in microphone to determine your route

Lane Assistance and Road Signs—Receive alerts on upcoming road signs and make sure you're in the right lane to make your next turn

Speed Limit Warnings—Monitor your speed in relation to the current speed limit

Branded Points of Interest—Branded icons help you locate your favorite franchises with ease anywhere you go

Entertainment Suite—Movie player, MP3 player, Picture viewer, calculator and game

Built-in Rechargeable Battery—Lasts up to 5 hours

All of these features are available at an MSRP of \$399 at ShopDelphi.com. The Nav300 is also RDS Real-Time Traffic ready and can be combined with the Delphi Real-Time Traffic Kit which is \$199 for a lifetime of service.



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Expertise from Mr. Corvette

Mike Yager's Corvette Bible
By Mike Yager



Today the Corvette is one of America's iconic cars, but the vehicle's success was not instantaneous. After rolling off the assembly line in 1953, slow sales led to rumors of the Corvette's demise. Over the next decade, engine and styling changes helped the innovative, clean and classic car win fans and buyers, including Mike Yager.

Mike, like many Corvette faithful, became a fan at a young age. He then began building a business around his passion for the car. Today, he is one of the leading Corvette collectors and businessmen. He is at the forefront of a Corvette movement that is resulting in record setting numbers of Corvettes crossing the sales block at many big name auctions, including those of Barrett-Jackson. Mike's company, Mid America Motorworks, is the country's largest supplier of Corvette parts and accessories, with a customer base of over one million. Now, he's sharing his years of knowledge with the world.

In his new book, *Mike Yager's Corvette Bible* (Krause Publications) Mike takes readers through the Corvette's history with unmatched attention to technical detail, and an innovative delivery of insider tips for buying and selling. Each chapter explores a year in

Corvette history, through stunning color photos, historical and production information, rating graphs and exclusive author observations in "Mike Yager Says" columns.

Living the dream

Whether readers are collectors or general enthusiasts, every auto aficionado will appreciate the story of the Corvette's evolution from almost failure to enduring success. Currently, the Corvette reigns as the number one collector car in the world. From the cruising fan to the restorer, there's room for every kind of Corvette enthusiast, especially in Mike Yager's world.

Mike's passion for Corvettes inspires others to live the dream. Read what one of many industry experts has to say. "Yager is living proof that a boyhood dream can evolve into a life's work," said George Mattar, *Muscle Machines* magazine.

Mike Yager

Mike Yager is owner of Mid America Motorworks, the leader in parts and accessories for Corvettes, founder of Corvette Funfest—which draws over 45,000 visitors and more than 14,000 Corvettes to Effingham, Illinois each fall, a familiar face on the SPEED Chan-



nel's "Dream Car Garage" and a collector whose passion is sharing his love and knowledge of Corvettes with others.

Mike Yager's Corvette Bible
Mike Yager
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www.krausebooks.com

This book is available from major bookstores, online sellers and from Krause Publications, 800-258-0929 or www.krausebooks.com.

Spying for charity



Photos © Copyright Brenda Priddy & Company



In August, Arizona's own world-famous Brenda Priddy & Company—whose spy photography and CGI renderings of future models you have seen in all the major publications—decided to have some fun, by putting the new top-secret 2009 Jaguar XF Prototype up for sale on eBay. Well, okay, not the Jaguar itself, but rather the tantalizingly rare (and fun) "spy parts." And, typically for Priddy's efforts



(Brenda is, among other things, a key player in having defibrillators installed in airports nationwide), the proceeds are going to charity of the winning bidder's choice.

Priddy auctioned a bag of camouflage from the not-yet-out 2009 Jaguar XF, a small bundle/wad of silver and black super-sticky duct-tape. And it is AUTHENTIC. They personally witnessed as an engineer peeled the tape off a prototype and threw it away in a garbage can at a remote gas station in the desert. Priddy then sent her trusted assistant (her daughter) dumpster diving to retrieve the valuable adhesive disguise—presumably a fine English import.

In total, the auction was set up to include the following:

- 1 small pile of authentic (well-used) Jaguar XF camouflage tape

- 1 12x18-inch ORIGINAL/SIGNED Jaguar XF color enlargement (not permitted to be used for publication)

- 2 rare limited edition we-can't-tell-you-or-we'll-have-to-kill-you-purple "espionage" pens from Brenda Priddy & Company

- If the winning bid were to go over \$75.00, they would throw in an official Brenda Priddy & Company "Espionage" hat

- And if it were to go over \$150.00, they'd throw in yet another 12x18 ORIGINAL/SIGNED Jaguar XF prototype color enlargement. The higher the bidding went—the more generous Brenda got.

And on top of all the goodies, Priddy paid all the eBay fees and even the shipping. (However, just to be on the safe side, the deal specified that if the eBay FEES were to end up over \$250—e.g. if the wad of tape itself were to sell for thousands—they would "assume the buyer has a LOT of money and the buyer will graciously pay any fees over the first \$250"... but of course even that was followed by "sound fair?" In an era of poison tea espionage in Europe, these folks obviously stand out as very nice spies.

The winning bidder got to choose where the purchase price

money would go, making a donation (in the amount of the high/winning bid—or more) direct to a charitable organization. (The organization was to send proof of the donation, plus a copy of their e-mail confirmation upon receiving funds from the buyer.) Organizations to choose from included:

- Peace Corps
- Make A Wish Foundation
- American Cancer Society
- Broadway Community
- Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Shriner's Hospitals for Children
- Fisher House
- March of Dimes
- American Heart Association

... and more. Or the winner was free to suggest another (and did).

So the come-on was clear: just think—you'll likely be the only one on your block with a bag of used duct tape...er...priceless camouflage from a prototype future Jaguar. And every last penny of the winning bid goes to a charity.

The payoff is good for everybody. The spy photography trade is of great interest to the enthusiast public, of course. But it's also a finely-honed game of cat and mouse, in which both the manufacturers and the spy photographers stand to gain, but in which



the manufacturers' engineers feign great disdain at being caught in the act. Once they get wind of the generosity of this charity auction, however, they will surely realize they are dealing with a spy photographer who has a heart of gold. And all Brenda's hours staking out the absolutely hottest (and coldest) spots on earth will be worthwhile.

THE RESULTS: Bidding was fast and furious

over 10 days. The first 24 hours or so saw bids start at \$10 and run up to \$105, ensuring the inclusion of a bonus hat. Then things sat tight for about five days, followed by a flurry bringing the high bid up to \$318. On the last day, duct tape fever kicked in at full octane, and the eighth bidder to enter, just checking in on that last day, prevailed (over a ninth). All in all, nine individual bidders entered 27 bids, with the winning bid coming in at \$405. This means they not only got the hat, but also the second 12x8 enlargement. And free shipping and eBay fees thrown in. The winner specified a donation to the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, for children with leukemia and other cancers, headquartered in Jacksonville Beach FL and with offices also in East Rutherford NJ. ■

PORSCHE 911 TURBO CABRIOLET

Porsche's latest top-of-the-hill model will roll into dealerships in September as the 911 Turbo Cabriolet. Powered by the same 3.6-liter, 480-hp twin-turbocharged boxer engine as the coupe, the Cabriolet will produce 3.8-second 0 to 60 mph acceleration times (3.5 seconds with the Tiptronic® transmission) and a track tested top speed of 193 mph. Chassis reinforcements and automatic extending safety bars increase the weight by only 154 pounds. The cloth top opens and closes in 20 seconds and can be even done while driving at speeds up to 30 mph. Like the coupe, the cabriolet has Porsche Active Suspension Management as standard equipment along with stability control and traction management for the all-wheel drive system. Other standard features include the Porsche Communication Management system with DVD-based navigation and a 5.8-inch color monitor and Bose Surround Sound. Pricing is set at \$136,500 for US version. ▼



2008 Porsche 911 Turbo Cabriolet



Shelby Super Snake

On the heels of Ford's GT500KR King of the Road (see May/June AZ Driver), Shelby Automobiles, Inc. introduces this 600- to 725hp GT500 conversion.

THE SHELBY SUPER SNAKE MUSTANG

▲ For Mustang addicts who are not content with the performance of the Mustang GT500, there's the new Shelby Super Snake series. Available late in 2007, buyers of GT500s can take their cars to the Shelby factory in Las Vegas to have the 500 horsepower increased to 600 hp and get a factory warranty, or go all the way up to over 725 hp, but without the factory assurance. The cars are custom versions with a list of available weight saving and cosmetic enhancements to the exterior and some upgrades to the interior. The packages include items like a supercharged engine, cold air intake, Shelby/Baer 6-piston brakes, suspension upgrades and a Borla exhaust system. Extra power doesn't come cheaply; beyond the price of the GT500 (about \$43,000) the packages will add an extra \$28,000 to \$72,000, to start.

VW CHEAP REAR-ENGINE CAR?

Volkswagen is rumored to be working on a new rear-engine car to compete with cars like the smart. It may come as a 130-

inch two-door and 138-inch four-door version with prices in the \$10,000 to \$14,000 range. They say there will be no power steering, but it will have available anti-lock brakes, satellite navigation and a sunroof. The US version will get a three-cylinder turbo, while third-world countries will probably get a two-cylinder engine and emerging markets could even go as low as a one-cylinder power plant.

LIGHTER, GREENER LEAD-ACID BATTERY

Illinois battery company, Firefly Energy, Inc. has developed a new lead-acid battery that could revolutionize battery technology by removing up to 80 percent of the lead from batteries. The Firefly battery uses patented carbon-graphite foam impregnated with a slurry of lead oxides. The lightweight plates have enormous surface-area advantages over conventional batteries. The new batteries also are expected to have twice the life as a conventional battery. The innovative batteries are still heavier than some new technology batteries, but have the advantage of costing about one-tenth as

much to manufacture as nickel-metal hydride or lithium ion batteries. Firefly has talked to car companies about the new technology, but won't say which ones. The first company to commit to using the batteries is the Husqvarna Group that makes lawn and garden equipment. Firefly was launched in 2003 by Caterpillar Inc. with backing from BAE Systems, a defense contractor, and KB Partners, a venture capital company.

FUEL SAVING TECHNOLOGIES COSTLY

With the government mandating huge increases in the CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) levels by 2020, Automotive News listed the existing technologies that might be used to reach the higher levels. Here are the five existing fuel saving technologies and estimated cost per vehicle to the automaker: 1. Diesel engines are capable of 25 to 30 percent fuel economy gains for \$4,000 to \$6,000 per vehicle. 2. Hybrids with plug in features can increase

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BMW 1 SERIES

BMW's next U.S. offering, the 1 Series, is designed to bring the people that fell in love with smaller BMWs like the 2002 and early 320i models back to the brand. Several inches smaller than the current 3 Series, the 1 Series will be more compact and more pure, says Rick Brekus, general manager of product planning and strategy at BMW. He says despite a lower price the car will be very much a BMW when it comes to ride and handling. The US market is expected to get the 1 Series two-door coupe and a convertible when it goes on sale next year, but not the hatchbacks that are currently offered in Europe. ▼

BMW 1 Series



Tesla Roadster

Apologizing for shortcomings? Hmm. Can't say we'd thought of any. This all-electric supercar accelerates from 0 to 60 in about 4 seconds, for starters.

economy levels from 20 percent to as high as 150 mpg for short trips at a cost of about \$2,000 per vehicle. 3. Turbochargers add \$300 to \$500 per vehicle and allow automakers to use smaller engines to achieve the same performance levels. 4. Electronic enhancements, costing as little as \$100 per vehicle, can be used to replace heavy mechanical systems with lightweight technology that reduces drag on the engine. 5. Lightweight materials such as aluminum, magnesium, carbon fiber and plastics cost various amounts and are used to replace steel.

TESLA FACTORY STORES

▲ Tesla will sell their new \$92,000 electric roadsters through factory stores rather than franchised dealerships. According to Darryl Siry, Tesla's vice president of marketing, they were afraid traditional dealers would spend their time apologizing for the vehicle shortcomings instead of promoting the benefits. Siry said the stores will have the atmosphere of an Apple store rather than a car dealership. The first store will open in

Santa Monica by November 2007 with other stores opening soon after in New York, San Francisco, Chicago and Miami. Other cities planned for factory stores include San Diego, Seattle, Denver and Boston. An electric sedan, code-named Whitestar, is planned by mid 2009.

2012 RANGE ROVER SPECULATION

Photos of the next generation Land Rover Range Rover are starting to pop up showing an even more stylish and muscular off-road vehicle with shorter windows and a more compact look. The big difference is the new Premium Lightweight Architecture which utilizes an all aluminum body and unibody construction that allows weight to be cut by an estimated 700 to 900 pounds. The interior is expected to enter the super luxury category and there is even talk of a version approaching the \$200,000 price level. A wide range of engines from 350- and 460-hp V-8s to a 3.0-liter turbo diesel are possibilities. Of course, this is all merely speculation. Ford may be selling off the Land Rover brand and who knows what direction new owners may take.

STEVE SALEEN MOVES TO CHINESE CARS

Famous muscle car builder Steve Saleen has resigned from the company he founded in 1983 to take the helm of ZX Automobile Company of North America Inc. The cars are manufactured by Hebei Zhongxing Automobile Co. and then will be marketed by Chamco Auto through the US subsidiary ZX Auto. The small Chinese automaker plans to import a pickup and SUV into Mexico starting in August this year followed by a move into the US market. ZK says it has already signed 30 dealers in the US and has a goal of 150 dealerships. The company says the Landmark SUV and Grand Tiger pickup are powered by 4-cylinder Mitsubishi engines made in China. Pricing is expected to start as low as \$13,250.

