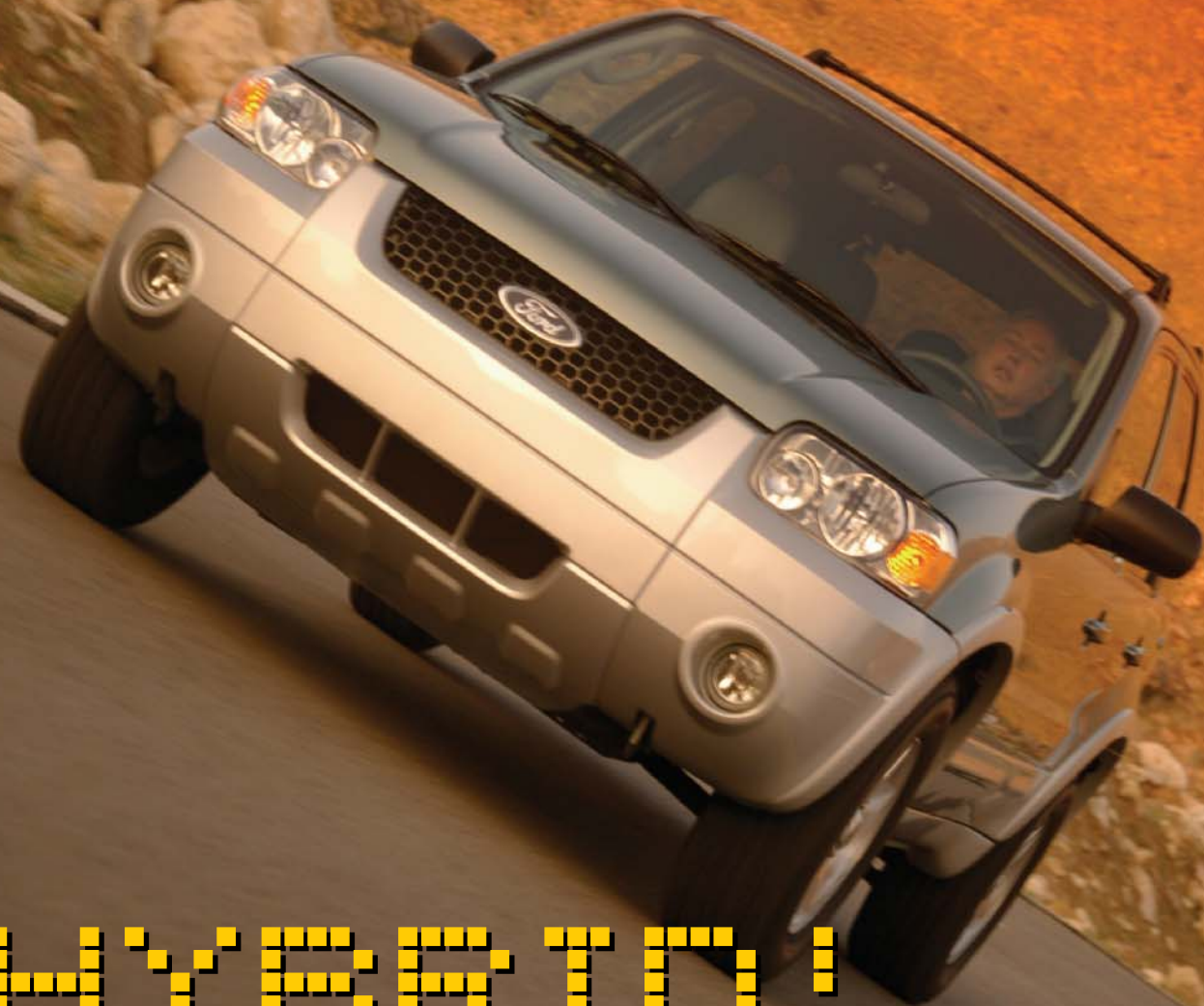


# ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 4  
JULY-AUGUST 2004



## HYBRID!

FORD ESCAPE HYBRID SUV

### SEDANS:

■ GERMANY: BMW 530i ■ JAPAN: LEXUS LS430 ■ KOREA: KIA AMANTI

### PLUS!

■ CHRYSLER & DODGE STOW 'N GO MINIVANS ■ IPOD YOUR BMW

■ TEEN DRIVER: DRIVING SKILLS CENTER ■ ARIZONA RIDER: BMW K 1200S

■ BRIDGESTONE RE92 FOR SUBARU LEGACY AND OUTBACK ■ AND MORE!



# Lamborghini Scottsdale



Authorized dealer  
Automobili Lamborghini

Motorsports of Scottsdale  
8053 E. Raintree Drive  
Scottsdale AZ 85260

Phone: 480-483-9300

Fax: 480-483-9301

Email: mtrsprts97@aol.com

**1. 2003 Lamborghini Gallardo**  
Paddle operated 6-speed sequential gear box, all wheel drive, 500hp V10. Reserve yours today. Slots filling up fast.

**3. 2001 Lamborghini Diablo 6.0**  
Yellow/black. 3,200 miles.

**2. 2003 Lamborghini Murciélago**  
Titanium/dual color, black/grey interior. In stock for immediate delivery.

**4. 2001 Lamborghini Diablo 6.0**  
Black/black. 1,700 miles.

www.motorsportsofscottsdale.com

Call for details on additional inventory



## The Finest Collection of Pre-Owned Luxury Autos

Sales

Service



**MOTORSPORTS**  
of Scottsdale

### Mercedes-Benz

2004 SLR.....Silver/Black.....Inquire  
2003 S55.....Silver/Black.....100 mi.  
2003 CL600.....Black/Black.....100 mi.  
2003 CL55 Coupe.....Silver/Black.....2,179 mi.  
2003 SL55 Roadster.....Silver/Black.....10 mi.  
2003 SL55 Roadster.....Black/Black.....24 mi.  
2003 CL55 Coupe.....Pewter/Ash.....200 mi.  
2003 SL500.....Black/Black.....8,000 mi.  
2002 S500 Sedan 4D.....Black/Java.....11,524 mi.  
2002 S500 Sedan 4D Sport.....Silver/Ash.....15,100 mi.  
2001 CLK 320 Cab.....Red/Silver/Charcoal.....19,600 mi.  
1999 S500 Sedan 4D.....White/Tan.....43,083 mi.  
1991 SL500 Roadster.....Green/Tan.....35,055 mi.  
1971 280SL.....White/Tan.....1,700 mi.  
1971 280SL.....Red/Tan.....74,500 mi.  
1959 220C.....Light Blue.....70,000 mi.

### Porsche

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

### INVENTORY

#### Ferrari

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

### Other Exotics

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

### Bentley/Rolls-Royce

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



2003 Mercedes SL55 Silver/Ash



2004 Porsche Carrera GT Silver/Black, inquire

2004 Bentley Continental Inquire



2004 Ferrari Enzo Red/Black, inquire

www.motorsportsofscottsdale.com • or E-mail at: mtrsprts97@aol.com

# ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

## CONTENTS

### VEHICLE INTRODUCTION

### VEHICLE IMPRESSION

### VEHICLE IMPRESSION

### TEEN DRIVERS

### EQUIPMENT

### VEHICLE INTRODUCTION

### EQUIPMENT

### VEHICLE IMPRESSION

### MOTORCYCLE NEWS

### MOTORCYCLE NEWS

### DEPARTMENTS

## JULY-AUGUST 2004

### Chrysler Stow'n'Go Minivans.....6

The pioneer of the minivan comes up with well-engineered seating and cargo configurations that should keep the competition at bay for awhile.  
By Joe Sage

### BMW 530i.....20

The popular 5-Series receives the Chris Bangle design treatment already applied to the 7-Series, along with numerous technical upgrades. We give it a drive.  
By Joe Sage and Barbara and Bill Schaffer

### Lexus LS 430.....24

The high-end Lexus iteration of Toyota's mainstream large sedan is refreshed for 2004, and remains as solid and generally likable as ever.  
By Joe Sage and Barbara and Bill Schaffer

### Teen Driver: BMW Performance Center.....26

A facility any driver would enjoy, and benefit from, puts together a program specifically targeted to teens.

### Bridgestone RE92 on Subaru Legacy and Outback.....33

### Ford Escape Hybrid.....34

After a few years of adjusting to hybrid technology as something that goes hand-in-hand with diminutive machines such as the Honda Insight or Toyota Prius, Ford shows what can be done with a more substantial vehicle.

### iPod Your BMW.....40

Leading the pack in what is likely to become a major new wave, BMW lets you control and play your Apple iPod® through the audio system of your BMW, full integrated.

### Kia Amanti.....42

Kia takes another step forward, as it refreshes and continually refines its flagship sedan. We give it a drive.  
By Barbara and Bill Schaffer and Joe Sage

### BMW R 1200 GS.....28

Sales of this mixed-use bike are so hot production has been boosted at the plant in Germany.

### BMW K 1200 S.....30

After much speculation, BMW announces this 1200cc high performance sport bike.

### FROM THE PUBLISHER : START YOUR ENGINES.....4

### CAR SMARTS : QUIZ.....9

### AUTO NEWS UPDATE.....12

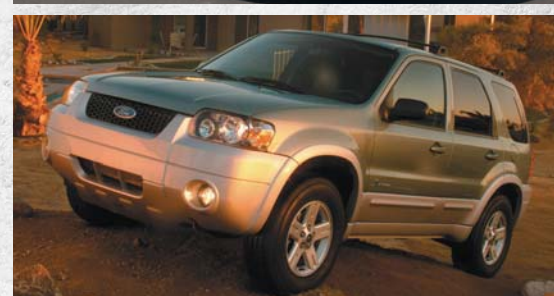
### DESTINATION DIRECTORY.....19

### MOTOR RESOURCES DIRECTORY.....32

### THE INSIDE TRACK: BRIEFS & RUMORS.....38

### UPCOMING FEATURES.....46

COVER: Ford Escape Hybrid. Photo courtesy Ford Motor Company.



The buzz is everywhere... the need for alternatives to increasingly expensive gasoline fuel is growing, due to everything from geology to politics, and hybrid power is the first to hit the marketplace in a meaningful way. The Honda Insight and Toyota Prius have been the pioneers, and they've generated a great deal of interest. Despite the need to subsidize their costs in order to get them into the hands of eager buyers, other manufacturers have noticed. This month, we look at the new Ford Escape hybrid, as well as the aforementioned Insight, the Honda Civic Hybrid, and even the Dodge Ram pickup in hybrid form. With everything from ethanol to hydrogen in play, we are only starting to scratch the surface.

In addition, we've had our hands on some fine test vehicles lately, so we'll take you along for a look at the BMW 530i, the Lexus LS430 and the new Kia Amanti, a foray into the near-luxury sedan market by the intrepid and fast-rising Koreans.

We also visited a reveal of the new Chrysler and Dodge Stow 'n Go minivans, which offer well-engineered flexibility from the pioneers of this segment. And we stopped by the Aston Martin DB9 tour; herein we present the details of this new star of an already stellar lineup.

With Germany, Japan, Korea, England and Detroit all represented, there should be something of interest for everybody. Rounding out the issue are our usual automotive news updates, rumors, and a grab-bag of other information.

Enjoy the drive!



Joe Sage  
Publisher/  
Executive Editor

# ARIZONA DRIVER

MAGAZINE

PUBLISHER/EXECUTIVE EDITOR:

Joe Sage

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Jill Amadio, Pilar Covarrubias,

Mark Cox, Larry Edsall,

Dan J. Gardner, Gary Goldzweig,

Bob Kroener, Jim Rogers,

Bill & Barbara Schaffer, Tim Sharp

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Jean-Pierre Brietta, Rich Cox,

Luis DeBonoPaula, Larry Edsall,

Dan J. Gardner, Randy Lorentzen,

Jim Pyle, Dick Reed

DESIGN & PRODUCTION: AdZoneAZ

ADVERTISING SALES: 480-948-0200

## ARIZONA DRIVER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY ADZONE ARIZONA LLC

Arizona Driver Magazine

PO Box 13387 - Scottsdale AZ 85267

www.azdrivermag.com

Arizona Driver Magazine and  
Arizona Rider Magazine are registered  
tradenames of AdZone Arizona LLC.

**FAST & CURIOUS? SCORERS**  
SPORT COMPACT ONLY RACING SERIES

**Now Preparing Our 3rd Season!**  
**Featured on every local TV station:**  
**SCO Nights "Take it to the Track"**  
**A legal alternative to Street Racing**

**For information and dates visit:**  
**www.DragRacing.com/az**

**Selling Performance Parts by:**  
AEM  
APEXi  
DC Sports  
GReddy  
Injen  
PaceSetter  
Skunk2  
Turbo Specialties  
Venom  
ViS Racing  
Weapon-R  
Wings West  
... and more ...

**DRAG RACING .com**



# NEXTBox and IMME Technology

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

## NEXTBox in Your Vehicle

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

## NEXTBox Functionality

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

## Services

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



The One-and-Only Name in Integrated Mobile Media Environments  
NEXT Technologies, LLC • www.NextTech.biz • 602-370-0098

# Maxing out the minivan: Chrysler advances with stow 'n go

By Joe Sage  
Photos by the author and Chrysler

- Minivan-First Stow 'n Go Seating
- Secure, Covered Stow 'n Go Storage
- Minivan-First Storage Bin Bags
- Minivan-First Super High Density (SHD) Foam Cushion Seating
- Second-Row Seat Fore/Aft Adjusters and Reclining Seat Backs
- Minivan-First Outboard Break-Away Cup Holders
- Minivan-First Third-Row Easy Entry System
- Minivan-First Split-Bench Tailgate Seating
- Reclining Third-Row Seat



The minivan. Not for you, as you are not a soccer mom? It turns out a full forty percent of Chrysler's minivan buyers are not soccer moms at all... they are empty nesters, buying for the general function, quality and ride anyone can use.

Chrysler launched the minivan craze in the first place, and despite competition from all sides, they hold an amazing 38% market share. With aggressive competition from the likes of the Honda Odyssey and Toyota Sienna on their hands, Chrysler has no desire to rest on their laurels, however.

In 2002, Chrysler Group's senior management was presented with low-cost options for seats to fold onto, not into, the floor of Chrysler Town & Country and Dodge Grand Caravan minivans.

