

ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 6
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2007

Camaro Convertible

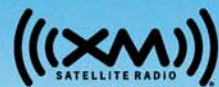
*Firebird International Raceway
2008 Scottsdale auction preview
Russo and Steele adds Florida
Red Bull Soapbox results
Arizona Shelby GT500 winner
1st Annual Classics on the Plaza
2008 Chevy Malibu
and more...*



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THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

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SPECIAL EVENT

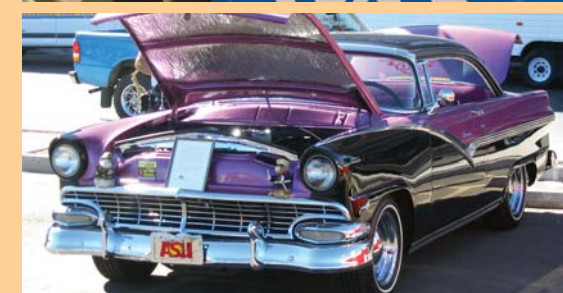
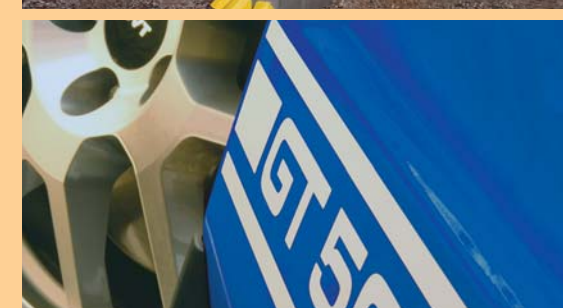
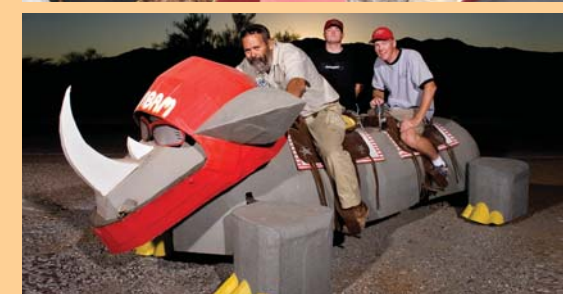
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COVER: Camaro convertible concept. Photo courtesy GM.

Fall is in the air, the temps have dropped into the 90s, and we've been getting out to see what's the latest. A late September Saturday brought a new event to the Valley—the 1st Annual Classics on the Plaza, at Westgate City Center in Glendale, just north of the Jobing.com Arena and the Cardinals' University of Phoenix Stadium, a stylish new retail center that's nearing completion and already welcoming crowds. The event has a charitable basis, as admission was simply a donation (from a comprehensive online list) to Packages From Home, which helps supply US troops with many things they're missing. We found a lot of variety here, well beyond classics, and spent time with the owners of several vehicles that especially caught our attention. From there, it was off to WestWorld to test drive the new Chevy Malibu, pitting it against several of its midsize competitors on one track, and trying out the hybrid version on another. This has all the signs of being a milestone vehicle for GM, as they apply their newest technologies from Saturn (and Europe) to one of the mainstay marques in the Chevrolet lineup. Speaking of Chevy, we go Chevy-heavy by also bringing you a look at the upcoming Camaro convertible. This vehicle, and the coupe concept before it, have a lot of buyers longing for the launch. A decision is yet to be announced on the final powertrain for this 21st century pony car, but this may include a shift in thinking.

We also bring you an overview of the facilities and upcoming events at Firebird International Raceway, a look back at the adventures of Bam-Bam the rhino, a handbuilt race craft from Waddell, Arizona, as it ran in Seattle's Red Bull Soapbox Race, and several other hot news items. Enjoy the ride.



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Publisher/ Executive Editor

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\$5— Seniors (62+)	Friday, Nov. 23 9 am – 10 pm
\$5— Military (w/ID)	Saturday, Nov. 24 9 am – 10 pm
\$5— Children (7–12)	Sunday, Nov. 25 9 am – 7 pm
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JAGUAR ANNOUNCES XF

Jaguar introduced the new four-door XF model as a replacement for the current S-Type at the 2007 Frankfurt International Motor Show last month and into show rooms as a 2009 model. With the style and performance of a sports car and the space and sophistication of a luxury sedan, it displays a new Jaguar design language with flowing coupe-like lines and a distinctive front end unlike any other Jaguar. The contemporary design hints at Jaguar tradition with a new powerful grille, dramatic side widow graphics and Jaguar's trademark rear haunches. The interior is filled with leather, wood and aluminum accents in a totally unique adaptation. New is the JaguarDrive Selector™ that employs motion detecting sensors to activate certain vehicle features, unique phosphor blue interior lighting and Bowers & Wilkins audio. Power will come from either a 4.2-liter natural aspired V-8 or a supercharged version producing 300-hp and 420-hp respectively. ▼



Jaguar XF



Chevrolet HHR SS

The HHR's star continues to rise, as its inspiration the PT Cruiser prepares to exit the marketplace. The 260-hp SS is turbocharged and intercooled.

CHEVY HHR SS

▲ Late this year Chevy dealers will be offering a new SS version of the restyled HHR wagon. The SS gets its power from a turbocharged and intercooled 2.0-liter Ecotec engine rated at 260-hp (up 85-hp over the stock version). The SS gets its own front fascia, front grilles, a rear spoiler and 18-inch polished forged aluminum wheels. Inside the seats have SS-embroidery on the ultra suede inserts, there's a new gauge cluster with a 140-mph speedometer, an A-pillar-mounted boost gauge and special steering wheel and shifter. Mechanical improvements include a Swedish-built five-speed manual transmission, Nürburgring-tuned sport suspension, four-wheel disc brakes with ABS and StabiliTrak stability control system. Prices have not yet been announced.

AUDI TO ADD ENTRY-LEVEL A1

The Mini Cooper will get some competition starting in 2009 when Audi brings out the A1, two-door hatchback. The A1 will likely be powered by a 90-hp, 1.4-liter engine from Volkswagen, with an

optional turbo producing 120-hp. North American versions will have a larger engine, perhaps the 2.0-liter used in several Audi and VW models. The standard transmission is expected to be a six-speed manual with an optional seven-speed DSG (Direct Shift Gearbox). The styling is pure Audi with a short greenhouse. The suspension is expected to be from the VW Polo. A top-secret high performance S1 is also rumored to be in the works. It's expected to be powered by a 180 to 200 hp version of the VW 1.4-liter supercharged and turbocharged four-cylinder, which sources say it should be capable of a sub-seven second 0 to 60 times with a top speed of 150 mph.

MORE SPORTY RWD CADILLACS

Cadillac planners have seen the light and they are working hard to shed the last elements the luxury barge image in favor of sportier rear-wheel drive cars to compete with European brands like BMW. The leader of the revolution, the CTS, goes into a second generation restyled and re-engineered with more performance. Ultimately, plans call for the

CTS to be offered as a wagon and coupe. The SRX crossover's major rebuild will be delayed while attention will be concentrated on a smaller BRX five-passenger crossover. The larger STS and DTS sedans will ultimately both be replaced by one high-performance RWD sedan. The biggest news however is a new small entry-level sedan, which is likely by 2011. Shoppers wanting the big luxury vehicles still have the stylish Escalade SUV and truck.

FIRESTONE'S LEGENDARY DRIVES

If you are looking for a fun road to drive for the weekend or on a vacation, check out www.FirestoneLegendaryDrives.com. Featuring great drive routes in all 50 states and Washington D.C., each route shows a map with highlights and a narrative of what you will see on the drive with suggestions of places to eat and information on automotive museums in the area. The routes have been researched and written by a group of top American auto journalists for Firestone. The site is soliciting photos taken along

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Porsche Cayenne GTS

PORSCHE ADDS CAYENNE GTS

Porsche introduced a new GTS version of the Cayenne SUV at the recent Frankfurt auto show with a specially developed chassis and permanent all-wheel drive. Powered by a much more powerful V-8 engine, the GTS will be the first North American version of the five-passenger SUV to be available with a six-speed manual transmission. The GTS has distinctive front and rear facades, dramatic wheel-arch extensions and standard 21-inch alloy wheels with 295/35R21 tires. It also has new sportier seats and some new paint colors. The GTS goes on sale in North America in March 2008 at a base price of \$69,300. ▼

2008 Saab Turbo X (insert: 1978 Saab 99 Turbo)



What a difference 30 years does and doesn't make. Saab's anniversary turbo displays its heritage, but is totally updated in style and performance.

each of the routes. There is also a link to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials History of the Interstate Highway which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

30 YEARS OF SAAB TURBOS

▲ Saab is celebrating 30 years of turbocharging with the launch of its Turbo X version of the 9-3 Sport Sedan and SportCombi. The black metallic 9-3 will pay homage to the original Saab 900 Turbo, but will feature an innovative new XWD all-wheel drive with power coming from a 2.8-liter turbocharged V-6 engine producing 280-hp. The new engine powers the five-seater from 0 to 60 mph in just 5.7 seconds. The XWD system features an active management system that splits torque delivery between both axles and between the rear wheels. In addition to tuning the suspension and its electronic chassis, throttle and powertrain settings, the Turbo X features distinctive styling additions that enhance aerodynamic performance. The Turbo X will reach North American dealers in the second quarter of 2008.

MERCEDES: BEST OF GAS AND DIESEL

Mercedes-Benz has unveiled a new engine concept that combines strengths from gasoline and diesel engines into one powerplant. The DiesOtto prototype is a 1.8-liter four-cylinder configuration which produces better power than a 3.5-liter gas engine or a 3.0-liter V-6 diesel. The engine is rated at 238 horsepower with the power and emissions quality of a gasoline engine but with the torque and fuel economy of a diesel. The compact engine uses two-stage serial turbocharging. It runs on gas and has a sparkplug for each cylinder, but the sparkplugs don't fire on every engine cycle unless the driver is accelerating hard. If the driver is driving more moderately the ignition is caused by compression – like a diesel engine. Mercedes calls it Homogeneous Charge Compression Ignition or HCCI. Lab testing has been finished and the company is studying the business case for the engine, because it will be more expensive to build and therefore buy. Company officials say it will take a minimum of five years to bring the

engine to market. The DiesOtto engine name comes from combining the name of Nikolaus Otto, the inventor of the gasoline engine, with the word 'diesel'.

BLUETEC AGREEMENT DROPPED

The agreement between Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen and Audi to use the Mercedes-Benz Bluetec diesel name and technology has fallen apart with VW & Audi deciding to market their diesels TDI's as before. The Bluetec name was going to be a way to avoid the negative stigma that still exists, presuming diesels are noisy, smelly and smoky. The Bluetec system and a new system developed by Volkswagen uses a combination of a urea-based fluid, oxidizing catalytic converter and particulate filter to eliminate nearly all the existing diesel negatives.

COST OF TIRE TEST IS INFLATED

Remember when tire experts told us to insert a penny, with Lincoln's head first, into the tread of our tires to check for a safe tread depth? If we could see the top

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HONDA ACCORD MOVES UP TO LARGE

Moving forward as one of America's most popular sedans and coupes, the Honda Accord gets a total remake for 2008. As we've come to expect, the new model is a bit larger, roomier plus more powerful and sophisticated. The V-6 engine is now a 3.5-liter 268-hp V-6 with a new generation of Variable Cylinder Management™ (VCM) technology and it gets a Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle rating. The VCM cuts the engine back to 4- and 3-cylinder modes for efficiency, giving it a 19/29 mpg fuel economy rating. The other engine is a 2.4-liter four-cylinder with different power (177- to 190-hp) ratings for different models. Accord now gets Honda's Advanced Compatibility Engineering™ body structure that enhances front collision compatibility. Interior volume is increased by 3.3 cubic feet moving it up one notch from mid-size to large-size in the EPA ratings. ▼



2008 Honda Accord



Infiniti EX

There is nary an SUV that has not now begotten a smaller version or crossover variant. Evocative of the large FX, the EX adds coupe-like qualities.

of Lincoln's head, the tires should be replaced. With that measurement the tread depth was less than 1/16th of an inch. After extensive tests conducted by the Tire Rack, America's largest independent tire tester and consumer direct tire seller, they have established a new tread test that, if used, could improve vehicle stopping distances on wet roads by up to 24 percent. The new test requires a quarter and the telltale is the top of Washington's head. See the differences between the penny test and quarter test at www.tirerack.com/baldtiredangers.