SALEEN PERFORMANCE TRUCKS

Saleen is now in the truck business as one of the companies hoping to fill the void left when Ford stopped producing the high-performance SVT Lightning. Saleen's entry, called the S331, uses a

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TAKING THE SMARTS ON THE ROAD

As the first US distributor of the tiny Mercedes-Benz-built smart (note, smart does not capitalize their name or the fortwo name), the Roger Penske organization is planning to take the smart on the road in a series of three road shows called "street smart." The 56-city national tour has trailers carrying two smart fortwos to the cities where dealerships are planned around the US. The first road show started in Los Angeles May 19, heading east and north and ending up in Portland, Oregon. A central US show headed from Minneapolis to Dallas through Washington DC and 18 other cities. The East coast show has 17 stops on its way from Boston to Miami. Each truck carries two European model smart fortwos for test drives and displays, including a cutaway to demonstrate the safety features of the 9-foot-long, two-passenger car. Penske expects about 70,000 people to drive the smart by November when the tour ends. For more information on the road show locations, dates and the car, visit the tour's site at smartusa.com. ▼



smart fortwo



Kia Rondo NY Taxi

Kia "Rondoism" meets "taxi-ocity" as their small new crossover might replace not just NYC's Crown Vics, but even make a dent in their Honda minivans.

supercharger to boost horsepower to 450 hp and torque to 500 lb.ft. (up from the stock 325 hp and 380 lb.ft.). The suspension has lowered springs in front and Sachs shocks on all four wheels. Two massive brake systems are offered with the package. Unlike some hot rod trucks, the S331 can easily pull a 7,000 pound trailer according to *AutoWeek* magazine. Prices range from \$54,000 to \$64,000 at the more than 200 Saleen dealerships across the country.

GREENER NY TAXIS TO SAVE MILLIONS

▲ *Consumer Reports* evaluated the potential benefits of replacing nearly 13,000 Ford Crown Victoria sedans with a more fuel-efficient car like the proposed Kia Rondo taxi shown at the New York Auto Show. Based on a much lower \$2.97 per gallon national average when the numbers were crunched, the potential fuel savings could add up to 22,285,714 gallons annually at a savings of \$66,188,571. Greenhouse gas emissions could also be reduced by 88,400 tons of carbon dioxide per year. These figures are based on less than one-fourth of the

53,000 New York City taxis and other cars for hire. If they all went to more fuel efficient models the impact could be several times greater.

FERRARI: LEAN, GREEN AND MEANER

Ferrari is showing its leaner, greener and meaner future with the introduction of the Millechili concept in conjunction with its 60th anniversary. To start with, the Millechili is 39 inches shorter and 661 pounds lighter than the limited-edition Enzo. The car has no seats, rather the driver and passenger sit on upholstered area of the carbon fiber chassis cutting three inches and 110 pounds from the car. It's powered by a twin-turbo 3.0-liter V-8 producing 550 hp and using 42 percent less fuel. Production of the Millechili is still in question, but it shows the direction the company is thinking.

CORVETTE GETS UPGRADED FOR 2008

Rumors abound about the next generation Corvette, which is due in 2010, but Chevy is giving its halo car a significant upgrade in 2008. The standard engine will be a 430-hp 6.2-liter (or 436-

hp when equipped with the two-mode exhaust) and the drivetrain gets a long list of tweaks. New split-spoke wheels are standard equipment. The interior is freshened with a revised center-stack design and brushed aluminum accents. The optional interior has a two-tone leather dash, seats and door panels. And, by the way, even the "base" model is capable of 190 mph. It's due at dealerships by September.

MITSUBISHI DOUBLE-CLUTCH GEARBOX

When the tenth generation Lancer Evolution X debuts this fall, the popular high-performance sedan will be equipped with a new dual-clutch automatic manual transmission, all-wheel drive and stability control. The new six-speed Twin Clutch SST uses one clutch for odd-numbered gears and a second clutch and shaft for even-numbered gears. The system is similar in design to the Direct Shift Gearbox used by Volkswagen. According to Automotive News, the transmission has three shift modes: normal, sport and s-

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sport. The sport and s-sport modes hold gears longer for higher engine rpms and they shift faster. The transmission, which has no clutch pedal also gets better fuel economy than a manual transmission. The all-wheel-drive system uses antilock brakes, active center differential and yaw control to improve traction. The stability control uses sensors on the steering wheel and wheels to keep the car going the direction the driver is steering.

CADILLAC CTS-V COULD HAVE 600 HP

The next generation Cadillac CTS-v will likely get a detuned version of Corvette's next supercar engine. The Corvette, which may be called the Blue Devil, SS or some other appropriate name, is expected to have a supercharged LS7 engine producing as much as 700-hp. A de-tuned Cadillac CTS-v version is rumored to be about 600 hp according to Motor Trend magazine, which means it will have a big advantage over competitors like the BMW M3, Audi RS4 and Mercedes Benz C63, which have from 420 to 503 hp. The new version will also get an accompaniment of stiffer spring and shocks, bigger Brembo brakes and sheet metal enhancements.

NAVISTAR REPLACING HUMVEES

Navistar is pushing hard to replace the legendary Humvee as the truck of choice for the military. Recently the US Marines started to phase out the Humvees in favor of mine-resistant Navistar MaxxPros which have a V-shaped underbody that deflects land mine blasts. The company also received the contract to provide trucks for the Afghanistan National Army. Al Saltiel, vice president of Navistar marketing said their goal is to not only challenge the military Humvee, but also challenge the civilian Hummer (licensed by General Motors Corp.) on the highway with the massive MXT truck.

CHRYSLER'S ENGINE PROGRAM

Chrysler announced a new V-6 engine family that will go into 2010 model cars. The new Phoenix series engines will use aluminum die cast blocks, cylinder deactivation systems, dual variable valve timing and a two-stage oil pump along with other state of the art technology. Executive Vice President Frank Klegon said the new engines are expected to get

six to eight percent better fuel economy than existing engines. He also announced the 5.7-liter Hemi V-8 will get significant upgrades in fuel economy, power and refinement. There is also a new version of the 4.7-liter V-8 used in the trucks. By using two spark plugs per cylinder, an increased compression ratio and new design features, the engine is up 75 horsepower and 35 more lb.ft. of torque over the previous 4.7-liter engine, plus fuel economy has been improved by five percent. Klegon also said they are working with transmission manufacturer Getrag to develop a new dual-clutch transmission for use starting in 2010 model year vehicles. The automatic shifting manual transmission shifts faster than other transmissions and gets about six percent better fuel economy.

PORSCHE CAYENNE HYBRID

Porsche said an upcoming Cayenne hybrid version should cut fuel usage by about one-third. The impetus for the hybrid comes from upcoming European Commission requirements to reduce carbon dioxide levels. When the so-called parallel-full hybrid reaches dealerships near the end of 2009, it should increase fuel economy from 18.5 mpg up to about 26.8 mpg. The system will drive on electric power alone at speeds up to 74 mph before the gasoline engine takes over. Porsche plans to offer the hybrid system on the Cayenne and eventually on the upcoming four-door Panamera coupe, but not on the 911 or Boxster/Cayman sports cars.

FORD TESTING PLUG-IN HYBRID EDGE

A special white Ford Edge is running around the Dearborn, Mich. area testing the company's new plug-in hybrid technology. The Edge is powered by an electric motor and lithium ion batteries. The motor produces 174 horsepower with smooth, quiet delivery of power. The batteries are charged at night using about \$1 of electricity. The charge will power the Edge for about 25 miles under normal driving conditions. When the battery starts to run down, this system uses a hydrogen powered fuel cell to power the electric motor and recharge the batteries. In its current experimental trim, the fuel cell will drive the Edge about 200 miles, but Ford says a larger tank will increase



2008 Saturn Astra

As GM succeeds in putting a whole new face on their product lineup—and they are—the whole new face of the once tepid Saturn lineup helps plenty.

the range to 300 miles. The one-of-a-kind Edge is being used daily on Michigan roads and could be a strong indication of the direction Ford is betting on for its future alternative fuel vehicles. This technology is similar in principle to that used by the General Motors Volt concept that was introduced at the Detroit auto show earlier this year.

SATURN REPLACES ION WITH ASTRA

▲ This fall Saturn replaces the last of its mediocre vehicles, the Ion, with the European derived Astra. The highly acclaimed and popular Opel Astra will be Saturnized, but will retain the Astra name and design. Reports from Opel testers give it high marks for design, handling and quality. Astra will be sold as a three-door in the upper XR trim level or a five-door in XE and XR versions. Opel versions have power plants ranging from a little diesel up through a 240 hp turbocharged Ecotec four-cylinder borrowed from the Saturn Sky Redline. The US version will probably be a 140-hp 1.8-liter four-cylinder, to start with. The Astra is due for a major update in 2010.

The Astra could be the car that puts the General Motors upstart brand back in a solid sales position, the current lineup is an excellent start.

TOYOTA WORKING ON QUALITY ISSUES

Concerned that flourishing sales and quick development times are hurting quality, Toyota plans to hire additional engineers and spend more money to reverse the trend. Plans call for a longer interval between project approvals and production of the first vehicle. Rather than relying so much on time-saving virtual testing, they plan to build more prototypes for validation. Toyota managers say these extra steps won't set back schedules; rather they will plan to start the planning process earlier. The new process started with the recently introduced Highlander.

NEW KIA TT-LIKE SPORT COUPE

Kia will be showing a sport coupe concept at the Frankfurt show in September that is expected to look something like a stylized Audi TT. The coupe will display the new Kia family design language in a size just

slightly smaller than the new TT. The TT resemblance may come from the fact that Chief Kia Design Officer, Peter Schreyer, was involved with the original TT design. The Kia coupe will be lighter and less expensive than the TT and the concept is expected to be very close to the production model that is scheduled to arrive at dealerships in 2008 as a 2009 model.

UPCOMING BIG CHRYSLER SEDANS

Chrysler has canceled plans to build the large, upscale Imperial sedan that was originally shown as a concept at the Detroit auto show. They said consumer interest is moving toward smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles. Nevertheless, the company will continue building the rear-drive full-size sedans and wagons on the LX platform (the 300, Magnum and Charger). Since the 300 was launched in January 2004, Chrysler has built more than one million of the LX platform cars. ■

Auto News Update includes news compiled for *Arizona Driver* by **BILL & BARBARA SCHAFFER** of *Auto Digest*.

Seventeenth Annual Copperstate 1000 Road Rally

THE GREAT AMERICAN CAR REVIVAL
WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOWARD KOBY

For 17 years the Men's Art Council of the Phoenix Art Museum has been giving vintage car enthusiasts the opportunity to exercise their machinery while enjoying some of the best scenery in the Southwest. On April 14, 2007, two car shows united at Tempe Diablo Stadium (home of spring training for the Los Angeles Angels baseball team). The Concorso Arizona, celebrating 60 years of Ferrari, was held in conjunction with the sendoff of the Copperstate 1000 Road Rally.

Ferrari Club of America's Concorso lined the field of the stadium with 120 exotic Italian vehicles. Concorso Arizona is the largest Ferrari gathering in Arizona and is the only IFC/PCA judged event in the state. Ferrari, Lamborghini, Jaguar, Aston Martin, Maserati, and Alfa Romeo owners were invited from around the country to proudly display their treasures in a "Field of Dreams" setting. Some lesser-known names such as Allard, Kurtis and Frazier-Nash added to the wide-range of cars on display. While the key purpose for many of these car shows is raising money for worthy charities like the Ronald McDonald House and the Phoenix Art Museum, having a good time is also part of the package. Judging was available for any 1997 or older Ferrari, and at the same time the blending of the concours and the Copperstate entries created a new and exciting visual treat for the hundreds of spectators who showed up Saturday and

Concorso Arizona — Tempe Diablo Stadium
Concorso Arizona — 1962 Ferrari Spyder CA — Chris Cox
1952 212 Ferrari Barchetta — Bill Jacobs
1960 Lotus Type 14 Elite — Jess and Eddie Marker — Copperstate sendoff from stadium





1989 Mondial T Cabriolet — Mark Hirst

- 1955 Austin Healey BN2 — Tim Haas & Ann Sage
- 1956 Ferrari GT Boano — Tony Schwartz
- 1965 Shelby Cobra 289 — John Voigt and Ann Alvernax
- 1953 Ferrari 375 MM Spyder — Tom Shaughnessey

Sunday morning. Each Ferrari entered for judging was expected to be fully operational and was scrutinized on exterior, interior, and engine/chassis. Superb Prancing Horses that won Platinum awards included Pietro Di Leonardo with his low and exotic 1971 Ferrari Dino 246 GT. Enzo Nido showing a beautiful 1988 Ferrari 328 GTB, Mark Hirst displaying his 1989 Ferrari Mondial Cabriolet and Alex Pappas with an impressive 1995 Ferrari F50. The Classic V12 category contained most of the Copperstate entries and ten of them won Platinum. Scott McPherson (Copperstate Chairman) nabbed an award for Outstanding 12 Cylinder with his excellent 1972 Ferrari GTC/4. Outstanding Competition Car was Thomas Shaughnessey's rare 1954 Ferrari 375 MM while the Participants Choice Award honored Joe Moch for his 1963 Ferrari 250 GT California Spyder. Even with all that fine Italian exotica it was Matt Frankel that cornered Best of Show with his sleek 1971 Ferrari Daytona Spyder.

The ultimate thrill for any car enthusiast is to sit behind the wheel of a perfectly restored vintage automobile while cruising and challenging the winding roads, hairpin switchbacks, long straightaways and scenic highways and byways through some of the best landscapes in the United States.

Sunday morning, glorious Arizona sunshine greeted the 2007 Copperstate 1000 at Tempe Diablo Stadium for the concours viewing and the start of the rally. This prestigious gathering of automotive art compares to the Italian Mille Miglia and features vintage sports, racing, classic and grand touring automobiles manufactured before January 1973. The Copperstate is not for the faint of heart and attracts some pretty serious machinery—like the 1970 Alpine Renault (won the Rallye de Ceverres) driven by Mitch and Kim McCullough from Redondo Beach, California, Michael and Katharina Leventhal's striking 1953 Ferrari 340 MM Competition LeMans Spyder, Bill Jacob's important 1952 212 Barchetta, a powerful 1965 Shelby Cobra piloted by John Voigt and Ana Alvernax from Gig



Harbor, Washington, and a sweet nostalgic 1966 Pontiac GTO manned by Ed and Bonnie Marshall from Scottsdale.

The field included Aston Martin, Auburn, Austin Healey, Bentley, Bizzarrini, Bugatti, Corvette, Jaguar, Lincoln and Triumph. The goal of the Copperstate is for everyone to experience pure enjoyment with their cars. First class accommodations, excellent food (sometime catered to the group in the middle of the desert) and an escort of 8 hand-picked Arizona Highway Motorcycle patrolmen who watched over the Copperstaters to make sure they don't get carried away is all on the Copperstate menu.