"Fold-on-the-floor seating options were quickly discarded and we [explored] an entirely new proposition; a second- and third-row fold-in-the-floor seating system," says Lou Rhodes, Chrysler Group's Director of Design Engineering. The Chrysler engineering team had studied the flow and form of a variety of gadgets and instruments that were out of the ordinary realm of most automotive engineers. Sofa beds, drawer hardware, and hinges were analyzed at length while investigative trips to home supply stores were carried out regularly. One night, Rhodes was at home with his 12-year-old son Jon, tinkering with an Erector Set, when he had the epiphany that led to the new Stow 'n Go layout. Lou and son Jon spent many nights with the Erector Set, assembling and re-assembling model after model.

"The Erector Set model that we ultimately created conveyed the execution quickly and helped us visualize what we needed to do differently in order to achieve our objectives," said Rhodes. "One of the greatest challenges for an engineer is communicating how to execute an idea. In this case, the Erector Set model brought Stow 'n Go to life."

If you've shopped this category lately, you're familiar with the variables, including size (the Mazda MPV is smaller than average; the Sienna is quite large) and seating (availability, configuration and adaptability). As always, Chrysler tackles the size option by offering both short- and long-wheelbase variants. Style and brand variables remain, with both Chrysler and Dodge versions. But the big changes are under the skin.

On seating, Chrysler has not only raised the bar; they will keep others catching up for quite awhile. Does the van you're shopping for have a third seat? Does the seat come out? Does it stow away? Does it sort of fold down, but you could hardly call it stowed? Is there room for groceries and packages? Are goods secured from movement? Are they secured from sight? Chrysler has invented a new system, which they call Stow 'n Go, that solves all these issues in one



KEEP RIGHT >>



>> CHRYSLER MINIVAN - cont'd

proverbial fell swoop.

The second seat is a 50-50 affair, and the third is a 60-40, with one slightly wider than the other. Kids? Put them in either row. Not getting along? Put one in the second row and one in the third. Keep them there? Simply fold down half of each. And when you fold any of these seats down, you will achieve a floor-level, perfectly flat space where the seat had just been. You can perform any variable within a total of 30 seconds or less. (At the recent vehicle unveiling in Tempe, we were each given a stopwatch to ensure the accuracy of this claim; in fact, the project team has demonstrated a 15-second time for the whole transformation.) Cargo? The third seat stows flat in seconds, as do some others. Big dog? This is when you notice the difference: stow the second seat, and the big fella will be king of the middle. In fact, you can stow the middle row and seat adult passengers in the back, making them feel like royalty. In all, the new Chrysler and Dodge minivans offer up to 256 seating configurations

But we're not done transforming yet. With the back row up and ready, there are two below-floor wells in the very back, easily accessed via a well-balanced assisted liftgate/gate combo, for storage secure from sight and from rolling motions. If you want, you can also take that third row, pivot it around its anchor points, and suddenly have it facing rearward. Though lacking substantial legroom for a long haul, it creates an instant tailgate party. And, through clever (and necessary) engineering, all seatbelts and shoulder belt anchor points remain the same. The Chrysler also has electrically-operated sliding rear doors, on both sides.

In order to achieve all this, the team had to create an entirely new underbody, invent folding seats, and a load floor for the second-row seats. They also needed to design a new fuel tank, exhaust system, park brake cables, rear climate control lines, and modify the rear suspension.

Stow 'n Go goes beyond the seats, too. The ceiling inside includes an overhead rail-mounted console with three movable/removable storage bins, rear temperature controls, and an optional DVD screen. You can satisfy the needs of your rear passengers any number of ways. ■

QUIZ : CAR SMARTS



1. What is the official pace car of the 2004 Indianapolis 500?

- a. Chrysler 300C b. Corvette c. Pontiac GTO d. Ford Mustang

2. How much does the auto industry spend annually to place vehicles in movies?

- a. \$50 million b. \$200 million c. \$400 million d. \$600 million

3. What percentage of all vehicles in the United States were scrapped in 2003?

- a. 2.3 percent b. 3.8 percent c. 5.5 percent d. 7.1 percent

4. How much fuel evaporates annually from vehicles with loose or missing gas caps?

- a. 10 million gal. b. 50 million gal. c. 100 million gal. d. 150 million gal.

5. How much is GM's obligation to the future health care of GM retirees?

- a. \$3 billion b. \$23 billion c. \$43 billion d. \$63 billion

6. When did BMW first produce a turbo-charged model?

- a. 1969 b. 1973 c. 1980 d. 1989

7. Which was the best selling year for the Ford Mustang?

- a. 1966 b. 1969 c. 1971 d. 1994

8. Where is the AM/FM antenna on the all-new 2005 Chevrolet Corvette convertible?

- a. Automatic retractable mast, rear fender b. It's mounted in the windshield c. It's part of the folding roof d. It's mounted in the rear bumper

9. When did Ferrari begin sales in the US?

- a. 1944 b. 1954 c. 1964 d. 1974

10. What was the best selling convertible in the US in 2003?

- a. Ford Mustang b. BMW Z4 c. VW New Beetle d. Chrysler Sebring

11. How much did the average new car dealer spend on advertising in 2003?

- a. \$92,543 b. \$233,877 c. \$394,042 d. \$621,005

12. What percent of Chrysler Crossfire parts are derived from Mercedes-Benz vehicles?

- a. 8 percent b. 19 percent c. 27 percent d. 39 percent

13. Which car company claims to have the largest number of points in their certified pre-owned car program checklist?

- a. Audi b. Acura c. Lexus d. Toyota

14. How many times will a typical sparkplug fire in 1000 miles?

- a. 1 million times b. 3 million times c. 5 million times d. 10 million times

15. What percentage of carjackings occurred within one mile of the victim's home?

- a. 21 percent b. 33 percent c. 44 percent d. 57 percent

16. Which was the best selling hybrid in 2003?

- a. Honda Insight b. Toyota Prius c. Honda Civic Hybrid d. other

17. Which car nameplate has the oldest average owner?

- a. Buick LeSabre b. Toyota Avalon c. Lincoln Town Car d. Cadillac DeVille

18. What percentage of the 5.5 million engines built by GM for North America use the older style pushrod valve systems?

- a. 34 percent b. 47 percent c. 55 percent d. 62 percent

19. What is the first thing you should do if a tire on your car blows out as you are driving?

- a. Slam on the brakes and pull to the side of the road b. Quickly lift of the gas and pull over c. Press hard on the gas then slow gradually d. Hold the speed to maintain control then pull over

20. How many members does the American Automobile Association (AAA) have in the United States?

- a. 19 million b. 31 million c. 45 million d. 63 million

21. The last Oldsmobile rolled off the GM production line in Lansing, Michigan, on April 29, 2004. What model was it?

- a. Aurora b. Alero c. Intrigue d. Bravada

22. General Motors is requiring Hummer dealers to build new stand-alone dealerships that look like what?

- a. Giant box b. Quonset hut c. Mountain d. Geodesic dome

23. When did Subaru create the world's first four-wheel drive station wagon?

- a. 1972 b. 1976 c. 1980 d. 1984

24. Which country's vehicles had the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles in the newest J.SD Power Initial Quality Study?

- a. Korea b. Japan c. North America d. Europe

25. How much does GM save per engine by using a single camshaft and pushrods rather than an overhead camshaft configuration?

- a. \$220 /engine b. \$350 /engine c. \$570 /engine d. \$800 /engine

26. In which world region were the largest number of new cars sold in 2003?

- a. Asia-Pacific b. North America c. Eastern Europe d. Western Europe

27. How many weeks of the median family income, before taxes, are needed to purchase the average new car in the US?

- a. 12.9 weeks b. 20.5 weeks c. 36.4 weeks d. 45.1 weeks

28. Which vehicle from a major manufacturer has the lowest base price for 2004?

- a. Chevrolet Aveo b. Hyundai Accent c. Kia Rio d. Chevrolet Cavalier

29. Which truck scored highest in the 2004 AutoPacific Vehicle Satisfaction Award?

- a. MC Yukon XL b. Nissan Armada c. Lincoln Navigator d. Cadillac Escalade EXT

30. Which city has more Rolls-Royces than any other city in the world?

- a. London b. Los Angeles c. Hong Kong d. Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

ANSWERS ON PAGE 8 >>

>> ANSWERS (quiz on page 9) >>

1. Answer: b. A 2004 Corvette convertible will be the official pace car of the 2004 running of the Indianapolis 500 race on Memorial Day.
2. Answer: d. According to *Automotive News* about \$1.5 billion is spent annually to place name brand products in movies and related entertainment promotions. Of that total, at least 40 percent (or about \$600 million) is spent by automakers.
3. Answer: c. According to R.L. Polk and Co. 5.5 percent of all vehicles in the US were scrapped during 2003.
4. Answer: d. According to the Car Care Council a loose or missing gas cap allow nearly 150 million gallons of gasoline to evaporate annually.
5. Answer: d. According to Reuters news service, General Motor's obligation to future health benefits for retirees soared to more than \$63 billion in 2003.
6. Answer: b. According to *Automotive News*, the first turbocharged BMW model was a 1973 BMW 2002.
7. Answer: a. In 1966 Ford sold 549,436 Mustangs, making that the best selling model in the car's 40-year history. The poorest selling model was the 1991 when only 80,247 were sold.
8. Answer: d. The AM/FM radio antenna for the new Chevrolet Corvette convertible is mounted in the car's rear bumper. The antenna for the optional XM radio is a small dorsal fin mounted on the rear deck.
9. Answer: b. Ferrari has been sold in the US since 1954. To celebrate their 50th year every Ferrari sold in 2004 will have a commemorative badge that combines the

Ferrari flag with the American flag. The first Ferrari dealer in the US was Ron Tonkin in Portland, Oregon.

10. Answer: d. According to R.L. Polk & Co. the Chrysler Sebring was the best selling convertible with total sales of 42,476 in the US in 2003. Mustang 41,289. Volkswagen New Beetle 23,316. BMW Z4 18,852.
11. Answer: c. The average new car dealer spent \$394,042 on advertising in 2003.
12. Answer: d. The Chrysler Crossfire has a Mercedes-Benz V-6 engine, steering column, steering wheel, air conditioning and heating system, electrical architecture and suspension design, which combine to make up 39 percent of the new two-seater.
13. Answer: a. According to *Motor Trend* magazine's list of factory-offered certified pre-owned programs Audi has a 300-point checklist. Lexus and Toyota both offer a 160-point checklist and Acura (and Honda) both offer 150-point checklists.
14. Answer: b. According to the Car Care Council, a typical sparkplug will fire about 3 million times in 1000 miles.
15. Answer: c. According to the US Department of Justice report *Carjackings in the United States*, 44 percent of carjackings reported in the US occurred within one mile of the victim's home.
16. Answer: c. In 2003 the Honda Hybrid accounted for 50 percent of hybrid vehicle registrations or a total of 21,750. Prius was next with 20,387 and the Insight had a total 1,298. The second generation Prius didn't go on sale until the second half of 2003. Prius sales for the first three months of 2004 are 9,918, which could lead to sales of near 40,000 for 2004 if the pace continues.
17. Answer: a. According to Power Information Network,

the average age of a Buick LeSabre owner is 69 years old (The average age of Buick Park Avenue and Mercury Grand Marquis owners is also 69.) Buick Century and Lincoln Town Car owners average 67. Cadillac DeVille – 66. Buick Regal and Cadillac Seville: 63. Mercury Sable and Toyota Avalon: 61.

18. Answer: d. According to *Automotive News*, 62 percent of the 5.5 million engines built by GM for use in North American use pushrod valve systems as opposed to newer style overhead cam systems.
19. Answer: c. As counterintuitive as it may seem, tire experts from Michelin say it is best to stomp on the gas if you hear a tire blow out then gradually find a break in traffic and pull to the side of the road. The other responses will often pitch the car violently sideways and the car will go out of control.
20. Answer: c. The American Automobile Association (AAA) has more than 45 million members nationally.
21. Answer: b. The last Oldsmobile to roll of the line was a 2004 Alero GLS.
22. Answer: b. GM is requiring Hummer dealers to build a stand-alone building shaped like a Quonset hut. The front of the building will have a giant letter "H," and each location is required to have an off-road course on the grounds and helicopter-style ceiling fans in keeping with the truck's rugged image.
23. Answer: a. In 1972 Subaru was the first car to create a four-wheel drive version of a station wagon.
24. Answer: b. According to the J.D. Power Initial Quality Study for 2004, Japanese cars in the study had the lowest number of problems per 100 cars, 111. Surprisingly Korea was second with 117. Europe 122. North America 123. The biggest surprise was Korean auto maker Hyundai, who climbed to seventh place overall with a score of 102, even beating out Toyota's score of 104. Lexus was top again with an 87 score.

25. Answer: d. Analysts estimate GM saves about \$800 per engine by using the pushrod valve system in many of their engines rather than using the more efficient double- or single-overhead cam systems.

26. Answer: d. *Automotive News 2004 Market Data Book* says there were more cars (not including light trucks) sold in Western Europe than in any other world region in 2003 – 14,257,249. Asia-Pacific 10,282,273. North America 9,383,667. Eastern Europe 2,503,910.

27. Answer: b. According to Detroit-based Comerica Bank's Auto Affordability Index the purchase of an average-priced new vehicle during the first quarter of 2004 took 20.5 weeks of median family income, before taxes.

28. Answer: a. The Chevrolet Aveo is the lowest price car offered by a major manufacturer in the US. The base price of Aveo Special Value 4-door is \$9,995 including the destination charge. Kia Rio \$10,280. Hyundai Accent \$10,539. Chevrolet Cavalier \$10,700.

29. Answer: d. The Cadillac Escalade EXT had the highest rating (715) in the 2004 AutoPacific Vehicle Satisfaction Award. Lincoln Navigator 710. Nissan Armada 710. GMC Yukon XL 681. The Nissan Titan actually had the highest score (733), but it wasn't counted because the minimum number of responses was not received.

30. Answer: c. According to cable TV's The Travel Channel, Hong Kong has more Rolls-Royces than any other city in 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*.