INFINITI EX: NEW SAFETY TECHNOLOGY

▲ Infiniti's upcoming coupe-like EX crossover will take active safety technology to a new level. When it debuts near the end of this year available technology will include a new Around View Monitor which will use small front-, side- and rear-view cameras to project a view of objects around the vehicle. The system is designed to reduce blind spots when parking. It will also have an advanced version of the Lane Departure

Prevention system (LDP) currently available on the Infiniti FX and M. Rather than using just an audible/visual warning system. When the vehicle appears to be moving off the road, LDP will activate the Vehicle Dynamic Control system to help the driver stay in the lane by braking appropriate wheels just enough to generate the necessary movement to keep the vehicle in the lane. When the driver uses a turn signal to change lanes, the system is deactivated. The new EX is built on the same precise rear-wheel drive platform as the Nissan Z and Infiniti M, FX and G37 models. The EX will likely be powered by a 306-hp version of Nissan's venerable 3.5-liter V-6 engine with a five-speed automatic transmission and all-wheel drive.

DIESEL OPTION IS GOOD INVESTMENT

Diesel engines may be more expensive to buy, but they command higher resale prices as used cars. According to the story, a diesel engine in a 2005 Mercedes E320 initially added \$1,000 to the price, but two years later the diesel engine

commands \$2,500 more at wholesale auctions. The Mercedes diesel is significantly higher than other diesels, which tend to return in the range of 104 percent to 164 percent of the original added price, according to the study which was done by Black Book.

VOLKSWAGEN TRYING UPSCALE AGAIN

Volkswagen is developing a four-door coupe targeting the Mercedes-Benz CLS. It is based on the front-wheel drive Passat platform and fills the space in the VW lineup between the Passat and the Phaeton (which is still being sold in Europe). Spy photos are showing a sleek coupe-style roofline, but with a hatchback-style rear window. Internally designated the CC (for C-segment coupe) the car is about the same size as the Passat. North American versions are expected to have the new 170-hp Twincharger 1.4-liter four-cylinders, a 200-hp, 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine and a 250-hp 3.2-liter V-6 engine with

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optional all-wheel drive. An R36 version is planned for later with a 300-hp, 3.6-liter V-6 and AWD.

NEW COMPACT MERCEDES SUV

Mercedes-Benz gave automotive journalists a sneak peak at the new compact GLK SUV recently at a media event in McCall, Idaho. The somewhat camouflaged vehicle has a squared off design resembling the GL but is significantly lower and shorter. The grill and windshield are both quite upright. The interior in the concept shown was intact with white leather seats with black piping, black wood trim and the new Mercedes COMAND-Plus control system similar to the one in the new C-Class. The GLK has only two rows of seats. Prices were not announced, but it should start below \$40,000. The GLK debuts at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January.

DAIMLER GETS NAME BACK FROM FORD

Now that DaimlerChrysler has sold off the Chrysler division, it has to go through a renaming process. Although it might seem like an easy thing to do, changing the name simply to Daimler, they had to go to Ford to acquire the name. It seems that Jaguar acquired the rights to the Daimler name in 1960 when it bought the British offshoot established by German automotive pioneer Gottfried Daimler in 1806. The name has even been used on some high-end versions of Jaguar cars. According to *Automotive News*, DaimlerChrysler "will now be allowed to use the name alone or in combination with other words as the title of a trading company, a trade name or a corporate name." The price for the Daimler name was not revealed. Stockholders were to vote on the new naming plan at their October 4 meeting.

THE V8-POWERED BMW M3

More details are revealed as the next generation, BMW M3 coupe gets closer to its 2008 dealer date. Here is what we know so far – the engine is a 414-hp, 4.0-liter V-8, it weighs 123 pounds more than the base 3 Series and the price is over \$62,000. It will also have a wider body and track, more aggressive look and four-exhaust pipes. M Brand manager, Martin Brickmann says, "BMW has come up with

its interpretation of the muscle car – the high-performance street driving machine – and our focus is on agility and cornering abilities." The V-8 engine, which has an aluminum silicon alloy crankcase, revs to an 8,300-rpm red line and was developed from the BMW V-10 engine. The M3 has an MDrive system, which can be programmed to tune the dynamic stability controls for normal or sporty setting, then the setting can be stored and recalled from the iDrive controller.

AUDI PLANS TO GROW THE R8 FAMILY

Audi has a full line of R sports cars planned to go with the R8 which went on sale earlier this year. The R8 will be joined by an R8 roadster; then look for an R10 supercoupe with similarities to the Le Mans-winning race car. There will be an R6 that would fall between the Porsche 911 and Boxster in size. But the latest talk is about an R4 designed to compete at the Boxster level, with power coming from a 300-hp turbocharged four-cylinder engine or the new 2.4-liter turbocharged five-cylinder (350-hp) engine currently being prepared for the TT RS. All the vehicles will have quattro all-wheel drive, while the R4 will likely be a standard two-wheel drive.

HONDA'S PRIUS FIGHTER

Honda is working on high-mileage hybrid code-named the "Global Small Hybrid" in an effort to fight the Toyota Prius. It is assumed, the reason the Honda hybrid did not sell well was that they used existing products (Civic and Accord), which did not give buyers the visual identification of a futuristic hybrid, as the Prius does. In other words, people want to be identified as driving a "green car." The gas-electric Honda, due in 2009, will be of an entirely new aerodynamic styling, carry five passengers and be priced at under \$22,000 according to Business Week magazine.

KEEPING AN 'EYE' ON TEEN SPEEDS

Safeco insurance now offers customers a way to monitor their teenager's driving habits. For \$14.99-a-month, parents can have a GPS-based device installed under the dash of the car that alerts parents by

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Lexus IS F
Some laughed when the Japanese first challenged German style and luxury. As they take on performance, they're likely to be taken quite seriously.

phone or e-mail if their children exceed an agreed-upon speed limit. American International Group offers a similar service, and other insurance companies, including Progressive, are testing similar devices. Currently there are no programs to offer subscribers a discount on insurance premiums for using the systems.

MERCEDES F700 CONCEPT

Showing for the first time at the recent Frankfurt auto show, the Mercedes-Benz F700 concept shows a "futuristic interpretation of the classic sedan." The four doors are in a unique configuration with three doors normally mounted, but the right rear door hinged in the rear for easier access. One engine is a compact variable-compression, twin-turbo-charged 1.8-liter four-cylinder DiesOtto gasoline engine that switches between spark and compression ignition based on driving conditions. Mercedes says the engine is capable of 0 to 62 mph times of 7.5 seconds with fuel economy of more than 50 mpg with an extremely low carbon-dioxide output. All the futuristic technology rides on a

sophisticated Pre-Scan suspension that reads the road through two headlamp-mounted sensors which constantly send out infrared beams to detect unevenness in the roadway and driving conditions. The information aids the way the suspension reacts before the imperfection or wet section is reached. Some or all of these features may find their way into the next-generation S-Class that is due in 2012.

LEXUS TAKES ON GERMAN HOT RODS

▲ Lexus will soon be offering competition for the BMW M3, Audi S4, Mercedes-Benz C63 and Cadillac CTS-V with a V-8 powered version of the IS sedan. Lexus is running teaser ads in some buff magazines with the headlines "What is F?" and "F is everything you thought we weren't." along with a web address www.lexus.com/isf. The most powerful Lexus gasoline engine ever powers the IS F with a 400-hp 5.0-liter direct injection V-8 driving the rear wheels through the world's first eight-speed direct sport-shift automatic transmission with paddle shifters. The F is equipped with massive six-piston

Brembo brakes, 19-inch forged aluminum alloy wheels made by BBS and body-hugging sport seats in the front. Dates and prices have yet to be announced.

REAL-TIME WEATHER ON NAV MAP

XM Satellite Radio has partnered with Baron Services, a real-time weather information service, to offer XM WX satellite weather. Working in conjunction with the navigation system it will warn the driver of rain, snow or other adverse weather conditions ahead. The price of the service has yet to be determined. Currently a similar traffic service is \$3.99 per month. The new Cadillac CTS will be the first car to offer the service. Another XM service being planned is a service that will provide up-to-the-minute information on available parking spaces at shopping malls, airports, public parking lots and mass transportation centers. They are also working on a satellite video feed offering programs such as news, business and sports updates for the rear-seat entertainment system. ■

Auto News Update is compiled for Arizona Driver by BILL & BARBARA SCHAFFER of Auto Digest.



FIREBIRD INTERNATIONAL Raceway



A Brief History of Firebird

In 1983 Charlie Allen, Dick Scott and Bill Guptill unveiled what would become the most diverse and exciting motorsports facility in the nation. Since that time, more than 10,000,000 visitors have passed through the gates of *Firebird International Raceway* in Chandler, Arizona. Whether it is NHRA Drag Racing, IHBA Drag Boat Racing, or countless other events, such as Bug-O-Rama, SCCA Road Races, CCS Motorcycle events, Bondurant School of High Performance Driving, Indy and Indy Light Champ Car testing and so much more, fans have grown to love *Firebird* and its premier facility.

As the only race track in the country that hosts racing on the asphalt quarter mile and the liquid quarter mile, *Firebird International Raceway* continues its commitment to its guests. Yearly improvements are made to the facility; new grandstand seating areas, VIP suite towers, road courses, hospitality and pavilion areas all keep *Firebird* a favorite among its visitors. The most exciting venue in the Southwest provides thrills year round. Records fall at a record pace at *Firebird*. To make sure fans never miss a moment, season tickets, group ticket programs and other discounts are available.

Who Uses Firebird?

Professional Race Teams—Whether its Indy Cars, Formula Atlantic, Indy Lights, Funny Cars, Dragsters, Drag Bikes, Motorcycles or any other type of race team, they can select from any of our tracks for testing and a distinctly different challenge.

Club Racers—Sports Car Club of America, Arizona Sports Racing Association, BMW, Desert Corvette Association, Vintage Auto Racing Association, Championship Cup Series Motorcycle Racing, Arizona Navy and many other clubs hold not only their local, but national events as well at *Firebird*.

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Automobile Manufacturers—Manufacturers use Firebird to unveil new cars to the international and national media, their dealers and employees, Ride & Drive events, and to conduct hands-on sales training programs. Firebird's full service capabilities and diversity of its many tracks make it the perfect place to put their latest vehicles through their paces.

Others in the Automotive Industry—Arizona is one of the most popular locations for various proving grounds operated by major manufacturers. Firebird joins them in providing a first-class facility, with its various track configurations and perfect weather making it the most ideal independent hot-weather test facility in the nation.

Film Companies—Film production companies rarely need to worry about losing an expensive day of shooting due to weather. Firebird's West Test track is also unique in that it is 8 feet lower than surrounding terrain and the absence of signage provides a generic background.

Special Events—Firebird is the home of many organizations for their special racing events. Our special groups include yearly

events held by Bug-O-Rama, NOPI, AHDRA, PASA, Hot Import Nights and many others.

The Firebird Facility

Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2008 and open year-round, no other motorsport facility can boast of having:

Firebird Course—1.6 mile or 1.1 mile road course utilizes 1/4 Mile Dragstrip with 14 turns and a 5/8 mile straightaway; used for amateur road races, testing for professional racing teams, television commercial production companies and Ride & Drive Programs.

1/4 Mile Drag Strip—Top-rated NHRA Sanctioned; plays host to capacity crowds attending annual events like the NHRA Checker Schuck's Kragen Nationals. Firebird holds monthly and weekly drag racing programs for the benefit of the amateur racer as well. Firebird and O'Reilly Auto Parts also offers a Junior Drag Program for the young enthusiast.

East Test Track—1.25 Mile Road Course with 10 turns, a 1/2 mile straightaway and 2/10th of a mile barriered pit lane makes it the perfect test track for Formula and Indy Cars. Also used by the Bondurant School for their

advanced students and by Ride & Drive promotional companies.

West Test Track—1.1 Mile Road Course, incorporating 11 tight turns and a 3/8 mile straightaway. The elevated pit area overlooking the track, which is 8 feet lower than surrounding terrain, and the absence of signage provides a generic background for film companies and continuous observation of test cars.

Skid Pads

- Lot #3—210,000 Square Feet (not available weekdays—used by Bondurant School)
- Lot #4—270,000 Square Feet
- Paddock A—811,000 Square Feet

The Skid Pads are all paved and enclosed with security fencing. They are utilized by many Club Racers and Ride & Drive companies for Autocross racing and handling comparison programs.