This year's route guided the rolling museum of automotive sculpture on a 1,000-mile loop through Arizona back roads, in addition to brushing the rim of the spectacular Grand Canyon while savoring the fragrance of spring wildflowers. The tour brought us through six climate zones from the Sonoran Desert to the alpine elevations of the San Francisco Peaks.

The overnight at the Grand Hotel in the Grand Canyon National Park gave everyone the opportunity to reunite and tell stories about the days drive. Not that Arizona doesn't have enough beautiful scenery but for the last few years the organizers have laid out the route even more exciting by stepping into another state. Last year it was Monument Valley in Utah, and this year we traveled through the breathtaking splendor of Zion National Park in southern Utah. As Jim Speer and Bob Wass were gliding along on a mountain road, suddenly huge billows of smoke came pouring from beneath his 1966 Ferrari 330 GTC. Engine failure looked like the cause but all it was is that the oil dipstick wasn't fully inserted, causing oil to splatter over the hot headers and exhaust pipes. With the dipstick reinserted, the GTC was in fine shape once again! Long stretches of winding highways with towering mountains and plateaus as a backdrop is always part of the well researched Copperstate route. All you need to enjoy the rally is a vintage car



1953 Ferrari 340 MM → Michael and Katherine Leventhal
1966 Ferrari 275GTB → Sidney and Doug Allen
1966 Pontiac GTO → Ed and Bonnie Marshall
Zion National Park → Utah





in decent working order and a navigator with a willing spirit.

David and Marianne Duthu from Houston, Texas, have just that spirit, having been on many Copperstates in a wide variety of vintage works of art. The 1927 Bugatti Type 35A that the Duthu's were motoring this year is powered by a 1496cc four cylinder engine with three valves per cylinder and provided a fantastic and fun ride along the long stretches of Arizona asphalt. After gazing upon awe-inspiring landscapes of Zion National Park and northern Arizona we enjoy an outdoor lunch at Lees Ferry, which was until 1927, the only north/south crossing of the Colorado River in the state of Arizona. After lunch, we skirted the edge of the Navajo Reservation to Flagstaff and then followed the Oak Creek/Sedona scenic road to our over-night rest at Sedona Rouge Hotel and Spa.

The last leg of this incredible journey we leave Sedona in the morning and head back to Scottsdale, where Meguiar's provided a victory car wash before the award banquet held that evening at the Hotel Valley Ho. Michael Leventhal, who was driving the 1953 Ferrari 340 MM, was awarded the Louis E. Laffin III Spirit Award, given to a person who best embodies the spirit of the Copperstate. Vintage rallies are a wonderful way for couples and buddies to enjoy their cars together at speed on beautiful roads in the company of like-minded friends. "What more can you ask for!" ■

Thank you to Maurice Durand from Mitsubishi Motors North America in Cypress, California for lending us a superb running 2007 Outlander SUV 4WD with rally-inspired Paddle Shifters to cover the Copperstate 1000. This vehicle was the perfect automobile to run in all terrains and conditions on the open and back roads of Arizona and Utah.

For information on next year's Copperstate visit www.copperstate1000.com or call 602-307-2007.

1970 Alpine Renault — Mitch McCullough
1959 Jaguar MK IX Saloon — Dick and Kathy Hile
1925 Bugatti Type 35A — David and Marianne Duthu
1967 Ferrari 330 GTC — Harley and Colette Cluxton



HOWARD KOBY graduated with honors from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. He has been a photographer and automotive journalist for 30 years out of his Los Angeles studio, specializing in editorial, advertising and automotive photography. He has been published in *Hot Rod*, *AutoWeek*, *Road & Track*, *Car and Driver*, *Jaguar Journal*, *Forza*, and *50 Years of Road & Track* (MBI Publishing). He is a contributor to *Auto Aficionado* and *Vintage Motorsport Magazines*. Howard serves on the Advisory Committee in the Transportation Design Department at Art Center College of Design (once chaired by Ken Okuyama, creator of the Ferrari Enzo). His writing and photography have covered such topics as the Copperstate 1000, Barrett-Jackson Auction, the Pebble Beach Concours d'Élegance and more. Howard is author of the books *Top Fuel Dragsters of the 1970s Photo Archive*, released in 2004, and *Pro Stock Drag Racing of the 1970s Photo Archive: From Stockers to DoorSlammers (Photo Archive)*, released in 2005. Both are available at amazon.com.



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QUIZ : CAR SMARTS



1. What share of new car loans are subprime loans to people with poor credit ratings?
a. 5.2 percent b. 9.1 percent
c. 13.0 percent d. 18.3 percent

2. Which Chrysler brand has the lowest median age buyer?
a. Chrysler b. Dodge
c. Jeep

3. Approximately what percentage of the 43,443 people killed in auto accidents in the S in 2006 were not wearing seatbelts?
a. 25 percent b. 40 percent
c. 50 percent d. 62 percent

4. Which auto manufacturer claims to be the most fuel-efficient in America?
a. Kia b. Honda
c. Toyota d. Volkswagen

5. Who got the top score in the J.D. Power and Associates Sales Satisfaction Index?
a. Lincoln b. Porsche
c. Cadillac d. Jaguar

6. What car did GM vice chairman Bob Lutz call his "perfect car" when he appeared on the National Public Radio program "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me" in May?
a. Cadillac 16
b. Chevrolet Volt
c. Holden Efijy
d. Chevrolet Camaro

7. What kind of car dealership did the writer, Kurt Vonnegut (Slaughter House Five, Breakfast of Champions, etc) have earlier in his career?
a. Volkswagen b. Toyota
c. Saab d. DeSoto

8. How many vehicles did General Motors sell worldwide in 2006?
a. 4.4 million b. 5.9 million
c. 7.5 million d. 9.1 million

9. How much was spent on limousines in the United States in 2006?
a. \$1.5 billion b. \$2.5 billion
c. \$3.5 billion d. \$4.5 billion

10. Which foreign nation is the largest source of imported automotive parts in the US?
a. Japan b. Germany
c. China

11. When was Alfa Romeo last sold in the US?
a. 1989 b. 1992
c. 1995 d. 1998

12. What is the average auto loan balance carried by American car buyers?
a. \$9,112 b. \$13,397
c. \$15,654 d. \$18,996

13. Which of the following vehicles should have the best residual based on historic retention values?
a. Jeep Wrangler
b. Chevrolet Suburban
c. Honda Accord
d. Honda CRV

14. Which US brand manufacturer had the highest average transaction price in 2006?
a. Ford
b. General Motors
c. Chrysler group

15. When will Mark Fields, Ford President of the Americas, take off the thick rubber band he has worn on his right wrist since October 2005?
a. When annual sales top 3 million
b. When Ford becomes profitable again
c. When Ford cuts expenses by 25%
d. When product lineup is totally upgraded

16. Which auto company CEO had the largest total compensation in 2006?
a. Alan Mulally — Ford
b. Tom LaSorda — DaimlerChrysler
c. Rick Wagoner — General Motors

17. Which is the only vehicle to get a four solid red circle rating (the best) in *Consumer Reports Ratings & Reliability Guide*?
a. Acura TL b. Ford Fusion
c. Honda Fit d. Infiniti M45

18. What percentage of the US population has at least one active auto loan or lease?
a. 14 percent b. 28 percent
c. 42 percent d. 56 percent

19. How many Maserati dealers are there in the US?
a. 29 dealers b. 47 dealers
c. 69 dealers d. 98 dealers

20. What car was the official pace car of the 2007 Indianapolis 500 race?
a. Mustang Ford Shelby Cobra GT500
b. Dodge Viper
c. Chevrolet Corvette Z06
d. Cadillac CTS-V

21. What is the average customer service labor rate in US dealerships?
a. \$34.75 /hour b. \$47.50 /hour
c. \$61.35 /hour d. \$83.00 /hour

22. What share of Japanese brand vehicles sold in the US in 2006 were made in Japan?
a. 12.6 percent b. 19.1 percent
c. 26.5 percent d. 31.4 percent

23. In which country were the most Roll-Royce autos sold last year?
a. United States b. Great Britain
c. China d. Japan

24. How much did hybrid vehicle sales change when comparing the first five months of 2006 with 2007?
a. Down 9 percent b. Up 8 percent
c. Up 31 percent d. Up 53 percent

25. How many hybrid vehicles has Toyota sold worldwide since 2000?
a. 500,000 b. 1 million
c. 2 million d. 3 million

26. Which car brand decreased the average base sticker price the most in 2007?
a. Volkswagen b. Subaru
c. Mercury d. Lincoln

27. What percentage of American car buyers has a monthly payment of over \$500?
a. 24 percent b. 33 percent
c. 42 percent d. 51 percent

28. How fast did a Bentley Continental GT go to break the world speed record on ice?
a. 169.38 mph b. 184.14 mph
c. 201.51 mph d. 213.58 mph

29. Which brand at one time advertised itself as the "Standard of the World"?
a. Lincoln b. Cadillac
c. Rolls-Royce d. Mercedes-Benz

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE >>

>ANSWERS (quiz on previous page)



1. Answer: c. According to CNW Marketing Research in Bandon, Ore. 13% of all new-car loans are the higher interest loans made to people with poor credit ratings.
2. Answer: c. According to R.L. Polk and Company data, Jeep buyers have the lowest media age for the company: 47 years old. Dodge is 50 years old. Chrysler is 57 years old.

3. Answer: c. According to preliminary Department of Transportation figures for 2006, more than half (50 percent) of the people killed in automobile accidents were not wearing a seat belt.
4. Answer: b. Honda advertising claims they are the most fuel-efficient auto company in America.
5. Answer: d. With 912 points Jaguar had the top score in the J.D. Power and Associates 2006 Sales Satisfaction Index. Cadillac – 891. Porsche and Lincoln – 889.
6. Answer: b. GM Vice Chairman Robert Lutz, when he appeared on the National Public Radio program "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me" in May, said his "perfect car" is the Chevrolet Volt. The Volt concept is a plug-in electric car that's batteries would power it for up to 40 miles. As the batteries run down an engine powered by gasoline, E85 or biodiesel would activate to charge the battery extending its range.
7. Answer: c. Writer Kurt Vonnegut was the owner and manager of Saab Cape Cod, which some sources say was the first Saab dealership in the US in the 1950s.
8. Answer: d. General Motors sold 9.1 million vehicles worldwide in 2006, with 55 percent of that total being sold outside the US.
9. Answer: d. According to the National Limousine Association about \$4.5 billion was spent on limousines in 2006
10. Answer: a. During the first three months of 2007, \$3.57 billion worth of auto parts were imported from Japan, with that nation remaining the largest supplier for US manufacturers. China moved into second with \$1.936 billion, moving ahead of Germany's \$1.934 billion.
11. Answer: c. Alpha Romeo was last sold in the US market in 1995. Plans are being made to start selling the brand here again, starting in 2010.

12. Answer: c. According to a study done by Experian Consumer Direct, the average balance of an open auto loan is \$15,654.
13. Answer: a. According to calculations based on the historic value retentions of 250 vehicles, CarGurus.com rated the Jeep Wrangler the best residual value after five-years and 65,000 miles. Residuals were: Wrangler 73.49%; Suburban 63.88%; Accord 63.49%; CR-V 61.49%.
14. Answer: b. With an average price of \$27,399, General Motors had the highest average transaction prices in 2006. Ford \$26,632. Chrysler \$25,635.
15. Answer: b. Ford President of the Americas, Mark Fields, said he would remove the thick blue rubber band from his wrist when Ford again becomes profitable.
16. Answer: a. The new president and CEO of Ford, Alan Mulally was paid \$20,834,433 in 2006. \$2 million was pay and \$18.5 million was bonus. Tom LaSorda received \$3,017,566 and GM's Rick Wagoner's checks totaled \$2,052,899.
17. Answer: a. Of the 248 vehicles listed in the latest *Consumer Reports Ratings & Reliability Guide*, the Acura TL is the only one to get four solid red circles. The ratings are for predicted reliability, owner satisfaction, accident avoidance and crash protection. The other three cars listed each had 3.5 red circles.
18. Answer: b. According to Experian Consumer Direct, 28 percent of Americans, based on 2000 Census results, has at least one auto loan or lease.
19. Answer: b. Currently there are 47 Maserati dealerships in the US, but because of increased popularity of the brand, thanks to new models, the company plans to add eight new dealerships in 2007, for a total of 55.
20. Answer: c. For the fourth consecutive year the Chevrolet Corvette was the official pace car of the Indianapolis 500 race. This year it was again the top of the line Z06 version.
21. Answer: d. According to the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Analysis Division, the average customer labor rate at a dealership is \$83 per hour.
22. Answer: a. According to the Automotive News Data Center, 12.6 percent of the Japanese-branded cars sold in the US in 2006 were imported from Japan. Increased demand and limited US plant capacity has pushed that number up for the first five months of 2007 to 13.6 percent.
23. Answer: a. The United States is still the largest consumer of the Rolls-Royce automobiles, with Britain second and China overtaking Japan for third place in 2006. A total of 800 Rolls-Royce vehicles were sold worldwide in 2006.
24. Answer: d. According to the Automotive News Data Center, hybrid sales have increased 53 percent (from 93,945 to 143,700) in the first five months of 2007 over the same 2006 period.
25. Answer: b. In June 2007, Toyota reached one million hybrids sold.
26. Answer: c. Mercury prices were lowered an average of 2.1% from May 2006 to May 2007. Volkswagen 1.1%. Subaru 1.0%. Lincoln 0.8%.
27. Answer: b. According to Experian Consumer Direct, 33 percent of the consumers in the nation has a monthly car payment of at least \$500.
28. Answer: c. In March this year, former rally champion Juha Kankkunen drove a nearly stock Bentley Continental GT to a world record 201.51 mph on a frozen lake in Finland. The previous record of 184.14 mpg was set in 1995 by a Bugatti EB110.
29. Answer: b. In the 1940's and 1950's, Cadillac advertised itself as the "Standard of the World."

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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Whether your teen has never been behind the wheel, has driving experience or has their driver's license, DrivingMBA is the only driving school with a driver training program to meet their specific needs. Don't let your teen get their driver training through trial and error. The errors are costly. They not only cost you in insurance rate increases, vehicle damage, but the most significant cost, the loss of life. Whether it is you, your teen, friends or family, even someone you don't know, a car collision can change lives forever. Make sure your teen is prepared to handle all types of driving situations.