## Automotive Fine Art by Don Evenson

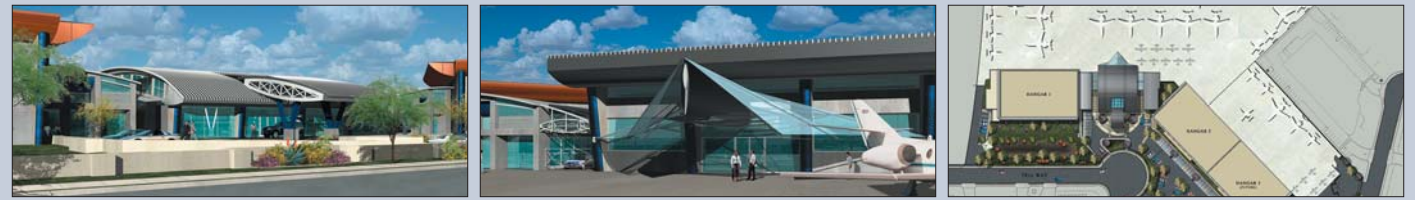
Private commissioned paintings in oil or acrylic



**Private patrons nationwide; commercial clients include:**  
Bank of America, Boeing, Best Western Hotels, Clorox, Chrysler Corporation, Dole Foods, Fulton Homes, GTE, Honeywell, Hunt-Wesson, Levi Strauss, Pizza Hut, Rockwell International, Scottsdale Healthcare, Shaklee, Sierra Club, Standard Oil, Transamerica, Valvoline, Yamaha.

11259 E. Via Linda • Suite 100-185 • Scottsdale AZ 85259 • 480-661-8410 • cell 480-560-5598

# In-flight perfection demands ground service excellence.



## Scottsdale Air Center: a full service ground support general aviation facility.

### FBO amenities include:

- 25,000 sq.ft. terminal comfort
- ExxonMobil premier care Avitax flight line service
- Top shelf concierge services at a moment's notice
- Aircraft maintenance
- 72,000 sq.ft. hangar accommodations
- State-of-the-art weather & pilot services
- New & used aircraft sales & marketing services
- Avionics installation & repair
- 300,000 sq.ft. flight line concrete
- Professional management services
- Charter accommodations

One block west of Hayden between Raintree and Costco • Scottsdale Air Center • 15290 N. 78th Way • Scottsdale AZ 85260 • 480-951-2525



Lexus LF-C concept

## HINTS OF LEXUS IS 300 REPLACEMENT

Lexus says the LF-C (Lexus Future Coupe) concept that debuted at the New York auto show is a strong indicator of what the replacement for the IS 300 may look like. Lexus General Manager, Denny Clements says the new IS will be more of a pure sports sedan, while the ES 300 will take the roll of entry luxury sedan. The concept LF-C had V-8 power, but Clements says the production version will likely offer two different size six-cylinder engines like BMW does with the 3-series. He also says he wants to have a sedan, coupe and convertible versions. Production of the coupe is expected to start late in 2005 with a global launch. ▼



Chevrolet Equinox

Apparently acknowledging that the Tracker (originally a Geo) wasn't filling a slot the marketplace is seeking, Chevy heads into one of the hottest slots.

## MORE LEXUS HYBRIDS ENROUTE

Lexus will jump into the hybrid market later this year with the world's first luxury SUV hybrid, the RX 400H and that may be followed with two more awesome sounding green machines. The mid-level GS hybrid, called the GS350 GT, was unveiled at the Detroit auto show. Its power comes from a 300-hp 3.5-liter V-6 mated with a 170-hp electric motor. The resulting 470-hp sedan will have all-wheel drive and is expected to get up to 60 mpg when it arrives at dealerships in August 2005. The flagship Lexus LS will also get a GT model, the LS500 GT, which will combine a 400-hp 5.0-liter V-8 with a 200 hp electric motor. The 600-hp sedan will directly targeted the V-12 powered Mercedes-Benz S-Class S600L flagship.

## CHEVROLET TRACKER OUT, EQUINOX IN

▲ Chevrolet has a new small sport wagon to replace the Tracker and compete with vehicles like the Ford Escape and Honda CR-V. The Equinox, which is targeted at young families, is a five-passenger wagon that has more rear-seat legroom than even the Chevrolet Suburban and Tahoe. A 3.4-liter V-6 engine powers the Equinox through a standard five-speed automatic transmission driving either the front wheels or

with optional all-wheel drive. Equinox prices start at \$21,560 including destination. The Equinox is built on the same Theta platform as the Saturn Vue, but shares little beyond the basic platform.

## RADIO TAKING A BIG LEAP WITH HDR

Just as Satellite Radio is starting to have a big impact on car audio systems, the new High Definition Radio (HDR) is about to make a major change in the listening quality of vehicle and home audio systems. HDR is basically digital radio and just as CDs have changed the quality and usability of recorded sound, HDR will have a great impact broadcast sound. Digital radio was developed by iBiquity Digital and they created the name HD Radio. The technology expands the frequency response of both the FM and AM bands dramatically so that FM sounds as good as CDs and AM sounds as good as FM does currently. Unlike the millions of dollars required to convert television stations to the new HDTV technology a radio station can be converted for about \$80,000. The improved sound quality will allow AM stations to again start playing music. One of the big pluses of the system is it will still be possible to use old equipment to receive the broadcast from the new stations and the new radios will

also be able to receive the old AM and FM broadcasts. There are about 75 stations that have converted to HDR so far, but that number is expected to grow rapidly.

## FORD FORBIDDEN FUTURA NAME

Ford planned to bring back the Futura name on a replacement for the Taurus, but was stopped by the Pep Boys auto-parts store, which has used the name on tires since 1964. Ford was unwilling to pay Pep Boys to use the name after a US District Court ruled in Pep Boy's favor so now Ford is scrambling to come up with another name, which starts with F, to slap on the important new sedan. This is the second time in two years Ford has had problems with a name. In 2002 the company was unable to use the GT40 name on the new supercar and ended up calling it simply the GT.

## ACURA'S SUPER HANDLING AWD

Honda has developed a new Super Handling All-Wheel-Drive system (SH-AWD) that will debut in the next generation Acura RL flagship sedan this fall. The SH-AWD is the world's first AWD system to combine front-rear torque distribution control with independently

KEEP RIGHT >>

## CLARIFYING CADILLAC NOMENCLATURE

Having been puzzled by the meaning of Cadillac's new naming scheme, we asked Cadillac Communications Manager, Rob Minton to explain the system. "Beginning with the Cadillac CTS sedan, new Cadillac cars are named using a three-letter alpha designation. The three letters in the vehicle name identify specific characteristics of the vehicle. The first letter will indicate the family or series that the vehicle is in. Cadillac will have a number of families or series that will be defined by several characteristics, including overall vehicle length, engine size, and common component sets. The second and third letters will describe the vehicle body style. The second character will designate the vehicle as a Touring (T), Luxury (L), Crossover (X), or Reconfigurable (R) vehicle. The third letter will further designate the vehicle as a Sedan (S), Coupe (C), or Roadster (R). XLR is in strategy with Cadillac's new alpha naming strategy. The first letter, which represents the series (X) and the second two describing the type of vehicle (LR - luxury roadster.) So, the SRX is in the S series, R for reconfigurable (seating/cargo arrangements) and X for crossover." Thanks Rob. ▼



Cadillac XLR convertible



Subaru Legacy 2.5 GT Sedan

Subaru, well-known in the Rockies and New England for its all-wheel-drive capabilities, should draw a wider market with more power and restyling.

>> AUTO NEWS UPDATE - cont'd

regulated torque distribution to the left and right rear wheels based on driving conditions. The system monitors driver input and driving conditions to determine the optimum front-rear and lateral torque distribution. That information is relayed to the rear differential where electromagnetic clutches continuously regulate and vary front-rear torque distribution and lateral torque distribution to the rear wheels. The torque is used not only for propulsion, but for cornering as well, resulting in a significant enhancement in the vehicle's maneuverability.

### MORE EVOLUTIONS FOR MITSUBISHI

Later this year Mitsubishi will add a higher performance version of the Lancer Evolution, the MR (Mitsubishi Racing). The MR will get a new turbocharger that raises torque to an estimated 295 lb.ft. and the horsepower to 285 creating 0 to 60 mph performance in just 4.3 seconds. Other improvements include new 6-speed manual transmission and 300 pounds of weight reductions. The price is expected to be about \$33,000. There is also a rumor of another smaller EVO in the works. Based on the upcoming three-door little Colt the little pocket-rocket

could have up to 250-hp coming from a 1.5-liter four-cylinder turbo. Other speculation about the smaller EVO is that it includes all-wheel drive, a twin-clutch paddle shift transmission and a lighter weight that could produce 0 to 60 mph performance times of 4.0 seconds and a top speed of 140 mph.

### SUBARU LEGACY, OUTBACK GO UPSCALE

▲ The success of the Legacy and Outback has inspired Subaru to move their largest cars a little more upscale for 2005. The new generations that arrive in dealerships in June are a little larger, more powerful and have better quality interiors than their predecessors. Subaru will increase the power in the Legacy GT and Outback XT versions by offering a 250-horsepower turbocharged version of the horizontally opposed 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine. All Subarus sold in the US are all-wheel drive.

### ACURA DEBUTS NEXT RL FLAGSHIP

The next generation Acura RL debuted at the New York Auto Show with the company's typical innovative technology and flare for design. The RL is powered by a 300-hp version of the 3.5-liter VTEC V-6 engine driving a revolutionary all-wheel-drive system. The transmission is a five-speed automatic with sequential sport

shifting using F1®-type paddle shifters on the wheel. The stylish four-door sedan has a lightweight rigid body unit with an aluminum sub frame, suspension, hood, trunk and front fenders. The new RL is shorter and wider than the current model but with more passenger volume and Acura's trademark wedge shape. New technology includes adaptive lighting that swivels in the direction the vehicle is turning, navigation with up-to-the-minute traffic information via satellite, wireless telephone interface and keyless access and engine starting.

### MINNESOTA GETTING THE LEAD OUT

Minnesota is gradually ending the use of the lead weights used to balance car tires. Instead they are encouraging the use of zinc or iron as a replacement because lead contaminates the environment. The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance and Minnesota Department of Administration's Travel Management Division say that about 13 percent of the weights fall from vehicles and that about 30 tons of lead ends up along the roads annually. The lead can contaminate water supplies and exposure can cause developmental disabilities in children and fetuses.

KEEP RIGHT >>



## ALL NEW PORSCHE BOXSTER FOR 2005

The Porsche Boxster gets an extensive makeover for the 2005 model year. The new look is more muscular and less like the 911. The second generation will be available in the original roadster configuration and in a new coupe version. Both of the existing 2.7 and 3.2-liter horizontally-opposed six-cylinder engines will get 10 more horsepower and a significant bump in low-end torque. The standard transmission is a six-speed manual with an optional six-speed Tiptronic with steering wheel-mounted shift buttons. Suspension changes include lighter weight MacPherson struts, a wider track and lightweight 18-inch alloy wheels. ▼

2005 Porsche Boxster



Jeep Grand Cherokee

With comfort and finishes to keep any realtor happy around town, the Jeep® Grand Cherokee nonetheless remains off-road worthy and Rubicon ready.

>> AUTO NEWS UPDATE - cont'd

### ALPINE TOUCH SCREEN WITH FEELING

With the proliferation of touch screens in new cars for everything from navigation to DVDs Alpine Electronics has come up with a better way to find the place to touch while keeping your eyes on the road. The screen in the new Alpine combination DVD, audio and navigation includes a new PulseTouch screen that simulates a vibration when a finger passes over an icon. The screen is charged with low-voltage impulses under the screen's plastic skin and the sensations vary depending on whether you are touching an icon or blank areas of the screen. This allows the driver to keep attention on the road instead of on the screen.

### ALL NEW JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE

▲ The third generation Jeep Grand Cherokee that is due at dealerships this fall is completely redesigned. Jeep officials say the five-seater is much longer, wider and more roomy than the previous model. The big news is that the Jeep flagship has significant quality improvements and much improved on-road dynamics without compromising the legendary off-road ability. Buyers will have a choice of three engines: a 210-hp

3.7-liter V-6 (from the smaller Liberty), a 230-hp 4.7-liter V-8 and 290 lb.ft. of torque, and a 5.7-liter Hemi with 325-hp and 370 lb.ft. of torque. The Hemi has a cylinder deactivation system that cuts back to four cylinders when cruising to increase fuel economy. All engines come with a five-speed automatic transmission. The Jeep is available with rear-wheel drive or three anytime four-wheel drive systems. The front suspension is independent for the first time along with other suspension enhancements including a new stability control system.

### JAPAN'S FUTURE HIGH TECH GADGETS

Ever wonder where the great new automotive technology comes from? Many products that are introduced into cars sold in the US have been on Japanese cars for years. Features like adaptive cruise control and seats that fold flat in the floor of minivans have been in use in Japan for years. Here's some new technology that might be moving to US vehicles in the next few years: Odor eating devices are big in Japan. Mitsubishi has a headliner that absorbs cigarette smoke and other odors, breaks them down than dispels them through the air conditioner. Nissan has a seat fabric that works in a similar fashion. Toyota has a humidity-

regulating dual automatic air conditioner. Toyota also has a sedan with wide-view, heated rain-clearing door mirror that turn raindrops on the surface into a film with enhances visibility. Mitsubishi and Toyota have blind-corner devices that use a pair of cameras mounted far forward on the car to see around corners where the driver can't see. Several cars have various parking aids that help with parking through voice guidance, a view of the parking place or that will actually park the car without driver assistance. Nissan variation on adaptive cruise control is a low speed version (below 25 mph) for stop and go driving.

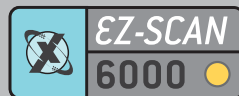
### OFF ROAD BATTLE LOOMS

First there was Jeep, then Hummer, then Jeep Rubicon vehicles and now Hummer is poised to come back with a new aggressive off-roading package on future versions of the H1, H2 and upcoming H3. Each version is expected to get different equipment. The original H1 will also get the new Isuzu-built Duramax diesel engine with the new Allison transmission to add more power and smoothness. So far, Jeep is still by far the biggest seller and sales have increased by 21 percent so

KEEP RIGHT >>

# AUTOXRAY

This Is Our C.A.N. Opener...



EZ-SCAN 6000 AUTOMOTIVE SCANNER

Be the first to have the only scanner on the market that is C.A.N. [Controller Area Network] compliant. C.A.N. is the new protocol mandated by the EPA to be the standard communications system in all cars by 2008. C.A.N. is already in some 2003 models with more on the way in 2004.

*This efficient, highly portable tool:*

- Collects trouble code, oxygen sensor test and data stream info.
- OBD-I, OBD-II and C.A.N. compliant
- New ergonomic design
- Large backlit, 8-line display
- Contrast control for outdoor use
- Most advanced and simple to use scanner available.

With software upgrades available via the Internet, the EZ-Scan is simple to use, easy to own and affordable!

