

ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2008

AUCTIONS '08

RUSSO AND STEELE - BARRETT-JACKSON
RM AUCTIONS - GOODING & COMPANY

ALSO... DODGE CHALLENGER SRT8

GOODGUYS SOUTHWEST NATIONALS

HYDROGEN: HONDA FCX CLARITY

BRENDA PRIDY DODGE SPY GEAR

IHBA RACES AT FIREBIRD LAKE

BARRETT-JACKSON SHELBY GT

SUZUKI BIPLANE CONCEPT BIKE

...AND MORE

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ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

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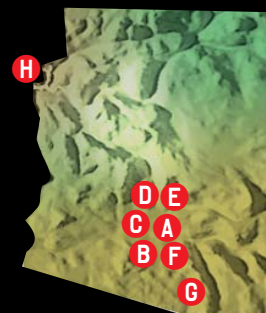
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COVER: 1934 Packard Eight Convertible Sedan, Coachwork by Gläser. More info, page 34. Photo courtesy of RM Auctions.

This is an intensely busy time in the automotive world, especially in our neck of the palo verdes. November and December bring the *Cycle World* International Motorcycle Show in Phoenix, the Los Angeles Auto Show and the Arizona International Auto Show, in rapid succession. We attended LA and enjoyed Arnold's green speech up close and personal, plus saw a great many new product reveals. We spent extra time with Honda's engineering team, and we're bringing you an overview of the new and very innovative Honda FCX Clarity hydrogen sedan. At the Arizona Show, we attended a pre-show media launch of the new Barrett-Jackson-branded Shelby GT, built in collaboration with Shelby and Ford. In between all that, we spent a day with NASCAR at PIR, always a feast for the senses, and we spent a weekend at the Goodguys Rod & Custom Association's 10th Southwest Nationals at WestWorld, at which we picked a few Arizona favorites, presented herein. Also in there were the 25th Annual IHBA Coors Light World Finals at Firebird Lake, and photographer Randall Bohl has brought us visuals from that weekend, along with final results. But before you take a deep breath, it's on to January and Arizona's world-famous auction season. Perennials Barrett-Jackson and Russo and Steele have each added a new event for this year, Las Vegas and Hollywood, Florida, respectively, but their hearts and anchor events remain in Scottsdale. RM Auction will fill the Biltmore with its rare and refined selection. And Gooding & Company, well known for its Pebble Beach and other auctions, launches

its first-ever Arizona event in Scottsdale this year. We give you a sneak peek at some of the vehicles crossing each of these auction blocks, and website links so you can track the results. Enjoy the ride.



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ARIZONA DRIVER

MAGAZINE

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DESIGN & PRODUCTION: AdZoneAZ
ADVERTISING SALES: 480-948-0200

ARIZONA DRIVER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY ADZONE ARIZONA LLC
Arizona Driver Magazine
PO Box 13387 - Scottsdale AZ 85267
www.arizonadrivermagazine.com

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BMW X6 REDEFINES SUV STYLE

With its sleek swept-back roofline, the upcoming BMW X6 will add a completely new dimension to the SUV-style vehicle. With a bold BMW front end, bulgy wheel flares, high trunk and high stance, the X6 looks like a muscular four-door coupe. Although final details have yet to be announced, speculation has the power coming from the new 3.0-liter twin-turbo inline six-cylinder engine from the 3 Series and possibly a rumored twin-turbo V-8 option. An active hybrid version is also in development. It will also be the first application of a new Dynamic Performance Control system that will not only split the torque between front and rear wheels, but from side to side. Like all BMWs, it should be another Ultimate Driving Machine. It's expected to debut at the 2008 Geneva auto show and go on sale later in that year. ▼



BMW Concept X6



Lincoln MKS

2009 Lincoln MKS includes next-gen keyless entry and Lincoln SYNC™ voice-activated, hands-free, in-car communications, entertainment media portal.