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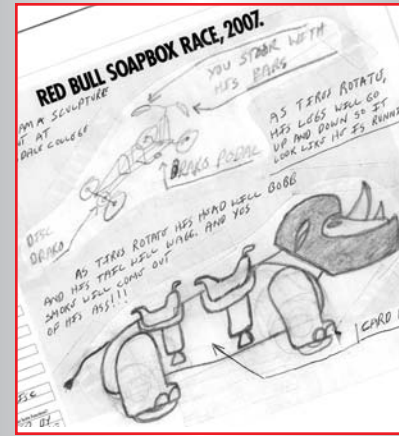
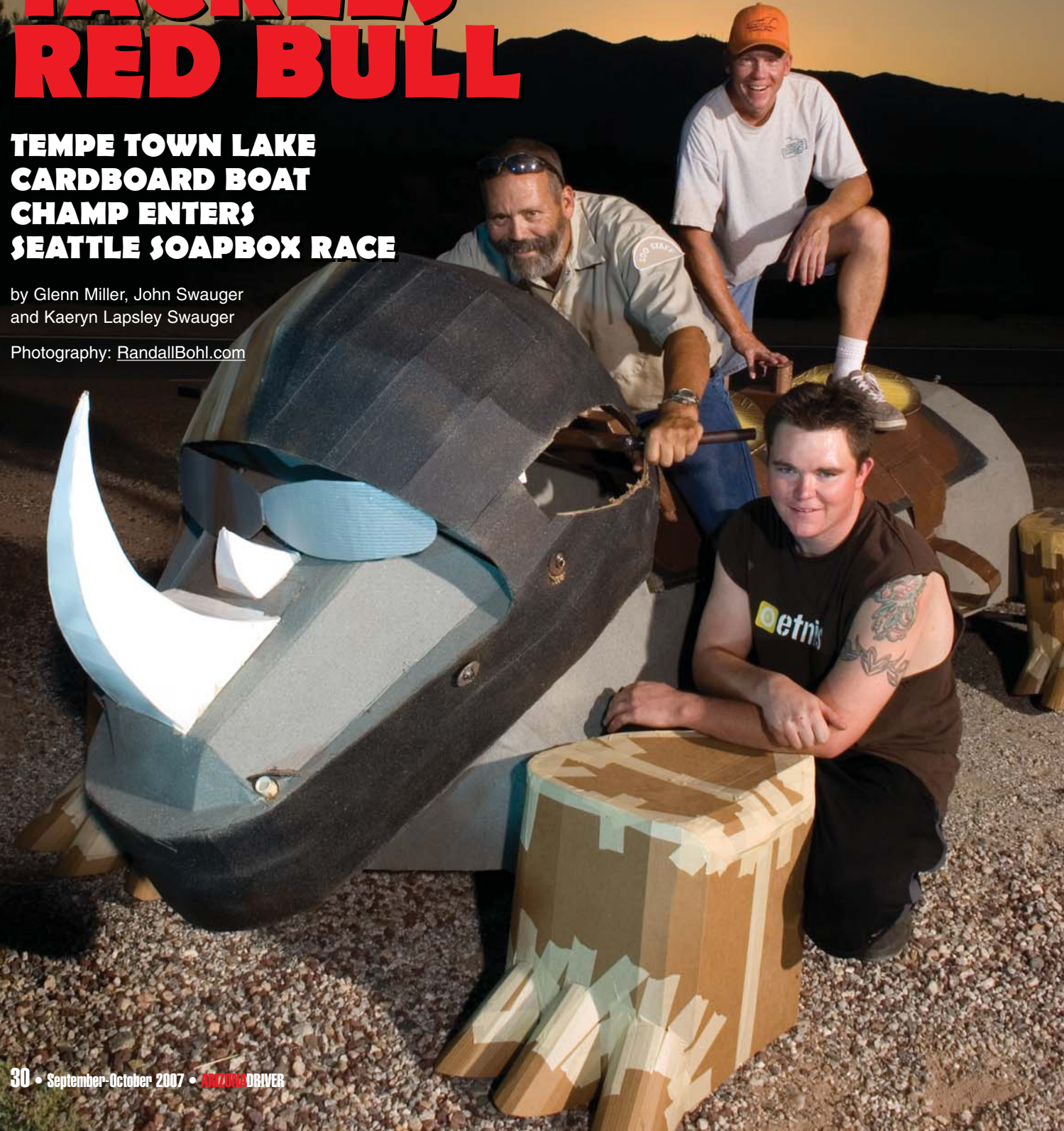
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ARIZONA RHINO TACKLES RED BULL

TEMPE TOWN LAKE CARDBOARD BOAT CHAMP ENTERS SEATTLE SOAPBOX RACE

by Glenn Miller, John Swauger and Kaeryn Lapsley Swauger

Photography: RandallBohl.com



RED BULL SOAPBOX RACE

*The only race where fast is good, outrageous is better.
Seattle: September 29, 2007*

The Emerald City will be seeing red at the start line of the Red Bull Soapbox Race in Seattle on September 29. Speed and silliness are sure to be in abundance as non-motorized racers including a baby buggy, a Mellow Tubmarine and Fremont's own landmark troll will maneuver a steep half-mile downhill course on Fremont Avenue (from 36th to 41st Streets) as they battle to beat the clock.

After poring over nearly 300 applications, 46 teams were chosen, along with a wildcard entry picked through online voting, to race their human-powered racing dream machines down the track.

How may these gearheads achieve speedway stardom? Judging is based on three criteria: speed, creativity and showmanship. So you can't just be fast... you have to be fast with flair.

FULL HOUSE

It's a good thing the Fremont neighborhood offers the freedom to be peculiar, because no ordinary racers are likely to be hitting the track on race day. The lineup in Soapbox Seattle includes TV's Bob Saget,



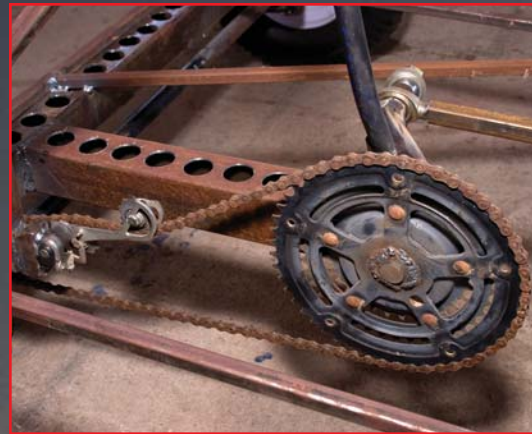
KEEP RIGHT >>



Tempe Town Lake 2004 : Photo by Glenn Miller



Tempe Town Lake 2006 : Photo by Glenn Miller



a few Elvises and even everyone's favorite childhood toy—Lincoln Logs. Teams hail from as far away as Florida and as close as the Fremont district itself. Best of all, our state will be represented by the Knuckleberry Express team from Waddell AZ.

While these auto amateurs are the latest bunch to hit the Red Bull Road, there have been many behind the wheel before them. The first Red Bull Soapbox Race took place in Belgium in 2000, and the event has since visited close to 30 countries including Austria, the United Kingdom, Jamaica, the Czech Republic and Australia, to name a few. The first US pit stop was in St. Louis in 2006.

PUMP THE BRAKES

It may be the most outrageous race around, but there are still a few rules of the road. All driving machines must be entirely human-powered—no stored power or external energy sources are allowed. All vehicles must be less than six feet wide, less than 20 feet long and reach no more than seven feet above the ground. And the craft must weigh no more than 176 pounds (not including the driver and any crew).

Obey the traffic laws and you could score big. The first place prize is an unforgettable NASCAR experience including flight and hotel for four team members. Second prize is the ultimate driving day or weekend at one of the most challenging courses in the country—where speeding will be a must! (The venue for second prize will depend partly on the home base of the winners; advantage: Arizona.) Each member of the third place team will get a day of go kart racing. (Ditto.) There will also be a People's Choice award selected on the day of the event, by the crowd's SMS voting. Don't wait for the flag to drop... get your "motor" running and start following the Red Bull Soapbox Race online: www.redbullsoapboxusa.com

THE ARIZONA SOAPBOX TEAM

TEAM NAME: Knuckleberry Express

GARAGE LOCATION: Waddell, Arizona

DRIVER: John Swauger

MECHANICS: Steven Dahho, Anton Frobenius, David Patterson, John Wallick

NUTS AND BOLTS: John Swauger really wants to ride a rhino. Specifically, a rhino named Bam Bam at the Wildlife World Zoo in Litchfield, Arizona. As a maintenance worker for the zoo, you'd think Swauger would have an in—but unfortunately his boss refuses to allow it. So he's ready to take a spin in Seattle on the next best thing: a rhino-inspired soapbox racer.

John has pulled out the tools before, winning the best of show for the past three years in the cardboard boat races at Tempe Town Lake. He has experience in dryland competition, as well, having competed in the Phoenix Jaycees' soapbox derby race—in 1973. He built the 9-foot-tall Millennium High School Tiger, located on the south end of their football field, out of rebar. And he builds way-cool AzSandRods. John is clearly very creative, and for the Red Bull Soapbox, his entry is going to be a fully-animated charging rhinoceros with two saddles on it. A sketch of the entry secured the team's spot in the event.

His excitement is evident: "Soapbox means building something wild and crazy that will put a smile on a kid's face when it passes by, and make dads everywhere holler, 'Holy crap! Did you see that thing?'"

There are a total of five people on the team. Swauger will be the pilot. Co-worker

John Wallick will be co-pilot. Swauger's son, Steven Dahho, nephew David Patterson, and army buddy Tony Frobenius will be helping to build the soapbox and push the craft down the hill. Kaeryn Lapsley Swauger takes care of gophering needs.

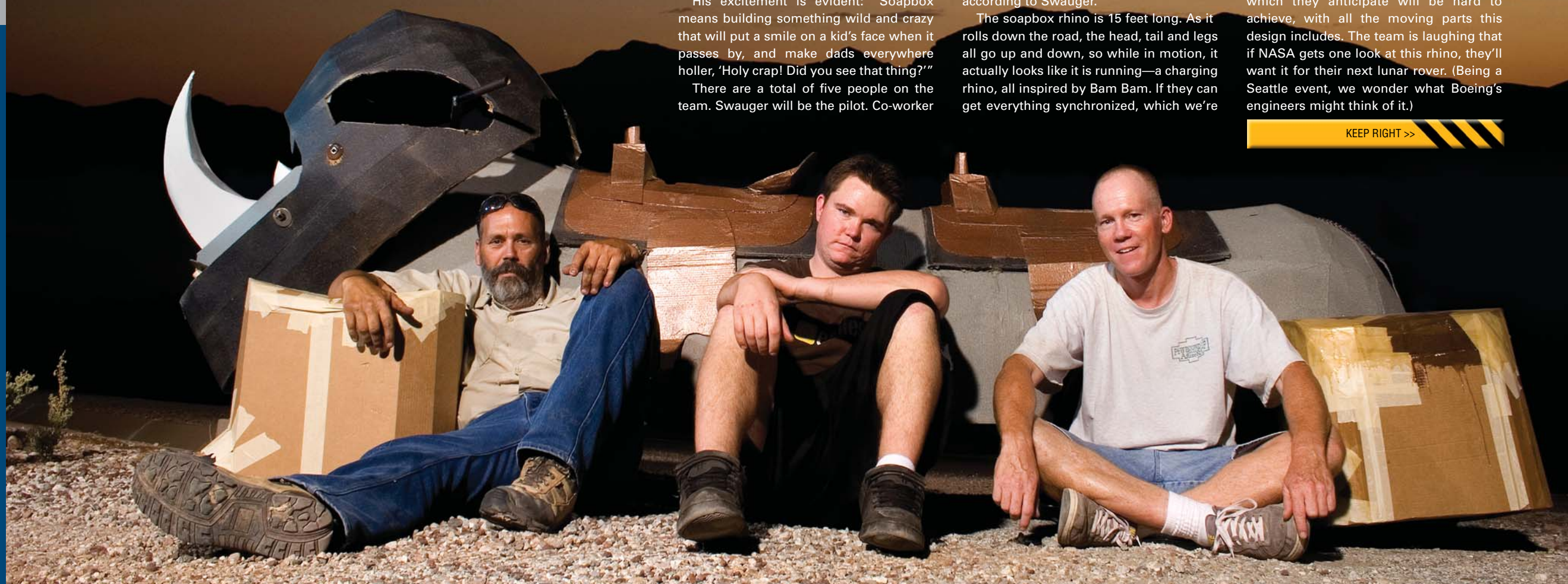
Swauger and his teammates are constructing their animalistic automobile out of steel, cardboard and fiberglass. The building process may seem a little nerve-racking when you consider the team's history of mishaps: between the five of them they've had 33 broken bones, six concussions, one finger and one leg sewn back on—"all in the name of having fun," according to Swauger.

The soapbox rhino is 15 feet long. As it rolls down the road, the head, tail and legs all go up and down, so while in motion, it actually looks like it is running—a charging rhino, all inspired by Bam Bam. If they can get everything synchronized, which we're

confident they will, this one entry should be a whole show in itself.

The rhino has two saddles, and John and John will ride it like a horse. Well, like two guys riding a horse. Swauger will be driving it and Wallick will be in the back saddle leaning left and right, so they don't flip it over through the turns. That's the plan.

As we go to press, they've started their test runs. Pulled behind Wallick's truck, they took the still-under-construction craft up to 35 mph. It had a little vibration, so they are preparing minor adjustments, shooting for 45 mph on their next test pull. The goal is 50 mph without any vibration, which they anticipate will be hard to achieve, with all the moving parts this design includes. The team is laughing that if NASA gets one look at this rhino, they'll want it for their next lunar rover. (Being a Seattle event, we wonder what Boeing's engineers might think of it.)



KEEP RIGHT >>

Knuckleberry Racing includes:

John Swauger—Captain, designer and builder of the soapbox rhino, which is modeled after his buddy (and possibly distant cousin) Bam Bam, a real rhinoceros at the Wildlife World Zoo in Litchfield, Arizona, where John works as groundskeeper and general maintenance. John has a wide range of interests and talents, including bronze sculpture, mechanics, sand rail/hotrod building, decorative iron works and just generally communing with anything on four legs, particularly mules, steers and goats.