Firebird Lake—120 Acres / 1.1 Miles in Length / 2.4 Miles Oval. IHBA and APBA Sanctioned, the private lake is designed primarily for high speed racing including drag and circle boats. Also the home of the ASU Water Ski team during the week, Firebird

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2008 Event Schedule



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF RACING EXCELLENCE

January

25-27 NHRA National Time Trials
Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates

February

22-24 NHRA Checker Schuck's Kragen Nationals
28-Mar 2 NHRA Division 7 Opener
Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates

March

Feb 28-2 NHRA Division 7 Opener
15-16 NOPI
Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates

April

5-6 AHDRA Nationals
13 Bug-O-Rama
26-27 The Tire Pros Monster Truck Nationals
25-27 IHBA Lakefest
Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates

May

Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates

June

21 Coors Light Summer Spectacular
Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates



July

Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates

August

Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates

September

Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates

October

3-5 PSCA (Pacific Street Car Association)
Night Shift - Hot Import Nights
18 Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates

November

20-23 IHBA Coors Light World Finals Boat Races
27-30 Santa's Christmas Theme Park
Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates

December

1-31 Santa's Christmas Theme Park
Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
Visit firebirdraceway.com for dates

Pick-N-Print
your tickets at
www.firebirdraceway.com
602-268-0200





Lake offers nearly flawless conditions for water-sports tournaments and boat-testing.

Hospitality Pavilions—

- **Lake Side Pavilion**—The 2,400 square foot permanent structure is situated inside a 27,000 square foot fenced, meticulously prepared turf area on the shore of Firebird Lake. The pavilion can be rimmed by tents, or the grassy area filled with umbrella covered tables and chairs. It is also a unique place to conduct award presentations, and entertain clients and employees for any type of event.
- **Bill Johnson's Big Apple Pavilion**—4,000 square foot red-tiled roof open air pavilion, located through the main gate and beyond the rotunda and show car display area. Flanked by palm trees, rimmed with flowering shrubs and enclosed with a security fence, it is the perfect place for VIP and special activities.

VIP Tower Suites—

- **Coors Tower**—Located inside of the Firebird Road Course circuit. Its three stories house time and scoring, media/press room and five additional suites. The ground floor suites are separated from the drag strip by wrought-iron fenced private patios and low flowering shrubs, and offer the closest view

of on-track activities.

- **Gila River Casinos Tower**—Four stories tall with double suites (120 square feet) and single suites (60 Square Feet) on the top three floors. Its location at the north end of the drag strip provides a spectacular view of the Firebird Course as well as the rest of the facility. These air conditioned, carpeted suites, complete with wet bar, provide an excellent atmosphere for entertaining clients or for classroom/meeting purposes.

Conference Center—2,100 Square Feet—Located on the lower level of the PowerAde Tower with a capacity of 150 people, and wired for audio and video. Designed as a training center for major auto manufacturers. Also serves as the ideal location for press/media luncheons.

Lake Side Display Area/Pro Pits—This open paved area of 650 feet in length by 45 feet in width, situated at the lake shoreline serves the dual purpose of pro pits during selected events and as a display area during others. It is spacious enough for training and product diagnostics, or large tents to accommodate supplier's fairs, static displays, car shows and as a swap meet area. During major events tents can be erected and enclosed with white

decorative fencing which provides the perfect hospitality village.

Bondurant School of High Performance Driving—Corporate Offices and 1.3 Mile Road Course—The Bondurant School offers a variety of driving courses. Top pro racers, students worldwide and many celebrities have taken advantage of Bondurant's reputation as being the best instructor in the business, and provides students with the most diverse advanced classes anywhere.

Welcome to Firebird!

The fantastic desert mountain scenery that surrounds Firebird, coupled with Arizona's outstanding weather, makes this the perfect location for any event. The spacious grounds, quality drag strip, test tracks and full, personal service combined with the excellent facilities makes it easy to understand why Firebird is the most attractive sports center anywhere.

Firebird is the most versatile motorsport facility in the country. More than 600,000 motorsports enthusiasts pass through Firebird's gates each year to enjoy a variety of events at Firebird's 440 acres, located on I-10, ten miles south of downtown Phoenix on the Gila River Indian Community. ■



FEBRUARY 22-24 2008



FIREBIRD INTERNATIONAL
Raceway
602-268-0200

Pick-N-Print
your tickets at
www.firebirdraceway.com

Arizona

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

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

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

Saguaro National Park
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
520-733-5153 Visitor Info Rincon Mtn District
928-524-66228 Visitor Information

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

PARKS AND OUTDOORS

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

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

TOURISM - LODGING - EVENTS

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

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

Nevada

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

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

California

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

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

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

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

New Mexico

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

New Mexico Department of Tourism
800-733-6396 x 0643 • 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

RESORTS AND LODGING

Inn on La Loma Plaza
315 Ranchitos Road • Box 4159 • Taos NM 87571
800-530-3040 • www.VacationTaos.com

Inn on the Alameda
303 East Alameda • Santa Fe NM 87501
505-984-21221 • www.innonthealameda.com

Utah

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Park Service - Utah
http://www.nps.gov/state/ut

PARKS AND OUTDOORS

San Juan County Tourism
117 S. Main Street • Monticello UT 84535
800-574-4386 • www.southeastutah.org

Southern Utah Scenic Tours
PO Box 1113 • Cedar City UT 84720
888-404-8687 • www.utahscenic.com

RESORTS AND LODGING

Desert Rose Inn & Cabins
701 W. Highway 191 • Bluff UT 84512
888-475-7673 • www.DesertRoseInn.com

Colorado

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

Colorado Activity Centers, Inc.
PO Box 129 • Frisco CO 80443
800-777-8642 • www.coloradoinfo.com

AUTOMOTIVE

Shelby American Collection
5020 Chaparral Court • Boulder CO 80308
303-516-9565 • .shelbyamericancollection.org

Mexico

RESORTS AND LODGING

Puerto Peñasco Mexico Online
Beachfront home rentals in Rocky Point.
623-935-0507 • www.puerto-penasco.com

TOURISM - 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

AUTOMOTIVE

Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village
20900 Oakwood Blvd. • Dearborn MI 48124
www.hfmgv.com • 313-271-1620

Imperial Palace Auto Collections (see Nev.)

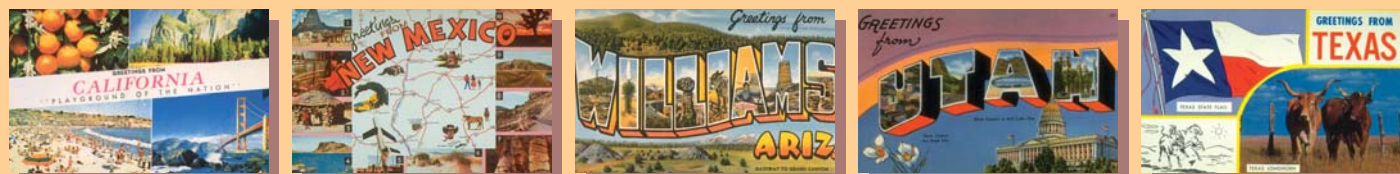
Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum
Pickerington OH 43147
www.motorcyclemuseum.org • 614-856-2222

National Automobile Museum (see Nev.)

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

Petersen Automotive Museum (see Calif.)

Shelby American Collection (see Colorado)



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.



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ClassicCars.com/15905



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\$11,900 obo
ClassicCars.com/25301



1957 Chevrolet Bel Air Hardtop
\$34,995
ClassicCars.com/26753

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1960 Chevrolet Corvette
\$62,500
ClassicCars.com/26797



1968 Plymouth Road Runner
\$34,900
ClassicCars.com/25403



1968 Shelby GT500
\$125,000
ClassicCars.com/26834

ClassicCars.com

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A division of The Collector Car Network, Inc.
4809 E. Thistle Landing Dr., Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85044
Phone: (480) 285-1600

Camaro Comeback

**Camaro concept enters production for 2009
Newer Camaro convertible concept arrives later in 2009**



The Chevrolet Camaro concept was the celebrated star of last year's auto show season. GM set out to top that by literally and figuratively blowing the top off in the 2007 shows, and that's exactly what their designers and engineers did to create the Camaro convertible concept. The introduction of the Camaro convertible concept was on the eve of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit earlier this year.

The Camaro convertible concept, wrapped in Huger Orange pearl tri-coat paint with twin gunmetal gray sport stripes, is based on the original Camaro concept, with only minor changes required to accommodate the

convertible body style.

As with the original Camaro concept, the Camaro convertible concept is intended to embody strong heritage, while appealing to a new generation of customers. It is not as direct a descendant of its forebears as the new Mustang; the essence is brought forward, but with a more comprehensive restyling.

"For some of us, an emotional bond was formed when we introduced the Camaro coupe last year," said Ed Peper, Chevrolet general manager. "It is magnificent. But now this

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year, if this Camaro convertible doesn't make your heart beat faster, you should see either your optometrist or your cardiologist, because you have a problem."

Chevrolet has announced production plans for the Camaro, which will go on sale in 2009. A production convertible model will be added later that year.

Fun spirit

Like the Camaro concept coupe, the Camaro convertible concept brings a dramatic, forward-looking design, still mindful of the brand's storied heritage. This includes classic long hood/short deck pony car proportions and a wide, wheels-at-the-corners stance that gives the vehicle the look of hugging corners even when stationary.

The Camaro convertible concept is motivated by a torquey V-8 engine that rightly sends power to the rear wheels via a manual transmission. It also features a four-wheel independent suspension system and four-wheel disc brakes. Despite persistent questions from enthusiasts and potential buyers, GM has yet to confirm that the production car will indeed be powered

by a V-8, though if not, they promise it will equal or outperform the V-8 enthusiast's expectations.

The Camaro convertible concept shares exterior dimensions with the Camaro concept, although the convertible concept's windshield surround, which features a bright anodized finish, is changed slightly to accommodate the convertible top.

Additional design details include:

- Tonneau cover over the folded top
- "Halo" headlamps
- LED taillamps
- Rear spoiler with LED-lit CHMSL
- Racing-inspired fuel filler door
- Front-inlet hood scoop, inspired by the Corvette Z06
- Heritage-inspired rear fender gills
- Anodized aluminum door handles
- Bold 21-inch (front) and 22-inch (rear) wheels, with accent color

The Camaro convertible concept's Hugger Orange pearl tri-coat color is a contemporary update of the classic hue, which was originally offered in 1969. It is complemented with twin gunmetal gray sport stripes. As with the design overall, this new interpretation of a classic color and stripes seek to reflect the Camaro's

heritage while delivering a contemporary appearance.

The Camaro convertible concept rides on 21-inch front wheels and 22-inch rear wheels. The wheels have a deep-dish, five-spoke design and feature charcoal center sections with bright outer edges and a red outline on the wheel edge. The charcoal wheels complement the gunmetal gray stripes on the body.

Inspired cockpit

The Camaro convertible features a simple yet purposeful interior that reflects design elements inspired by the muscle car era, including the first-generation Camaro. A new, light-and-dark color scheme enhances the airy feel of the convertible, particularly when the top is lowered.

The seats' fronts feature platinum-tone leather surrounding suede-like Alcantara® inserts, with black, sculpted seatbacks. The use of light color only on the seating surface is reminiscent of vintage houndstooth interiors, while a matching, tri-coat platinum paint is used to accent the door panels and instru-





ment panel, giving a modern, bold feel to the interior.

As with the Camaro coupe concept, the convertible concept features an instrument panel inspired by first-generation Camaros, including an intricate "round-gauges-in-square-holes" design. The gauges have a deep, three-dimensional appearance, with white faces and red pointers.

"The instrument panel – including the four auxiliary gauges mounted in front of the shifter – pays homage to first-generation Camaros, while achieving a modern appearance through its refined integration of components," said Micah Jones, Chevrolet interior designer.

Attention to detail includes a smoke satin aluminum finish on trim plates, vents, seat handles and seatbelt buckles. The shifter and pedals are billet aluminum. The steering wheel has a detailed, deep-dish three-spoke design, and the front seats are hinged at the center—rather than the sides—for an integrated appearance. A separate ignition button is used to start the engine, and the speedometer and tachometer needles complete full-sweep indexing when the engine

rumbles to life.

A "spine" motif runs through the center of the vehicle and on the seatbacks, including a prominent center console that stretches to the rear seat. The spine reinforces the symmetry of the Camaro convertible, as well as communicating an image of engineering precision.

