

ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 6
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2004

BMW 645Ci

ROAD TEST TO PRESCOTT

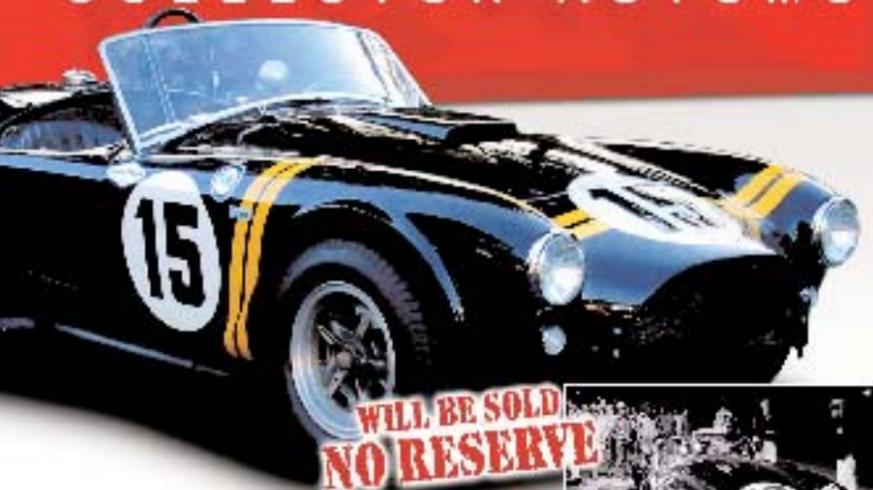
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AND: AUCTION PREVIEW



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By Larry Edsall

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BMW 645Ci 22

We put the 645Ci convertible through its paces around the Valley for style, and on the road to Prescott to assess its performance. It comes out well on all counts.
By Joe Sage and Gary Goldzweig

VEHICLE EVENT

Ford Innovation Drive 26

Firebird International Raceway was the first stop in this North American tour of Ford's new Five Hundred sedan, Freestyle crossover wagon, the new F-Series Super Duty trucks, and the GT, Mustang and F-150 thrown in.

VEHICLE IMPRESSIONS

Ford Five Hundred, Freestyle, F-Series Super Duty 29

We get a little track time at Firebird and thereabouts, in the Five Hundred, Freestyle and F-250 Super Duty, plus Midwest road time in the Five Hundred and Freestyle.
By Joe Sage and Barbara Schaffer

SPECIAL EVENT

Russo and Steele: Dan Gurney Cobra 30

Auction season preparations are well underway, as the Valley's big ones arrive once again this January. Russo and Steele are known for coming up with clearly documented, rare race machines, which dovetail well with their basic emphasis on European sports and American muscle. This Shelby Cobra has both the lineage and specifications to pull major interest, especially as it will be sold at no reserve.

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COVER: BMW 645Ci, photo courtesy BMW.



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We get to drive a lot of BMWs. If you look around the streets and freeways of metro Phoenix, though, you'd probably say, "yeah, who doesn't!" Well, working through the 3, 5 and 7 Series can be pretty much fun, but we've recognized the need for a new 6 Series for awhile (and then there's the matter of an 8!). So we had a good level of anticipation when we were scheduled for a week with the new 645Ci convertible. The size and coupe factor of the 6 Series fit a great niche in the BMW lineup, with power and grace, and a very refined yet all-out muscular style. So what of the current controversial styling being applied to the rest of the lineup? Would that make an odd-duck 6? Well, as you'll see inside, they've received (and responded to) enough creative feedback to maintain those primary elements but do something good with them. This bodes well for the rest of the lineup.

If you look around the roads of Arizona, you'll also see a lot of Fords. And whereas the Ford Taurus sold like hotcakes, claiming the number one slot in US sales for years, a combination of its various restylings and aggressive competition, primarily from the Japanese, had knocked it off its perch. So, while the Taurus will continue to be built in limited form for fleet and rental sales (and to accommodate factory changeover logistics), Ford is introducing an entirely new 4-door sedan, the Five Hundred (that's right, you spell it out). At the same time, they are adding the Freestyle, which not only addresses the absence of the prior Taurus wagon, but also enters the fray known as the crossover, as some people seek alternatives to large and

expensive-to-feed SUVs. Ford brought these, and more, to Firebird International Raceway, where we had a chance to check 'em out. Enjoy the drive.



Joe Sage
Publisher/Executive Editor

ARIZONA DRIVER

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QUIZ : CAR SMARTS



1. What percentage of American drivers fill their tank when the fuel gauge reaches between one-quarter and one-half full?
 - a. 22 percent
 - b. 33 percent
 - c. 40 percent
 - d. 47 percent
2. How many vehicles were repo'ed in 2003?
 - a. 250,000
 - b. 700,000
 - c. 1.2 million
 - d. 1.7 million
3. What is the overall fuel economy rating given by the EPA to the new front-wheel drive Ford Escape Hybrid SUV?
 - a. 27 mpg
 - b. 33 mpg
 - c. 36 mpg
 - d. 39 mpg
4. As of early August 2004 what was the per ton price for the hot rolled steel used in new vehicle underbodies and frames?
 - a. \$110 per ton
 - b. \$330 per ton
 - c. \$540 per ton
 - d. \$780 per ton
5. Which auto company is going on the auction block?
 - a. Avanti
 - b. Daewoo
 - c. Panoz
 - d. Morgan
6. Where is the Audi TT built?
 - a. United States
 - b. Germany
 - c. Hungary
 - d. Spain
7. Which vehicle in the recent NHTSA rollover testing had the best rating?
 - a. Acura TL
 - b. Mazda RX-8
 - c. Volkswagen New Beetle Convertible
 - d. Mazda3 4-door
8. What percentage of the new Chrysler 300s are equipped with a Hemi engine?
 - a. 18 percent
 - b. 29 percent
 - c. 40 percent
 - d. 47 percent
9. What does the ultra luxury brand Maybach call its car dealerships?
 - a. The studio
 - b. The gallery
 - c. The hall
 - d. The portico

10. The new Ford Five Hundred sedan has a base price of \$22,795. One option is an impressive all-wheel drive (AWD) system. How much extra does the AWD cost?
 - a. \$1,100
 - b. \$1,300
 - c. \$1,500
 - d. \$1,700
11. How many years has Honda been building cars in the US?
 - a. 20 years
 - b. 25 years
 - c. 30 years
 - d. 35 years
12. In auto lingo, what is a shooting brake?
 - a. an emergency brake
 - b. a station wagon
 - c. SUV with large sunroof to shoot from
 - d. a brake system that uses two pedals
13. How many manufacturing facilities does Toyota have in the United States?
 - a. 4 facilities
 - b. 6 facilities
 - c. 8 facilities
 - d. 10 facilities
14. What is the curb weight of the new 2005 Lotus Elise sports car?
 - a. 1,679 pounds
 - b. 1,979 pounds
 - c. 2,279 pounds
 - d. 2,579 pounds
15. What is the standard horsepower rating of the 2005 Chevrolet Corvette C6?
 - a. 360 horsepower
 - b. 400 horsepower
 - c. 425 horsepower
 - d. 450 horsepower
16. What percentage of the full-size pickups built in North America in 2003 were either extended or crew cabs?
 - a. 34 percent
 - b. 51 percent
 - c. 63 percent
 - d. 75 percent
17. How many new cars were damaged at car dealerships when Hurricane Charlie hit Florida in August?
 - a. 1,700 damaged
 - b. 3,600 damaged
 - c. 6,700 damaged
 - d. 9,500 damaged
18. What percentage of women say being well organized in their car helps them keep their eyes on the road?
 - a. 28 percent
 - b. 49 percent
 - c. 70 percent
 - d. 89 percent
19. What's the estimated EPA fuel economy rating of the new Honda Accord Hybrid?
 - a. 20 mpg city / 30 mpg highway
 - b. 27 mpg city / 34 mpg highway
 - c. 30 mpg city / 37 mpg highway
 - d. 34 mpg city / 41 mpg highway
20. On an average how many times per month does OnStar remotely unlock the doors on member vehicles?
 - a. 5,000 /month
 - b. 15,000 /month
 - c. 25,000 /month
 - d. 35,000 /month