John Wallick—Crew member and back seat driver. John is a maintenance, groundskeeper, and aquarium exhibit specialist at Wildlife World Zoo. A former mountain bike racer who now spends his time raising his family, building rock crawler Jeeps and is the owner of Tubular Creations where he builds Balldraggers custom bicycles. John dreams

of being a professional prankster.

Steven Dahho—Swauger's son and crew member. Steve currently works for UPS and is pursuing a degree in geology at ASU with the help of the GI Bill. He spent five years in the US Army as a Cavalry Scout out of Fort Hood, Texas, and 11 months in Baghdad, Iraq. He golfs, plays football, and occasionally moonlights as a bouncer for a local night club. Steve fancies himself a ladies' man and wants to change his name to McLovin.

Anton Frobenius—Crew member. (That's Fro-bee-nee-us, not flea-bite-us or free-bone-ee-us or whatever John may tell you.) Tony is the product of a mortician and a police woman and so is unfazed by much. He is also attending school: Universal Technical Institute in Phoenix, on the GI Bill. He served with Steve in Iraq and moonlights as a bartender/pizza schlepper.

Tony could be the womanizer Steve wants to be but he's too chicken to talk to any women.

David Patterson—Swauger's nephew and crew member. Strong, silent type though a little on the scrawny side. Kinda happens when you spend your days chasing wife beaters, druggies and criminals in the Arizona heat. Dave is formerly US Army and is currently a policeman with the El Mirage, Arizona, Police Department. Cows have been named after David due to both sporting the same hair-dos in their youth.

Kaeryn Lapsley Swauger—Cat lover, postal worker (ungrunted). Knuckleberry's unofficial secretary, school marm and general gopher.

We wish the team a wild and successful ride. Watch for results in our next issue. ■

**John Swauger,
Steve Dahho,
John Wallick**



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Mercedes-Benz builds green diesel

The world's most advanced diesel technology combines several innovations to minimize emissions

By Barbara and Bill Schaffer



I suppose we've made disparaging remarks about a noisy diesel pickup sitting beside us at the stop light and we've complained about the stink of a big diesel truck as we followed it down the freeway onramp.

But after spending a week in the Mercedes-Benz E320 Bluetec diesel, we are putting aside our preconceptions, and that's not an easy thing for us to do.

This new diesel is quiet, powerful, smooth and economical.

Our favorite cars have always been comfortable midsize sedans that go fast and handle like sports cars. Those are still our favorites attributes, but we have added good fuel economy to the list. The E320 has all that plus a long list of comfort and technological features.

Being a diesel doesn't mean that the E320 looks any different from any other Mercedes. It still has the same classic contemporary styling, with the freshened look that adorns the other 2007 E-Class cars. The bumper is more aggressive, the front grille and headlights have been redesigned, but in general there is no mistaking its heritage.

The sweeping curves and soft surfaces of the interior are best described as organic and elegant, with high quality materials and impeccable workmanship.

We especially like the compact design of the dash, which doesn't feel as if it's intruding into the driver's space.

The heart of the E320 is the new 3.0-liter turbocharged V-6 diesel engine that produces only 208 horsepower, but 400-lb.ft. of torque. The engine uses four-valves per cylinder, piezo-electric injectors, third-generation CDI direct injection, a variable nozzle turbocharger and exhaust gas recirculation system.

The magic that allows this engine to be one of the cleanest diesels in the world and meet the emission requirements in all but five states is the Bluetec system. By injecting a water-based Urea solution called AdBlue, the system converts nitrogen oxides into harmless nitrogen and water. The AdBlue is carried in its own small tank and metered into the exhaust in such minute quantities that this tank only needs to be refilled during routine scheduled maintenance. With a little more refinement in the Bluetec system, Mercedes-Benz expects to be able to meet the most stringent emission requirements by the 2009 model year, so the car can be sold in all 50 states.

Generally diesel engines are expensive options; however the difference between

M-B E320 BLUETEC

STANDARD EQUIPMENT

16-Inch alloy wheels; burl walnut trim; power seats with memory; Harmon-Kardon Logic 7 audio with 6-disc CD changer; cruise; all power; power tilt and telescoping wheel; garage door opener; rain sensor wipers; Tele Air Emergency Communications; Electronic Stability Program; rollover sensor and more.

Base Price: \$51,550
Options:

Pewter paint.....\$700
Panorama sunroof\$1,000
Electronic trunk closer\$520
Premium II Package (DVD navigation, Sirius Satellite Radio, heated front seats, power rear window sunshade, hands free communications system, Keyless Go, bi-xenon headlights with active curve illumination, headlight washing system)

.....\$4,290
Total Options\$6,510
Freight\$775
Price as Tested.....\$58,835

DIMENSIONS

EPA SizeMid-size
Weight.....3,860 lb.
Wheelbase112.4 in.
Length.....192.3 in.
Width.....71.7 in.
Height58.4 in.
Fuel Capacity21.1 gal.
Cargo Capacity.....15.9 cu. ft.

MECHANICAL

Engine3.0L DOHC Turbo V-6
Horsepower.....208@3800
Torque.....400@1600
Transmission7-Spd. Auto
DriveRear wheel
BrakesDisc ABS
Tires.....225/55R16

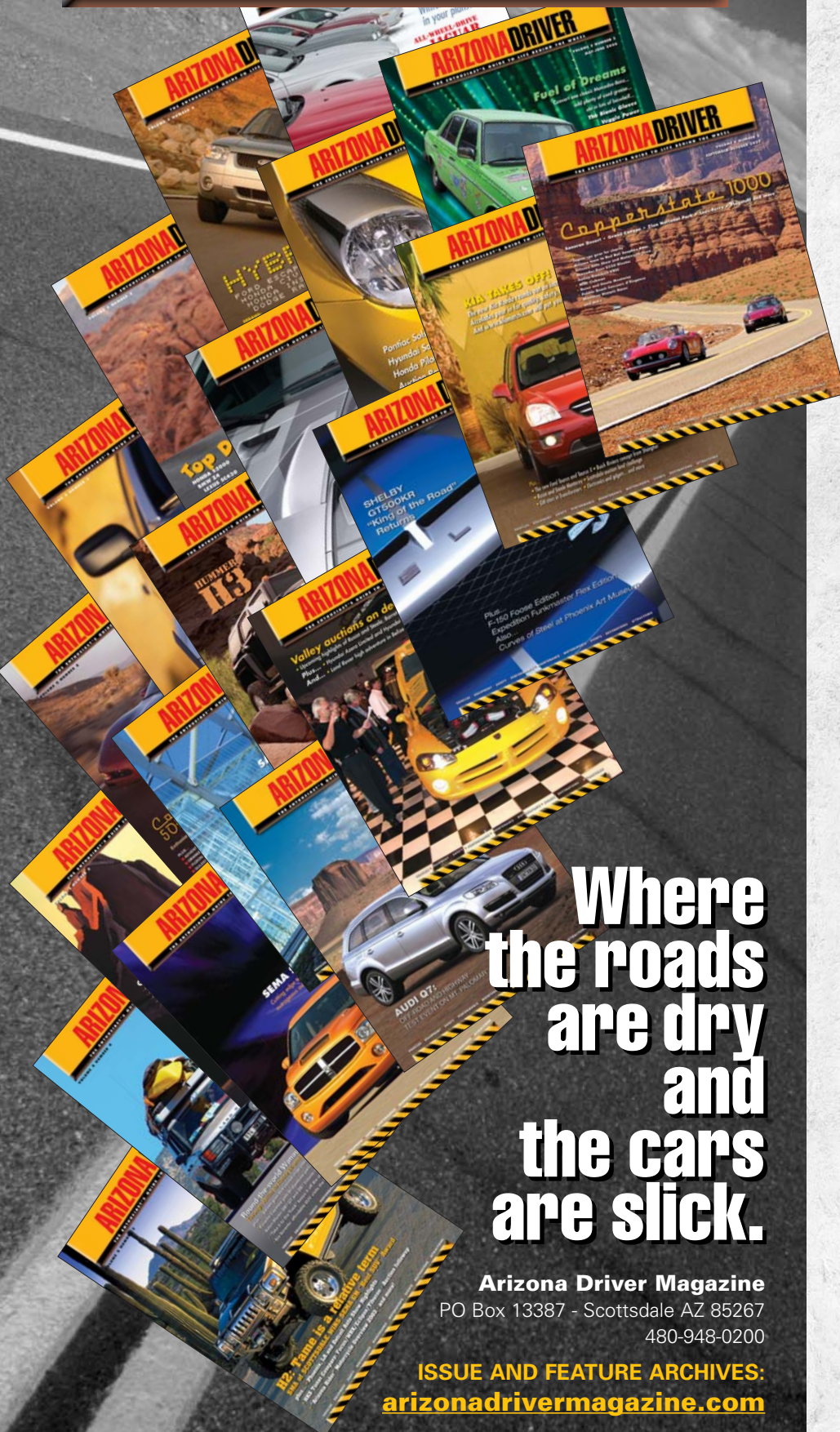
PERFORMANCE

0 to 60 mph6.6 sec.
Top speed(limited) 130 mph
EPA economy rating.....26/37 mpg
Our actual fuel economy32.7 mpg

COMPETITORS

None yet

KEEP RIGHT >>



Where the roads are dry and the cars are slick.

Arizona Driver Magazine
PO Box 13387 - Scottsdale AZ 85267
480-948-0200

ISSUE AND FEATURE ARCHIVES:
arizonadrivermagazine.com

the prices of the E350 gasoline powered Mercedes and the E320 Bluetec diesel is only \$1,000. The \$52,325 base price of the E320 diesel includes shipping and all the comfort, convenience and safety equipment Mercedes-Benz vehicles are famous for.

Our test car had three options that put the icing on the cake, so to speak: panoramic sunroof for \$1,000, electronic trunk closer for \$520, and Premium II Package (DVD navigation, Sirius Satellite Radio, heated front seats, power rear-window sunshade, hands-free communication system, Keyless Go, bi-xenon headlights with Active Curve Illumination and headlight washing system) all for \$4,290. These features brought the as-tested price to \$58,835.

Driving this diesel is fun. There is no clanking noise, although the exhaust appears to be a little more pronounced than with the gasoline counterpart. The transmission is one of our favorites, a quick shifting seven-speed automatic that allows the driver to shift manually up and down by pushing the console-mounted shifter to the right or left respectively. There is also a switch to change the shift pattern from the smooth easy comfort to a sportier mode where the transmission shifts are quicker and at a higher RPM.

Performance levels are very impressive. When you floor the accelerator, the car jumps to provide excellent passing power. The 0 to 60 mph acceleration time is 6.6 seconds, and the top speed is electronically limited to 130 mph. What sets this car apart from the crowd, however, is the fuel economy. The EPA rates it at 26 mpg for city driving and 37 mpg on the highway. Our actual average during our time behind the wheel was 32.7 mpg, and that's with us demonstrating the great acceleration to each other on every on ramp.

Being frugal, the E320 Bluetec was our kind of car. We love all the comfort and convenience of the mid-size Mercedes-Benz, while using less fuel than most so-called economy cars.

Usually there is a tradeoff between good fuel economy and performance or luxury, but the E320 gives the owner the best of both worlds. We were just as comfortable throwing this car through some sharp corners as we were cruising down the freeway at 75 mph. ■

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ARIZONA INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW



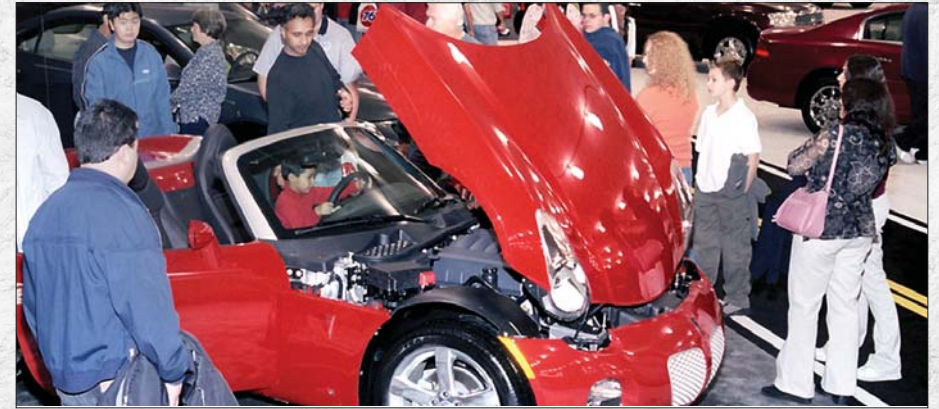
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Dreaming about a new car? Put it on your calendar now, and head to the Phoenix Convention Center in November to get your fix at the 2008 model Arizona International Auto Show—where more than 400 of the latest cars, trucks, crossovers and sport-utility vehicles will be showcased. This automotive extravaganza will give attendees an up-close look at all the

the event is \$9 for adults and \$5 for seniors (62 and older), military with ID and children (7-12). Children 6 and under are admitted free. On College Two-Fer Day, Friday, November 23, college students with valid ID who purchase one student ticket will get a second student admission free with a second student ID. On Family Day, Sunday, November 25, children 12 and under will be admitted free



newest vehicles—in a non-selling environment—including hot concept cars, luxury rides, hybrids, alternative fuel vehicles and more. Representatives from more than 30 leading manufacturers will be on site to answer questions and provide information on the latest vehicles. The Arizona International Auto Show is produced by *Motor Trend* Auto Shows, Inc. and presented by the Valley Auto Dealers Association.

when accompanied by a paying adult. For more information, visit the event online at www.AutoShowPhoenix.com

Advance E-tickets can be purchased and discount coupons can be downloaded at www.AutoShowPhoenix.com. Admission to

Thursday, November 22, 9 am – 7 pm
Friday, November 23, 9 am – 10 pm
Saturday, November 24, 9 am – 10 pm
Sunday, November 25, 9 am – 7 pm

Phoenix Convention Center
100 N. 3rd Street
Phoenix AZ 85004 ■

Harley-Davidson VRSC platform muscles up for 2008

1250cc Revolution V-Twin with slipper clutch on all models, ABS now an option

The Harley-Davidson family of VRSC premium power cruisers will pack more muscle in 2008. All three VRSC models are powered by the 1250cc Revolution liquid-cooled V-Twin engine, a powertrain originally developed for the Screamin' Eagle V-Rod and now tuned to crank out up to 125 horsepower and 85 ft.-lbs. of torque. To help harness this new-found power, a new slipper clutch is part of the powertrain. And, for the first time, all VRSC models will be available with optional Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS).