For more information please visit  
[www.obd2can.com](http://www.obd2can.com).

>> AUTO NEWS UPDATE - cont'd

far this year. Hummer, on the other hand, is down 26 percent for the year so far, partially due to the high fuel costs.

## V-10-POWERED BMW M5 DUE IN 2005

As the BMW performance leader, the M5 has been on a hiatus since the new 5-series design was introduced a year ago, but now details of the upcoming M5 are surfacing. The 4.9-liter V-8 is being replaced by a 5.0-liter V-10 producing 500-hp (up 100-hp from the previous version). The engine is naturally aspirated and will rev to near 8500 rpms. Acceleration times are expected to be around 4.7 seconds for 0 to 60 mph and 12.7 seconds to 120 mph. BMW officials say the top speed is limited to 155 mph in the US, but the car is capable of 185 mph. It will have a new seven-speed sequential manual transmission shifted by twin paddles on the steering wheel. The engine is designed to sit further back in the car allowing for a perfect 50/50 front/rear weight distribution. The price for M5 performance could run to about \$80,000 when it goes on sale in the US next year.

## SAAB'S FIRST SUV DUE EARLY IN 2005

Saab will begin production of its first SUV starting in January 2005. The Saab 9-7X will be a premium five-seater built on the same platform and with the same drivetrain as GM mid-size SUVs like the Chevrolet Trailblazer. In this case, however, design engineers have done an outstanding job capturing the Saab look and feel inside and outside so that it's not simply a restyled version. Even the ignition switch is mounted on the console in typical Saab style. Prices for the six-cylinder will probably start at \$34,000, with the V-8 version about \$5,000 higher.

## CHIC MERCEDES-BENZ 4-DOOR COUPE

Mercedes-Benz calls their stylish new four-door sedan a coupe because of its distinctive coupe-like styling. The elegant CLS-Class, which seats four, has all the hi-tech features Mercedes is noted for like air suspension, electro-hydraulic brakes, Electronic Stability Program and bi-xenon headlamps with an active cornering system. Other features include adaptive cruise control, voice-operated control system, DVD navigation, keyless-access

and driver-authorization system Keyless-Go. The engine is the 302-hp 5.0-liter V-8 with the new Mercedes seven-speed automatic transmission, which drives the rear wheels. Mercedes projects a 0 to 60 mph time of 6.0 seconds and a top speed of 155 mph. The CLS is scheduled to arrive in the US market in 2005.

## ZAP TO SELL SMART CARS IN US

A Santa Rosa, Calif. company that specializes in low emission vehicles has purchased the rights to sell the 55-mpg Smart car in the US. ZAP started in the car market with the sale of electric cars and intends to expand its product line to include the 98.5-inch long Smart that has been selling in Europe for several years. Two of the Smarts will actually fit, bumper-to-bumper in one normal parking place. The two-seat Smart comfortably holds two adults and is powered by a 3-cylinder 698 cc turbo-charged gasoline engine. It has a sequential 6-speed transmission, skid control system, anti-lock brakes, power windows and locks. Safety equipment includes a unibody safety cell, steel-reinforced construction and low-speed dent resistant panels and dual airbags.

## HYUNDAI 300,000-MILE 4-CYL. ENGINE

Hyundai is developing an extended life four-cylinder engine for use in future Hyundai, Chrysler Group and Mitsubishi Motors vehicles. By using careful quality control and tighter tolerances the engineers are targeting a quality level of 300,000 miles without a major failure, about twice what the Big 3 auto manufacturer engines are designed for. The family will include 1.8-, 2.0- and 2.4-liter variations all equipped with variable valve timing. The engines will also be available with turbocharger and there will be a liquid propane version available. The engines have an aluminum head and block, plastic intake manifold and head cover. They also have a maintenance-free timing chain, variable valve timing and balance shaft. The project will continue despite DaimlerChrysler's recent split from both Mitsubishi and Hyundai. ■

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

# ARIZONA DRIVER

DESTINATION DIRECTORY

## Arizona

### ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS

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

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

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

**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

**Sport Compact Drag Racing**  
Every thursday at Firebird Raceway  
[www.dragracing.com/phx](http://www.dragracing.com/phx)

**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

## California

### ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS

**Palm Desert Visitor Information Center**  
72-990 Highway 111 • Palm Desert CA 92260  
800-873-2428 • [www.palm-desert.org](http://www.palm-desert.org)

### MOTOR MUSEUMS

**Petersen Automotive Museum**  
6060 Wilshire Blvd. (at Fairfax) • LA CA 90036  
323-930-CARS • [www.petersen.org](http://www.petersen.org)

## Colorado

### ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS

**Colorado Activity Centers, Inc.**  
737 N. Tenmile Drive - Suite 35  
PO Box 129 • Frisco CO 80443  
800-777-8642 • [www.coloradoinfo.com](http://www.coloradoinfo.com)

### MOTOR MUSEUMS

**Shelby American Collection**  
5020 Chaparral Court  
PO Box 19228 • Boulder CO 80308-2228  
[www.shelbyamericancollection.org](http://www.shelbyamericancollection.org)  
303-516-9565

## Nevada

### ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS

**Las Vegas Tourism Bureau**  
6120 W. Tropicana Ave. • Las Vegas NV  
[www.lasvegastourism.com](http://www.lasvegastourism.com)

### MOTOR MUSEUMS

**Imperial Palace Auto Collections**  
Fifth floor parking facility of Imperial Palace.  
702-794-3174  
[www.imperialpalace.com/auto.html](http://www.imperialpalace.com/auto.html)

**National Automobile Museum**  
The Harrah Collection  
10 Lake Street South • Reno NV 89501  
775-333-9300 • [www.automuseum.org](http://www.automuseum.org)

## New Mexico

### ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS

**New Mexico Department of Tourism**  
800-733-6396 x 0643 • [www.newmexico.org](http://www.newmexico.org)

**Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce**  
PO Box 1928 • Santa Fe NM 87504  
8380 Cerrillos Rd. Suite 302 • Santa Fe NM 87507  
505-983-7317 • [www.santafechamber.com](http://www.santafechamber.com)

### RESORTS / LODGING

**Inn on La Loma Plaza**  
315 Ranchitos Road • Box 4159 • Taos NM 87571  
800-530-3040 • [www.VacationTaos.com](http://www.VacationTaos.com)

**Inn on the Alameda**  
303 East Alameda • Santa Fe NM 87501  
505-984-21221 • [www.innonthealameda.com](http://www.innonthealameda.com)

## Utah

### ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS

**San Juan County Tourism**  
117 S. Main Street • Monticello UT 84535  
800-574-4386 • [www.southeastutah.org](http://www.southeastutah.org)

**Southern Utah Scenic Tours**  
PO Box 1113 • Cedar City UT 84720  
888-404-8687 • [www.utahscenictours.com](http://www.utahscenictours.com)

### RESORTS / LODGING

**Desert Rose Inn & Cabins**  
701 W. Highway 191 • Bluff UT 84512  
888-475-7673 • [www.DesertRoseInn.com](http://www.DesertRoseInn.com)

## Mexico

### RESORTS / LODGING

**Puerto Peñasco Mexico Online**  
Beachfront home rentals in Rocky Point.  
623-935-0507 • [www.puerto-penasco.com](http://www.puerto-penasco.com)

### ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS

**Baja California State Tourism Office**  
Blvd. Diaz Ordaz s/n  
Edificio Plaza Patria Nivel 3  
CP 22400 Tijuana BC  
(66) 81-9492

**Chihuahua State Tourism Office**  
Calle Libertad No. 1300  
Edificio Agustin Melgar, 1er Piso  
CP 31000 Chihuahua, Chihuahua  
(14) 29-3421

**Sinaloa State Tourism Office**  
Av. Camarón Sabalo esq. Tiburon  
Edificio Banrural 4 Piso  
CP 82100 Mazatlán, Sinaloa  
(69) 16-5160

**Sonora State Tourism Office**  
Centro de Gobierno  
Edificio Estatal Norte 3er Nivel  
Comonfort y Paseo Río  
CP 83280 Hermosillo, Sonora  
(62) 17-0076

## Of national interest

### MOTOR MUSEUMS

**Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village**  
20900 Oakwood Blvd. • Dearborn MI 48124  
[www.hfmgv.com](http://www.hfmgv.com) • 313-271-1620

**Imperial Palace Auto Collections**  
(see Nevada listings)

**Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum**  
Pickerington OH 43147  
[www.motorcyclemuseum.org](http://www.motorcyclemuseum.org) • 614-856-2222

**National Automobile Museum**  
(see Nevada listings)

**National Corvette Museum**  
350 Corvette Drive • Bowling Green KY 42101  
[www.corvettemuseum.com](http://www.corvettemuseum.com) • 800-53VETTE

**Petersen Automotive Museum**  
(see California listings)

**Shelby American Collection**  
(see Colorado listings)



Information is derived from a variety of sources and may not be final or accurate; check all info. Listings do not necessarily represent any specific affiliation with nor endorsement by *Arizona Driver* magazine.

# Further Evolution in the BMW Lineup

By Joe Sage

**T**he newest BMW 7 Series, which started flooding Arizona freeways and mountain roads some months back, has set the pace for a controversial new generation of BMW vehicles. (The Z4 replacement for the Z3 2-seater was covered in our May-June issue.)

With the astounding sheer quantity of 7 Series vehicles in this neck of the woods, there is certainly a lot of familiarity with the previous design. The new one, the handiwork of love-it-or-hate-it BMW stylist Chris Bangle, had already raised eyebrows in much of the marketplace (in line with creating eyebrows of a sort on the vehicles' headlights).

Now the 5 Series gets much the same treatment.

Funny thing, though ... the new 7 Series, revolutionary though it may have been, is starting to seem quite familiar by now. If you could measure a point at which a new design doesn't quite seem right yet, but the old one is already clearly seeming dated (a requisite of acceptance for the new), this could be that time for the 7 Series.

With that in mind, does the new 5 Series seem like a natural? We'd have to say, "not yet." Whoa, it's a lot of change. What used to be lean and mean seems to be bulky and overwrought. The sheetmetal hangs down on the sides almost to street level, with enough compound curves to take it away from its previous tight and complete feel. The headlights and taillights are curve into the side and top panels more, which is a style evolution happening on a great many vehicles right now, from Nissan to Jeep and

everything in between. You might think the slanted effect adds a degree of torture to it all, though, as if each corner might have been hit. It will take some getting used to.

And there are still record-breaking numbers of the previous-generation 5 on the roads for comparison. Regardless, we are confident that it won't be long before the new design has established itself as the norm, and the previous will slip into the nostalgic realm. Will they quickly fade away? We'll know soon enough. (The knockout 6 Series, which we've had a sneak peek at and should be driving soon, will expand and help pull the range of new style together as a complete lineup.)

Enough about style; what's this machine made of?

KEEP RIGHT >>



# Design and technology highlights of the new BMW 530i



By Barbara and Bill Schaffer

The BMW 530i has perfect 50/50 weight distribution thanks to the new "Intelligent" lightweight design. The lightweight aluminum front-end structure, aluminum front side panels and hood save more than 110 pounds, which allowed the engineers to achieve an ideal front/rear balance.

When the BMW 530i was delivered, we were excited and champing at the bit to get in it and just drive. We drove for several hours our first weekend, stopping only for fuel and a couple of meals. What a great way to spend a day.

Every few years BMW leaps forward with a design that is more revolutionary than evolutionary. The previous generation 5 Series was generally considered to be one of the best sedans in the world, so the task of creating a significant replacement was that much more challenging.

Design elements reflect some aspects of the controversial 7 Series, but with sharper edges and sculpturing. The 5 Series has the new BMW style, but with a look all its own. In typical BMW fashion, the 5 series is loaded with industry-leading technology like adaptive headlights, active steering, active suspension and Active Cruise Control.

The striking looks of the BMW 530i features its signature illuminated-ring headlights, twin kidney grille and short

overhangs. Also the large, new-design cast alloy wheels give the new 5 Series an assertive and masculine presence.

The interior focal point is the new dash with a simple instrument panel and iDrive screen or a full-width wood trim and simple controls.

The revised iDrive system, which controls climate, audio and some other functions by a console mounted knob, is slightly easier to use than the complicated system on the 7 Series but it's still too confusing.

We like driving at night, and the new Xenon adaptive headlight system helps make the road ahead safer and easier to see. Sensors continuously monitor the steering angle, vehicle's speed, yaw and other factors and then turn the headlights in the direction of a turn, up to 15 degrees, to illuminate the area the car is turning toward. The bi-xenon lights also focus down to keep from blinding oncoming drivers.

The Active Steering system is an industry first, providing an electronically

controlled ratio and power assistance. It's a step beyond variable assistance. At lower speeds the steering is more direct, needing less wheel input to make a turn, but at higher speeds it provides greater directional stability by being less sensitive to driver input.

The BMW 530i comes standard with a power moonroof, the improved and more user-friendly iDrive system with on-board computer and controller, memory system for the driver's seat, side-view mirrors and steering wheel position, power front seats with power head restraints, power tilt and telescopic steering wheel plus much more for the base price of \$44,995 including delivery. The entry-level 184-hp 525i starts at \$39,995, while the top-of-the-line 335-hp 545 is \$54,995.

However, most of the best features are optional, which translates to more money. Our test 530i came with most of them, adding another \$11,000 to the total price of the car. But the \$55,000 price tag includes everything but the kitchen sink.

The rear-wheel-drive 530i's classic in-

line 225-hp six-cylinder engine has the typical BMW rotary-like power. It winds to redline quickly, smoothly and effortlessly, making it a blast to drive. Even without the breathtaking acceleration of the V-8 powered 5 Series, the 3.0 is simply wonderful. We drove it hard on some curvy roads, downshifting from 6th to 5th, 4th and 3rd gears before starting into a tight corner, turning into the corners with the precision Active Steering, then accelerating hard out of the corner, headed for the next. What a great feeling of control!

Of course, the optional sport package with Active Roll Stabilization system sport suspension and Active Steering makes the process even better. It improves the suspension geometry so that body roll in the corners is nearly eliminated by twisting the front and rear anti-roll bars to the appropriate degree.

Among the many safety features are stability and traction control, dual threshold "smart" airbags for driver and front passenger, dual front-door-mounted

side impact airbags, front and rear seat Advanced Head Protection System, Coded Driveway Protection plus other safety equipment.