21. What percentage of new car buyers in the US in 2003 were over 50 years old?
 - a. 24 percent
 - b. 41 percent
 - c. 56 percent
 - d. 67 percent
22. What percentage of car buyers over 50 years old bought American made cars?
 - a. 33 percent
 - b. 48 percent
 - c. 63 percent
 - d. 76 percent
23. How many lives have been saved over the last 20 years thanks to use of seat belts?
 - a. 57,500
 - b. 157,500
 - c. 257,500
 - d. 357,500
24. When were the first rebates offered on the sale of new vehicles?
 - a. 1912
 - b. 1936
 - c. 1957
 - d. 1975
25. What percentages of motorists always fill their vehicle with premium gasoline?
 - a. 6 percent
 - b. 13 percent
 - c. 18 percent
 - d. 24 percent
26. Currently there are more than 200 automotive nameplates on the market in the US. How many nameplates were there at the end of World War II?
 - a. 33 nameplates
 - b. 73 nameplates
 - c. 102 nameplates
 - d. 125 nameplates
27. What is the world's speed record for a blind person on a motorcycle?
 - a. 38 mph
 - b. 52 mph
 - c. 80 mph
 - d. 96 mph
28. The readers and staff of *Automobile* magazine picked the 100 coolest cars of all time in their October issue. Which of the following four cars was "the coolest"?
 - a. Shelby Cobra
 - b. Porsche 911
 - c. Jaguar XK120
 - d. Chevrolet Corvette Sting Ray (63-67)
29. When was the first official NASCAR race?
 - a. 1949
 - b. 1955
 - c. 1959
 - d. 1964
30. What will the new Audi seven-passenger SUV be called when it debuts in 2006?
 - a. Q7
 - b. allroad 7
 - c. D7
 - d. Pikes Peak
31. How many vehicle crashes in the US during the last five years are attributed to cell phone use?
 - a. 100,000
 - b. 200,000
 - c. 300,000
 - d. 400,000

ANSWERS ON PAGE 8 >>

>> ANSWERS (quiz on page 7) >>

1. Answer: d. According to a national US survey commissioned by Shell, 49 percent of drivers fill their fuel tanks when the needle reaches between one-quarter and one-half full. 17 percent of the respondents waited until the fuel warning light went on.
2. Answer: d. According to Manheim, the company that does automobile auctions, there were about 1.7 million vehicles repossessed in 2003.
3. Answer: b. The EPA has given the two-wheel drive Ford Escape Hybrid an overall rating of 33 mpg or 36 mpg for city and 31 mpg for highway. The city is higher because the electric motor operates more often during city driving. The four-wheel drive version gets 33/29. The non-hybrid 4-cylinder Escape with a manual transmission is rated at 23/28.
4. Answer: d. The price of hot-rolled coil steel used in frames and underbodies has doubled in the last year to \$780 per ton. The price of cold roll steel used for body sheeting has gone to \$845 per ton. If these prices continue we may see more vehicle price hikes.
5. Answer: a. Avanti Motor Corp. was selling its business to the highest bidder by October 1, 2004. The company, with only five dealers, sold about 50 cars this year.
6. Answer: c. Since its inception the Audi TT coupe and roadster have been built in Gyor, Hungary.
7. Answer: b. According to the recent NHTSA rollover testing results, the Mazda RX-8 had the least possibility of rolling over in a single car accident. The RX-8 had an 8.0 percent chance of rolling. Acura TL 10.3. Mazda3 4-door 10.5. Volkswagen New Beetle Convertible 10.5. In the first round 20 cars, 8 trucks, 32

SUVs and 4 minivans were tested.

8. Answer: d. According to *Automotive News* 47 percent of Chrysler 300 sedans sold so far are the "C" model which is equipped with a Hemi V-8. That's much higher than Chrysler expected. For the Dodge Durango the figure is 46 percent and for the Ram truck 56 percent.
9. Answer: a. Maybach dealers refer to their dealerships as the studio. Each Maybach ultra luxury sedan is custom built to the new owner's specifications.
10. Answer: d. Ford will charge \$1,700 for the all wheel drive option on the new Ford Five Hundred sedan.
11. Answer: b. Honda has been building cars in the United States for 25 years.
12. Answer: b. A shooting brake is a term for a station wagon, most often used with European estate style cars.
13. Answer: c. Toyota has 8 manufacturing facilities in the United States.
14. Answer: b. The new 2005 Lotus Elise sports car only has a 190 hp four-cylinder engine but is capable of accelerating from 0 to 60 mph in only 5.1 seconds because of its light 1,979-pound curb weight. The Elsie has a base price of \$40,780.
15. Answer: b. The 2005 Chevrolet Corvette has a new larger 6.0-liter V-8 engine that produces 400 hp and 400 lb.ft. of torque. It's capable of 0 to 60 times of 4.1 seconds and has a top speed of more than 180 mph.
16. Answer: d. According to CSM Worldwide, 41 percent of the full size pickups built in North America were extended cabs and another 34 percent were crew cabs, making a total 75 percent.

17. Answer: c. According to the auto manufacturers, as reported by *Automotive News*, car dealers had at least 6,747 new vehicles damaged or destroyed when Hurricane Charley came ashore near Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda, Florida. The number could be as high as 7,247 because Chrysler reported they had damage on 1,000 to 1,500.
18. Answer: d. According to a study done by Harris Interactive for Mercury, 89 percent of women surveyed said being well organized in their car helps them keep their eyes on the road.
19. Answer: c. The new Honda Accord Hybrid has better levels of performance than the current top-of-the-line V-6 Accord, as well as fuel economy ratings of 30 mpg for highway driving and 37 mpg on the highway - about the equivalent of a 4-cylinder Honda Civic.
20. Answer: d. The GM-owned OnStar communications systems on an average unlock 35,000 doors times per month on the vehicles of its 2.7 million subscribers.
21. Answer: c. According to the Certification Verification Council for the SPMG (Senior Publishers Media Group) Americans over 50 years old purchased 56 percent of all new cars sold in the US in 2003.
22. Answer: d. According to the Certification Verification Council for the SPMG, 76 percent of the cars bought by mature adults, over 50 years old, are American made.
23. Answer: b. The National Safety Council estimates 157,500 lives have been saved thanks to safety belts over the last 20 years.
24. Answer: a. Henry Ford offered the first automotive rebates in 1912 when he promised to mail checks to buyers of the Model T. Chrysler brought back the practice in 1975 when Joe Garagiola yelled "Buy a car, get a check" for Dodge Aspens and Plymouth Volares in a 1975 Super Bowl commercial.

25. Answer: b. According to a recent survey conducted for Shell Oil Products US, 13 percent of motorists always use premium gasoline in their vehicles.
26. Answer: a. According to AutoPacific's Industry Analysis office there were just 33 nameplates after World War II. In 1959 there were 72 and 208 in 2000. By 2009 they project nearly 275 nameplates.
27. Answer: c. Mike Newman, a legally blind man, holds the world record for the fastest visually impaired person on a motorcycle - 80 mph, set in 2001.
28. Answer: d. According to the readers and staff of *Automobile* magazine the 1963-1967 Chevrolet Corvette Sting Ray was the coolest car of all time followed in order by the Porsche, Cobra and Jaguar.
29. Answer: a. The first official NASCAR race was generally considered by historians to be run on June 19, 1949, although some racing occurred in 1948.
30. Answer: a. The new large-size Audi SUV will be called the Q7 starting a new series to go with the A, S and RS models. The Q7 is a five-door model based on the Pikes Peak concept that was introduced at the Detroit show in 2003.
31. Answer: c. According to the National Safety Council nearly 300,000 vehicle crashes were caused by drivers using cell phones during the last five years. They recommend turning off cell phones while driving.

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

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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 SL55 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	Brill Silver/Charcoal	18,600 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	Sea Gray/Gray	50 mi.
2002 995 Cabriolet 2D	Sea Gray/Gray	234 mi.
2002 Boxster	Silver/Black	10,400 mi.
2001 995 Turbo	Arctic Silver/Gray	9,024 mi.

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.

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

Bentley/Rolls-Royce

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

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JAGUAR CONSIDERS \$100,000 FLAGSHIP

Jaguar is considering the production of a \$100,000 flagship to enhance its high-end image. The company displayed the Concept Eight at the New York Auto Show to an enthusiastic audience. The Concept Eight featured is based on the XJ8L long wheelbase sedan and could be easily adapted to the current lineup. It features a darkened glass roof panel, 21-inch wheels, the current supercharged V-8 engine and many other luxury upgrades. If produced, the Eight would be competing against cars like the Mercedes-Benz S600 and BMW 760Li, along with new models expected from Lexus, Cadillac and Audi. ▼



Jaguar Concept Eight



Subaru WRX STi

The Subaru WRX STi performance sedan famously flaunts its stuff on the outside; now the inside invites the serious sport driver to take a seat.