As the only Harley-Davidson platform powered by a liquid-cooled V-Twin engine, the VRSC family offers sleek, drag-bike styling and the performance of high-revving horsepower. A low seat height, stretched-out profile with 36-degree fork angle, wide rear tire and premium components like Brembo triple-disc brakes and 49 mm forks, are characteristics of each VRSC model. These are power cruisers that share the performance and technology legacy of the Screamin' Eagle / Vance & Hines drag racing team, three-time NHRA Pro Stock Motorcycle World Champions.

1250cc REVOLUTION V-TWIN ENGINE:

Originally designed for the CVO Screamin' Eagle V-Rod, bore is increased to 105 mm from 100 mm, boosting displacement from 1130 cc to 1250 cc. This engine is tuned to produce up to 125 hp at 8250 rpm and up to 85 ft.-lbs. of torque at 7000. The 60-degree Revolution V-Twin engine is liquid-cooled and features Electronic Sequential Port Fuel Injection (ESPFI), dual overhead cams, four-valve heads, and a five-speed transmission. The engine is rubber-mounted in hydroformed steel perimeter frame. A steel shell covers the large-volume airbox. A 5-gallon fuel tank is located below the seat on all VRSC models.

SLIPPER CLUTCH: All 2008 VRSC models have a new clutch with race-bred "slipper" action that helps mitigate drivetrain strain and rear-wheel lock-up during downshifting. Integral with the new clutch design is an assist feature that reduces clutch-lever effort by more than 20 percent.

OPTIONAL ABS: For the first time, each VRSC model is available with optional, factory-installed Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS). Designed to work in conjunction with the high-performance Brembo brakes on all VRSC models, this is the most advanced braking system offered on any power cruiser. ABS is designed to help the rider maintain control during emergency stopping situations, especially those that happen in less-than-ideal conditions. The components of the Harley-Davidson ABS have been designed and packaged to be virtually invisible, preserving the clean custom styling of the area around the wheels. Unlike many motorcycle ABS, Harley-Davidson ABS is a manual, independent system, meaning the rider maintains full, independent control of how much of each brake is applied.

2008 MSRP¹

VRSCAW V-Rod®

MSRP Black	\$16,695
MSRP Color	\$17,000
MSRP Two-Tone	\$17,165
MSRP Custom Color	\$17,335
MSRP 105th Anniversary Two-Tone	\$17,465

Anti-Lock Braking System Option	\$795
Electronic Sequential Port Fuel Injection (ESPFI) ..	STND
Security System Option	\$345
California Emissions	\$100
Freight ²	\$300

VRSCD Night Rod®

MSRP Black	\$14,995
MSRP Color	\$15,300
Anti-Lock Braking System Option	\$795
Chrome Engine Covers Option	\$495
Electronic Sequential Port Fuel Injection (ESPFI) ..	STND
Security System Option	\$345
California Emissions	\$100
Freight ²	\$300

VRSCDX Night Rod® Special

MSRP Two-Tone	\$16,695
Anti-Lock Braking System Option	\$795
Electronic Sequential Port Fuel Injection (ESPFI) ..	STND
Security System Option	\$345
California Emissions	\$100
Freight ²	\$300

1. 49-state only. Prices listed are the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Prices. Options such as color and fuel systems are available at additional cost. Prices exclude dealer setup, taxes, title and licensing and are subject to change.

2. Freight price applies to the 48 contiguous states and Alaska only.

VRSCAW/A V-Rod®



Descendant of the original V-Rod that helped launch the power-cruiser segment, the **VRSCAW V-Rod** rolls on a huge 240 mm rear tire, with forward controls and pull-back handlebar. The new 1250cc liquid-cooled Revolution V-Twin engine sends 121 peak horsepower and 84 ft.-lbs. of peak torque to that brawny rear tire in 2008. The Brushed Aluminum Profile Laced front wheel is new for 2008.

- NEW Liquid-cooled, 1250cc Revolution V-Twin engine
- NEW 121 hp at 8000 rpm/84 ft. lbs. torque at 7000 rpm
- NEW Slipper Clutch with reduced lever effort
- NEW optional ABS
- NEW Brushed aluminum Profile Laced 19-inch front wheel
- Machined Slotted Disc Cast Aluminum 18-inch rear wheel
- Two-tone silver and charcoal powder-coated cylinders with chrome covers
- Chrome Slash-cut Dual exhaust pipes
- 240 mm wide rear tire
- Forward controls
- Black hand controls
- Silver-leafed frame with clear coat
- Welded pull-back handlebar
- Teardrop reflector-optic headlight
- 26-inch seat height
- Optional Smart Security System

VRSCD/A Night Rod®



New Black Five Spoke Cast Aluminum wheels reinforce the dark theme of the **VRSCD Night Rod**, which features a black powdercoated 125-hp Revolution V-Twin engine with highlighted fins and polished covers, black frame, mirrors, hand controls, and other components. Mid-mount controls and highway pegs offer the rider cruising options. A limited-edition, serialized VRSCAW V-Rod 105th Anniversary Edition will be available in 2008.

- NEW Liquid-cooled, 1250cc Revolution V-Twin engine
- NEW 125 hp at 8250 rpm/85 ft. lbs. torque at 7000 rpm
- NEW Slipper Clutch with reduced lever effort
- NEW optional ABS
- NEW 18-inch Black Five Spoke Cast Aluminum rear/19-inch front wheel
- Black powder-coated engine with highlighted fins and polished covers
- Chrome, Straight-shot Dual exhaust
- 180 mm rear tire
- Mid-mount controls with highway pegs
- Black mirrors, hand controls and springs
- Black powder-coated frame
- Adjustable handlebar
- Round reflector-optic headlight
- Color-matched speed screen visor
- 26-inch seat height
- Optional Smart Security System

VRSCDX/A Night Rod® Special



The **VRSCDX Night Rod Special** is even darker and nastier than the Night Rod. Features include drag bars and forward controls, an all-black 125-hp Revolution V-Twin engine and more blacked-out components, including the fork legs and a wide swing arm supporting a beefy 240 mm rear tire. Brushed Straight-shot Dual mufflers have black end caps and heat shields. A contrasting racing stripe paint scheme traces the length of the bike. The 25.2-inch seat height makes Night Rod Special the lowest VRSC model.

- NEW Liquid-cooled, 1250 cc Revolution V-Twin engine
- NEW 125 hp at 8250 rpm/85 ft. lbs. torque at 7000 rpm
- NEW Slipper Clutch with reduced lever effort
- NEW optional ABS
- Black powder-coated engine with highlighted fins and black covers
- Brushed Straight-shot Dual exhaust with black end caps and exhaust covers
- 240 mm wide rear tire
- Forward controls
- Blacked-out mirrors, rear shocks and controls
- Black steel frame
- Drag-style handlebar
- Round reflector-optic headlight
- Color-matched speed screen visor
- Black Machined Slotted Disc Cast Aluminum 18-inch rear/19-inch front wheels with orange pin striping
- Contrasting racing stripe paint scheme
- 25.2-inch seat height
- Optional Smart Security System

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The Cycle World International Motorcycle Show® presented by Toyota will kick off a 13-city nationwide series at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale in late October. This show offers attendees a close look at hundreds of 2008 model street bikes, dirt bikes, cruisers, ATVs, concept bikes, customs, vintage bikes and more.

answer questions and provide information on the latest motorcycles. For the 15th consecutive year, Cycle World, the world's largest motorcycle magazine, will be the title sponsor for the series and Toyota will return as presenting sponsor. Progressive Motorcycle Insurance will once again be the official product sponsor. The Cycle World International Motorcycle Shows®



New this year will be a collection of historical speed record bikes, including the world's fastest motorcycle that will be on display. Additionally, enthusiasts of all ages will have the opportunity to try out the latest gear, aftermarket accessories and experience the action-packed entertainment. From cool custom choppers and tricked out sportbikes to everything off-road, this show offers something for everyone. Held in conjunction with Big Twin West, promoting custom bike building, accessories and services, this motorcycle extravaganza is one of the largest custom bike shows in the country.

Representatives from more than 17 manufacturers including Aprilia, BMW, Buell, Ducati, Harley Davidson, Honda, Husqvarna, Kawasaki, KTM, Moto Guzzi, MV Agusta, Piaggio, Star, Suzuki, Vespa, Victory and Yamaha will be on site to

presented by Toyota is Fueled by Advanstar, the leading provider of integrated media solutions to the automotive aftermarket, off-road and powersports industries (www.advanstar.com).

Admission to the event is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 6-11. Children 5 and under are admitted free.

Advance tickets are available online at www.motorcycleshows.com or by calling 800-331-5706.

**Friday, October 26, 2 pm – 9 pm
Saturday, October 27, 9:30 am – 8 pm
Sunday, October 28, 9:30 am – 5 pm**

**University of Phoenix Stadium
One Cardinals Drive
Glendale AZ 95305 ■**



www.classiccarcommunity.com

Joseph Montenegro is the same person that we all are. The classic car fanatic. The classic car enthusiast. The classic car hobbyist. The classic car collector. He is the 16-year-old son who got his first classic car from his father, a 1967 Mustang Convertible. He is the college student who helped restore a 1967 Fairlane Convertible, a 1970 Charger R/T with a 440 6 pack, a 1970 Barracuda Convertible, a 1966 Mercury Cyclone Comet GT Indy Pace Car and a 1963 Lincoln Continental. He is the husband with the most understanding wife who is currently restoring a 1971 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme. He has loved every classic car that dominated this earth.

After all the cars he has worked on, all the summers he spent interning at restoration shops, all the knuckles he wrecked using crappy tools, nothing frustrated Joseph more than not finding the parts he needed or being scammed by poor craftsmen. He has created classiccarcommunity.com to help all enthusiasts come and join the club, join the community and join the fun. Share your stories, your dreams, your tricks of the trade, and your fabulous craftsman to your fellow enthusiasts. Imagine a site where you can go to get quick answers to that pesky ground short in your 1971 Buick. Or learn how to fine tune your Pontiac. And finally log on, select your city and find a terrific body shop for a great price.

Find answers to your questions. Finish that project in the backyard. Post pictures of your classic ride and show the journey it took. The site's vision is to build a community of dealer networks, local shops, local clubs and friendly gatherings, the great contacts that are needed to get the job done. Classiccarcommunity.com invites you to help build the community and build your classic car network. ■



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Arizona

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Park Service - Arizona
http://www.nps.gov/state/az

Grand Canyon National Park
PO Box 129 • Grand Canyon AZ 86023
923-638-7888 Visitor Info Recorded Message

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
10 Organ Pipe Drive • Ajo AZ 85321-9626
520-387-6849 Visitor Information

Petrified Forest National Park
PO Box 2217
Petrified Forest National Park AZ 86028
928-524-66228 Visitor Information

Saguaro National Park
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
520-733-5153 Visitor Info Rincon Mtn District

Wupatki National Monument
Flagstaff Area National Monuments
6400 N. Hwy 89 • Flagstaff AZ 86004
928-679-2365 Visitor Information
928-526-1157 Visitor Information, HQ

PARKS AND OUTDOORS

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

Lake Havasu State Park
699 London Bridge Dr. • Lake Havasu AZ 86403
928-855-2784

TOURISM - LODGING - EVENTS

Travel Sites To Be Seen
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www.thecanyon.com
www.flagstaff.com
www.prescott.com
www.scottsdale-phoenix.net

Greater PHX Convention & Visitors Bureau
400 E. Van Buren Street, Suite 600 • PHX 85004
877-CALLPHX • 602-254-6500 • phoenixcvb.com

Nevada

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

Las Vegas Tourism Bureau
6120 W. Tropicana Ave. • Las Vegas NV
www.lasvegastourism.com

AUTOMOTIVE

Imperial Palace Auto Collections
Imperial Palace • Las Vegas NV
702-794-3174 • imperialpalace.com/auto.html

National Automobile Museum
Harrah Collection • 10 Lake Street South • Reno
775-333-9300 • www.automuseum.org

California

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Park Service - California
http://www.nps.gov/state/ca

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

Disneyland
Anaheim • 714-781-4565 • www.disneyland.com

Palm Desert Visitor Information Center
72-567 Highway 111 • Palm Desert CA 92260
800-873-2428 • www.palm-desert.org

San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau
2215 India Street • San Diego CA 92101
800-359-6205 • www.sandiego.org/nav/Visitors

AUTOMOTIVE

Petersen Automotive Museum
6060 Wilshire Blvd. (at Fairfax) • LA CA 90036
323-930-CARS • www.petersen.org

New Mexico

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

New Mexico Department of Tourism
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8380 Cerrillos Rd. Suite 302 • Santa Fe NM 87507
505-983-7317 • www.santafechamber.com

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505-984-21221 • www.innonthealameda.com

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Park Service - Utah
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PARKS AND OUTDOORS

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TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

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800-777-8642 • www.coloradoinfo.com

AUTOMOTIVE

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303-516-9565 • .shelbyamericancollection.org

Mexico

RESORTS AND LODGING

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TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

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www.hfmgv.com • 313-271-1620

Imperial Palace Auto Collections (see Nev.)

Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum
Pickerington OH 43147
www.motorcyclemuseum.org • 614-856-2222

National Automobile Museum (see Nev.)

National Corvette Museum
350 Corvette Drive • Bowling Green KY 42101
www.corvettemuseum.com • 800-53VETTE

Petersen Automotive Museum (see Calif.)

Shelby American Collection (see Colorado)



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BIG MINI...

The car that reintroduced America to "small"... goes long

The wraps are now off the new MINI Clubman. On sale in Europe this November will be three model configurations: the MINI Cooper Clubman, the MINI Cooper D Clubman and the MINI Cooper S Clubman. In the US market the MINI Cooper Clubman and the MINI Cooper S Clubman will be available early next year. Although US pricing has yet to be announced, the MINI Clubman is expected to be positioned between the MINI hardtops and MINI convertibles.