We didn't expect the 225-hp in-line six-cylinder engine to be so powerful. The car magazines are listing a 0 to 60 mph acceleration time of 6.7 seconds. The V-8 powered 545i makes the same run in only 5.3 seconds. The top speed is listed as electronically limited to 150 mph. We was comfortable around a 90-degree, 25-mph test corner at a very fast 53 mph.

Fuel economy is listed by the EPA at 20 mpg for city driving and 30 mpg on the highway. We recorded 22 mpg during our test time – darn that heavy foot.

This is a phenomenal vehicle, but with all the amenities that we like it is not an inexpensive one. It's just a matter of priorities. In general quality products cost more, and the BMW 530i is no exception. On the other hand the quality and state-of-the-art technology make it a great value and a great driving machine. ■

The new 2004 530i (above) maintains the basic style cues of the 5 Series, from the dual-kidney grille to the overall stance and proportions. For comparison, here is the 2001 5 Series (right).



### Standard Equipment:

4-Wheel vented disc brakes with Dynamic Brake Control; Dynamic Stability and traction control; 17-Inch alloy wheels; Rain sensing wipers; Keyless entry and alarm; Auto climate control; Power tilt and telescoping wheel; Power front seats; Power windows; Glass sunroof; iDrive system with on-board computer; Adaptive headlights

**Base Price:**..... \$ 44,300

**Options:** Cold weather package \$750; Premium package (leather upholstery, wood trim, garage door opener, auto dimming mirror, power lumbar) \$2,400; premium sound (Logic 7 audio and 6-disc in-dash CD changer) \$1,800; Sport package (star spoke alloy wheels, performance run-flat tires, sport seats, sport suspension, active steering, active roll stabilization) \$3,300, electric rear sunshade \$575; fold-down rear seat with ski bag \$475; park distance control \$700; xenon headlights \$800..... **\$ 10,800**

**Freight**..... \$ 695

**Price as Tested**..... \$ 55,795

# Back For More

Toyota is famously nipping at the heels of America's Big Three, to the point that a Toyota sedan is about as mainstream a piece of transportation machinery as you could hope for, in terms of basic A-to-B functionality, four wheels and a seat (to paraphrase Steve Martin), and quality and reliability that are quietly dependable, if so easily taken for granted that they aren't even noticed. Lexus, then, is about as mainstream a "nice" car as you could hope for. The new LS 430, which has been upgraded for 2004 to include a variety of new convenience and comfort features (all very nicely done ... we could get very used to the backup camera we might have considered superfluous, the trunk is ready for anything and the controls are intuitive from the first time you sit down), does not disappoint.



Intro and photos by Joe Sage



## Lexus LS 430

By Barbara & Bill Schaffer

After just three years, the Lexus LS 430 receives several changes and enhancements raising the bar on their flagship sedan with a mid-cycle redesign. Yes, they made a very good vehicle even better.

**Design** – A restyled front and rear fascia offers a more substantial and aggressive appearance. The rear features a new trunk lid along with a new bumper and taillight design. Inside, the LS 430 designers enhanced luxury features while keeping controls simple and easy to use. You now have a choice of a new antique walnut wood trim finish as well as three new leather colors including Cashmere, Ash and Saddle.

**Mechanical** – A 4.3-liter DOHC V-8 engine producing 290 horsepower at 5,600 rpm powers the LS 430. It is mated to a new six-speed sequential shift automatic transmission replacing the five-speed from the previous version. A Sequential Shift feature allows the driver to enjoy a more involved driving experience by controlling gearshifts manually buy buttons on the steering wheel. The LS 430 also has the Shift Logic Control that responds to road grade and acceleration/deceleration activity, holding gears or downshifting on hills to help provide better engine power or braking.

**Comfort** – Inside this luxury vehicle you will find more leg- and headroom and more cabin volume plus a larger trunk.

The climate control system in the LS 430 uses temperature and sun-sensing intelligent swing registers. If sunlight is concentrated on one side of the car, the registers automatically deliver more cooling air to that side.

**Price Range** – Coming as standard equipment the LS 430 is leather trimmed interior and genuine wood accents, driver memory (for seat, steering wheel, outside mirrors, and shoulder belt), one-touch power moonroof, and one-touch power up and down windows. It also has a power trunk closer, power rear window sunshade, Lexus HomeLink garage door opener, power tilt & telescopic steering wheel, in-dash six-disc CD changer, reverse auto-tilt down folding and heated outside mirrors with puddle lamps and much more for \$55,125. However after adding some of our favorite options like the luxury \$1,460 perforated leather package and the Ultra Luxury Package (it includes Mark Levinson Audio, Navigation system with rear back-up camera and Bluetooth®, Dynamic Laser Cruise Control, air suspension, SmartAccess, 4-spoke wood and leather steering wheel, intuitive parking assist, rear seat adjuster with power/slide and memory, front and rear climate control seats, power door closers, headlamp washer, rear air conditioner with optical deodorizer plus rear swivel reading lamps) for \$11,320. These two options brought our test vehicle to \$68,739. It's pricey, but very nice and probably the best value luxury sedan on the market. ■

# BMW PERFORMANCE CENTER REVVED UP FOR 2004



Young driving enthusiasts now have more opportunities to tune up their skills behind the wheel with more class offerings added to the 2004 driving program at the BMW Performance Center. Located in Spartanburg, SC, the Performance Center offers driving experiences and schools for enthusiasts of all levels and abilities.

"We've expanded our classes to accommodate more participants for our one-day and two-day clinics and the extremely popular teen driving school," says Diane Nevelle, manager of driving programs and events. "With a maximum 6:1 student/instructor ratio, our customers receive individual attention from instructors as they pair up for advanced driving experiences. Participants will take on water walls, braking exercises and slippery skid pads in a safe, controlled

atmosphere where they can improve their skills and learn how to handle real-life emergency situations on our professionally-built driving course."

The BMW driving school instructors, some of whom are former race car drivers, go through rigorous training and are all certified in Munich, Germany, before they teach at the South Carolina facility, according to Nevelle.

The BMW Performance Center Driving School road course can be configured 35 different ways and uses special features not found in most driver training programs. For example, students learn how to control a vehicle on an ultra-smooth concrete skid pad, which produces a slippery surface that simulates "black ice." Accident avoidance maneuvers are taught on a water wall corridor – one of only a few in the world

– where drivers are "surprised" when obstacles suddenly "appear" in front of their moving vehicles.

An emergency braking zone gives students the opportunity to learn the relationship between speed and stopping distance and how to brake with an ABS-equipped vehicle on both wet and dry surfaces. The ABS can be turned off to teach control for those drivers that don't have ABS-equipped vehicles.

Gift certificates are also available for each driving program. For more information on the BMW Performance Center and its programs, call the Center's toll free number, 888-345-4BMW (4269).

Information about BMW Group products is available to consumers via the Internet at:

[www.bmwusa.com](http://www.bmwusa.com)

[www.bmwmotorradusa.com](http://www.bmwmotorradusa.com) ■



# Delivering the driver's edge to teen drivers.

Traditional driver's education has focused on the skills needed to pass a driving test, with classroom lectures and some behind-the-wheel "on-the-job training." The DrivingMBA™ program goes beyond this, bringing high-tech simulators to everyday drivers.



## The DrivingMBA™ Comprehensive Driving Tutoring Program

These components are available as a discounted package or individually:

- **Rules of the Road® DVD** : Award-winning interactive DVD tutorial for home use.
- **Pre-Permit Driving Simulation Course** : 5 hours total computer simulated driving experience gives teens a solid foundation in fundamentals before they get behind the wheel.
- **Safe Young Drivers** : A book to supplement your own in-vehicle training.
- **Advanced Decision Skill Building** : The same high-end simulator used by police and other professionals to improve behind-the-wheel decision-making skills.
- **Profiler™** : Assesses your skills against a pro database (included with Advanced Decision Skill Building).
- **DUI** : Students in both simulator courses experience the negative impact upon vehicle control of driving while impaired.



A PROGRAM OF ACCELERATED SKILL BUILDERS

[www.drivingmba.com](http://www.drivingmba.com)

9181 E. BELL ROAD, SUITE 103 • SCOTTSDALE AZ 85260 • 480-948-1648

## BMW R 1200 GS

BMW Motorrad increases production



### DATELINE MUNICH

Due to enormous demand, BMW Motorrad will increase production of the R 1200 GS. "Incoming orders have exceeded all our expectations, and we want to reduce delivery times for our customers as fast as possible. The aim is for customers who order now to receive their motorbike in the summer," says Peter Müller, head of sales and marketing of BMW Motorrad.

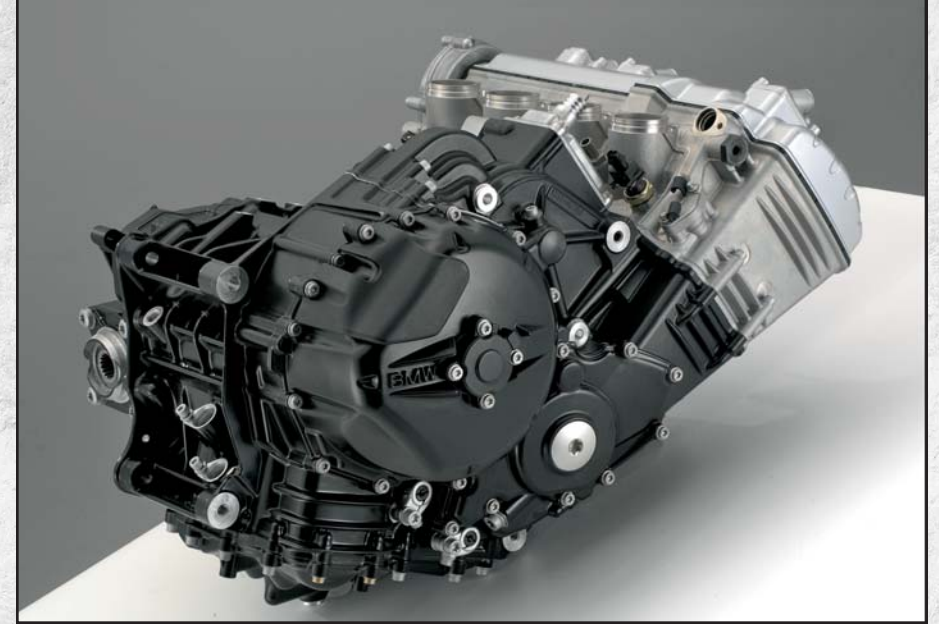
Additional shifts have been arranged in the short term with the work force of the Berlin motorcycle plant. All suppliers are also cooperating. "This shows," says Dieter Schliek, plant director in Berlin, "how very flexible our workforce is and how it is dedicated to satisfying our worldwide customers." Quite a few employees were even willing to put off their annual vacation so the R 1200 GS could also be assembled during plant holidays.

Over \$117 million has been invested in the BMW motorcycle plant for renewal and expansion of facilities. The production site in Berlin is one of the most modern motorcycle manufacturing plants in the world and is characterized by great flexibility. This flexibility allows for very quick adaptation of production to meet current demand and thus react quickly to customer wishes.

And what does this mean to you? It means the new R 1200 GS of your dreams will be en route to our shores in greater numbers, and soon. ■

# BMW K 1200 S

## High Performance Sport Bike



The speculation is over. Now it's official: this year BMW Motorrad introduces the K 1200 S, a completely new high performance motorcycle in the sport segment.



**P**roduction of the new K 1200 S high performance sports bike has been running at full power in the BMW motorcycle plant in Berlin since June 1, when the head of BMW Motorrad, Dr. Herbert Diess, gave the official go-ahead.

The K 1200 S was designed by BMW specifically as a sport bike, and it is a completely separate motorcycle within the K family. This bike is radically new, featuring an unprecedented number of innovations. It's a high-precision sport bike offering unique agility as well as enormous output. Power-to-weight ratio is level with the competition and almost 50 percent better than the K 1200 RS.

The low weight and extremely agile chassis help the K 1200 S deliver superior handling. The K 1200 S is powered by a transversely mounted

1157-cc four-cylinder inline engine with integrated transmission, unique among sport bikes by virtue of its overall concept plus its lightweight shaft drive. The engine generates 167 bhp at 10,250 rpm. The highest torque of 130 Nm is achieved at 8,250 rpm. More than 70 percent of maximum torque is already available from 3000 rpm. The overriding target for the engine developers was to achieve sports characteristics with rideable and fully controllable performance.

The extreme forward tilt of the cylinder bank (55°) ensures a low center of gravity. In this way it was possible to achieve an ideal wheel load distribution of 50:50 percent in combination with the overall geometric layout. The engine has an extraordinarily narrow design achieved by a series of special design

features. The engine width at the crankshaft level is approximately the same as for 600-cc engines. This not only allows for very deep engine installation and maximum lean angle, it also gives the bike a narrow and sporty silhouette.

Unique for a production bike in this class is the construction of the integrated 6-speed gearbox: a cassette transmission.

Environmental compatibility is safeguarded by a closed-loop three-way catalytic converter and digital engine electronics, standard on all BMW motorcycles for years. The engine of the K 1200 S is based on the latest generation as presented at the beginning of the year in the R 1200 GS. It also features integrated knock control and in this advanced four-cylinder engine represents the most sophisticated motorcycle engine manage-

ment system currently available.

A revolutionary front wheel suspension using two parallel links—without telescopic forks—ensures extremely sensitive response with excellent precision, outstanding rigidity and low weight. The electronically adjustable suspension is a world first in production motorcycles.

The new K 1200 S is also equipped with BMW Motorrad Integral ABS in the partially integral version. In conjunction with the EVO brakes, this system ensures maximum deceleration and the shortest braking distances in all road conditions.