An attainable icon

The original Camaro was introduced to the Baby Boomer generation, a large group of young, individualistic and mobile Americans who drove fundamental changes in the auto industry. The Camaro was personal, sporty and powerful—attributes that were typically found on more expensive, smaller (and often foreign) sports cars. The Camaro represented a real, life-sized, sporty car that was attainable for just about everyone. An almost endless list of optional features, colors and trim combinations ensured owners could tailor their Camaro to their exact taste.

As Boomers transitioned into larger vehicles to accommodate growing families, younger drivers embraced used Camaros as their first cars; third- and

fourth-generation Camaros continued to deliver affordable fun and performance to a new generation of enthusiasts. Indeed, hundreds of thousands of owners of all walks of life have found driving fun in a Camaro during the past 40 years.

The new Camaro concepts draw on their namesakes' heritage, but also the global, youthful influences of the 21st century. These influences are seen in the Camaro convertible concept's strong proportions, tailored wheel-to-body relationship and detailed interior—including the multi-dimensional instruments. It's a design that is already resonating with a generation of younger car buyers influenced by highly stylized tuner cars and imported sports cars.

Along with style and performance, a timeless spirit of fun is woven into the new Camaro concepts.

"Camaro has always represented the American ethic that style and performance don't belong exclusively to the wealthy," said Brian Smith, exterior designer. "Camaro has always been everybody's sports car, and these new concepts demonstrate its spirit is relevant for a new generation." ■



The 8th Annual Russo and Steele Collector Automobile Auction January 16-20, 2008

RUSSO AND STEELE SECURES MUTLI-YEAR SITE CONTRACT

Russo and Steele Collector Automobile Auctions has signed a multi-year contract with the Arizona State Land Department for the continued use of property located at the Scottsdale Road and Loop 101 interchange; Russo and Steele's traditional site for years.

When asked about the highly publicized land deal, Drew Alcazar, owner of Russo and Steele, said "I'd like to thank all those who worked so diligently to assist us in securing a multi-year agreement for our home in Scottsdale. We are extremely excited about continuing to build on the equity of our relationships in Scottsdale that we have made over the last eight years, and building for a continued investment in the future."

Josephine Alcazar, co-owner of Russo and Steele, adds, "We are obviously thrilled about having this land agreement taken care of, but most of all we wanted to just say thanks for all the support and assistance that we have received from both the City of Scottsdale and our avid clients."

RUSSO AND STEELE PREVIEW AND CHARITY GALA EVENTS

This year's Russo and Steele Collector Automobile Auction, marking eight years in north Scottsdale, will be held Wednesday through Sunday, January 16-20, 2008, and will showcase over five hundred cars. The festivities will kick off on Wednesday, January 16th, with the Russo and Steele Motown Charity Gala benefiting the Phoenix Children's Hospital's Emily Center. Action continues Thursday through Sunday, as hundreds of carefully reviewed vehicles drive across the auction block. A vehicle preview will be held daily, with gates opening at 10am every morning and the auction starting at noon each day.

RUSSO AND STEELE EXPANDS, ADDS FLORIDA FOR MARCH 2008

Russo and Steele Collector Automobile Auctions has announced the debut of their only East Coast auction in the United States, at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, in Hollywood, Florida, March 27-29, 2008. The company will feature more than 150 highly collectible European sports, American muscle, hot rods and customs at Russo and Steele Florida.

See additional information on next page. ■

The 37th Annual Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction Event January 12-20, 2008

BARRETT-JACKSON AUCTIONEER INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

A leader in the auction industry and mentor to his peers, Tom "Spanky" Assiter has been inducted into the National Auctioneers Association (NAA) Hall of Fame. Mr. Assiter was honored at the President's Gala during the 58th International Auctioneers Conference and Show in San Diego.

Since founding the Amarillo, Texas-based Assiter & Associates LLC in 1983, "Spanky" has become one of the most sought after auctioneers in the world. Auto enthusiasts around the world tune in every year to see "Spanky," with his trademark glasses on his forehead, sell collector cars at the Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction in Scottsdale.

In addition to Mr. Assiter's extensive work with major automobile manufacturers, his selling experience also includes livestock, antiques and real estate. "Spanky" lives in Canyon, Texas, with his wife, Amy, and their three children.

BARRETT-JACKSON MAKES DEAL WITH ENDEAVOUR CAPITAL

Endeavour Capital has made a significant minority investment in Barrett-Jackson Auction Co. LLC. Barrett-Jackson also unveiled plans to move into new corporate headquarters in Scottsdale and announced the addition of several senior managers to the company's management team.

The company reports the partnership with Endeavour to be a key step in executing on its strategic growth plans. "Barrett-Jackson has been a family-owned business for 37 years," said Craig Jackson, Barrett-Jackson Chairman/CEO. "We accomplished a great deal by building on the legacy established by my father, Russ Jackson, and his partner Tom Barrett. Now, with Endeavour and their vast resources on board, we can move more quickly to capitalize on the great business opportunities in front of us."

Barrett-Jackson also announced additions and changes in senior staff. Mr. Jackson assumes the new position of Chairman/CEO where he will focus on the overall company vision. Steve Davis becomes President, and Patrick van den Bossche is Chief Operating Officer. Gary Bennett, a customer of the company since its first auction event 37 years ago and an employee for more than five years, will now serve as Vice President of Consignment. Jason Rose, a seven-year

veteran of Barrett-Jackson with expertise in technology and logistics operations, has been promoted to Vice President of Operations.

Phil Neri, hired in 2006 to fuel growth of the company's sponsorship program, has been promoted to Vice President of Sales. Joining the existing management team are Bryan Neff, Chief Financial Officer, and Ritchie Fliegler, Vice President of Marketing.

Barrett-Jackson will move into its new corporate headquarters in the Scottsdale Airpark area before the end of the year. The new headquarters has room for the growing team, as well as facilities for a professional studio to accommodate the company's expanding media and merchandising business. The Barrett-Jackson Showroom on Scottsdale Road will remain open as well.

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS BEING ACCEPTED FOR SCOTTSDALE 2008

The Barrett-Jackson Auction Company started accepting early consignment applications in late September for the 2008 auction in Scottsdale. Approximately 1,000 of the world's premier collector automobiles will be sold during the event, which also includes lifestyle vendors and exclusive parties on-site. SPEED cameras will again capture the action on and off the block by live broadcast.

Barrett-Jackson offers all vehicles at No Reserve, which means that they will be sold to the highest bidder, regardless of the selling price. Barrett-Jackson's consignment staff reviews thousands of applications to create a diverse mix of cars that appeal to a wide range of buyers. Applications are available at www.barrett-jackson.com or 480-421-6694.

Early consignors have the advantage of participating in pre-auction ads, promotional materials and website listings.

THE WORLD'S ONLY 1963 FORD THUNDERBIRD "ITALIEN"

Oozing with European panache from the aerodynamic roof line to the front and rear leather bucket seats, this one-off, Ford-designed 1963 Thunderbird "Italien" concept was an extreme departure from the traditional classics rolling out of Detroit in the early 1960s.

"This could be the most sought after and significant Thunderbird to ever cross the block at Barrett-Jackson," said Craig Jackson, Chairman/CEO of the Barrett-Jackson Auction Company.

The "Italien" was designed and built by Ford's Thunderbird stylists in Detroit. It was showcased in Ford's 1962-63 Custom Car Caravan, numerous Autoramas across the country and in the 1964 New York World Fair's Cavalcade of Custom Cars. ■

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Russo and Steele Expands to East Coast

**Hollywood
Florida
joins
Scottsdale
and Monterey**

**Seminole
Hard Rock
Hotel & Casino
March 27-29,
2008**

Russo and Steele Collector Automobile Auctions will debut their East Coast auction this coming spring in Hollywood, Florida. The company will feature more than 150 highly collectible European sports, American muscle, hot rods and customs at Russo and Steele Florida.

Drew Alcazar, owner of Russo and Steele, explains, "Scottsdale and Monterey have exemplified the high end experience and set a precedent. The addition of Hollywood, Florida into our mix and partnership with Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino was a natural progression in our evolution and is sure to

please our Eastern Seaboard clientele."

Michael Bloom, president of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, said, "As an entertainment destination, quality and service are vital to our success. With Russo and Steele's proven track record and exceptional standards, we foresee this as being a mutually-beneficial partnership."

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino is easily accessible from Florida's Turnpike and I-95 to Griffin Road or I-595.

More information about this Russo and Steele event is available online at www.russoandsteele.com.



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QUIZ : CAR SMARTS



1. What percentage of new vehicles are equipped with a DVD entertainment system?
 a. 8 percent b. 17 percent
 c. 23 percent d. 29 percent

2. How long has Mazda been producing rotary-engine powered vehicles?
 a. 20 years b. 30 years
 c. 40 years d. 50 years

3. Which brand has the largest percentage of increase in sales during the first six months of 2007?
 a. Mitsubishi b. Saturn
 c. Lincoln d. Jeep

4. What is the average vehicle trade-in age?
 a. 3.7 years b. 5.4 years
 c. 7.1 years d. 8.4 years

5. What was the speed record set in August in the Ford Fusion Hydrogen 999, the world's first production-based hydrogen fuel cell race car?
 a. 162.043 mph b. 185.114 mph
 c. 207.279 mph d. 222.824 mph

6. What percentage of 2008 cars will have a navigation system available either as standard or optional equipment?
 a. 30 percent b. 50 percent
 c. 80 percent d. 90 percent

7. How much does Toyota spend per day on research and development?
 a. \$1 million b. \$8 million
 c. \$16 million d. \$24 million

8. How many turns are there in the annual Pikes Peak International Hill Climb course?
 a. 77 turns b. 115 turns
 c. 156 turns d. 188 turns

9. How many New Beetles have been built at the Volkswagen plant in Puebla, Mexico since production started in 1997?
 a. 500,000 b. 750,000
 c. 1 million d. 2 million

10. How many 2007 Chevrolet cars get an EPA fuel economy rating of 30 mpg or better?
 a. 6 Chevys b. 8 Chevys
 c. 10 Chevys d. 12 Chevys

11. What was the model year of the famous Ford Deuce coupe and roadsters?
 a. 1922 b. 1932
 c. 1942 d. 1952

12. What was the average manufacturers' suggested retail price on vehicles sold in the US as of May 2007?
 a. \$28,087 b. \$31,506
 c. \$33,734 d. \$35,129

13. What is Nissan's in-house tuner division (that prepares high performance variations) called?
 a. Z-Series b. NISMO
 c. SR d. Qashquai

14. Which company is adding a new car called the Soul as a 2009 model?
 a. Suzuki b. Kia
 c. Subaru d. Hyundai

15. Which vehicle claims that it "can ascend 60% inclines, traverse 40% side slopes, climb a 16-inch vertical wall and operate in up to 24 inches of water"?
 a. Jeep Wrangler b. Land Rover LR3
 c. Hummer H3 d. Nissan Xterra

16. What is Ford using to replace petroleum in the seat foam of the new Mustang?
 a. recycled milk bottles
 b. soy
 c. wood
 d. recycled tires

17. What is the average turnover among sales staff of franchised car dealerships?
 a. 12 percent b. 28 percent
 c. 42 percent d. 7 percent

18. What is the new refrigerant being most considered for future air conditioning systems?
 a. CFC-12 b. Neon
 c. Carbon dioxide d. R-134a

19. Combined, what percentage of hybrid vehicles sold in the US are by Honda and Toyota?
 a. 60 percent b. 70 percent
 c. 80 percent d. 90 percent

20. How much did tailgaters spend in 2006 on food and equipment?
 a. \$500 million to \$1 billion
 b. \$1 billion to \$3 billion
 c. \$3 billion to \$7 billion
 d. \$7 billion to \$15 billion

21. How many of the 300 \$1.3 million Bugatti Veyron 16:4 super cars planned for production have been sold?
 a. 50 b. 150
 c. 250 d. 300

22. How many times greater is the fatality rate for 16-year-old drivers in car crashes, compared to 30- to 60-year-olds?
 a. the rate is the same
 b. 16-year-olds are 4x more likely to die
 c. 16-year-olds are 7x more likely to die
 d. 16-year-olds are 9x more likely to die

23. What is the new record time for driving from New York to Los Angeles?
 a. 28 hours 46 minutes
 b. 31 hours 59 minutes
 c. 36 hours 22 minutes
 d. 41 hours 21 minutes

24. What is the renewal rate for the OnStar communications system?
 a. mid-40 percent b. mid-50 percent
 c. mid-60 percent d. mid-70 percent

25. There are currently 14 hybrid model vehicles on the market; how many are expected to be available by 2011?
 a. 24 by 2011 b. 46 by 2011
 c. 75 by 2011 d. 105 by 2011

26. In which country did five automakers recently suspend production after a bomb attack on a pipeline cut natural gas supplies?
 a. France b. Mexico
 c. China d. Russia

27. How long has GM owned Saab?
 a. 14 years b. 18 years
 c. 22 years d. 26 years

28. How many vehicles did Porsche sell worldwide during its recently ended (2006/2007) fiscal year?
 a. 45,298 b. 61,344
 c. 97,515 d. 119,846

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE >>

>ANSWERS (quiz on previous page)



1. Answer: c. According to TechnoMetrica Market Intelligence "Developing Trends," 23 percent of the vehicles have a DVD based entertainment system.
2. Answer: c. Mazda has been building rotary-powered vehicles for 40 years since the Cosmo Sport in 1967.
3. Answer: b. With an increase of 21.4 percent sales increase over 2006, the Saturn brand has the largest percentage increase in sales during the first six months of 2007. Mitsubishi - 20.6 percent. Lincoln - 14.5 percent. Jeep - 13.4 percent.