The MINI Clubman is clearly a MINI from every angle. Yet it is distinguished by a split-rear-door design and longer proportions. The rear doors are further highlighted with the C-pillars in contrasting silver or black. Inside, an enlarged luggage area may be further extended in flexible configurations, offering convenient loading, especially with the addition of those two rear doors. In addition, a "Clubdoor" on the right side swings to the rear, increasing access to the back seats. Rear seat passengers enjoy 3.15 inches more legroom compared to the MINI hardtop.

MINI pitches the Clubman as the modern successor to legendary classics—the Morris Mini Traveller, Austin Mini Countryman, and Mini Clubman Estate.

At launch, the MINI Clubman will be available with three engine variants:

- The MINI Cooper S Clubman, powered by a 1.6-litre four-cylinder with twin-scroll turbocharger, direct gasoline injection and maximum output of 175 hp at 5500 rpm.

- The MINI Cooper Clubman, with a 1.6-litre four-cylinder with 120 hp at 6,600 rpm and featuring fully variable valve management for performance and economy.

- The MINI Cooper D Clubman with a high-torque, low-emission diesel engine; however, this for Europe only, for now.

Despite its longer proportions, the MINI Clubman retains MINI's "wheels at the four corners" stance and the legendary go-kart feeling of the familiar MINI. The chassis and suspension are specifically reengineered, with front McPherson struts and springs for excellent wheel control, keeping the steering smooth in control and responsive. The suspension is further tuned to expertly manage the dynamic affects of engine power under acceleration or when applying

the brakes. A central-arm rear axle benefits from BMW Group's engineering and development, and the rear suspension is unique in the MINI segment, with lightweight aluminum longitudinal control arms and anti-roll bars for sporty and stable handling. On the MINI Cooper S Clubman the suspension is tuned to the vehicle's additional power. The MINI Cooper Clubman comes with 15-inch wheels, while the MINI Cooper S Clubman features 16-inch rims with runflat tires, allowing the driver to continue even after a complete loss of tire pressure.

Speed-sensitive EPAS Electrical Power Assisted Steering is precise, while also providing significant weight reduction over conventional hydraulics, electrically generating power-assist only as needed, further increasing vehicle efficiency.

The sport-tuned characteristics of the MINI Clubman are supported by an array of braking and traction management technology—anti-lock brake control (ABS), Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD),

Cornering Brake Control (CBC) and Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) including hill start-off assistance—all standard. In addition, a Brake Assistant recognizes emergency application of the brakes and immediately builds maximum brake pressure in panic situations.

Although not available on US models at the time of launch, a Brake Energy Regeneration feature ensures that output from the engine is converted primarily into drive power, with electricity generated for the on-board network only when the engine's drive power is not in demand, for example when the car is rolling freely in overrun (engine braking) or during application of the brakes. To achieve this effect, the alternator is automatically disengaged from the engine while under power, that is when accelerating and pulling the car. Accordingly, the power that the alternator would consume and take away from the engine in the conventional mode now remains fully available for even more efficient and dynamic acceleration.

Adequate electric energy to the on-board system is ensured at all times, since the alternator is activated again as soon as the engine's drive power is not in demand or the driver applies the brakes.

The MINI Cooper S Clubman, MINI Cooper Clubman, and MINI Cooper D Clubman are all equipped standard with a six-speed manual gearbox. A six-speed automatic is available as an option, featuring a sport-tuned manual mode that allows the driver to select gears by means of paddles on the steering wheel.

A new Auto Start Stop feature on manual gearbox versions of the MINI Clubman also serves to improve efficiency by switching off the engine in idling situations. (This option also will not be available for US models at launch.) Whenever the car comes to a stop, Auto Start Stop automatically switches off the engine as soon as the driver shifts to neutral and takes his or her foot off the clutch pedal. To restart the engine, all the driver has to do is press down the clutch pedal again and

KEEP RIGHT >>





the engine restarts automatically without delay. Auto Start Stop helps to maximize fuel efficiency in city traffic, essentially reducing consumption of energy and generation of exhaust emissions to zero in a very simple way every time the car comes to a stop.

A gearshift point indicator, standard on manually equipped models, advises the most efficient style of driving. An electronic control unit continually analyzes engine speed, driv-

ing conditions and gas pedal position, and calculates the most efficient style of driving relative to the gear selected. The system then alerts the driver when a gearshift is recommended to maintain optimum efficiency.

The three versions of the MINI Clubman are identical to their MINI hardtop brethren in their design and body structure up to the B-pillar. Up front, iconic design elements include the characteristic large round

headlights, round corner lights, and the hexagon radiator grille. In addition, a chrome trim band extends around the entire car at shoulder level.

The MINI Clubman offers more than 40 combinations of exterior paintwork, enhanced by a wide range of accessories, options and special equipment geared specifically to the MINI Clubman. A perfect example of this is "Hot Chocolate," a brown metallic color exclusive to the MINI Clubman. In all, the MINI Clubman is available in 12 body colors—three non-metallic colors Chili Red, Pepper White and Mellow Yellow, as well as metallic colors Astro Black, Sparkling Silver, British Racing Green, Pure Silver, Lightning Blue, Nightfire Red, Dark Silver, Laser Blue and of course, Hot Chocolate.

Inside, the customer can combine four interior colors and five Color Line variants with one another as desired. The seats are available in standard upholstery, a combination of cloth and leather or all-leather upholstery in a variety of styles and colors. In addition to two standard interior trim choices, customers can choose optional English Oak, Piano Black, Fluid Silver and Brushed Alloy.

The MINI Clubman measures the same in width and is hardly any higher than the MINI hardtop. The design features new renditions of classical design elements inspired by the classics from the '60s. The rear end is intended to be elegant, clear and very graphic, accentuating a compact rear look for this larger new model. ■



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60 Years of Valley Hitch

Valley now produces over 400 styles of hitch, made in the USA

In 1947, a small company in California's Central Valley began manufacturing trailer hitches as a way to help farmers get their crops to market. Their goal was to find safer, more efficient means of connecting a trailer to a tow vehicle. Sixty years later, Valley, a division of Thule Towing Systems North America, produces over 400 hitch styles. Over time, Valley's product line expanded to include trailer balls, tow hooks, weight-distributing, 5th wheel and gooseneck hitches, a complete line of wiring products and brake controllers as well as other items—such as their new line of Power Pull™ Xtreme Series hitches for heavy-duty applications—that answered the increasingly sophisticated demands of the modern driver. Business doubled—and continued to double—and soon distribution grew to include all 48 contiguous states, as well as many successful partnerships with original equipment manufacturers (OEM). In 1991, Valley opened a manufacturing operation in Madison Heights, Michigan, to focus on the growing OEM portion of its business. Strategically positioned, Valley was now located closer to much of its OEM customer base, to better service their needs.

Eight years later, the Madison Heights OEM division was renamed Valley Automotive, while the aftermarket segment continued to operate under its original name—Valley Industries—with administrative, manufacturing and warehouse offices in Lodi, California.

Today, Valley operates as a natural extension of Thule, the world leader in Sports Utility Transportation (acquisition completed in September 2006). Valley towing systems represent

a new product segment in the Thule business model which offers transportation solutions for active consumers wanting to transport their gear by vehicles safely, easily and in style.

Visit www.valley.us.com ■

At just over 10 years in the biz, Valley produced the above catalog in 1958. An early Valley hitch on this 1955 Ford Country Squire wagon, left, is displayed at the Smithsonian Institution.



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Pickup owners with a spray-on or drop-in bedliner can now add the protection and comfort of a BedRug® to their trucks. Like the standard BedRug, the BedRug Mat from Wise Industries, Inc., is made of rugged polypropylene fiber bonded to a bottom layer of polypropylene foam. It is gas, oil, bleach and acid resistant, easy on the knees and easily cleaned with a garden hose, vacuum or pressure washer. It looks and feels just like plush carpet, enhancing any pickup. The BedRug Mat for spray-on bedliners retails from \$129 to \$169 depending on truck make and model. An optional tailgate section is \$49. BedRug Mat for drop-in liners retails from \$89 to \$114. Visit www.bedrug.com ■



Tundra Utility Cap

A.R.E. Deluxe Commercial Unit

Leading truck cap and tonneau cover manufacturer A.R.E. has created a version of its popular Deluxe Commercial Unit (DCU) for the 2007 Toyota Tundra (all cab and box configurations). Options include roof racks, various toolbox configurations, a selection of window and door sizes and a polyester fabric liner designed to prevent interior condensation. Units are available in 23, 26, 29 and 36-inch heights. Strattec® OEM automotive grade lock cylinders in folding T-handles on all doors protect valuables, and cam action deadbolt lock rods with a center point lock provide trouble-free operation. Three-year warranty on materials and workmanship. Visit www.4are.com ■

HOT AUCTION FEVER ON THE COOL NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST

Photos by Alan Grinberg and Joe Sage

August in Phoenix is a great time for a collector car auction—in Monterey. Russo and Steele Collector Automobile Auctions, known for their high profile event in north Scottsdale each January, has run another auction in Monterey for seven years now, coinciding with the Monterey Historic Races and Pebble Beach Concours d'Élegance.

The winning Russo and Steele formula is the same—painstakingly careful jurying of entrants, the knowledge and personal touches of auction chief Drew Alcazar, the catered hospitality of partner and bride Josephine, and an intimate auction-in-the-round venue, where everyone is in the midst of the excitement.

This year featured half a dozen cars from the very large muscle car collection of Baseball Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson, and we had a chance to review those with Reggie in person before the opening gala.

The auction opened with rock'n'roll, film and celebrity memorabilia. In the first minutes of any auction, with some heavy hitters still arriving, there are often bargains. A Princess Diana autograph, valued at \$4000, went for just \$525. But within an hour, a Pink Floyd-autographed Fender Stratocaster sold for \$7000.

Similarly, the third car on Friday evening, a 1965 Mustang fastback, sold for just \$16,500, and the first on Saturday, a TVR coupe, for \$8500. Both were top quality. We wished we'd signed up to bid.

It didn't take long for things to heat up, though—within about an hour a '64 E-Type Jaguar fetched \$102,500. From there, things went higher... including a 1973 Lamborghini Miura P400 SV for a record-breaking \$962,500 and a 1954 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL for a record \$764,500. In all, the auction grossed over \$10 million in sales, with a 62% sales rate.

This year, Russo and Steele allowed reserve price consignments for the first time. Drew explains the decision: "The market has spoken clearly that the all no reserve sale has now compromised the integrity of the auction forum and no long has value. Russo and Steele continues to exceed the standard by offering our clients the option of reserve. This added feature resulted in higher quality consignments and builds infinitely more equity in our relationships. We are thrilled with the results being a true indicator of the market place; free and unencumbered by previously perpetuated stigmas."

You can find complete auction results at www.russoandsteele.com



Pebble Beach Concours... 57 years... 190 cars... \$200 million

Photos by Alan Grinberg and Joe Sage

The 18th fairway at the historic Pebble Beach Golf Links® is open 364 days a year. On day 365, one of golf's most scenic and challenging holes is transformed for the Pebble Beach Concours d'Élegance. The Concours debuted in 1950, a low-key affair with about 30 cars. Fifty-seven years later, the event has grown to exhibit almost 200 of the rarest, most valuable vehicles in existence.

Automotive entries in the Pebble Beach Concours are by invitation only. In fact, many collectors spend years and hundreds of thousands of dollars restoring a car in hopes of being chosen to participate.

From prewar classics to postwar treasures, the Concours assembles a stylish mix while highlighting certain marques, this year featuring Aston Martin and the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg (A-C-D) group. A historic hot rod class celebrated the 75th anniversary of the iconic '32 Ford, the "10-plus Club" focused on cars with displacement of 10 liters or more, and for the first time, a preservation class was added. About two dozen classes competed, with vehicles from 30 states and 12 countries.

Cars first compete by class, for excellence of restoration, mechanical condition and authenticity. Cars that achieve Best of Class then compete for Best of Show, evaluating styling, design and elegance.