The new BMW K 1200 S will be available soon; the price has not yet been set. All familiar models of the K family, the K 1200 RS, the K 1200 GT and the K 1200 LT will remain part of the model range beyond 2004. ■



## Performance Tires & Wheels

### Tirexchange, Inc.

Tires • Wheels • Chrome Plating  
15485 N. 84th Street • Scottsdale  
1-800-766-2588 • 480-596-9655

## Driver Tutoring

### DrivingMBA™

Comprehensive simulator tutoring for teens  
A program of Accelerated Skill Builders  
480-948-1648 • www.drivingmba.com

## Custom Garage Interiors

### GarageTek

Call to visit our completely furnished garages  
623-580-0900 • www.garagetek.com

## Mobile Communications

### NEXT Technologies, LLC

Integrated Mobile Media Environment (IMME)  
602-370-0098 • www.NextTech.biz

## Mobile Broadband Internet

### Sunangel Communications, Inc.

2-Way Mobile Broadband Internet  
480-905-1663 • www.broadbandonwheels.com

## Mobile Detailing Service

### Waxwerks Detailing

Detailing - Valley Wide Mobile Service  
Classic, Muscle & Luxury Autos  
Ken Dickson • 602-788-9680  
www.waxwerksdetailing.com

## Aftermarket Enhancements

### Gorilla Motorsports

Performance packages - superchargers - A/V  
Custom interiors - wheels/tires - suspension  
1425 S. Clark Drive • Tempe AZ 85281  
408-507-0999 • www.gorillamotorsports.net

## Vehicle Diagnostics

### AutoXray

EZ-Scan 6000 Automotive Scanner  
www.obd2can.com

## Auto Dealers

### Aston Martin North Scottsdale

18088 N. Scottsdale Road • 480-538-4200

### Audi North Scottsdale

18088 N. Scottsdale Road • 480-538-4000

### BMW North Scottsdale

18018 N. Scottsdale Road • 480-538-3900

### Lou Grubb Ford

8555 E. Frank Lloyd Wright • 480-991-3333

### MINI North Scottsdale

18018 N. Scottsdale Road • 480-538-6464

### Porsche North Scottsdale

18000 N. Scottsdale Road • 480-538-3850

### Scottsdale Lamborghini

Raintree & Hayden Road • 480-483-9300

### Van Chevrolet

8585 E. Frank Lloyd Wright • 480-991-8300

## Auto Dealers - Specialty

### Dream Machines

14825 N. 82nd St. Suite C • 480-951-9524

### Gorilla Motorsports

Select line of vehicles restyled for performance  
1425 S. Clark Drive • Tempe AZ 85281  
408-507-0999 • www.gorillamotorsports.net

### Motorsports of Scottsdale

The Finest Collection of Pre-Owned Luxury Autos  
Raintree & Hayden Road • 480-483-9300

### Scottsdale Lotus

8355 E. Raintree Suite 170 • 480-922-6242

## Online Classic Car Classifieds

### ClassicCars.com

Put your classifieds online at  
480-460-8800 • www.classiccars.com

## Racing Events

### SCO Nights

Sport Compact Drag Racing  
Every Thursday at Firebird Raceway  
www.dragracing.com/sco

### Phoenix International Raceway

602-252-2227 • www.phoenixraceway.com

## High Performance Schools

### Bob Bondurant School of High Performance Driving

Mention Code AZ803 for discounted multi-day  
1-800-842-RACE • www.bondurant.com

## Automotive Fine Art

### Automotive Fine Art by Don Evenson

Private commissioned paintings in oil or acrylic  
11259 E. Via Linda • Suite 100-185  
Scottsdale AZ 85259 • 480-661-8410

## Auto Spa / Convenience / Gas

### Cobblestone Auto Spa & Market

SCOTTSDALE:

• Frank Lloyd Wright & Hayden • 480-596-1200  
• 15111 N. Hayden Road • 480-561-2622

PHOENIX:

• Bell Road & Piestewa Parkway • 602-787-0035

CHANDLER - Opening in September:

• Alma School & Germann • 480-814-9274

SURPRISE - Coming soon!:

• Bell Road & Grand Avenue

## Service & Repair

### Airpark Auto Service

8115 E. Raintree • 480-998-1605

### Greulich's Auto Repair

8180 E. Raintree • 480-483-8186

## Motorcycle Dealers

### Cycle-Moto

Aprilia - Ducati - Motoguzzi - Triumph  
330 E. Southern Ave # 37 • Mesa AZ 85210  
480-898-0559 • www.azsbk.com

## Motorcycle Manufacturers

### Aprilia Motorcycles - Scooters

www.apriliausa.com

### Dan Gurney Alligator Motorcycles, Inc.

**Dan Gurney's All American Racers, Inc.**

2334 S. Broadway • Santa Ana CA 92707  
714-540-1771 • www.allamericanracers.com

### Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

9950 Jeronimo Road • Irvine CA 92618  
949-770-0400 • www.kawasaki.com

### Triumph

385 Walt Sanders Memorial Drive  
Newna GA 30265  
678-854-2010 • www.triumph.co.uk

*Information is derived from a variety of sources  
and may not be final or accurate; check all info.  
Listings do not necessarily represent any  
specific affiliation with nor endorsement by  
Arizona Driver magazine.*

EQUIPMENT : BRIDGESTONE POTENZA® RE92

# BRIDGESTONE POTENZA® RE92 ON 2005 SUBARU LEGACY AND OUTBACK



**B**ridgestone® will supply Potenza® RE92 tires to the 2005 Subaru Legacy sedan and wagon, and the 2005 Outback, the world's first sport utility wagon. The Subaru Legacy 2.5i models will be equipped with the all-season, V-rated Bridgestone Potenza RE92 in size P205/55R16. Bridgestone Potenza RE92 P215/45ZR17 Zspeed rated tires will be original equipment on the Subaru Legacy 2.5 GT models. The 2005 Subaru Outback 2.5 XT model has P225/60R16 Bridgestone Potenza RE92A tires, while the Outback 2.5XT Limited and Outback 3. R models are equipped with Bridgestone Potenza RE92A tires in a P225/55R17 size. The Bridgestone Potenza RE92 provides a quiet, smooth ride with high performance handling and all-season traction.

The Bridgestone Potenza® RE92 is available in Arizona at:



### TIREXCHANGE, INC.

Performance Tires and Wheels  
15485 N. 84th Street  
Scottsdale AZ 85260  
1-800-766-2588  
480-596-9655 ■

# POTENZA®

Solid purpose  
 Solid economy  
 Solid technology  
 Solid fun



**W**ith the Escape Hybrid, Ford intends to put fun into hybrid driving. Escape Hybrid is entering a market dominated, in the small hybrid sector, by small vehicles with a certain amount of compromise, in power, in size, in panache.

**World's Most Fuel-efficient SUV**

The 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid achieves its high fuel economy, clean emissions and spirited performance feel through an advanced powertrain that combines the best elements of gasoline and electric vehicles. This hybrid-electric vehicle is fueled by unleaded gasoline and never needs to be "plugged in" for charging; is driven like a conventional vehicle with an automatic transmission; automatically manages the electric drive system and gasoline engine for maximum efficiency and acceleration; claims to make no compromises in the acceleration performance and versatility expected from the normally-powered Ford Escape, already the compact SUV sales leader.

"In addition to its extremely quiet operation, the most apparent difference between driving the Escape Hybrid and any other SUV is how few stops you'll make for fuel, especially in city driving," said Mary Ann Wright, director, Ford Sustainable Mobility Technologies and Hybrid Vehicle Programs. "We've worked very hard to make the driving experience as familiar as possible."

**Conventional Controls**

The Escape Hybrid experience begins conventionally: Turn the key to start the vehicle. Shift to Drive, press the accelerator, and you're off. "The first thing you'll notice is the smoothness," said Tom Watson, Ford Escape powertrain supervisor. "The Escape Hybrid's transmission changes its gear ratio seamlessly and continuously. There's no feeling of gear shifts as you increase speed."

**Powerful, Smooth Acceleration**

The Escape Hybrid's 70-kilowatt traction motor can launch the vehicle on 100% electric power — up to 40 km/h. When needed, the generator can smoothly start the gasoline engine in less than 400 milliseconds, without the increased emissions produced in starting up a conventional engine. The combination of the gasoline

engine and electric traction motor provides seamless, strong response similar to a V-6 engine.

**Braking System Saves Energy**

When coming to a stop, Escape Hybrid's electric motor and regenerative braking system capture energy that normally would be lost as heat developed by the four-wheel disc brakes. As the driver presses the brake pedal, Escape Hybrid's electric drive system transforms the vehicle's momentum into electric energy. This energy gets transferred to the hybrid battery, where it is stored for later use, saving gasoline and eliminating the need to plug the vehicle into an electric outlet.

**Engine Stops, Starts Automatically**

Escape Hybrid features a fuel-saving engine stop/start function. As the vehicle comes to a stop, the system automatically checks the battery to ensure it has adequate power. If it is sufficiently charged, the gasoline engine rests to save fuel, and the vehicle operates on electricity alone, achieving the highest fuel economy and emissions benefits.

**No need to restart.**

In pure electric mode — indicated on the tachometer by a "green" zone below 0 rpm — the Escape Hybrid's gasoline engine rests to save fuel. It automatically switches in and out of this rest state depending on the driving situation and vehicle demands. "One of our biggest challenges was calibrating the vehicle so that automatic engine stop doesn't seem as though the engine has stopped at all," said Watson. "After a lifetime of driving conventional vehicles, the sensation of the engine stopping takes some getting used to." To ease the transition, the engine typically stops while the vehicle is still coasting, so the vehicle becomes quiet gradually. Because the engine is started by a high-voltage electric motor instead of the typical small, 12-volt starter, it springs to life almost instantly when necessary. "After just a few laps around the block, drivers become very comfortable with engine stop-start," Watson said. "The quiet operation simply becomes second nature. Conventional vehicles use the gasoline engine to provide energy for power braking and steering. In pure electric mode, the Escape Hybrid's electric



power-assisted steering and advanced electro-hydraulic braking systems continue to function normally.

### SUV Capability as Expected

Proving that efficiency and utility can go hand-in-hand, the Escape Hybrid not only is the world's most fuel-efficient SUV, it's the only hybrid vehicle so far to offer four-wheel drive, a manufacturer's towing rating and a maximum 65.5 cubic feet (1855 litres) of cargo room. The Ford Escape has led its class in total sales since its introduction, in part because of its outstanding roominess and cargo-handling capability. Ford engineers packaged the hybrid power-

effective storage space. With a maximum 65.5 cubic (1855 litres) feet available inside the Escape Hybrid cargo area, it is easily the most spacious hybrid electric vehicle ever made.

### Intelligent 4WD System

The Escape Hybrid is the only hybrid to offer the off-pavement advantage and all-weather security of optional four-wheel drive. For 2005, all Escape models offer an all-new, fully automatic four-wheel-drive system. The new Intelligent 4WD System requires no driver interaction and is so seamless in operation that most drivers will never notice that it has engaged — except noticing the enhanced capability in slippery conditions. The Intelligent 4WD System has a fully computer-controlled clutch that engages the rear wheels as needed;

in normal conditions Escape is

continuously varies the torque to the rear wheels at all speeds, offering the benefits of a "locked" four-wheel-drive system without any of the drawbacks.

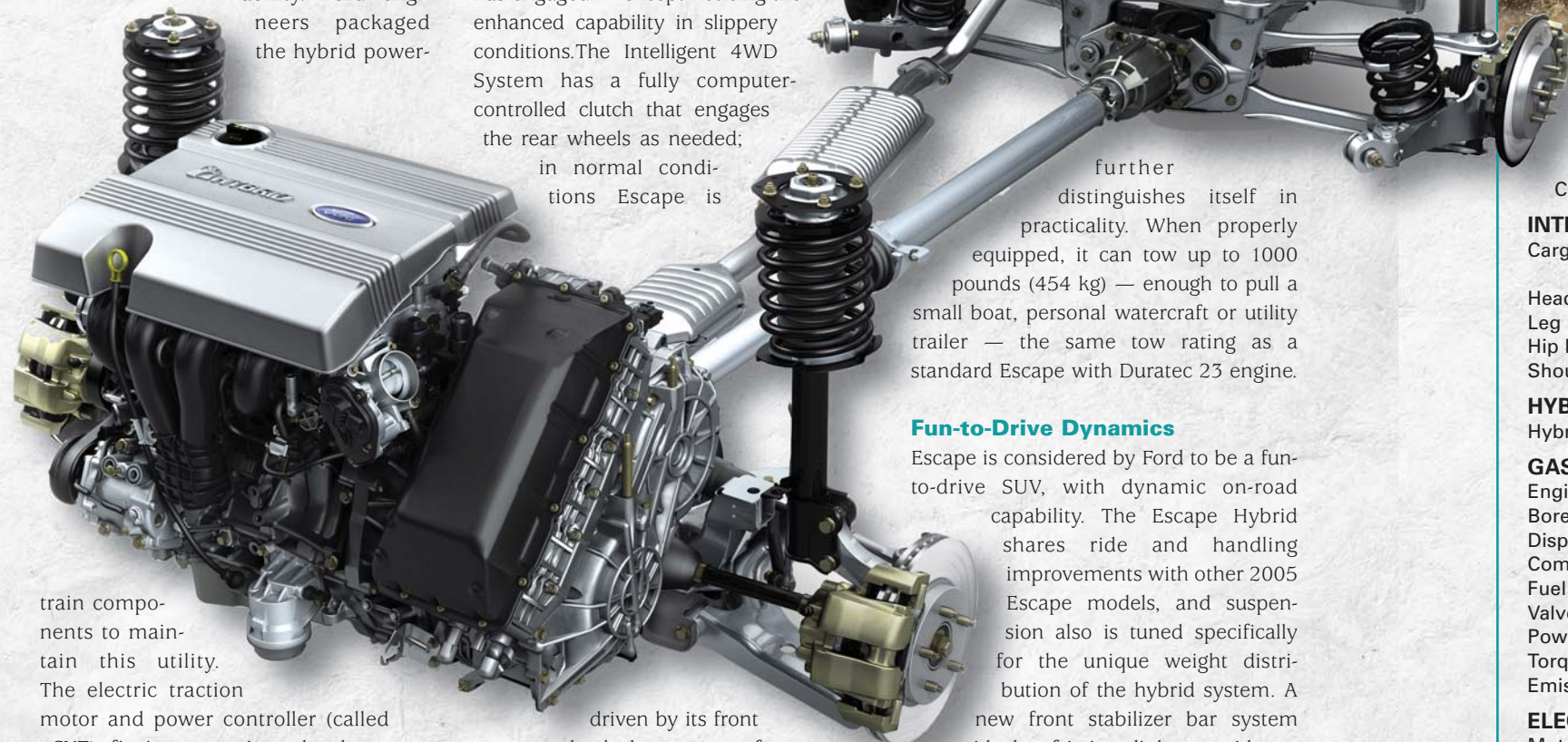
### Pulling Its Fair Share

As the hybrid market's only vehicle rated by its manufacturer for towing, Escape Hybrid

further distinguishes itself in practicality. When properly equipped, it can tow up to 1000 pounds (454 kg) — enough to pull a small boat, personal watercraft or utility trailer — the same tow rating as a standard Escape with Duratec 23 engine.