SUBARU UPGRADES 2005 WRX STi

▲ Subaru has made significant upgrades to the WRX STi for 2005 in an effort to distance it from the Mitsubishi Evolution. Although the change isn't overly obvious it is wider in the rear to allow for larger tires. The interior is more refined and less Spartan than previous models. There are dozens of tweaks to the steering, suspension and drivetrain that improve the way the STi handles. The engine remains the same at 300-hp and 300 lb.-ft. of torque for the US model. The price will be \$32,770 including destination charges.

MAZDA WORKING ON NEXT-GEN MIATA

Mazda is currently testing engineering mules (the inside of the car with a different body) of the third generation Miata and the result is expected to debut at the Geneva auto show in March. The new version will be built on the RX-8 sports car platform and it will be a little larger than the current version. It will be available with 1.8- and 2.0-liter four-cylinder engines. Initial models will have a conventional soft top, but a Mercedes-Benz SLK style retractable metal roof will be a late option. The current roadster is

known as a Miata and the MX-5. Look for the Miata name to be dropped in favor of the MX-5 designation.

TOYOTA AND HONDA AND EPA RATINGS

Toyota and Honda have asked the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to consider changing the fuel economy rating from the current miles per gallon standard to a gallons per 1000-mile rating. The two Japanese car companies argue that the gallons per 1000-miles would provide a more accurate picture of how much fuel would be used. They maintain the popular hybrids sold by both companies don't register as well as EPA ratings indicate, because the vehicles do better in stop and go driving where they use the electric motor more often.

VOLVO'S BLIND SPOT INFO SYSTEM

Volvo calls their latest safety innovation BLIS (for Blind Spot Information System). Using a camera the system watches for vehicle in that blind spot that occurs when a vehicle moves beyond the view of the side view mirror to where the driver can peripherally see it. When it "sees" a vehicle in that zone it triggers a red light that is mounted on the A-pillar of the car

indicating something is in the blind spot. The area the camera sees is 31 feet long by 9.8 feet wide on either rearward side of the car. The camera captures images at 25 clicks per second and by calculating the rate of change between the pictures it can measure the location and speed of the neighboring vehicle and indicate the hazard with the red light. The system will not work in heavy fog, snow or when the speed of the vehicle is significantly slower or faster than surrounding vehicles. BLIS can be shut off. It will first appear in 2005 models of the S60, V70 and XC70.

GM REPLACES CVT WITH AUTOMATIC

Problems with the General Motors-built CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) have caused the company to drop the belt-driven transmission in favor of a conventional four-speed automatic transmission. The CVT that was designed to improve fuel economy was offered in the Saturn Ion coupe and Vue SUV. Further plans call for replacing the four-speed automatic in 2006 with a six-speed automatic transmission. GM officials would not confirm that the six-speed

KEEP RIGHT >>

Ford F-150



The new Ford F-150 was introduced last year missing one key ingredient for a lot of potential owners: a manual transmission. Problem solved for 2005.

>> AUTO NEWS UPDATE - cont'd

automatic transmission will be the one that has been developed jointly with Ford. While the GM CVT has not worked, several other manufacturers have had good success with the transmission. Currently Nissan, Mini, Audi and Honda all offer a CVT and Ford plans extensive use of the transmission in its new Five Hundred, Freestyle and Montego models.

V-6 AND MANUAL FOR FORD F-150

▲ Unit now the new Ford F-150 pickup has only been available with a V-8 engine and automatic transmission, but that changes when the 2005 models go on sale this fall. To accommodate the corporate fleets and the work truck customers, Ford will offer the new style pickup in a regular cab and rear wheel drive with a 4.2-liter V-6. The transmission choices will increase too with the availability of a manual transmission for the V-6 model. Base price of the new V-6 bare bones model is \$20,550, while the top of the line King Ranch edition with four-wheel drive is \$39,780. Prices for the manual transmission version will be announced soon.

GM TRIES TO MOVE THE PONTIAC GTO

Lackluster sales of the new Pontiac GTO have forced General Motors officials to rush to make changes before the 2005 model reaches dealerships. For '05 the GM LS2 V-8 has been substituted giving the GTO 400 hp and 395 lb.ft. of torque, that's 50 more horsepower and 30 lb.ft. of torque. The '05 model also gets an optional hood with scoops, larger brakes and dual exhaust outlets. To try to move the large stock (about 6000) of the remaining 2004 models Pontiac is considering offering the optional hood scoops on 2004 models. The hood scoops, which were a prominent part of the original GTOs in the 1960s, were not included on the 2004 model, but some dealers have had some success selling the car after fitting it with aftermarket hood scoops.

HONDA ODYSSEY ADDS MICHELIN PAX

Honda is offering the Michelin PAX run-flat tires as standard equipment on the all-new 2005 Odyssey Touring model making it the first minivan in North America to adopt the system. The tires give the driver the security to travel up to 125 miles at 50 mph to reach a Honda

dealer or a tire shop able to deal with the PAX tires. The PAX system uses a unique wheel size of 225 x 460A (about 17.5-inch) with 235-710R 460A tires. PAX uses four components: a tire that dynamically locks onto the wheel so it will not come unseated during normal use, an inner support ring to carry the load if pressure is lost, a specially shaped wheel to facilitate the inner support ring and a tire pressure monitoring system. Honda says the PAX system also offers 12 percent lower rolling resistance for better fuel economy. Michelin officials say replacement tires will cost 10 to 15 percent more than equivalent original style Michelin tires and require a tire dealer with special equipment to change tires.

CORVETTE TAKES ON WORLD'S BEST

The next generation Chevrolet Corvette, the 2005 model C6, is a bit smaller and more powerful than the previous versions, which also makes it more the size of the European sports cars. The new version is five-inches shorter and one inch narrower (now 175 inches long and 73 inches wide). The standard engine is a 6.0 liter V-8 producing 400 hp and 400 lb.ft. of torque. The new styling has

Dodge Ram SRT-10



Take a very capable pickup and optimize it for street performance, that's the formula for the Dodge Ram SRT-10, which knows few peers on pavement.

sharper edges and the most significant design change is the elimination of the pop-up headlights that have been on the Corvette since 1962. Several new options are now available: DVD navigation, XM satellite radio, and a head-up display. The coupe, which is available now, is priced at \$44,245 including destination. The convertible will be available late in 2004 and is priced at \$52,245. A high-performance Z06 version with a 7.0-liter 500-hp V-8 will be offered in the 2006 model year.

TWO NEW DODGE RAMS FOR 2005

▲ Dodge is making its famous "Viper truck", with the 8.3-liter 500-hp V-10 engine, family friendly by offering a new four-door quad cab version for 2005. The Ram SRT-10 will have the same 22-inch forged wheels, high performance tires, and massive brakes, but the Quad Cab will only be available with a four speed automatic transmission. The original only comes with a six-speed manual. The Quad Cab SRT-10 is expected to cost a little more than the regular cab, which is \$45,995. The second new Dodge Ram for 2005 brings back the Power Wagon name from the 1980s. With its Hemi engine,

the heavy-duty off-road truck has oversize off-road tires, front and rear locking differentials, a 12,000-pound winch and electronically disconnecting front anti-roll bar. Dodge says the Power Wagon was built by off-roaders for off-roaders. It will probably be priced over \$40,000.

VOLVO MOVING UP TO A V-8 ENGINE

To enhance performance and prestige, Volvo will offer its first V-8 engine starting in the XC90 sport wagon beginning next year. Yamaha developed the 4.4-liter gasoline V-8, rated at 315 horsepower. Volvo is hoping that the V-8 will elevate the status of the brand so that it might better compete with cars like the BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Lexus. At this time the V-8 engine will only be offered in the XC90, but that car rides on the same platform as the S60, S80, V70 and XC70, so it is logical that the V-8 may also be offered in other models in the future if demand to the engine is strong. The XC90 will still be available with the current five-speed automatic with five- and six-cylinder engines in a choice of front- or all-wheel drive. The V-8 version will be equipped with a new six-speed automatic transmission and standard all-

wheel drive. Prices are still unofficial, but the XC90 V-8 is expected to have a base price of about \$45,000 or \$47,000 typically equipped.

AND NOW FOR A REALLY BIG SUV

If the Hummer is not big enough for you, then check out the newest big SUV on the market, the International CXT. Built by a Texas firm, the CXT is built from a quad cab International Truck and stretches to 258 inches long with seating for five and pickup bed on the rear – overall it's six feet longer than a Hummer H1, or about the same length as a London Bus. The CXT is powered by a 220-hp diesel engine producing 540 lb.ft. of torque. The air-ride cab and seats provide an exceptionally smooth ride. The spacious and well-appointed interior ensures automotive-like comfort and convenience. While the CXT is probably the biggest SUV on the road, it also has a monstrous appetite for fuel with consumption estimated to be about 10 mpg. International suggests this should be a perfect truck for tradesmen or a great toy for the rich. The price of the CXT starts at \$93,000.