4. Answer: b. According to J.D. Power and Associates the average trade-in vehicle age is 5.4 years old.
5. Answer: c. A group from Ford set a world speed record of 207.279 mph during the annual Bonneville Speed Week. The car is a Ford Fusion Hydrogen 999, the world's first production-based hydrogen fuel cell race car.
6. Answer: c. According to Telematics Research Group, Inc. about 80 percent of the announced 2008 model year vehicles will have a navigation system as standard or optional equipment.
7. Answer: d. Toyota says they spend about \$24 million each day globally on research and development.
8. Answer: c. There are 156 turns in the 12.42 mile course used for the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb. The race starts at 9,400 ft. and goes to 14,110-ft. of elevation.
9. Answer: c. In July, Volkswagen celebrated the building of the one millionth New Beetle at the Puebla, Mexico plant. It is the only plant that builds the New Beetle.
10. Answer: b. Chevrolet advertises eight models with an EPA rating of 30 mpg or better - Aveo sedan, Aveo5, Cobalt, HHR and select models of Impala, Malibu, Malibu Maxx and Monte Carlo.
11. Answer: b. The Ford Deuce coupe and roadster are 1932 models.
12. Answer: b. According to CNW Research, the average manufacturers' suggested retail price on vehicles sold in the US was \$31,506 as of May 2007. That is about 4 percent less than it was in 2006.
13. Answer: b. Nissan's in-house tuner is called NISMO. For the first time Nissan is offering a NISMO version of the 350Z.

14. Answer: b. Kia plans to introduce a boxy wagon like the Scion xB or Honda Element in 2008 as a 2009 model.
15. Answer: c. New ads for the Hummer H3 claim it is only vehicle in its segment that "can ascend 60% inclines, traverse 40% side slopes, climb a 16-inch vertical wall and operate in up to 24 inches of water".
16. Answer: b. Partnering with seat-maker Lear, Ford has developed a process to use soy to make seat foam, replacing the need for most of the oil previously used. Ultimately they believe soy could totally replace petroleum. Mustang seats are the first to get the new foam, but it ultimately could be used in the entire line.
17. Answer: c. According to the National Automobile Dealers Association, 42 percent of the sales staffs of franchised car dealerships left their jobs in 2006.
18. Answer: c. Many companies are working with carbon dioxide as possible replacement for the current popular R-134a refrigerant. R-134a is being banned by the European Union and will be phased out from 2011 through 2017. While carbon dioxide is currently a top candidate for the R-134a replacement, it is possible another refrigerant will be discovered before the full implementation takes place.
19. Answer: d. According to Business Week magazine, Honda and Toyota hybrids make up 90 percent of the US hybrid sales.
20. Answer: d. According to the American Tailgaters Association, tailgaters spent between \$7 and \$15 billion in 2006 on food and equipment.
21. Answer: b. According to the trade journal, Automotive News, since production of the Bugatti Veyron 16:4 began late in 2005; only 150 of the scheduled production of 300 cars have been sold. The car is billed as the world's fastest street legal sports car (0 to 60 mph in 2.5 seconds).

22. Answer: d. According to a report on teen driving "Licensed to Die" done by AutoWeek magazine in August 2007, teen drives are nine times more likely to be killed in a car wreck than 30 to 60 year old drivers. For more information, see the Teen Driving Safety Summit on the <http://autoweek.com> website.

23. Answer: b. Automobile magazine reported that Richard Rawlings and Dennis Collins recently set a record for the fastest New York to L.A. driving time: 31 hours and 59 minutes. They were driving a Ferrari 550 Maranello to beat the previous record of 32 hours and 51 minutes set in 1979 on the final Cannonball Run.

24. Answer: c. According to OnStar president, Chet Huber, the annual renewal rate of OnStar is in the mid-60 percent range. He said the biggest reason for non-renewal is consumers are unaware of all the services or how they work.

25. Answer: c. According to Business Week, there will be 75 hybrid vehicles available in the US by 2011.

26. Answer: b. After rebel bomb attacks on gas pipelines in Mexico disrupted gas supplies, five automakers - Honda, General Motors, Ford, Chrysler and Volkswagen temporarily shut their plants down, as did more than 100 supplier plants.

27. Answer: b. General Motors bought Saab 18 years ago.

28. Answer: c. According to Porsche CEO Wendelin Wiedeking, Porsche sold a record 97,515 vehicles during the recently ended 2006/2007 fiscal year. Sales reached \$10.22 billion at current exchange rates and profits are expected to exceed \$2.9 billion.

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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1953 Corvette, Blue Flame Six, powerglide, numbers match. Polo White with Red interior. Body-off restored. One of 300 produced.



1957 Corvette, 283-283 hp, (fuelie), 4 speed, numbers match. Onyx Black. Fresh body-off. NCRS Top Flight. Radio and heater delete, T-10, posi, off road exhaust. Jewelry.



1959 Corvette, 283-290 hp, (fuelie). Roman Red with Red interior. Body-off restoration. Wonderbar radio, fuel injection, off road exhaust. From Arizona.



1962 Corvette, 327-250 hp, 4 speed. Almond Beige with Red interior. Body-off restored. NCRS Top Flight and Bloomington Gold! T-10, Wonderbar radio, aluminized exhaust.



1962 Corvette Retro (C5). CRC carbon fiber panels on 2000 body, chassis, and suspension. Sebring Silver with Red interior! Dynamic show car.



1963 Corvette Grand Sport Replica, tube frame, LT-1 engine, 6 speed tranny, ZR-1 suspension. Dana rear, XM digital satellite multimedia system. Custom forged aluminum wheels. Integrated roll bar.



1965 Corvette Dunton Coupe, 327-375 hp, (fuelie), 4 speed. Rally Red with White/Red interior. Multiple NCRS Top Flights and NCRS Dunton award. Bloomington Gold award, Kelsey K.O. wheels.



1966 Corvette Coupe, 427-425 hp, 4 speed, 27,725 actual miles. Tuxedo Black with Bright Blue/White interior. Super rare correct color. M-21, 4.11 posi, F-41. Documented.



1966 Corvette Convertible, 427-425 hp, 4 speed. Nassau Blue with Black interior. Body-on restored. NCRS Top Flight certified! Factory side exhaust, telescopic, headrests, transistorized ignition. M-21, 4.11 posi, K.O. wheels, goldstripe tires. Documented.



1967 Corvette Coupe, 427-435 hp, 4 speed, 21,623 actual miles. Rally Red with Red interior. Multiple NCRS Top Flight, Bloomington Gold, and Triple Crown. Factory side exhaust, M-21, 4.11 posi, F-41. Tank sticker, window sticker, and awards.



1967 Corvette Coupe, 427-435 hp, 4 speed. Tuxedo black with Red interior. Super rare and real color. NCRS certified (2006). Factory side exhaust. B.O. wheels, red stripe tires. Tank sticker, owner history.



1967 Corvette Coupe, "EXPO 67". 427-435 hp, 4 speed, 40,000 actual miles. Marlboro Maroon w/Black interior. Bloomington Special Collection, Bloomington Gold certified, NCRS Top Flight certified, NCRS Dunton award, Gold Spinner award, Triple Crown award. Documented. "Maple Leaf Milestone"



1969 Corvette Convertible, 427-435 hp, 6,000 actual miles. Cortez Silver. Bloomington Survivor and Bloomington Silver awards. Power steering, brakes, windows, tilt-n-telescopic. Three inch 3 ring binder full of owner history, P.O.P., shipper copy.



1969 Corvette T-Top, 427-435 hp, 4 speed, 12,593 actual miles. Tuxedo Black with Black interior. NO HIT car with the original interior. Heavy duty clutch, power steering, brakes, M-21, 4.11 posi, F-41 suspension. Documented.



1969 Corvette Coupe, L-88, 4 speed. Cortez Silver. Bloomington Gold certified. One of only 116. Leather, tilt-n-telescopic, M-22, 4.11 posi, F-41, J-56 brakes, rear window defroster, smog system. Documented.



1970 Corvette Coupe, LT-1 (350-370 hp), 4 speed with 147 actual miles. Monza Red paint. Leather, shoulder harness, 4:11 heavy duty posi. NCRS Top Flight certified. Documented.

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BAM-BAM GOES TO SEATTLE

Steven Dahho
John Swauger
John Wallick



Photo: RandallBohl.com

By Glenn Miller, John Swauger and Kaeryn Lapsley Swauger
Photography: RandallBohl.com, Kaeryn Lapsley Swauger, and C. Pondella

We'll get right to the final results first: The Red Bull Soapbox Derby, run on September 29 in Seattle, was won by The A-Team of Seattle, with Kevin Walsh at the controls. Congratulations to the winners!

Tempe Town Lake Cardboard Boat Champ John Swauger and his team worked long and hard on their machine, then headed north for this event with their usual mix of intense but tongue-in-cheek fun-loving and plenty of clever engineering. (See the Sept/Oct 2007 issue of *Arizona Driver Magazine* for a runup to the event and complete information on the Arizona entry and its pedigree: www.azdrivermag.com.)

Bam-Bam the articulated rhino was the combined inspiration of John's work at the Wildlife World Zoo in Litchfield, elements of his past Tempe Town Lake entries and the specific requirements of Red Bull rules and the challenging Fremont course. And John always did want to ride a rhino, but amazingly never had.

John's report: "That was unbelievable. We had such a great time in Seattle. For three hours all we did was sit little kids on the rhino and let their parents take their pictures, plus the adults had to get in on the act and have their pictures taken also. We even had a great dane (make intimate friends with the rhino); that was so funny, I can't wait to see that picture.

"The rhino did great. We made it all the way down the track

without the wheels or feet falling off. We didn't win anything, but we had a great time.

"The track had a big bank turn in it—I wasn't sure if we could make the turn, but we had no trouble with it. After the turn, it was a straight shot for about 100 yards. The rhino went straight as an arrow, so John Wallick started doing tricks in the back saddle. I had no idea what he was doing back there. I got bored with the long straightaway, so I was standing up and letting go of the handlebars, holding my arms straight up and letting the rhino ghost ride. We had such a great time.

"I wasn't even white-knuckled when we got to the bottom. I told Red Bull to add a couple of tabletop jumps in the track to liven it up a bit for the next race, but I realize they don't want to kill anybody.

"Red Bull couldn't have a better person than Dave Goto as crew chief. He kept everyone at ease during the whole soapbox experience; I hope Red Bull and all the contestants appreciate the excellent job Dave has done.

"I have no idea what place we came in; as far as I am concerned we won the whole kit and kaboodle—we had a great time with family and friends, and even made a couple new ones. We put a lot of smiles on a lot of faces, and that's all that counts."

Much as they say the sports fan takes losses much harder than the athletes themselves, we were of course on the edge of our comfortable Arizona office seats, hoping for a home team win, while the actual Knuckleberry Express team, of Waddell AZ, were in their far less comfortable seats, in the Seattle drizzle, risking



Photo: Red Bull / C. Pondella



Photo: Kaeryn Lapsley Swauger

pride and limb (and losing neither), but just having lots of fun.

If you'd like to see more about this event (and others in the series), including a snapshot gallery, visit the official Red Bull event site at www.redbullsoapboxusa.com.