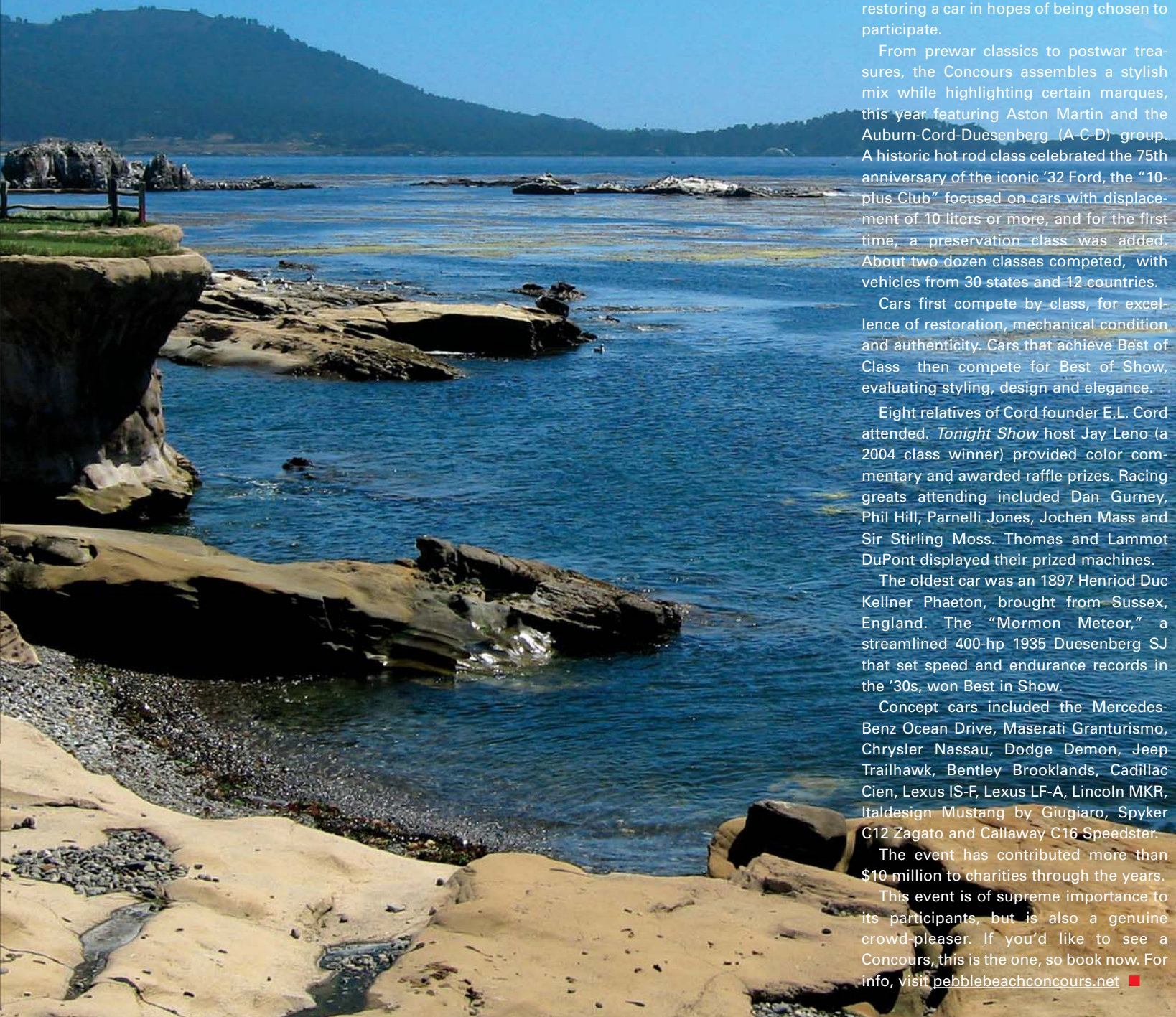
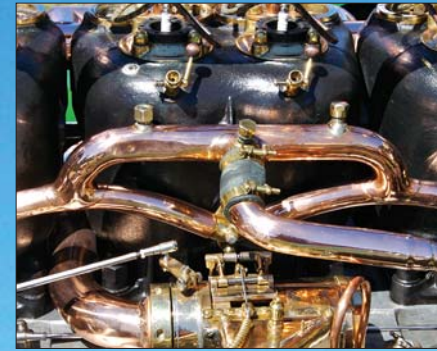
Eight relatives of Cord founder E.L. Cord attended. *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno (a 2004 class winner) provided color commentary and awarded raffle prizes. Racing greats attending included Dan Gurney, Phil Hill, Parnelli Jones, Jochen Mass and Sir Stirling Moss. Thomas and Lamot DuPont displayed their prized machines.

The oldest car was an 1897 Henriod Duc Kellner Phaeton, brought from Sussex, England. The "Mormon Meteor," a streamlined 400-hp 1935 Duesenberg SJ that set speed and endurance records in the '30s, won Best in Show.

Concept cars included the Mercedes-Benz Ocean Drive, Maserati Granturismo, Chrysler Nassau, Dodge Demon, Jeep Trailhawk, Bentley Brooklands, Cadillac Cien, Lexus IS-F, Lexus LF-A, Lincoln MKR, Italdesign Mustang by Giugiaro, Spyker C12 Zagato and Callaway C16 Speedster.

The event has contributed more than \$10 million to charities through the years.

This event is of supreme importance to its participants, but is also a genuine crowd-pleaser. If you'd like to see a Concours, this is the one, so book now. For info, visit pebblebeachconcours.net



50 YEARS OF RACING AND A 50-YEAR REPEAT WINNER AT MAZDA RACEWAY LAGUNA SECA

Photos: Joe Sage

The Monterey Historic Races kicked off on Thursday, August 16, when Al Unser Sr., Bobby Rahal, Parnelli Jones, Emerson Fittipaldi and other drivers took a practice run for the Legends of Motorsport on Saturday, which honored Indy's Roadster Era, champion drivers and the host racetrack, established in 1957 and celebrating its 50th anniversary.

On Thursday, the media got a sneak preview of the Indy Roadsters during a feature photo line-up, as 33 Roadsters turned the track in preparation for the weekend races. Also on Thursday, Pete Lovely, winner of the first main event at Laguna Seca in November 1957, was honored as an inductee into the Legends of Laguna Seca, with a presentation by Monterey Mayor Chuck Della Sala.

The 400 cars participating in the Rolex Monterey Historic were divided into 14 groups based on age and engine size, selected for their history, interest and current state of presentation. The cars dated from 1914 (Mercer) to 1981 (Porsche 935K4). Porsche, Ferrari, Lotus, Corvette, McLaren and Shelby led with the number of entries. A team of nine pre-War Bentleys arrived from England for the event.

The 14 races were split with seven groups racing Saturday and seven on Sunday. Qualifying practice sessions were held on Friday.

Friday featured the Ferrari Historic Challenge races, with historically significant Ferraris, Maseratis and Alfa Romeos that have contributed to the racing heritage of Ferrari today. A display by Ferrari Classiche and a gathering of Ferrari F40s, celebrating its 20th anniversary, highlighted event activities. Pete Lovely was honored again, as his 1957 victory had been in a Ferrari 500TR.

Toyota hosted the inaugural Race of Legends on Saturday, in which drivers holding championships from nearly every level of racing, including Formula One, the Indy 500 and the 24 Hours of LeMans, competed in an eight-lap charity race, driving 215 hp Scion tC sport coupes. The field included Bobby Unser, Al Unser Sr., Johnny Rutherford, Bobby Rahal, Parnelli Jones, Vic Elford, Emerson Fittipaldi, Ove Andersson and Derek Bell.

History repeated itself on Saturday with a win by Pete Lovely, 50 years after taking the first-ever win at the track in 1957. Driving his 1959 Lotus 11 in the class of 1955-1960 sports racing cars under 2500cc, Lovely, of Tacoma, Washington, held off Jim Lawrence from Lafayette, California, in his 1958 Lotus 15.

The Rolex Monterey Historic Automobile Races is "an automotive museum brought to life," and is the largest event, with over 40,000 visitors, of the renowned classic car weekend each August in Monterey. For more information, visit www.laguna-seca.com. Speed TV will televise the Rolex Monterey Historic Races on September 30th at 6pm EDT. ■



Photo: Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca



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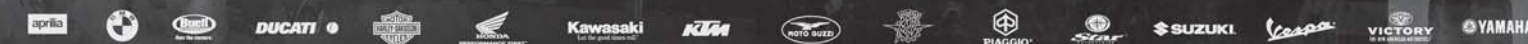


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THE INSIDE TRACK: BRIEFS & RUMORS



Audi R8

■ The upcoming **Audi R8** supercar is expected to be so popular, dealers are afraid of opportunists buying cars and then selling them at inflated prices. In an effort to prevent so-called "car flipping," dealers are planning to have R8 purchasers sign a buy-back agreement that gives the dealership the right to buy back the used R8 when the owner wants to sell it. Ferrari has been using a similar program to protect the integrity of its pricing of rare, high demand models.

■ **Piaggio** is selling a new liquid-cooled 250-cc engine, three-wheel scooter called the MP3. With two articulating wheels in the front, the \$6,999 MP3 is more stable and safer than traditional scooters.

■ **Mercedes-Benz** is expected to offer more diesel engine options soon. In addition to the 3.2-liter Bluetec in the E-Class sedan and coming soon to the GL and ML SUVs, a 2.2-liter 4-cylinder Bluetec diesel has been approved for the C-Class sedan and a new upcoming smaller SUV designed to compete with the BMW X3.

■ **Chrysler Group** is offering a lifetime full-powertrain warranty on all new 2006, 2007 and 2008 Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep vehicles. The existing three-year/36,000-mile basic limited warranty will remain to cover the rest of the vehicle. Vehicles with a diesel engine or one of the SRT high-performance packages will be excluded from the program and will keep their existing warranty package.

■ **Honda** will drop the Accord V-6 hybrid after the 2007 model year due to slow sales. First introduced in the fall of 2004 as a performance car, the Accord was fast and economical accelerating from 0 to 60 mph in just 6.7 seconds and getting an EPA fuel economy rating of 28 mpg for city driving and

35 mpg on the highway. The hybrid was also the most expensive Accord with its \$33,685 price tag, including destination charge. Honda says hybrid buyers are looking for economy.

■ **Audi** has started its own Internet TV channel to provide viewers with original programming about culture, sport, lifestyle and technology. Audi has produced its own magazine programs in HDTV quality for play 24 hours a day. Check out www.audi.com/tv.

■ **Hummer** will offer a crew-cab pickup version of the H3 (H3T) in 2008 as a 2009 model. Like the wagon in the front, the rear cargo area will be a 4 foot wide by



Hummer H3T

4.5-foot long cargo bed. There will be several choices of lockable cargo boxes. Engine choices include a 295-hp V-8 and 242-hp inline five-cylinder.

■ **BMW** will build a crossover based on the 3 Series by 2010. Few details are known about the vehicle, which is expected to be called the F3, other than it will be rear wheel drive, with optional four-wheel drive xDrive and components from the next-generation X3. The engines will likely be the same lineup of 4- and 6-cylinder gas and diesel engines used in the current 3 Series vehicles.

■ **Ford** will have a new small front-wheel drive sedan for sale in the US starting in 2009 or 2010. The four-door is being developed from the Mazda2 platform for the US market, while 3- and 5-door versions will be sold in other



Mazda2

markets. The front-wheel drive, which will be smaller than the current Ford Focus, may be called the Fiesta.

■ **Audi** has plans to enter even more automotive niches by adding a total of 15 new products by 2015. First up will be the Q5 SUV designed to compete with the BMW X3 and set to debut at the Detroit auto show in January. A smaller Q3, patterned after the Cross Coupe Quattro concept from the Shanghai show in April, arrives in 2010. The Q3, loosely based on the A3 platform, gets power from a 2.0-liter turbo-diesel with the Mercedes-Benz developed Bluetec exhaust cleaning system.

Power is rated at 204 hp and 295-lb.ft. of torque with an S tronic transmission. Information about the other 13 vehicles is just starting to be leaked... stay tuned.

■ **Dodge** will start selling the much anticipated SRT4 version of the Caliber wagon. Powered by a turbocharged and intercooled 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine, the Neon SRT4 replacement is expected to have 280-hp and 260-lb.ft of torque or more. The front-wheel drive Caliber has 19-inch wheels and a six-speed manual transmission along with an electronic brake-lock differential. Dodge is working with a sharp pencil in hopes of getting a stripped-down version under the \$20,000 price barrier.



Dodge Caliber SRT4

■ With inspiration from the Aero X concept that debuted last year in Geneva, the new **Saab 9-3** will have sharper frontal styling and a return to Saab's classic "clamshell" hood design. The all new look will include new lighting, door panels and rear styling when it arrives at US dealerships this fall. The Saab portfolio will include a sport Sedan, Sport Combi and Convertible models with power coming from a choice of a turbocharged four-cylinder 2.0T engine or a 2.8-liter V-6 Aero.

■ Advances in the way **oil** is extracted from the earth have some experts increasing their oil reserve estimates. According to *The New York Times*, new technologies made possible by the higher prices of oil, have raised the latest surveys of the earth's available oil to 4.8 trillion barrels up from 3.3 trillion barrels. If that number is accurate, less than a quarter of the available oil has been used.

■ **Volvo's** V70 and XC70 "Cross Country" wagons get a total makeover for 2008 riding on the same platform as the recently introduced S80 sedan. For the first time the engine will be a 3.2-liter, 235-hp V-6, which replaces the previous generation turbocharged in-line 5-cylinder power plant. This will be the only available engine. The design is more refined and



Volvo XC70

sophisticated with new bulges, flares and a tailgate with a heavy influence from the upcoming Volvo C30. The 70 series wagon goes on sale in the US in October.

■ **Cadillac** plans to add a vehicle smaller than the CTS sedan and keep one larger sedan. That would mean either the front-wheel drive DTS or the rear-drive STS

would be dropped. Unconfirmed plans also call for other variations of future models like a CTS wagon, coupe or convertible.

■ An Ashland, Oregon company will sell the world's first rechargeable plug-in



Saab Aero X concept

motorcycle starting early in 2008. The **Enertia** motorcycle has a carbon fiber frame and weighs only 275 pounds, with a top speed just over 50 mph with a range of 45 miles. The six-cell lithium-phosphate battery pack recharges in about three hours. Pricing will start at \$11,995. The Enertia builder, Brammo Motorsports, a privately held company, also builds a minimalist sports car called the Ariel Atom.

■ In addition to the diesel V-8 engine planned for light-weight full-size trucks like the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra and the Hummer H2 SUV, **General Motors** has plans to put V-6 diesel engines in the Saturn Aura and possibly the Cadillac CTS. According to a GM source the V-6 diesel will be a 2.9-liter engine engineered in Europe by VM Motori S.p.A. General Motors recently purchased half of that Italian engine maker from Penske and will operate it as a joint venture with Penske.

■ **Volkswagen's** upcoming 2.0-liter four-cylinder diesel engine is expected to record fuel economy levels near 60 mpg and be significantly quieter than the previous 1.9-liter version, according to *AutoWeek* magazine. The engine should be rated at about 140-hp and 235-lb.ft. of torque and will be mated with a six-speed manual transmission or DSG-style automatic manual transmission. It's expected to be used in the Jetta, the new Jetta SportWagen, the Rabbit and the Tiguan SUVs.

■ **Nissan** says it will offer a diesel engine in the Nissan Maxima starting in 2010. The engine is an all-new Alliance engine co-developed with its owner/partner Renault. The engine is designed to meet the stringent US Environmental Protection Agency emissions. Nissan is already using clean diesel engines in Europe that produce significant fuel efficiency improvements over gas engines and are able to run on bio-diesel fuel blends. ■

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*.

UPCOMING FEATURES

Chevy Camaro Convertible



With the retro-new Camaro already heavily anticipated, Chevy takes the wraps off the convertible, displayed in concept form last winter. Engine choices soon to be finalized.

Audi A5 and S5



Proclaimed by its designer as the most beautiful car he's ever penned, and highly praised by those who've seen it, the A5 and S5 are now anticipated in showrooms about December.

Red Bull Soapbox Results



If the feature in this issue has piqued your interest as it has ours, you'll want to tune in next time, to see whether our intrepid makes it to the bottom of the hill and the top of the heap.

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