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Ford Cobra Roadster concept



Ford carries the unmistakable aura of Carroll Shelby's Cobra heritage into the 21st-century with the 2-seater Ford Cobra Roadster concept. Build it!

>> AUTO NEWS UPDATE - cont'd

JEEP LIBERTY WITH DIESEL ENGINE

The new 2005 Jeep Liberty SUV is being offered with a diesel engine for the first time. The 2.8-liter four-cylinder turbo-charged engine features an advanced Common Rail Diesel (CRD) technology and is available with either a six-speed manual transmission or five-speed automatic. The engine is rated at 160 horsepower and has an impressive 295 lb.ft. of torque at 1800 rpms. Craig Love, Vice President - Rear Wheel Drive Products Team and Core Team Leader, says the CRD engine emits 60 percent fewer emissions than diesel engines of 20 years ago. The engine is an enhanced version of the four-cylinder engine currently offered on this same vehicle in Europe. With its 160 horsepower and whopping 295 lb.ft. of torque the engine should produce respectable performance numbers and good fuel economy. The diesel is rated at 21 mpg for city driving and 27 mpg on the highway as compared with the four-cylinder that is rated at 20/24 respectively. The Liberty diesel has a towing capacity of 5,000 pounds.

FORD HIGH PERFORMANCE 2-SEATER

▲ Ford appears to have a GT replacement already in the works. Ford's plan was to build about 1,500 of the super fast mid-engine GTs during the next two model years then stop production because the car will not meet 2007 regulatory standards. To fill the halo car image void after the GT, Ford is expected to build a Cobra roadster similar to the concept that debuted in August at the Concours d'Elegance in Pebble Beach. An aluminum 6.4-liter V-10 engine rated at 605 horsepower powers the roadster concept. Ford officials are calling the Cobra a Dodge Viper fighter that could be priced around \$80,000. The current GT is priced at \$143,845. Is it possible we may see a battle of the snakes in a couple of years?

MORE SOPHISTICATED NEW BOXSTER

The second generation Porsche Boxster that debuts later this year doesn't look radically different, but it's loaded with sophisticated new equipment like Porsche's new PASM (Porsche Active Suspension Management) option that changes the damper control configuration at the touch of a button offering

the best of ride and handling. It also has optional ceramic brake discs for even quicker stopping. A safety first is the world's first head airbag for a roadster to help protect the driver and passenger against side collisions. Combined with a thorax airbag housed on the outer side of the seat backrest the airbag comes out of the doorsill.

LEXUS REDESIGNING THE SEDAN FLEET

In an effort to be more competitive with BMW and Mercedes-Benz, Lexus will replace all of its sedans by the fall of 2006. The GS 330 and GS 430 are being totally redesigned and will debut in spring 2005. The sporty IS 300 arrives at dealerships in the fall 2005. The ES 300 is being re-engineered for introduction in spring 2006. The flagship car, the LS 430 gets a complete new design and premieres in fall 2005. All the models will have bolder styling and a sportier driving experience according to Denny Clements, general manager of the Lexus division. ■

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

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Grand Canyon National Park

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923-638-7888 Visitor Info Recorded Message

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Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

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520-387-6849 Visitor Information

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520-733-5153 Visitor Info Rincon Mtn District

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CP 31000 Chihuahua, Chihuahua
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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

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Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village

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Imperial Palace Auto Collections

(see Nevada listings)

Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum

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National Automobile Museum

(see Nevada listings)

National Corvette Museum

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

Petersen Automotive Museum

(see California listings)

Shelby American Collection

(see Colorado listings)



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BMW 645Ci... What it's really all about.

by Larry Edsall

BMW can build all the sporty sedans and dynamic SUVs it wants, but even Tom Purvis, chairman and chief executive of BMW of North America, will tell you that "these cars are really what BMW is all about."



These cars are what we've come to know as the BMW 6 Series, a succession of now-classic and collectible coupes—with fixed or drop tops—that date to 1937 and the 327 model.

The series resumed after World War II with Count Albrecht Goertz designing the 503 for 1956, then Italy's famed Bertone studio did the 3200 CS that began production in 1962. The next generation went through several evolutions before emerging as the stunning 3.0 CS, which made its American debut in 1977.

But the series went into hiatus after the 1989 635CSi, although BMW did a seven-year run of unspectacular 840 and 850 coupes from 1990-97. "We were so busy doing so many other things we, let's say it, we lost our way on a coupe," says Purvis.

While lost, BMW found financial success, building and selling yuppified sedans (not to mention all of those truly wonderful M3s). More recently, BMW has produced two models of sport utility vehicles, vehicles that combine crisp handling with a cargo hold large enough to carry increased profits.

What all of this adds up to is a company now in position to honor its own heritage with the 2004 645Ci, a true grand touring car available as a coupe or convertible.

"We should never have departed from that segment of the market," Purvis says of a niche, he says, that provides an elegant—and fast—way to cover long distances.

Both the fixed-head (hardtop) and cabriolet draw propulsion from BMW's 325-horsepower, 4.4-liter V8 engine, and extremely important from the enthusiast driver's standpoint, each is available with the buyer's choice of three six-speed transmissions. Thomas "T.J." Jefferson, North American 6 Series product manager, says such a trove of transmission is very important in fulfilling BMW's presentation of the new 6 Series as "the reward for the discerning driver."

The 645Ci buyer has a choice of a six-speed manual or Steptronic (automatic) transmission as standard equipment, or can opt for a six-speed sequential manual gearbox (SMG) with shifter paddles,

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mounted racecar style on the steering wheel, as a \$1,500 option.

For \$2,800, a buyer can add the optional Sport package, and we're not talking here about the run-of-the-mill setup that merely provides more aggressive shift points. In the 6 Series, Sport mode also activates quicker throttle response when you tip into the accelerator's pedal, and engages Active Steering, a technology that alters the steering ratio so the car is even more responsive to the sort of directional inputs the enthusiast driver makes in dynamically charged situations.

Also included are 19-inch wheels and W-rated performance tires, special exterior trim and a pair of sport seats with the sort of bolstering that the enthusiast driver wants.

This gear all comes in a car that the enthusiast driver, at least the successful enthusiast driver who can afford the new 6 Series—\$69,995 for the coupe and \$76,995 for the convertible—not only will like driving, but will like being seen in while driving—or even while parked.

BMW executives admit that the sales

successes of the Lexus SC430 and Mercedes-Benz' SL provided encouraging impetus for the Bavarian automaker to return to the luxury-performance coupe market. However, BMW went its own route on design, with separate hard and soft topped versions rather than a retractable hard roof. BMW also is alone in providing a back seat that accommodates the legs and knees of grown up passengers.

Design of the exterior of the new 6 was done by Adrian van Hooydonk, who did industrial design in his native Holland before studying car design and joining BMW in 1992. Van Hooydonk was working in BMW's main design studio in Munich when he did the new 6, but for the past couple of years has presided over DesignworksUSA, the company's California studio that designs everything from cars to cell phones, motorcycles to medical equipment and from John Deere tractors to Villery & Boch bathroom fixtures.

Van Hooydonk knew that all previous 6 Series cars became collectible classics, so there was pressure to do make the 645Ci more than an ordinary vehicle. But while those earlier cars may have inspired him,

he was not interested in any sort of retro effort. Because of BMW's emphasis on new technologies, he explains, the company's designs must be "forward-looking," even if some of its most recent—especially the 7 Series—have been controversial. But this 645Ci, whether coupe or convertible, is not controversial; it's elegant and innovative.

As is typical, the designer was given a variety of engineering hard points and marketing targets before he started his work, but this time he set them aside. "I cannot do paint-by-numbers design," van Hooydonk explains. Instead, he started with a clean sheet and designed a car that takes motion from its emotion. Why? Because, he knows, "nobody buys BMWs for purely rational reasons."

After designing a car that hopes to become a classic, van Hooydonk and interior designer Dave Carp went back and made sure all the criteria details would fit, not detract from their work.

The same scenario applied to changes that would come in the development process, such as the small winglets sculpted into the tail lamps after early

wind tunnel testing. Those tail lamps aren't the only detail you'll want to notice. See how cleverly a curving line divides the center console, separating the driver's side (shift lever) from the passenger's side (iDrive system control).