We also found quite a few snippets on YouTube, including some with our home team, so check those out, too. As we go to press, one that includes Arizona's team is titled "Red Bull Soapbox Race - Seattle (19 racers shown)," with our guys showing up at about 3:30 on the timeline. And there are others.

So what's next for John Swauger and the Arizona team? We told 'em they should enter the Red Bull air races. (There are non-powered races much like the soapbox but including a little air time; see redbullflugtagusa.com. And there are powered air races, redbullairrace.com, which we've since learned ran in Monument Valley last May, but that's for actual pilots.) Swauger says, "I will be sending applications for every soapbox and flugtag until I croak; I am hooked for life on this Red Bull ride." The 2008 Flugtag hasn't been scheduled yet, but we know Swauger and company will have a great concept in the works by then. ■



Photo: RandallBohl.com

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SHELBY CONTEST : BULLHEAD CITY WINNER



Win-a-Shelby GT500 goes to Arizona winner

Gary Harlow of Bullhead City, Arizona, was awarded the keys to a new Ford Shelby GT500 in September, after winning the 2nd Annual Win-a-Shelby raffle contest benefitting the Carroll Shelby Children's Foundation.

The 500-horsepower Vista Blue pony car with white racing stripes was titled to automotive icon Carroll Shelby, who was on hand at Shelby Automobiles headquarters in Las Vegas to make the presentation. The winning ticket was drawn on August 18, during the Automotive Fine Arts Society's annual reception at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Élegance. The Carroll Shelby Children's Foundation helps children worldwide battle life-threatening illnesses, while promoting the importance of organ and tissue donation.

"The Win-a-Shelby raffle is a spectacular fundraiser that gives one lucky car nut the chance to drive off in one of my personal cars," said Shelby, President of the Carroll Shelby Children's Foundation. "Mr. Harlow is a true Shelby enthusiast, and I'm confident that he'll take good care of his new GT500. It's important to remember that his donation to the Foundation and the thousands of generous ticket buyers who took part in this contest will help us aid families across the globe."

In addition to belonging to Mr. Shelby, the raffle prize is the only Shelby GT500 featuring white racing stripes and fitted with a 40th Anniversary Limited Edition Package, with distinctive visual and performance enhancements, including exclusive 40th Anniversary Shelby badges throughout the car.

The Foundation displayed the GT500 and sold raffle tickets at events throughout the US since last August, including SEMA and the Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction. Tickets were also available at the Foundation's headquarters in Gardena, California, and



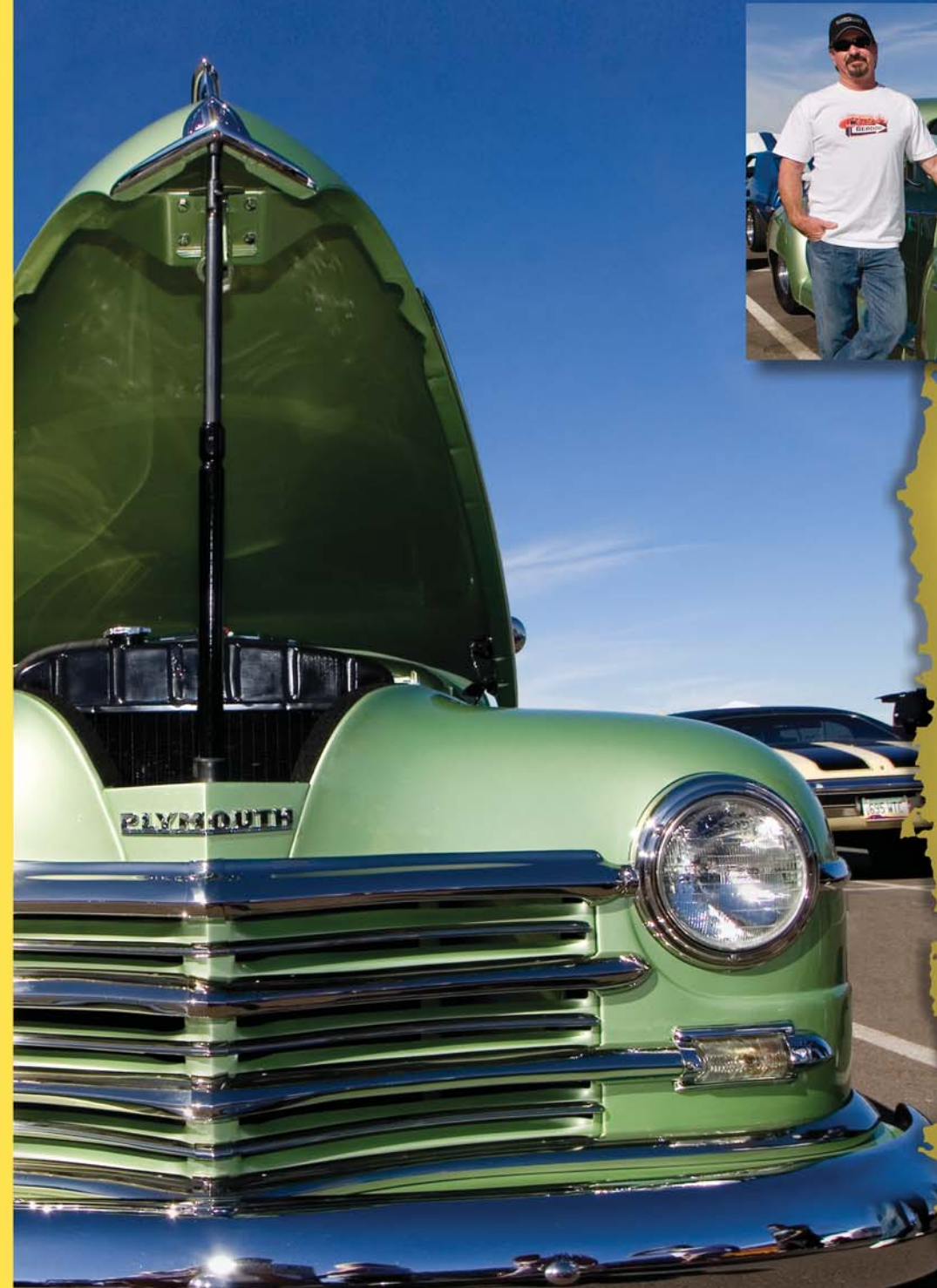
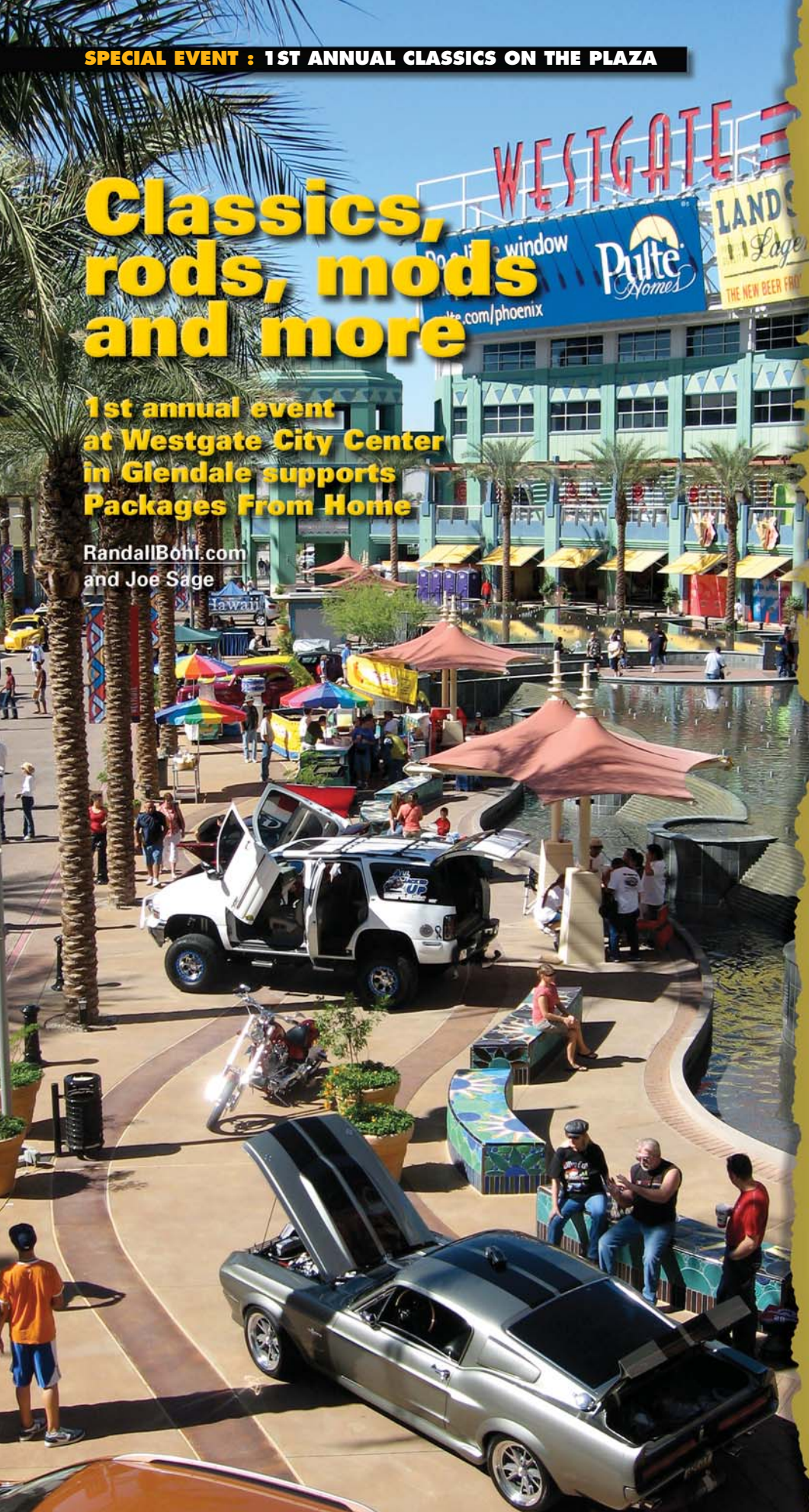
by mail. The Foundation fulfills Carroll Shelby autograph requests by mail for a \$250 donation. Harlow purchased the winning raffle ticket through a mail donation that accompanied an item for Mr. Shelby to sign.

"I got the call and heard, 'Gary, my name is Carroll Shelby and you have just won a new Shelby GT500'," explained Harlow. "Then ironically, the call was dropped. But I knew by the distinctive voice on the other line that it was really Carroll Shelby. Not only is the Shelby GT500 one of the hottest new cars on the road, this one was actually owned by the legend himself. I'll definitely hold onto this car for a long time." ■

Classics, rods, mods and more

1st annual event at Westgate City Center in Glendale supports Packages From Home

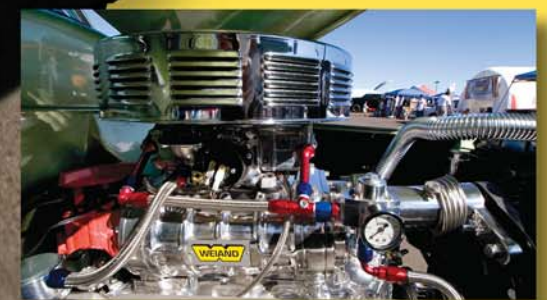
RandallBohl.com and Joe Sage



1948 Plymouth Coupe Fred Pickering, Phoenix

This is an original rust-free Arizona car, and it was "all there" when Fred bought it about four years ago. He started the restoration and modification later that year; the frame-up rebuild took about three years, and he is "still working out the bugs." Those should be few, as this is an immaculate job. Coming soon is a new radiator, an all-aluminum build with an air-channelling shield. There will be a new custom air cleaner with chrome air intake tubes to the radiator. The car has electric windows, a particular challenge, and a/c, which has its update just about completed.