### Fun-to-Drive Dynamics

Escape is considered by Ford to be a fun-to-drive SUV, with dynamic on-road capability. The Escape Hybrid shares ride and handling improvements with other 2005 Escape models, and suspension also is tuned specifically for the unique weight distribution of the hybrid system. A new front stabilizer bar system with low-friction links provides a subtle improvement to Escape's already agile, predictable and inspiring driving character. This performance stems from Escape's solid unitized body construction, its MacPherson strut front suspension, rack-and-pinion steering and independent rear suspension (IRS). IRS once was a rarity among SUVs, but now is used in the Ford Escape, Ford Explorer and Ford Expedition as a key element of Ford's SUV leadership. The responsive IRS architecture gives Escape precise steering and handling through dynamic toe control and the ability of each wheel to react separately to road imperfections. ■



train components to maintain this utility. The electric traction motor and power controller (called eCVT) fit in approximately the same space as a conventional transmission, while the slim hybrid storage battery fits neatly under the rear cargo floor, completely sealed against the kinds of wet, dirty gear adventurous owners sometimes carry there. In fact, the only difference between the Escape Hybrid and other Escape models, from a packaging standpoint, is the unobtrusive integrated ductwork in the driver-side rear quarter window for the battery's temperature-management system. It occupies only a little more than one cubic foot of space, distributed along the side panel for minimal loss of

driven by its front wheels, but can transfer up to 99% of torque to the rear wheels as required. Using sensors at each wheel and the accelerator, the system's computer can calculate up to 200 times per second exactly how much torque to send to the rear wheels to minimize slip; it can also predict slip and preclude it from happening at all. The Intelligent 4WD System eliminates one of the drawbacks of other four-wheel-drive systems that are tuned aggressively for maximum traction: a binding effect during tight turns and driveline harshness when the system engages. The Escape Hybrid's Intelligent 4WD System can sense tight turns and



## SPECIFICATIONS: 2005 FORD ESCAPE HYBRID

### CAPACITIES

Fuel capacity .....	15.0 gallons
Oil Capacity .....	4.5 quarts
Coolant capacity .....	11.6 quarts

### INTERIOR

Cargo Volume: Rear Seat Up .....	27.6 cubic feet
Rear Seat Down .....	65.5 cubic feet (cushion removed)
Head Room, Front/Rear .....	40.4 in / 39.2 in
Leg Room, Front/Rear .....	41.6 in / 36.3 in
Hip Room, Front/Rear .....	53.4 in / 49.1 in
Shoulder Room, Front/Rear .....	56.3 in / 55.9 in

### HYBRID SYSTEM

Hybrid System Net Horsepower .....	155 hp (116 kW)
------------------------------------	-----------------

### GASOLINE ENGINE

Engine Type: Aluminum DOHC 16-valve Atkinson cycle inline 4-cylinder	
Bore/Stroke .....	3.44 X 3.70 IN, 87.5 X 94.0 mm
Displacement .....	138 cu in, 2.3 liters (2,261 cc)
Compression Ratio .....	12.3:1
Fuel Injection .....	Sequential multiport electronic
Valvetrain .....	Direct-acting mechanical bucket
Power .....	133 hp (99kW) @ 6,000 rpm*
Torque .....	129 lb-ft (175 Nm) @ 4,500 rpm*
Emissions Rating (AT-PZEV):	Advanced Technology Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle

### ELECTRIC MOTOR

Motor Type: Permanent magnet AC synchronous motor
Power: 94 hp (70kW) @ 3,000-5,000 rpm • Voltage: 400V maximum

### TRANSMISSION

\*Because it can use its gasoline and electric-drive system simultaneously, Escape Hybrid has acceleration performance similar to the 200-hp V-6 Escape.

### SUSPENSION AND BRAKES

Front: Independent MacPherson struts supported by L-shaped lower control arms, coil springs and stabilizer bar
Rear: Independent, multi-link suspension with two lateral links and trailing arms
Steering Type: Rack-and-pinion with electric power assist
Brakes: Power-assisted ventilated front 11.9-inch disc / rear 11.9-inch disc with Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) and integrated regenerative braking

### WEIGHTS (pounds)

FWD .....	3,622
4WD .....	3,785
Maximum towing capacity when properly equipped .....	1,000

# THE INSIDE TRACK: BRIEFS & RUMORS

After the 2003 model year the giant **Ford** Excursion was rumored to be on the 2005 extinction list due to much lower than projected sales figures. Ford has



Ford Excursion

evidently reconsidered and plans to continue building the big SUV along with the F-250 and F-350 heavy-duty pickups. Now that all the development costs have been paid for, so the highly profitable vehicle is even more profitable, even at lower production levels. The Excursion is available with gasoline V-8 and V-10 engines or a diesel V-8 engine.

In an effort to bridge the gap between top of the line **BMW** models and the high-performance M versions, the company plans to offer turbocharged gasoline-powered engines on many models. The turbo versions will be on new direct-injection gasoline powered engine. Some of the turbo cars will have an automatic transmission, which tend to be more popular in the United States.

**Subaru** is building a new platform to be used on a new seven-passenger crossover SUV for the US market. The upmarket Subaru will be designed to compete with vehicles like the seven-passenger Acura MDX. This will be an all-new car-style platform. It could also end of as the basis for the next generation Saab 9-7x. The new larger Subaru is said to somewhat resemble the BMW X5. It is due in the fall of 2005 as a 2006 model.



Subaru Baja

**Mercedes-Benz** CEO Juergen Hubbert said the company is working on another high performance vehicle to build with its racing partner McLaren. The pair recently introduced the \$400,000 plus front engine SLR McLaren to rave reviews and at least a year's worth of buyers. The next car would be a mid-engine sports car to do battle with the likes of Ferrari and Lamborghini. Such a car would probably be powered by a naturally aspired version of the 500-hp AMG V-8. The price would be in the more modest \$140,000 to \$180,000

range if the makes it to market, which could come by late 2007.

**Cadillac** is testing a high performance "V" version of the upcoming STS flagship sedan at Germany's Nürburgring racetrack. The rear drive STS is powered by the new and improved Northstar engine rated at 320-hp, while the "V" will get a supercharger and more than 400 horsepower.

**Subaru** will likely drop the Baja pickup after the 2006 model year unless sales improve. Introduced in September 2002, the small four-door, four-wheel drive pickup has sold less than half the projected numbers even though the price

has been cut by \$2,000 and a turbocharged performance model was added.

**Kia** is thinking about building a truck called the Mojave. The mid-size concept being shown uses a body-on-frame platform with features like a flip-open rear window and a sliding load floor that extends the six-foot bed. The company says it may have a 260-hp 3.8-liter V-6 engine but is also considering a four-cylinder and a V-8 if they produce the stylish truck.

**Nissan** is testing the Quadrasteer four-wheel steering system for use in the new Titan pickup along with the Nissan Armada and Infiniti QX56 full size sport utility vehicles. The system was developed by Delphi and is currently being used as an



Delphi Quadrasteer

overly expensive option (part of a \$6,000 plus package) on heavy-duty Chevrolet and GMC trucks. Quadrasteer turns the rear wheels the opposite direction of the front wheels at low speeds and the same direction as the front wheels at highway speeds to greatly improve maneuverability.

**Acura's** new RL model will have a standard traffic reporting system that uses XM Satellite Radio in conjunction with the car's navigation system to display the traffic speed of the driver's chosen route. It will also display accidents and construction zones along the route so the driver can detour problem areas. The system, called XM NavTraffic, will require a monthly service charge that is expected to be less than the current \$9.99 monthly charge for the XM service alone. The system will also be available in the 2005 Cadillac CTS.

The new generation **Chevrolet** Corvette that debuts this summer will be the first to come with a standard six-speed manual transmission rather than the automatic transmission that has been standard equipment on previous models. Nonetheless, Chevrolet expects two-thirds of the new Corvette buyers to choose the optional automatic.



Chevrolet Corvette

**Nissan** plans to offer the Cube in the United States starting in 2008. The silhouette resembles the Honda Element and Scion xB. It's currently being sold in Japan with a 98-hp 1.4-liter four-cylinder engine and a base price of about \$16,000. A four-wheel-drive version is on the way, only with the rear wheels being driven by an electric motor.

According to COO Jim Padilla, **Ford** will offer a hybrid version of the sedan, formerly named the Futura. (Ford recently had to drop the Futura moniker after Pep Boys, the auto parts store, filed a legal objection because they had been using the Futura name for years on a tire.) When it arrives in 2007, the sedan will be powered by a gas or diesel engine with an electric motor. The sedan will be Ford's third hybrid following the Escape sport wagon that debuts in August and the Mercury Mariner hybrid that is due in 2006.

**Jaguar** has lowered the price of the 2005 S-Type R performance sedan by \$4,125 so that it will be more comparable to the with Key competitors like the BMW 545i Sport. The S-Type R has a 390-hp 4.2-liter supercharged V-8 engine and new lightweight aluminum hood. The new price is \$58,995 instead of \$63,120.



Jaguar S-Type R

**Pontiac** will be getting a new small sport wagon developed on the same architectures as the Saturn Vue and the Chevrolet Equinox in 2006. The plan calls for the Pontiac Torrent to be a little shorter than the Vue, while retaining its width. It will be available in front- and all-wheel drive configurations and will likely be powered by a four-cylinder engine.

**Honda** is expected to add a small car next year based on the Honda Fit currently being sold in Japan as a subcompact four-door sedan. Gasoline engines ranging from 1.2- to 1.5-liters power the small front-wheel drive, which is smaller than the Civic. It will be marketed for first time buyers and should start at about \$12,000. Honda is also expected to add another Acura truck that will be smaller than the MDX SUV.

**Saab** may be getting a sports car based on the General Motors Kappa, small car platform. Saab's advanced design team in Gothenburg, Sweden



Saturn Curve concept

created the Curve concept for Saturn and it's likely they will make a spin-off for Saab, possibly using the Sonett name from the 60's. Look for a debut at the 2005 Frankfurt auto show.

**Volkswagen** may offer a V-10 diesel engine in the new full-size Phaeton luxury sedan. The company is offering limited numbers of the new 5.0-liter, 310-hp, 553

lb.ft. torque diesel engine in the Touareg SUV and inside sources are saying the engine will also find its way into the US version of the Phaeton, expanding the diesel VW lineup in the US to the New Beetle, Golf, Jetta, Touareg and Passat.

The next generation **Volvo** convertible will carry the C70 name from the current model even though the platform will come from the smaller S40 sedan and V40 wagon. The new version is expected to have a dramatic styling when it arrives at dealerships for the 2006 model year.

**Mercedes-Benz** is sending 50 special edition SL65 AMGs to the US to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the New York Auto show where the 300SL debuted. The roadster with its Silver Arrow metallic paint job, black Nappa leather interior and anthracite carbon fiber interior trim will be priced near \$180,000. Performance should be second to none with its 604-hp 6.0-liter V-12 engine with twin turbochargers.

**Mitsubishi** has yet another version of the Lancer Evo VIII ready for the US market. The EVO VIII FQ-330 is currently being sold in England with power coming from a 2.0-liter 330-hp turbocharged four-cylinder engine with 305 lb.ft. of torque. The English version is priced at an estimated \$57,300 and is capable of 0 to 62 mph in just 4.7 seconds. ■

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*.



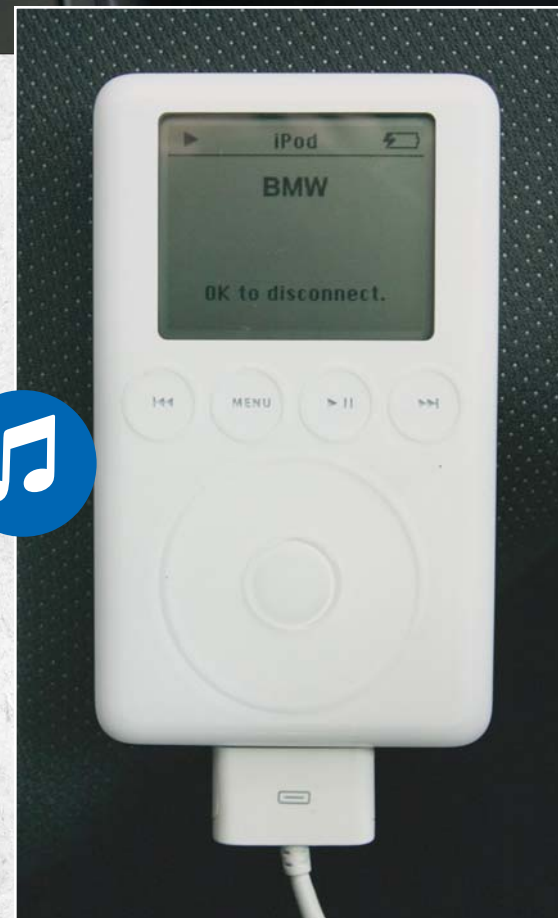
# IPOD YOUR BMW: THE WORLD'S FIRST INTEGRATION OF IPOD AND CAR AUDIO SYSTEM

Apple Computer and BMW have announced the debut of the BMW iPod Adapter, the world's first seamless integration between iPod and a vehicle audio system. The new system allows users to incorporate their iPods directly into their car's sound system, enabling them to connect with music in their automobiles like never before. Now, iPod enthusiasts can bring their entire music collections with them, plug directly and effortlessly into a superior sound system, while maintaining uncompromised control over their driving experience. The BMW 3 Series, Z4 Roadster, X3 and X5 Sports Activity Vehicles and MINI customers will be able to enjoy the new BMW iPod Adapter.

"Apple and BMW have outpaced the industry around the innovation curve," said Steve Jobs, Apple CEO. "This elegant solution enables auto enthusiasts to carry with them and enjoy their entire music collection everywhere they go, heightening their ultimate driving experience."

"With Apple, we're bringing the ultimate seamless digital music experience to our customers," said Tom Purves, Chairman and CEO, BMW (US). "The BMW iPod Adapter provides our drivers with virtually endless miles of music without their hands ever leaving the steering wheel."

The seamless integration of iPod lets drivers to control their music through their



existing audio system and the multi-function steering wheel. The BMW iPod Adapter enables drivers to easily access their entire music library, shuffle songs, skip between tracks and adjust volume—all with no loss of sound quality or driving control. Drivers can also create up to five unique "BMW playlists" to listen to while on the road. The BMW iPod Adapter integrates Apple's iPod and iPod mini through a direct connection in the BMW or MINI Cooper glovebox, so the iPod is protected out of view.