Also take a close look at the convertible top while it's up, and to the way its rear window retracts. Rather than the standard and abrupt convertible top profile, the 645Ci's soft top has a fastback shape thanks to two extended fins that extend the C pillars. Between the bases of those fins is a glass rear window that raises and lowers at the touch of a button. It's an elegant and innovative solution that provides optimum ventilation when the top is up and also controls wind rush when the top has folded itself away beneath its hard tonneau. This rear power window is a feature other automakers are sure to copy.

To achieve its performance targets, the new 6 Series needed to be powerful, strong and light. Extensive use is made of structural aluminum, especially in its front. The hood and doors are aluminum, as are suspension components, front brake calipers, brake rotor "hats" (saving around

two pounds in unsprung weight per corner), and there's a two-piece aluminum driveshaft (saving another 6.6 pounds).

The rear deck lid is made from sheet-molded compound. The front fenders are thermoplastic. Overall, the car's body weighs only 728 pounds, 34 pounds less than the 330Ci coupe.

The 645Ci coupe weighs in at 3781 pounds and the convertible at 4178 with manual transmission. The automatic or SMG adds only 11 pounds.

Propelled by 325 horsepower and 330 pound-feet of torque, BMW says the coupe will sprint from a standing start to 60 miles per hour in 5.5 seconds with the manual or SMG and in just 5.7 with the automatic. Sprint times are about half a second longer for the convertible.

Still, the car is clean enough to qualify for Low-Emission Vehicle status and the coupe is rated at 17-mpg city and 25 highway with the manual, 18/26 with the automatic. The cabrio's respective figures are 15/23 and 18/26.

The car slots between BMW's 5 and 7 Series sedans. Its 109.4-inch wheelbase is 4.3 inches longer than the 5's, but 8.3

inches shorter than the 7's. Overall length of 109.4 inches makes the 6 4.3 inches shorter than the 5.

Crucial to the car's dynamic capabilities is its wide stance: a 61.3-inch track in front and 62.7 in the rear. Compared to the 5 Series, the 6's agility is enhanced by greater negative camber, a lower roll center and lower ride height.

Also crucial to the 6's appeal is the adult-sized room in its back seat and a trunk that even with the top down will hold two full sets of golf clubs. Part of the trunk's space is created by the use of run-flat tires as standard equipment.

Other standard equipment includes Dynamic Stability Control, anti-lock brakes, Dynamic Driving Control, active roll stabilization, dynamic brake control, Xenon headlamps that turn to help you see around corners at night, fog lamps, rain-sensing wipers, dual exhaust tips, power tilt and telescoping steering wheels, Dakota leather upholstery, power front seats, height-adjustable front armrest/storage unit, iDrive with

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navigation and voice activation technology, automatic climate controls, audio system with eight speakers and a CD player, 18-inch wheels with 245/45-aspect all-season tires.

In addition to front and side airbags, the coupe gets head protection airbags and the convertible has BMW's Rollover Protection System. Coupes come with power moon roofs and convertibles with a power top.

Options include 19-inch W-rated performance tires (245/409 in front and 275/35 in the rear), a Sport package with Active Steering, a Cold Weather package with a heated steering wheel, a Premium Harman Kardon Logic7 sound system, active cruise control, head-up display, park distance control and satellite radio. Instead of the standard metallic interior trim, buyers can choose either light or dark wood trim at no additional cost.

At the 6 Series' North American press introduction, we drove a coupe with automatic gearbox and a convertible with the manual.

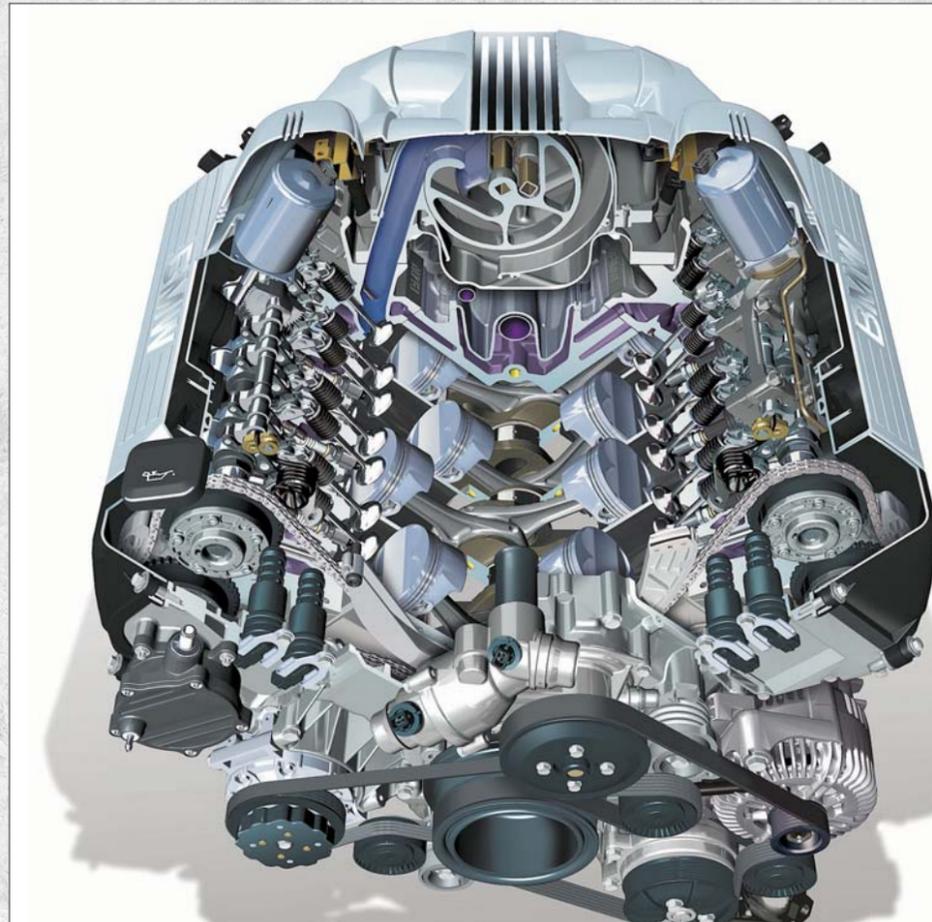
We spent much of our time in the cabrio checking out the various configurations: top up, five windows down; top

down, four windows up; top up, four windows up, rear window down, etc. The lowering rear window enhances ventilation and conversation, and unlike competitors' cabrios, BMW's 645Ci Convertible lets you take friends along for the ride.

But grand touring cars aren't about the ride; they're about the drive, and the 645Ci Coupe is the car that truly extends the 6 Series heritage. It's terrific on the Interstates, and flat wonderful on mountain roads, and pushing the Sport button truly takes it to another level. With Sport engaged, we didn't miss the manual at all, because the automatic changed gears almost as though it was reading our mind, and you almost have to feel the different Active Steering makes to believe it.

But believe it, this six has real appeal. ■

After working as a sports editor for daily newspapers in Michigan, **LARRY EDSALL** was on staff for 12 years at *AutoWeek* magazine, most of it as managing editor. He has driven more than half a million miles testing cars on four continents. He helped launch www.izoom.com, an automotive website based in Phoenix, and also helped found PAPA, the Phoenix Automotive Press Association. His books include one on concept cars, published in Italy, one on the history of the Ford GT, and more all the time.



Show-off... deservedly so

by Joe Sage and Gary Goldzweig



The mechanicals of this car have been thoroughly covered by Larry Edsall in the previous feature, so we'll concentrate on the spirit and a few details.

As Larry mentions, this is a car that's fun to drive, fun to be seen driving and fun to be seen in even parked. In fact, this car is fun, parked, even when you're not in it. We experienced a combination of recognition factor and not-quite-recognition factor in areas of the state likely or not likely to be familiar with BMW's latest offerings. While parked in north Scottsdale, we got a kick out of someone in a brand-new 7 Series with temporary tags, who pulled out of their regular line or travel to circle, pause, study, circle and study some more. Did they wish they'd waited for the 6? Do they have an empty bay in their garage still? No matter how you slice it, we took it as evidence that even the jaded found the new 6 Series compelling indeed.

And rightly so. Though the Chris Bangle designs applied to the 7 Series and 5 Series have been received with some skepticism, on the 6 Series, it's done with high style and muscular grace.

While cruising a mall parking lot in

another part of the Valley less likely to sport a high-end BMW, this drop-top garnered many a turned head. Despite the signature styling of the 6 Series, and its relationship to the 7 and 5, there are also those who think it looks fundamentally much like a Toyota Solara convertible. Anecdotally, based on the turned heads, we'd say that has some merit, but ultimately is not the case—even those unfamiliar with the car could tell that this one was something special.