- The job followed an "exact original plan," top to bottom. Fred emphasizes that he did *all* the work himself except the interior and paint. The Plymouth is outfitted with a supercharged Chevy 350, bored to 362 cu.in., a Chevy 350 transmission, and a 9" Lincoln rear end. Stopping power has been updated with four-wheel discs. The car features a Chris Olson suspension, with Mustang II front end and all-custom-manufactured rear. The trunk holds an ample fuel cell; this is so heavy, it bent the original gas shocks, so Fred will be upgrading to truck-grade. For cruising, there is an audiophile sound system stashed in the glove box, and for serious hard driving, a high-spec roll cage, not a bad idea for a Plymouth with an estimated 525 horsepower.
- Fred reports that the Plymouth drives straight and solid, and the brakes are great. But mostly he trailers it to shows, behind a Nissan Titan (a few Good Guys shows back east are on the radar). Fred owns a tile and granite business; his daily driver is a BMW 5 Series.
- So is it a keeper? "No," says Fred. He's located a '69 Chevelle on an Indian nation to the north, so he's planning to secure that and "modify it a little," which should take an estimated year and a half to two years. ■





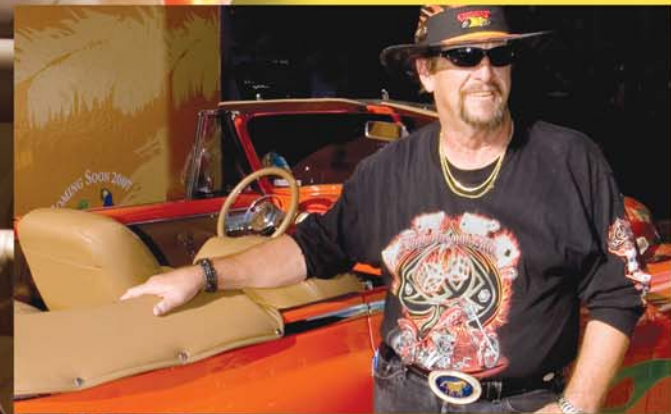
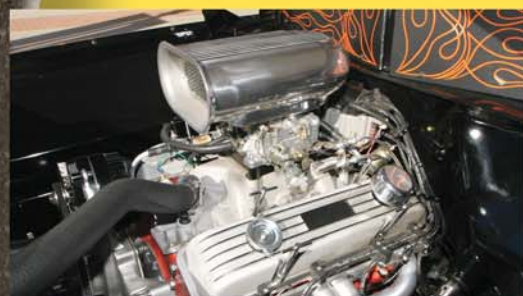
1949 Studebaker Pickup

Joe McCarthy, Peoria

(with Missy and daughters Brooke and Megan)

This solid Studebaker pickup has been in the same Arizona family for years, though not looking like this. Owner Joe McCarthy's granddad brought it into the family as his work truck in April 1962. It was passed along to Joe's stepdad, who put a Chevy engine in it when Joe was 13, and that's when the relationship started to bud. The truck spent 17 years in the back yard, till Joe got his hands on it about four years ago, (also the first time he drove it), and he went to work on what you see here. It's been (mostly) finished since spring 2007.

- Joe says, "People ask why I went through all the trouble to pinstripe and paint all those flames on top of the old patina paint job. It was a lot of work, but I really think it fits into that 'old barn find' style that seems to be happening right now. You can never get that old patina back."
- The Studie is powered by a Chevy 327 hooked up to a Turbo 350 transmission and an '89 IROC 3:73 positrac rear end. It has a fuel cell with retractable filler in the bed, and the original gas cap hole is filled with an old shop rag, just for panache.
- Joe did all the work on the truck except the exhaust... box, chassis, front end, paint, even the pinstriping. Minor yet-to-be-completed details include installing new fully-operational one-piece side glass and a new headliner.
- Progress shots of this project can be found at www.hotrodders.com. Click to Project Journals, then to the full list (at the bottom of the page), and find "49 STUDEBAKER P.U.'s Journal"... where it has had over 4000 viewers as of press time.
- Joe's daily driver is the company's F-Series pickup, and Missy drives an '04 Yukon. But the Studebaker gets driven, too... "no trailers, that's for sure," says Joe. And it's a keeper..."a family heirloom." ■



1952 Chevrolet Convertible

Howard Blackburn, Cave Creek

This updated, modernized, stylized yet instantly recognizable, this American classic with dueling iridescent paints on its naturally curvaceous canvas turns heads from every angle. From the obviously striking red-orange/green flame treatment at the front, to the more subtle variations of orange as light works its way over the fenders in the rear, this car is gorgeous.

- Howard bought this car in 2004, in Arizona, brought it home to his wife and said he'd like to keep it and fix it up, if that struck her as a good idea, yes/no, think about it for two weeks and let me know. (It was blue with a white interior then, powered by an inline six and with a 3-speed transmission.) As those two weeks expired, he hadn't received her answer, so like any good car enthusiast, he took that as a clear "yes" and took the car straight to the shop.
- The transformation took six months. This Chevy is now powered by a 350 V-8 running through a 4-speed Saginaw transmission and putting power to the wheels through a '51 Oldsmobile rear end.
- The car is updated and reengineered in key ways. The new suspension is a Pro Ride adjustable air compressor system with automatic leveling at start. For entertainment, there are two systems: a Pioneer AM-FM-CD, and an Alpine DVD-CD unit with a screen below the dash (see photo below). With one or two sets of headphones, Howard and his wife are able to have one person listening to music and the other watching a movie at the same time. The submarine races were never like this.
- Howard's first car was a '36 Ford 5-window coupe, a solid foundation for an escalating car jones. His daily driver is a Dodge Magnum, with custom 20-inch wheels and a black paint job with orange highlights. This sounds like a great garage-mate for the Chevy. We asked Howard if he plans to keep this convertible forever. The original bargain posed on the car's first day home seems to have stuck, as the answer is: "She says we are!" ■





Nissan NISMO 350Z

■ **Infiniti's** new small EX35 crossover has a paint that automatically hides minor scratches. Nissan calls it a "fluid finish" technology. By using a clear coat containing an elastic that remains fluid for about three years, the paint flows together to fill scratches in the surface. The process takes from a few hours to a few days to "heal"

■ The **Nissan** 350Z total remake has been delayed until the 2011 model year, but it did get the NISMO package this year and a horsepower boost to 306. In 2009 the engine will be replaced by the same 3.7-liter engine used in the Infiniti G37.

■ **Infiniti's** new small EX35 crossover has a paint that automatically hides minor scratches. Nissan calls it a "fluid finish" technology. By using a clear coat containing an elastic that remains fluid for about three years, the paint flows together to fill scratches in the surface. The process takes from a few hours to a few days to "heal" depending on the depth of the scratch and air temperature.

■ **Hyundai** officials have confirmed the Tiburon replacement will be a rear-wheel drive, when it goes on sale late in 2008 or by mid-2009. The sports coupe is being developed from the same RWD platform as the upcoming Genesis sedan, which goes on sale in the summer of 2008. These cars will be the first big steps in Hyundai's effort to take the brand more upscale. The Genesis will also be the company's first V-8 powered car. A V-6 is planned for the Tiburon, but with the platform designed to handle a V-8, that could leave room for a future high performance version to compete with cars like the Ford Mustang. A convertible version of the Tiburon is also rumored.



Hyundai Genesis concept

depending on the depth of the scratch and air temperature.

■ A Texas entrepreneur has purchased all the remaining spare parts of the failed **DeLorean** company and plans to restart production of the stainless steel sports car. Stephen Wynne, the new president of DeLorean Motor Co., near Houston, says they will hand-build two cars a month using a more powerful engine and several technical upgrades to reconstruct the gull-wing car. Prices will start at \$57,000.

■ **Toyota** and Fuji Heavy Industries (**Subaru**) are jointly developing an entry-level sports car. It will be sold as a Toyota, have an engine under 2.0-liters and use

the Subaru symmetrical all-wheel drive powertrain. The price is expected to be under \$16,900 when it appears in 2010.

■ **Bentley** is adding a new high performance Continental GT called the Speed. With a pressure boost of the W12 twin-turbo engine, horsepower is increased from 552 to 600 hp. The Speed has a 202 mph capability and sprints from 0 to 60 mph in a mere 4.3 seconds. The Continental GT Speed has a larger front air intake, a more upright radiator grille and a few other subtle design differences. The ride height is lower and the suspension is a bit stiffer, too. Carbon ceramic brakes are an option.

■ **Mercedes-Benz** has changed the marketing approach used on the R Class



Mercedes-Benz R Class

wagon now that the company has learned most buyers are families, not the empty nesters as first targeted. As a result, MB will offer a less expensive rear-wheel drive version with V-6 power and an optional third row seat. The top-of-the line V-8 powered R500 and R63 AMG version will be dropped leaving only the R350 gasoline version and R320CDI diesel. The price of the R350 will start at \$42,675 and the R320CDI will be \$46,175.

■ **Land Rover** has plans for a premium off road vehicle, smaller than the current LR2, to compete against the upcoming Audi Q3 and other small SUVs. Still in the development stage, the concept is expected to debut at the 2008 Detroit auto show in January. Officials say it could be marketed with a wide range of options allowing the customer to customize the yet to be named vehicle.

■ General Motors has approved plans for **Hummer** to build a small SUV to compete with the Jeep Wrangler. The entry level Hummer H4 has been shown to select members of the media who pronounce the design "striking" and a good addition to the SUV lineup for foreign and domestic markets.

■ **Mercedes-Benz** has approved the production of the Ocean Drive concept four-door convertible. Based on the S600 sedan the Ocean Drive should go into



Mercedes-Benz Ocean Drive concept

production by the 2011 model year. A wide variety of engines from a 382-hp 5.5-liter V-8 up to a 604-hp biturbo V-12 are possible powerplants. Prices are expected to start somewhere near \$120,000.

■ The Phaeton luxury sedan, which was dropped from the US **Volkswagen** lineup in 2006, will get another life starting in 2010 despite poor sales of the original. The pet project of Volkswagen AG supervisory board chairman Ferdinand Piech, said the second generation or Phaeton II will be smaller to distinguish it from the Audi A8, with which it shares a platform.

■ **Mazda** will offer a 40th Anniversary Edition of the RX-8 starting in October. Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Wankel rotary engine, the special edition Mazda is mostly limited to cosmetic upgrades. It will have gray paint, red leather upholstery, a silver-finish engine cover and Bilstein shocks. Prices had not been announced as of press time.

■ Rumors continue to circulate about the future of Ford's **Mercury** division. In a recent *Automotive News* story about future Ford products, no new vehicles were listed for Mercury. The Milan sedan had been scheduled for redesign, but was not mentioned and there were no new vehicles listed. *Automotive News* speculates that Mercury will die early next decade.

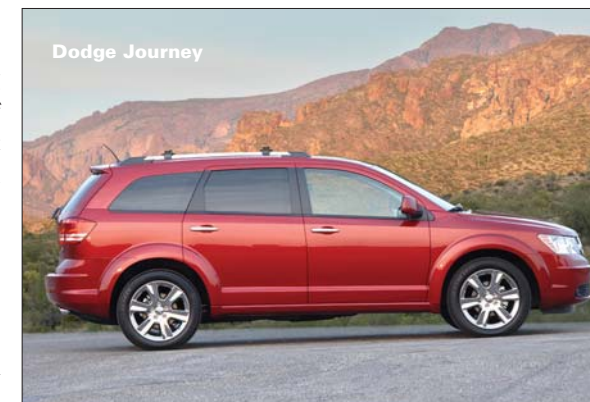


Mercury Milan

■ The next new **Ferrari** is going to be called the 430 LP, for "Light Pista" or as it will probably be called the Pista. Motor Trend magazine says it should be about 180 to 200 pounds lighter than the previous 430 with at least 525 horsepower, which should drop 0 to 60 mph times to the 3.5- to 3.6-second range. The standard

transmission will likely be the auto-clutch manual six-speed. Production will be limited from 500 to 1,000 worldwide at a price in the \$235,000 to \$245,000 range when it goes on sale next spring.

■ **Lincoln** will kill its second attempt at a pickup after the 2008 model year. With



Dodge Journey

first year sales peaking at 12,753, far short of the 20,000 target, the Mark LT will get the axe. Mark LT is an upgraded luxury version of the Ford F-150, and when the F-150 gets its major update next year the Lincoln version will be missing. Lincoln had even worse luck with its first pickup attempt, the Blackwood, which only sold 3,356 units during the 15-month period it was on sale earlier this decade.

■ **Suzuki** will be tweaking their model lineup by dropping the Forenza sedan and Reno five-door hatchback after the 2008 model year. These two smallest Suzukis will be replaced by the recently introduced SX4 hatchback and sedan (which went on sale in October this year). A Suzuki insider told *Automotive News* that the all-wheel drive hatchback will be joined by a front-wheel drive hatchback by 2009 and that other variations may be in the works. The Forenza was developed by GM's Daewoo interests in Korea in 2004 and the Reno was added in 2005. A smaller Suzuki Swift, which may be more performance-oriented, will be introduced for the 2010 model year.