Available in both Mac® and Windows versions, iPod and iPod mini work effortlessly with Apple's iTunes® Music Store\*, the world's number one digital music service, and the iTunes digital music jukebox software for seamlessly buying, managing and listening to digital music collections. iPod is available in a 15GB, 20GB model, and a 40GB model that can hold 10,000 songs. iPod and iPod mini use Apple's patent pending Auto-Sync technology that automatically downloads an entire digital music library and keeps it up-to-date whenever either unit is plugged into a Mac® or Windows computer.

### PRICING & AVAILABILITY

The BMW iPod Adapter is \$149.00 plus installation cost, and is available for customers to purchase at BMW centers as of July 12, 2004 for 2002, 2003 and 2004 BMW models: X3, X5, Z4 and 3 Series. The MINI Adapters will be available later this summer. Any specific application restrictions are listed online. Installation is performed by authorized BMW and MINI centers only. iPod mini and iPod for Mac and Windows is sold separately, and is available in the US through the online Apple Store, Apple's retail stores and Apple Authorized Resellers. The iPod mini is available for a suggested retail price of \$249; the 15GB through 40GB iPods are available for \$299-499.

### ONLINE RESOURCES

For comprehensive information on the BMW iPod Adapter, visit the dedicated website at [www.ipodyourbmw.com](http://www.ipodyourbmw.com). For more information on the Apple iPod, to purchase directly from the online Apple Store or to locate an Apple retail store or reseller, log on to [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com).



# The Koreans continue their upscale climb



By Barbara and Bill Schaffer

**BARBARA—** I was quite surprised when Bill picked me up at the airport and I saw the Kia Amanti. As it came towards me I was sure it was a Mercedes; after all it had Mercedes-like headlights. Once I climbed in I found it to be extremely luxurious with the most gorgeous and generous amount of birdseye maple surrounding the center console, across the dash and doors and the steering wheel.

**BILL—** The Kia Amanti was a big surprise for me too, and after spending a week driving and looking at it I found design elements that reminded me not only of Mercedes-Benz, but Jaguar, Lincoln, Buick and Mazda. The look was so obvious, a guy at the gas station asked, "when did Mercedes come out with this?"

What was most amazing to me was this was not the inexpensive little Kia I'd come to know and love the last few years, this was a big sedan, about the same size as a Buick LeSabre or Toyota Avalon. It's a fresh face in the full-size market.

**BARBARA—** The all-new full-size sedan makes a great statement in its design with a distinctive chrome-trimmed grille flanked by dual elliptical headlamp

clusters formatted to match the lines of the grille and hood. From the rear the Amanti is equally distinctive. Dominating the rear view are horizontal taillights that are split across the trunk.

The interior duplicates the flowing lines of the exterior with a dashboard that arcs across the A-pillars creating a sill that shades the instrument clusters from glare. All controls are ease of use and are clearly marked and illuminated at night.

**BILL—** The big Kia is very quiet and

smooth emulating a luxury sedan. It sits on a slightly stretch version of the Hyundai XG350 (Hyundai owns Kia). It's also longer and taller than the XG350.

The front suspension is an independent double wishbone with coil springs and a stabilizer bar. The rear is an independent multi-link with coil springs and stabilizer bar. The steering is rack and pinion.

**BARBARA—** The very well equipped Amanti comes standard with all the usual power items including eight-way power

Still fairly sedate, this is a special edition Kia Amanti presented at the SEMA show last winter.



The Kia Amanti uses smart airbags in the front that are controlled by sensors that gauge the severity of the frontal impact before deployment to insure the bags are not triggered by low-impact collisions like those typically occurring in parking lots.

driver's seat and four-way power front passenger seat, air conditioning, keyless entry, cruise control, leather-wrapped steering wheel with cruise control and audio controls along with the extensive wood trim for just \$24,995.

Our test Amanti also had the option convenience package that includes a power sunroof, heated front seats and a HomeLink system for \$900 and the leather package that comes with leather seat trim, driver seat and outside mirror memory, Infinity AM/FM stereo with cassette and six-disc in-dash CD player plus a four-inch trip computer monitor for \$1,805. The total price with all the options and delivery was \$28,260.

**BILL—** Power for the front-drive Amanti comes from a 3.5-liter double overhead cam V-6 engine rated at 195 horsepower. It's connected to a best-in-class five-speed automatic transmission with a manual shifting linkage.

The only option missing from our test car was the \$550 stability control package that includes electronic stability control, traction control and brake assist.

**BARBARA—** The Amanti safety features include dual front seat airbags, front and rear seat mounted side airbags, front and rear side curtain airbags, LATCH system for child's car seat.

**BILL—** Sure, I'd like another 80 or 100 horsepower, but the V-6 is sufficient for normal sedan driving. The auto magazines list 0 to 60 times of 8.9 seconds and that's similar to the competitors. I recorded 71 mph in my

approximate one-eighth mile mailbox acceleration test, which I run from where I pull onto the main highway and accelerate to the first mailbox.

The Amanti has some body roll when cornering and that dropped my comfort level around the 90-degree, 25-mph test corner to 49 mph. Our fuel economy during the week averaged 18.2 mpg as compared to the EPA ratings of 17 mpg for city driving and 25 mpg on the highway.

**BARBARA—** Kia has come up with a real winner, even though the steering effort was a lighter than I like. Overall it is an incredible vehicle with the bells and whistles of much higher priced cars.

Kia Motors American President Peter M. Butterfield summed it up best, "Amanti is our effort to reach out to yet another group of buyers who we weren't previously attracting." He added, "Amanti will give them everything they want, except a huge hole in their wallets."

**BILL—** Kia has together an impressive large sedan for the first time in this market. They kept the options choices to four and one of those is a \$20 first aid kit. The fit and finish looks very good and the materials are by no means skimpy. It's a comfortable car to drive or ride in with lots of room, adequate trunk space and it's quiet.

Then there is Kia's ace in the hole, the 10-year, 100,000-mile warranty -I'm sure it has often been the catalyst to bring buyers over to the Kia side.

All these attributes added together

## Kia Amanti Specifications

**ENGINE:** 3.5-liter DOHC V6  
Horsepower .....195 @ 5500  
Torque (lb-ft) .....217 @ 3500

**TRANSMISSION:** Automatic, 5-speed transaxle w/ floor shift and sport shift mode. Front-wheel drive.

**BRAKES**  
Front brake .....11.9-inch discs  
Rear brake .....11.2-inch discs

**SUSPENSION**  
Front: Independent, Double-Wishbone, w/ Coil Springs and Stabilizer Bar  
Rear: Independent, Multi-Link, w/ Coil Springs and Stabilizer Bar

**WHEEL & TIRE**  
Wheel .....6.5J X 16  
Tire .....225/60 R16

**PERFORMANCE (SCHAFER)**  
0 to 60 mph .....8.9 sec  
Top speed .....132 mph

**FUEL ECONOMY**  
EPA economy rating .....17/25 mpg  
As tested (Schaffer) .....18.2 mpg avg.

**COMPETITORS:** Buick LeSabre, Chevrolet Impala, Chrysler 300, Ford Crown Victoria, Hyundai XG350, Mercury Grand Marquis, Pontiac Bonneville, Toyota Avalon

make the new Amanti an enticing value for the large car buyer. ■

**BILL AND BARBARA SCHAFER** are editors of *Auto Digest*, including automotive reviews, rumors and other features.



# The Car Corner

RADIO SHOW  
with Bill Zervakos



There are other automotive shows on radio, but nothing quite like The Car Corner. On other programs, you'll hear people talking about their vehicle's problems, but on The Car Corner, you'll find out about what's happening in the industry that impacts you, the motoring public. Some things you'll hear about:

- News from the Industry
- Expert Tech Tips
- Trivia with Prizes
- New Car Evaluations
- Guest Interviews
- Contests and More



Saturdays 7-8am  
Xtra Sports 910 AM

## OUR DRIVE : 2004 KIA AMANTI



By Joe Sage

Kia, as with its parent company Hyundai, is surely on the move. Now that they've tasted the US market, they want more of it. And now that they've tasted this market, they also are starting to pick up a bit more of its flavor. The chart below gives a pretty good indication of who they have in their sights with the Amanti, and against those vehicles, they're holding their own. The first thing that springs to mind in this car, actually, is "Buick." It's comfy, not showy, kind of loosely sprung and floaty in the corners, a bit top-heavy on its suspension, none of it all that much so, but, at the same time, you aren't going to see the BMW 5-Series on the chart below. So, for 25 grand, what do you get? Pretty decent value, pretty decent fitment (see Barbara and Bill's test impressions, previous pages), pretty good comfort, decent handling. Will anybody really think it's a Mercedes? Depends who they are and what they've seen. Will you know the difference? Well, if you know the difference, you already know who you are; and if not, you will find this car to be a solid partner for quite awhile, especially given its generous warranty. As with all the Korean offerings, we're seeing tremendous progress, and even moreso we're seeing the telltale signs that they are working like mad to imitate the best they can in any budget segment. As of now, the Kia Amanti is worth a test drive; if you like the style and feel, you just might bring this one home. ■

### 2004 Amanti Competitive Comparison

	Kia Amanti	Toyota Avalon	Buick LeSabre	Chrysler Concorde
<b>EXTERIOR DIMENSIONS</b>				
Length	196.0	191.9	200.0	207.7
Wheelbase	110.2	107.1	112.2	113.0
Width	72.8	71.7	73.5	74.4
Height	58.5	57.1	57.0	55.8
Weight	4021	3417	3567	3479
<b>INTERIOR DIMENSIONS</b>				
Passenger Volume (cu.ft.)	105.6	105.6	107.6	107.0
Trunk Capacity (cu.ft.)	15.5	15.9	18.0	18.7
Front Headroom	40.0	38.7	38.8	38.3
Front Shoulder Room	58.1	58.4	59.1	59.1
Front Leg Room	43.7	41.7	42.4	42.2
Front Hip Room	55.2	55.2	56.1	56.3
Rear Head Room	38.4	37.9	37.8	37.7
Rear Shoulder Room	57.5	58.1	58.7	58.7
Rear Leg Room	37.2	40.1	39.9	39.1
Rear Hip Room	54.6	55.1	56.6	59.1

### Kia Amanti Pricing

Base Model .....\$24,995  
Destination Charge .....\$540

#### STANDARD EQUIPMENT

##### Mechanical

- 3.5-liter 24-valve DOHC V6 engine
- 5-speed automatic transmission
- Front double wishbone transmission
- Rear multi-link suspension
- Power rack and pinion steering
- P225/60R16 tires/alloy wheels
- Full size spare and alloy wheel
- 4-wheel anti-lock brakes
- Front and rear disc brakes

##### Safety

- Dual front airbags
- Front and rear seat mounted side airbags
- Front and rear side curtain airbags
- Front active headrests
- Anti-pinch windows
- Front seat belt pretensioners w force limiter
- Lower Anchors & Tethers for Children (LATCH)

##### Interior

- Dual-zone automatic climate control
- AM/FM/Cass/CD audio with eight-speakers
- Power windows with auto up/down
- Power door locks
- Heated power mirrors
- Premium cloth seat fabric
- 8-way power driver's seat w lumbar support
- 4-way power front passenger's seat
- Keyless entry with alarm
- Engine immobilizer
- Cruise control
- 12V power outlets (3)
- Leather steering wheel with audio and cruise remote
- Wood grain interior accents
- Floor mats

##### Exterior

- Front fog lamps
- Front windshield de-icer
- Gas strut hood with trunk lifters
- Solar glass

Leather Package: Leather seat trim, 2-position memory for driver's seat, 2-position memory for outside mirrors, Infinity AM/FM/Cass/6-disc CD audio system & 4-inch monitor with trip computer .....\$1,805

Leather & Convenience Package (requires Leather Package): In addition to Leather Package equipment: Sunroof, Heated front seats, Auto-dimming inside mirror with Homelink, addtl.....\$900

Leather, Convenience & ESP Package (requires Leather & Convenience Package): In addition to Leather & Convenience Package equipment: Electronic Stability Program, Traction Control, Brake Assist, addtl.....\$550

# ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE



# Where the roads are dry and the cars are slick.

## ADVERTISE!

Call for information on our anchor sponsor program.

Arizona Driver Magazine

PO Box 13387  
Scottsdale AZ 85267  
480-948-0200

## UPCOMING FEATURES

### Ford New Vehicle Discounts for Students in Advanced Education Program



Ford Motor Company is putting their money where their goals are, providing safety programs for teens, and also giving college students a chance to buy or lease a new car affordably.

### Jaguar X-Type at the Bridgestone Winter Driving School



All-wheel drive is a great asset on even the driest and smoothest roads (with some weight and handling tradeoffs), but to really give the new X-Type a go, we head to Colorado.

### Aston Martin DB9 and DB9 Volante



Aston Martin is taking the rounds with a "Driven to the 9s Tour," which we attended in north Scottsdale. Our report on the new coupe and soft-top versions is in the next issue.

# Introducing The Ultimate Garage!



**IT'S  
WEATHERPROOF,  
WATERPROOF,  
BUGPROOF,  
AND  
FIRE RATED**

**Introductory Pricing with  
Discounts Available  
from \$300 - \$800**

GarageTek can transform your cluttered garage into an attractive, organized storage area or workspace, with plenty of room for your cars! GarageTek is easy to reconfigure and expand as your needs change. The most user-friendly organizing system available, GarageTek's patented TekPanel™ allows for adding and rearranging with ease. Units move up or down, side to side, leaving no unsightly holes in the wall, for the most in flexible storage and space efficiency. Call for an appointment to visit our showroom or our completely furnished model garages.

- Maintenance Free
- Custom Designs
- Professionally Installed
- 10-Year Warranty

**GARAGE  
TEK**  
A Furnished Garage  
Is A Beautiful Thing

Call to schedule an appointment  
with our organizational designer.  
623-580-0900 • [garagetekaz@qwest.net](mailto:garagetekaz@qwest.net)  
[www.garagetek.com](http://www.garagetek.com)



It's All About Drive.



**TIREEXCHANGE, INC.**  
PERFORMANCE TIRES AND WHEELS

15485 N. 84th Street  
Scottsdale AZ 85260  
1-800-766-2588 • 480-596-9655

**BRIDGESTONE**  
A GRIP ON THE FUTURE

bridgestonetire.com  
tiresafety.com  
1-800-807-9555