But enough parking lot cruising—it was time to take this road-hungry machine north, to see how well it could devour the high speeds and climbs of I-17 and the two-lane curves of Arizona Highway 69 to Prescott. It was still well over 100 degrees that day, so we might as well have had the coupe—a top-up start to the drive. This gave us a chance to check out the wind and sound levels of the convertible with the top up, though, and as you might expect, it was tight, quiet and secure. The coupe has very sharp styling, but aside from that, the convertible really didn't have any downsides from a cockpit point



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of view. (There are trade-offs in trunk space, of course.) In fact, the convertible is styled with firm wings extending back beyond the rear window when up, which adds some of that missing coupe flavor back, anyway. On I-17, with moderate traffic to navigate, the 645Ci acquitted itself well—we made great time, power was abundant, lane changes were quick and secure, visibility was adequate even as a top-up convertible, and by the time we got to the AZ 69 turnoff, we were able to drop the top. Ahhh. Here we go. Did someone mention something about a coupe? You'd have to decide for yourself how this vehicle slotted into your personal lineup, to decide between the two, but for now we had no complaints.

We swapped drivers several times, to get respective feel for acceleration, controls, features and brakes, running uphill and down and then some. We even took a turn at the back seat, and as with any convertible, there's a wind-buffed ride. But at speeds low or high, the car is too much to care.

Controls are clear and complete. Nobody seems to be a big fan of iDrive, and all we can say is they've backed off and cleaned it up a bit—plus it can be largely ignored. Owning and using it all the time surely makes all the difference.

Electronics are extensive but unobtrusive. Electronic handling and anti-lock braking work seamlessly. There is considerable wiring exposed in the trunk, beneath the same lid that hides the battery, and we are thankful that this is all German-engineered. Trunk access was one of many small but fun surprises, with the mechanism concealed within the rear decklid's rondelle badge.

You know without our telling you that this machine accelerates like a bat. While hills are no challenge, the display of power still makes them exciting to tackle. The brakes are extremely strong, bringing this substantial four-seat convertible (with its burden of additional weight) to a stop quickly, accurately and with no apparent fade on mild repeat challenges.

If you take to the style and specs—as we did—and have the budget—easily worth two cars less than half as good—you will find a great long-term love for the new BMW 645Ci convertible. ■



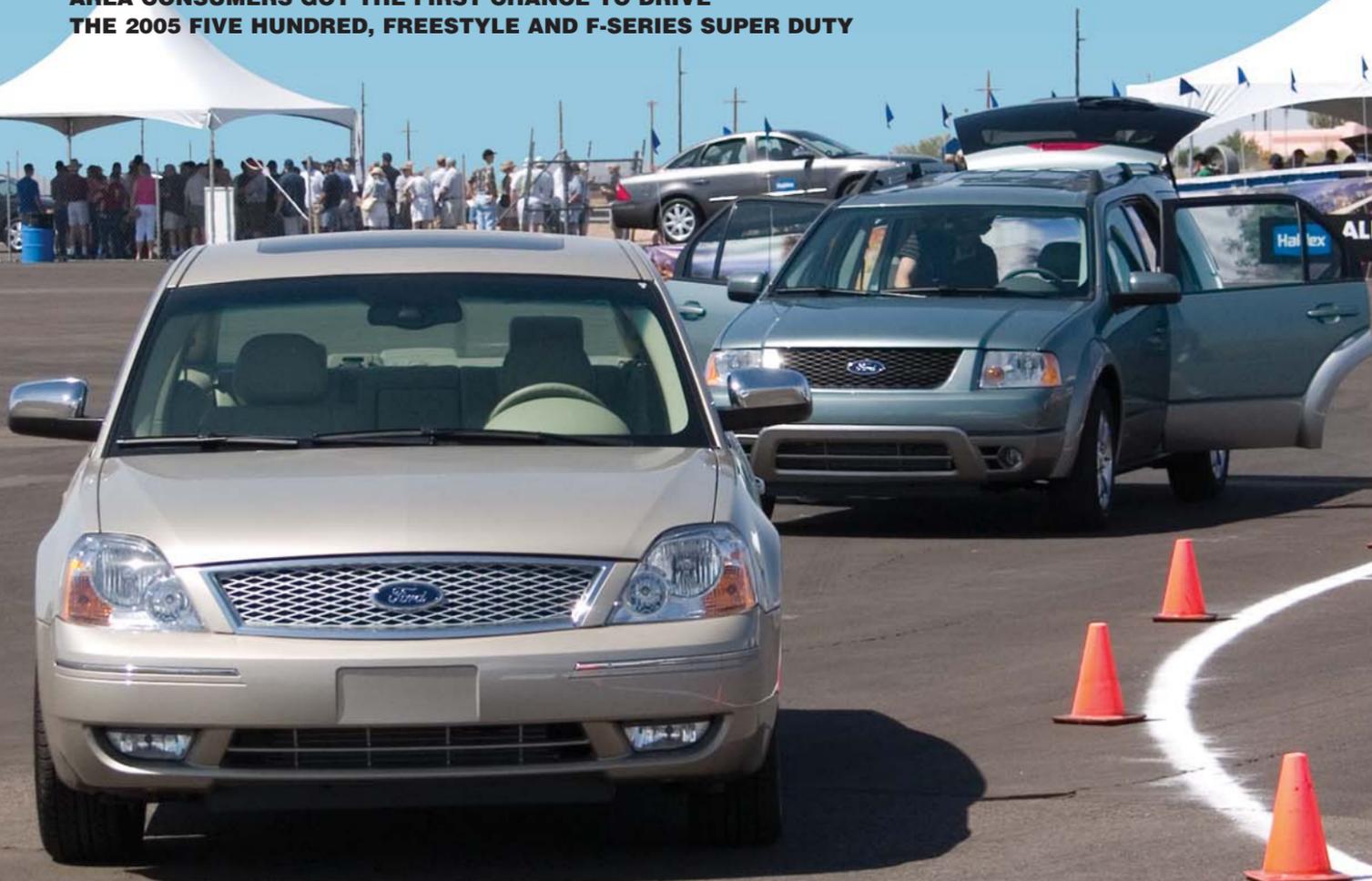
Where the roads are dry and the cars are slick.

Arizona Driver Magazine

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New Fords on the horizon

FORD'S INNOVATION DRIVE ROLLS INTO ARIZONA—
AREA CONSUMERS GOT THE FIRST CHANCE TO DRIVE
THE 2005 FIVE HUNDRED, FREESTYLE AND F-SERIES SUPER DUTY



Arizona consumers were among the first in America to drive Ford's three newest vehicles when the Ford Innovation Drive came to Firebird International Raceway in July. The all-new vehicles included Ford's all-new flagship sedan, the 2005 Five Hundred; the 2005 Freestyle, another all-new design bridging the gap between sedans and SUVs; and the 2005 F-Series Super Duty, which can tow and haul more than other full-size pickup on earth.

The event also included a display featuring other Ford "Game Changers," such as the 2005 Mustang and the 550-horsepower Ford GT supercar.

According to Stuart Smith, Ford Division car launch manager, the Ford Innovation Drive was a special marketing program designed to showcase the three all-new vehicles before they hit showrooms later in the summer.

"Ford is in the middle of one of the largest rollouts of all-new products in its history," said Stuart Smith, Ford Division car launch manager. "We think this will be a real treat for Phoenix-area consumers, to see and drive these great cars before they are available at their local dealer."

The Ford Innovation Drive featured drive courses, product experts, engineering displays and more. Other stops for the

Ford Innovation Drive were to include Chicago, Cleveland and Orlando. But first of all was Phoenix.

Approximately one-half mile in length, the performance road course at Firebird International Raceway contains straight-aways, as well as numerous twists and turns. The course allowed drivers to experience the advanced powertrain and seamless shifting of the Ford Five Hundred. The course also demonstrated the car-like ride and the SUV capabilities of the Ford Freestyle as it seeks to fit somewhere between the two. The all-wheel drive demonstration shows how an innovative Haldex all-wheel drive system

with traction assist maintains control on slippery surfaces. Participants could test the F-Series Super Duty's powerful engine and the industry's first factory-installed, integrated trailer brake controller.

Off the driving track, consumers got a closer look at the vehicles at four stations, where various features and technologies on Ford vehicles are highlighted through interactive displays. In addition, Ford product specialists were on hand to answer consumer questions.