■ **Dodge** introduced a new crossover based on the Avenger sedan at the September Frankfurt auto show. The wagon will be sold in North America starting in the first quarter of 2008 as a 2009 model. It will seat five in normal trim but will be available with a third row seat. Plans call for selling the Journey outside North America in right- and left-hand drive versions by mid-2008. Journey will compete with the Ford Edge, Toyota Highlander, Honda Pilot and Nissan Murano.

■ Shiro Nakamura, head of the **Nissan** design department, says they are considering several new Infiniti niche products including a smaller (than the G line) Infiniti, a high-end coupe (equivalent to Nissan's upcoming GT-R) and possibly a "people mover" (not a mini-van or crossover). ■

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*.

TOTALLY NEW MALIBU

Chevy turns the tables on the competition, presenting an entirely new vehicle bearing a very familiar name.

Joe Sage - photos: RandallBohl.com

Just in time for our press date, GM invited us to WestWorld in Scottsdale, for an early look at the—we'll say it again—all-new Chevrolet Malibu for 2008. Not only was this a very early chance to see the vehicle (publication was embargoed until right about the day this issue rolled off the presses), but they brought the whole fleet—and the competition's fleet, too.

The whole fleet for the new Malibu comprises three essential forms: a 4-cylinder version, a V-6 model and a hybrid incorporating the latest of GM's intensive drive toward far greater fuel economy options (and a future with potentially no traditional fuels at all).

The competition's fleet included the Toyota Camry, Ford Fusion and Hyundai Sonata. The new Honda Accord and Nissan Altima were not available for this series of events.

Chevrolet had set up dual courses on the asphalt at WestWorld, a comprehensive one for the gasoline-powered 4- and 6-cylinder versions, and another for the hybrid.



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Photography: RandallBohl.com

GM is proud of the Malibu's interior, a complete rework that's functional, attractive and evocative of import sedans in much higher price categories.

The conventionally-powered course included an acceleration straightaway, a series of compound curves with braking spots, slalom cones, a vibration patch, quick hard braking, and a slower speed-bump section. The hybrid course was shorter and simpler, allowing a reasonable range of acceleration, turns and braking, as well as a full-arrest spot to try out the Malibu Hybrid's AutoStop feature.

The Toyota, Ford and Hyundai were run on the longer course, along with both the 4-cylinder and V-6 versions of the Malibu. We saved the 6-cylinder Malibu for last. The drive bore out what GM hoped it would: the Malibu was a quiet, comfortable, great-handling car. The Ford surprised us by feeling a lot less balanced in tight turns at speed. We were interested to note that several media drivers were trying to see what tires all had, after driving the Toyota; unfortunately, it had gotten dark, and we didn't verify them all (and even if we had, of course that wouldn't tell us how each would do on the others' rubber; but it did imply there was something uneasy in the Toyota's cornering, compared to the others). We're used to Hyundai's rapid ascendancy in features, fit and finish, and style, but we still generally notice soft or floaty handling once in motion. The Sonata didn't seem to exhibit this on the test track, but we noticed most a

bit of lag upon acceleration, as the automatic transmission took on the task. This wasn't a likely deal-breaker in daily driving, but moving quickly from one test challenge to another, the penalty was palpable.

The base Malibu is powered by a 2.4L DOHC 4-cylinder gasoline engine with variable valve timing, generating 169hp and 160 lb-ft of torque. This engine is standard on the LS and LT models and available on the LTZ (coming in mid-2008). The transmission is a 4-speed automatic on the LS and LT, with a 6-speed automatic slated for the LTZ.

A 3.6L 24-valve DOHC V-6 with variable valve timing is standard on the LTZ and available on the 2LT, with 252hp and 251 lb-ft of torque, with a standard 6-speed automatic.

The Malibu Hybrid takes a comprehensive approach to its engineering and a simple, straightforward approach to its interface. Whereas some hybrids will numb or distract you with the dashboard equivalent of a PowerPoint presentation about your performance and economy, the Malibu Hybrid lets you drive normally, while displaying a couple of fundamentals about charge and drain of the system. The AutoStop was tested at a pause point on the track, a fairly conventional feature in terms of shutting off the gas engine when you've come to a stop, then seamlessly

getting you on your way when you release the brake pedal. Whether this is disquieting or not, which some people note, is basically moot—if you haven't driven a hybrid and experienced that yet, chances are good that you will very soon, and this will be old hat.

Chevy claims the lowest-priced hybrid in the midsize segment with the Malibu, and they say to expect a 10% fuel efficiency gain over gasoline power, to boot. The engineering is kept simple: its advanced Nickel Metal Hydride battery, charged through regenerative braking, is supplemented by the 2.4L DOHC 4-cylinder gas engine with variable valve timing, mated to a standard 4-speed automatic transmission, with the addition of an auxiliary oil pump.

All in all, the hybrid is a very conventional drive, so you will be able to make your comparative decision based on fuel economy goals, the crystal ball aspect of investing in new technology, features, price and your gut.

Given that the new Chevy Malibu is clearly a hot contender in its class, one question was painfully obvious: what do you say when someone states that they love the car, love the drive, love the price, love the features... but they're still thinking Honda or Toyota,

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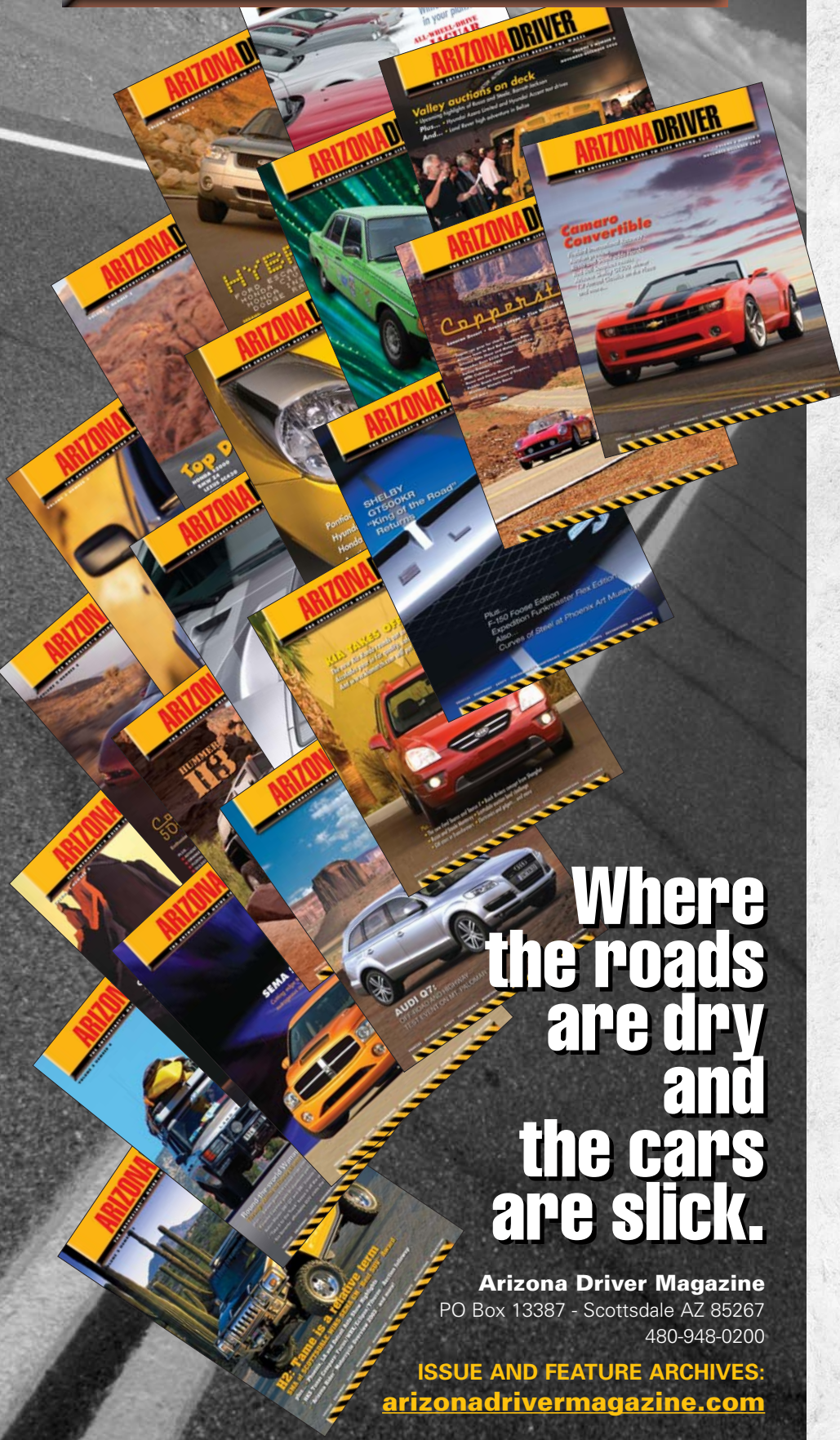
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because everyone says those are so reliable.

GM's answer is immediate and actually quite clear: the Malibu is being built at GM's high-technology Fairfax plant, in Kansas City, where the Saturn Aura and Aura Hybrid are manufactured, and which is also home to GM's cutting-edge recycling plant. This is the top source for a 21st century Chevrolet. The Fairfax facility is the model and basis for everything GM will be doing, moving forward, so any ideas the consumer may have developed about comparative quality or durability to date need to be reassessed within this framework. State-of-the-art processes deliver a quiet, nicely balanced and more than reasonably powerful vehicle with the highest level of fit and finish we've probably ever seen from GM, bar the other machines already coming out of Fairfax, or GM's European offerings built by Opel.

Chevy has worked hard to create a quiet interior on the new Malibu, which measures among the quietest in the midsize segment. Its stiff body structure and extensive use of high-strength steel isolate the cabin from powertrain, road and wind noise, while reducing body flex to minimize squeaks and rattles. The engines are mounted to a four-point isolated cradle that additionally minimizes powertrain noise and vibration. The interior also liberally utilizes acoustic foam, spray-on and welded sealers and other sound deadeners. These features may contribute to the Malibu being a couple of hundred pounds heavier than its competitors, but the media crew at our test agreed that this weight provided a solid stance and great handling, without noticeable power loss.

The stylists have done a great job with the Malibu, carrying forward the design equity of Chevrolet over the past few years, while outdoing the expectations benchmarked by the traditional offerings in this class. This is an affordable vehicle that will look quite handsome in anyone's driveway. Beyond overall style, they've had some fun: the exterior boasts a startling twelve-count-em-twelve Chevy bowtie emblems. They counted them for us: four wheel centers, the center of each headlight and taillight, the front grille center and rear deck, and two more that flashed by as we began to lose count. Say it loud: I'm Chevy and I'm proud.

The 2008 Chevrolet Malibu LS starts at \$19,995, with the high-end LTZ starting at \$26,995. The Malibu Hybrid has a base price of \$22,790. For additional information, visit www.chevrolet.com/2008malibu.

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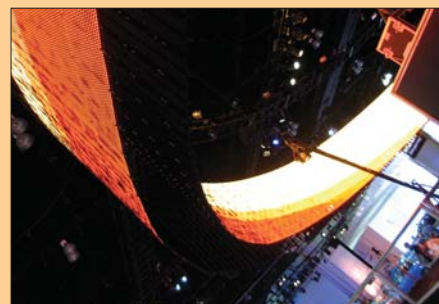


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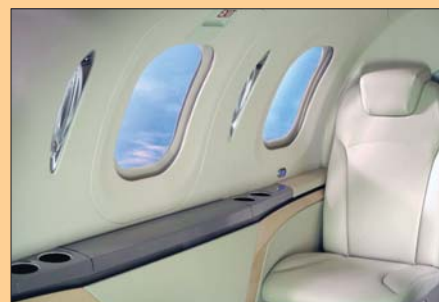
UPCOMING FEATURES

Los Angeles International Auto Show



Auto show season is upon us, first SEMA, followed by the big LA show in mid-November, then Arizona, Detroit in January 2008 and more. We'll bring you highlights straight from LA.

HondaJet



How would you like to have Honda quality, private jet mobility (and, um, the cash to make it happen)? HondaJet's Very Light Jet offers a new level of relative affordability.

Dodge JC49 "Crew" Spy Gear on eBay



The new Dodge Journey started as the "Crew" during development. Spy photog Brenda Priddy is again helping charity, offering a rare badge and more on eBay. Info: BrendaPriddy@cox.net

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