FORD'S NEW FLAGSHIP: FIVE HUNDRED

This all-new flagship of the Ford car showroom was developed in the US using vehicle architecture developed with Volvo, part of Ford's Premier Automotive Group. The Five Hundred is about the same length as a Ford Taurus, but it boasts about twice the rear-seat knee room, plus a bigger trunk than the much larger Ford Crown Victoria. The trunk can hold up to eight full-size golf bags.

Drivers and passengers will immediately notice the Five Hundred's Command Seating™ position, giving drivers an SUV-like view of the road because their "H-point"—the pivot point of the hip when seated—is up to four inches higher than such competitors as Toyota Camry.

Under the hood, sophisticated powertrain technology includes six-speed automatic and continuously variable transmissions—rare in affordable North American sedans—which allow the car to out-accelerate similarly sized sedans with larger, thirstier engines. Ford's fuel-saving transmissions complement a 3.0 liter Duratec 30 V-6 with exceptionally clean tailpipe emissions. Five Hundred—along with the Mustang and Freestyle—will be certified to a government standard that is twice as clean as California's Ultra-Low Emissions vehicle standard.

Another invisible but invaluable feature is the Five Hundred's available all-wheel drive system. This system, which requires no driver action whatsoever to engage, can shift power between the front and rear wheels almost instantaneously to keep the car moving confidently in rain, snow and sand.

FORD FREESTYLE: BRIDGES THE GAP

Freestyle is an all-new vehicle that bridges the gap between SUVs and tradi-



KEEP RIGHT >>

Behind the wheel...



tional passenger cars by combining SUV design cues and available all-wheel drive with car-like ride and handling. But its watchword is versatility. Freestyle can carry up to seven passengers across three rows of seats, or almost any combination of people and cargo—including a 10-foot extension ladder—because its third- and middle-row seat backs, as well as the front-passenger seat back, fold flat.

Passenger comfort is not sacrificed to fit three rows of seats. Freestyle will have best-in-class second- and third-row legroom and third-row legroom and third-row knee clearance, plus natural chair-like seating positions.

Freestyle shares many of the same pioneering technologies as the Ford Five Hundred, including its fuel-saving and performance-enhancing CVT, powerful but clean V-6 engine and advanced safety features, including an available Safety Canopy air curtain system that protects all three rows in side-impact collisions and rollovers.

FORD F-250 SUPER DUTY

The F-Series Super Duty for 2005 has best-in-class features intended to make it Ford's most capable pickup ever. Highlights include: the highest towing and payload ratings in the class; unsurpassed power with the 6.8-liter, 3-valve Triton™ V-10; upgrades to the best-selling Power Stroke™ diesel; a convenient new TowCommand System with industry-first, factory-installed trailer brake controller; and a new modern 5-speed automatic TorqShift® transmission available with all engines. Super Duty's new look reflects the changes under the skin with a bolder front profile and new wheel designs that communicate strength. A freshened instrument panel features a modern new cluster and new accent trim panels on select series add to a more refined interior.

Ford's Super Duty lineup includes F-250 and F-350 pickups, as well as F-350, F-450 and F-550 chassis cabs, and is a part of Ford's F-Series truck family - America's best-selling truck for the past 27 years, and the best-selling vehicle, car or truck, for the past 22 years. The 2005 Ford F-Series Super Duty is built at Ford's Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville. ■

Arizona Drive by Joe Sage

We drove all three of the featured vehicles at the Ford Innovation Drive.

FORD FIVE HUNDRED The Five Hundred offers a large interior, clean controls (with some inspiration from last year's new F-150), much more traditional styling than the Taurus had evolved into, and available all-wheel drive. All that seems to add up to quite a bit, but we wished Ford had loaded more power into this car. Conditions weren't extreme in any ways that could really put the awd system to the test, but it amounts to a negligible system, compared to the engaging German offerings. It's one heck of a lot less expensive, though, and this feature should still prove its worth many times over, when conditions warrant.

FORD FREESTYLE We didn't get to drive the awd Freestyle, but the front-driver behaved much like its sedan brother. Both are solid, capable choices, with the distinction being that of interior space and utility. The Freestyle won't be mistaken for an SUV, but neither are most of the other vehicles entering the growing "crossover" segment.

FORD F-250 SUPER DUTY We've never met an F-Series we didn't like, and the new Super Duty carries on well—a super-capable full-size, full-load pickup which adds to its creature comforts while compromising none of its truckworthiness. We hammered the big truck on brutal ruts and ridges, ran it through a quick slalom, cornered and braked ... and found nothing wanting.

Midwest Drive by Barbara Schaffer

We first flew into Milwaukee where we were joined by other auto writers and were introduced to Ford's all-new purpose-built crossover vehicle, the Ford Freestyle on a drive to Chicago. Ford explains that this vehicle is their way of bridging the gap between sport utility vehicles and cars. It features three-row theatre seating with six- or seven-passenger configurations. Uncluttered exterior lines and unique interior design allow for great flexibility. In Chicago we drove the Freestyle companion vehicle, the Five Hundred large sedan. Both innovative new Fords have drawn from the best practices of the company's Volvo division to create an industry leading Personal Safety System™ and Safety Canopy™.

FORD FREESTYLE The new Freestyle fits somewhere between a family sedan and sport utility vehicle. With room for up to seven adults the Command Seating(tm) allows all three rows of passengers a good view with a more upright seating position. The seating is designed so that even a six-footer will have plenty of knee room in the third row.

Available in three versions, the SE, SEL and Limited are all powered by Ford's refined Duratec 3.0-liter V-6 engine, which is rated at 203 horsepower and drives the front wheels through a new Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT). Later in the model year the Freestyle will be offered with an optional all-wheel drive system.

With a length of nearly 200 inches, the Freestyle is slightly longer than the Ford Expedition. Freestyle prices range from \$25,595 including destination charge for the SE with two-wheel drive to about \$30,895 (as high as \$34,500 fully loaded) for the Limited with AWD.

FORD FIVE HUNDRED The Five Hundred sedan, which has styling that resembles classic Audi lines, offers a unique new layout for a large five-passenger family sedan. With more interior volume than any other car in its class, the Five Hundred is also the most versatile, with the ability to convert from conventional seating to a huge cargo capacity simply by folding down the rear seat backs and the front passenger seat.

The seats also have Ford's new Command Seating™ positions, which are more upright giving all the passengers a better view of the road and making entry and egress easier, plus they provide best-in-class rear-seat leg room. The spaciousness extends clear back to the trunk, which is a massive, 21.2 cubic feet, which is larger enough to haul eight sets of golf clubs and bags.

Also powered by the 3.0-liter Duratec V-6 engine, the Five Hundred comes with a choice of CVT or new six-speed automatic transmission. All-wheel drive is also an option on the Five Hundred.

Five Hundred sedans are priced at \$22,795 for the basic SE and go to \$28,495 for the Limited AWD. A full loaded Limited is just over \$30,000. ■



Ex-Dan Gurney Shelby Team Racer to be Sold at NO RESERVE!

Russo and Steele will hold its 5th annual "Collector Cars in Scottsdale" Auction and Charity Gala on January 27th, 28th and 29th, 2005. They are passionate about offering the finest in European Sports and American Muscle cars in an intimate, boutique-style setting. The auction site will be on the corner of Scottsdale Road and Mayo Boulevard in Scottsdale, Arizona. The company has built an extraordinary reputation on quality, integrity, and camaraderie among enthusiasts. Over 150 cars will be auctioned at the two-day sale.

Festivities kick off on the evening of January 27th with one of the hottest tickets

in Scottsdale—"A Night in Monaco" Charity Gala, supporting the Emily Center at the Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Russo and Steele to offer a very significant Cobra at Scottsdale
Russo and Steele Collector Car Auctions has announced that they are offering one of the most significant Shelby Cobras ever produced, at their Scottsdale 2005 sale. This 1963 Shelby American factory race car, whose drivers included (among others) Dan Gurney and Ken Miles, will be SOLD at NO RESERVE at Russo and Steele's Scottsdale collector car auction on January 28th and 29th.

This Cobra, Chassis number CSX 2128, debuted at the Twelve Hours of Sebring in March of 1963. A Shelby Factory entry, it was driven by Dan Gurney, Lew Spencer and Dave MacDonald. The '63 Sebring Cobras were the first to utilize rack and pinion steering and the 289 engine. CSX 2128 is one of only eight 289 Cobras campaigned by the factory. During the '63

season, it won races for Shelby at Pomona and at Kent, Washington.

In the fall of '63, the car was sold to Coventry Motors, where it achieved important victories at Santa Barbara, Candlestick Park, and Laguna Seca. Because of its continued success, Carroll Shelby bought the car back for the 1964 season, where it was driven primarily by Ken Miles. It won additional races at Phoenix, Riverside and Kent. In its last factory appearance, Ed Leslie finished second at Watkins Glen in June of 1964.

This is certainly one of the most authentic, sought-after and rare Shelby Cobras ever offered for public sale. Experts predict bidding to soar upward of \$1,000,000.00. The car has been completely restored to 1963 Sebring livery, is properly sorted, race ready and will be SOLD at NO RESERVE at Russo and Steele in Scottsdale!

To obtain a bidder's credential or to learn more, visit www.russoandsteele.com, or call 480 517-4005. ■



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THE INSIDE TRACK: BRIEFS & RUMORS

■ **Acura** will add a second and smaller SUV to their lineup a year from now. The RDX, which comes from the RD-X concept shown at Detroit in 2002, is



developed from the Honda CR-V SUV and the Acura RSX coupe. The RDX hybrid powertrain includes a 200-hp 2.4-liter four cylinder with an electric motor sandwiched between the engine and transmission. With the electric assist, the RDX should be one of the quickest compact SUVs on the market while getting good fuel economy.

■ **Nissan** is going all out to assure the success for its upcoming GT-R. Nissan has hired two legendary performance companies, Lotus and Cosworth, to do the final tuning on the supercar. Lotus has been seen running a prototype wearing an Infiniti G35 body around Hethel England. It's rumored that racing engine experts at Cosworth have worked the Nissan VQ V-6 engine, which is believed to be turbocharged, all the way up to 450 horsepower. Due in 2007, it's still not known if the GT-R will wear a Nissan or Infiniti badge.

■ Watch for a stretched version of the impressive new **Volkswagen** Touareg SUV. Consumers have been clamoring for seven seat SUVs and it appears VW will comply with a stretched wheelbase version next year. Spy shots of the longer Touareg have shown up recently, and it looks good, but long.

■ Debate is going on within **Chrysler** and with their dealers about creating a new youth-oriented brand like Toyota has done with the Scion. The company has several sources to pull vehicles from. Parent company DaimlerChrysler has the Smart brand in Europe and has recently created some interesting new concepts like the Dodge Sling Shot that debuted at the Detroit show this year. Chrysler also owns 10 percent of Hyundai and could look to the Korean automaker for products with a youth appeal.

■ **Chevrolet** says it will build a racy looking version of the Colorado pickup called the Xtreme. With its appearance package and special sport suspension, the Xtreme rides 1.6 inches lower, on 18-inch wheels with low-profile tires. Engine choices will be a 2.8-liter four-cylinder or 3.5-liter 220-hp five-cylinder. The Xtreme package will add about \$3,000 when it comes to market this fall.

■ Despite the popularity of the new **Volkswagen** Microbus concept, the company has decided not to build the



retro-looking van. Instead the company will go with a typical boxy-looking van. The new VW van is scheduled to debut for the 2008 model year.

■ **Honda** will offer a family pickup starting next spring. Unlike a traditional work-oriented truck, the new Honda is designed for family use and comfort. The truck has four doors, all-wheel drive and unibody construction. It has a masculine Honda look with seating capacity for five along with a five-foot cargo box with rear-sloping sides similar to those on the Subaru Brat from the 1980s. It will be powered by Honda's 3.8-liter V-6 engine.

■ **Mercedes-Benz** is dropping most of its supercharged gasoline engines in favor of turbocharged engines. When Mercedes first introduced the supercharged engines they provided a better level of performance than the turbo models did, but recent innovations in turbocharging



technology has allowed for improved efficiency and virtually none of the turbo lag that plagued older turbocharged engines. The turbocharged engines are cheaper to produce and will help automakers meet stricter carbon dioxide emissions rules going into effect in Europe in 2008.

■ There are rumors that **Audi** is developing a 5.0-liter V-10 engine to use in the next RS6 and S8. The engine was first developed for the Lamborghini Gallardo. The Lamborghini version has five valves per cylinder, while the Audi version will only have four per cylinder. Naturally aspired, the V-10 should produce at least 500 horsepower, making it very competitive with the upcoming BMW M5 V-10.

■ **Volvo** will be getting a new Yamaha-designed V-8 engine early in 2005. The first Volvo to get the new 4.4-liter, 320-hp V-8 will be the XC90 sport utility, but look for it to go into other Volvo models, like the flagship S80 later.

■ Next spring **Chrysler** will increase the performance range of the 300C by adding an SRT-8 version with a 6.1-liter Hemi V-8 producing 425 hp, up from the original 340 hp 5.7-liter. The engine is also expected to be offered in a 2005 Dodge Magnum SRT-8 and a 2006 Dodge Charger high performance sedan.



■ The next **BMW** M3 is scheduled to get V-8 power in the form of a 4.0-liter 400-hp V-8 engine. The engine is derived from the 500-hp V-10 engine that will go into the upcoming M5. It's due out in 2007.

■ The replacement for the **Ferrari** 575M Maranello will likely be called the 600 Imola and will be built on a shortened platform of the front engine/rear drive 612 Scaglietti. The engine will be a 6.0-liter V-12 producing nearly 600 hp. The coupe version is due in 2006, with a roadster in 2007 or 2008.

■ **Mitsubishi** is working on an all-new Evo with all-new sheet metal and a new iteration of the name — Evo X. It will also get a new 2.0-liter engine jointly developed with DaimlerChrysler producing between 300 and 350 horsepower. The development is based on the platform of the next generation Mitsubishi Outlander SUV.



■ Look for **Mercedes-Benz** to start selling a hybrid version of the next-generation S-Class. The hybrid will likely debut at the Frankfurt show a year from now. Hybrid power will likely encompass the 3.5-liter 272-hp V-6 from the new SLK with the help from two electric motors. They are also experimenting with a diesel, electric hybrid system. On tap are also hybrid versions of the second generation M-Class and the upcoming R-Class.

■ For 2005, **Cadillac** plans to offer an entry-level version of the CTS. A 2.8-liter V-6 engine will replace the 3.2-liter V-6 engine. The new CTS will be priced to compete with cars like the BMW 325i, which has a base price of \$28,495. The 2.8-liter engine will produce 210 hp and 195 lb.ft. of torque. Cadillac expects about 80 percent of CTS buyers to choose the larger 3.6-liter V-6 engine.

■ Diesel engine builder **International** has partnered with the Environmental Protection agency to evaluate a new clean diesel combustion technology (CDC). International is hoping the CDC will allow their diesels, like the new V-6 turbo diesel planned for the Ford SUVs and pickups, to meet EPA Tear 2 emission levels set for 2006 and 2010. The CDC engine uses an in-cylinder control of nitrogen oxides to reduce or eliminate the need for an exhaust treatment system.

■ **Nissan** will be offering a 35th Anniversary 350Z for 2005 celebrating



the original "Z-Car" that was first introduced in 1970 redefining sports cars in North America. The anniversary model will have 18-inch aluminum-alloy wheels, Brembo® brakes, front chin spoiler, rear spoiler and available two-tone leather seats. It will be available in three exterior colors including a new Ultra Yellow. The special edition is expected to have more horsepower than the standard model, but no availability, date or pricing has been released at this time.

■ **Chrysler** has hinted that there will be a performance-tuned Jeep developed by the company's Street and Racing Technology department. The Grand Cherokee SRT will have a lowered suspension and high performance tires (hampering its traditional off-road skills). The Jeep SRT will probably get a Hemi from the Chrysler parts bin, and it's likely to be the new 6.1-liter 425-hp V-8.

■ **Land Rover** is exploring the possibility of building a super premium version of the Range Rover to compete with other flagship vehicles being produced by some of the other premium brands. Rumors indicate a model selling for up to \$200,000 and in an edition limited to as few as 50 vehicles.

■ The next **BMW** M3 is scheduled to get V-8 power in the form of a 4.0-liter 400-hp V-8 engine. The engine is derived from the 500-hp V-10 engine that will go into the upcoming M5. It's due out in 2007. ■

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

UPCOMING FEATURES

SEMA Show



The Special Equipment Market Association (SEMA) Show in Las Vegas is an annual highlight for gearheads and techheads of all stripes, with much in store. We'll bring some highlights.

Hyundai Tucson



Hyundai has made a good sales splash with its capable yet economical Santa Fe midsize sport ute. Up next is the smaller Hyundai Tucson, which we'll be test driving. We'll report back.

Hummer H2 SUT



GM picks up on the immense popularity of the Hummer H2, by creating the H2 SUT... a Sport Utility Truck, an open-bed version of the same vehicle.

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