BIG PUSH ON FORD SYNC SYSTEM

▲ Ford is hoping that the new Sync wireless communication system will bring buyers into showrooms. Developed jointly with Microsoft Corp., Sync lets the driver use voice and steering wheel commands to operate Bluetooth-enabled phones, digital music players and other electronic devices more easily. Ford is planning a heavy advertising and promotional blitz to showcase the Sync system. By the end of this year Sync will be available on 12 Ford, Lincoln and Mercury products including Edge, Explorer, Sport Trac, Focus, Fusion, Taurus, Taurus X, Sable and Milan for \$395. It will be standard equipment on the Lincoln MKX and MKZ. Ford has exclusive rights to Sync through November 2008, when Microsoft will also be selling the equipment.

BMW: SIX NEW VEHICLES BY 2012

In an effort to fill several niche areas where the company has voids, BMW and brands they own, are planning to add six new vehicles to their product mix by 2012. For 2009, BMW is expected to introduce a van-like vehicle they refer to as a "Progressive activity sedan" and a coupe-like "Gran Turismo" sedan, which

will come into the lineup above the current 7 Series. Also under the BMW label, the small (Mini Cooper size) X1 crossover is expected to debut in 2010. BMW-owned Mini will get a wagon-like crossover called the Clubman. It is rumored to be the first Mini with an available all-wheel drive. BMW's ultra premium brand, Rolls-Royce, is expected to add a coupe version of the Phantom convertible in 2008. A smaller Rolls-Royce is expected in 2010 with a lower price tag of about \$260,000. With these additions and updates to existing products, BMW expects to reach 1.8 million vehicles sold annually worldwide by 2012 and 2 million by 2020.

AUDI DIESELS AND HYBRIDS IN 2008

Audi plans to launch diesel and gasoline-electric hybrid models of the full-size Q7 crossover late in 2008. Audi has been developing the hybrid systems jointly with Volkswagen and Porsche, but Audi is expected to be the first to market. The Q7 hybrid will be powered by a 3.6-liter, 280-hp V-6 connected to an electric motor to give the vehicle a net gain in fuel economy of about 23 percent over the gasoline model. According to *Automotive*

News, the electric motor can alone drive the Q7 to about 15 mph and will provide a boost to the gas engine up to 31 mph. Air conditioning and the brake boost are both powered by the electric motor and an electrohydraulic power steering system operates on demand. Like most hybrids, the energy captured during braking is used to help charge the battery. Audi plans to use a nickel-metal hydride battery pack with a peak output of 288 volts. Plans also call for a 3.0-liter turbo diesel engine option producing 230-hp and 400-lb.ft. of torque. The diesel will meet all 50 state emission levels. Other models with hybrid and diesel options are expected later.

CHRYSLER STARTS ENVI

Chrysler announced the formation of a separate engineering division to design and build electric and hybrid vehicles. Headquartered in suburban Detroit, the company called ENVI will "focus on the development of a new generation of environmentally responsible Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge vehicles," according to Chrysler CEO Bob Nardelli. Chrysler

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MITSUBISHI EVOLUTION ARRIVING

Speculation about the next generation Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X can end now, because the details are out. Gone is the rugged on the edge racecar-like persona, replaced by a more refined version. The new Evo has 9 more horsepower, up to 295, a lighter-weight body and it is larger. All-wheel-drive is standard as is a five-speed manual transmission for the base GSR model. The upscale MR gets Mitsubishi's new dual-clutch sequential transmission which they call the Twin Clutch-SST (Sportronic Shift Transmission). The MR also comes with Bilstein shocks, lightweight Enkei wheels, two-piece brake rotors and chrome trim. Navigation and leather seats are optional. Prices are expected to start at about \$30,000 for the GRR and about \$35,000 for the MR. Zero to 60 mph times are listed at 5.0 seconds. There have been divergent reports on Evo X, so the final decision will be up to the people spending the money to buy it. ▼



Mitsubishi Evolution



Chevrolet Traverse Concept

GM often tones down its concepts considerably before final production. This early concept model is pretty enticing—we'll see how much comes through.

already has plans to start selling hybrid versions of the Dodge Durango and Chrysler Aspen in 2009. They will both use the two-mode hybrid transmission developed with General Motors and BMW.

FINALLY: MID-SIZE CHEVY CROSSOVER

▲ Chevrolet will finally get a midsize crossover early in 2008 called the Traverse. It will be targeted at Chevrolet Trailblazer and minivan owners as Chevrolet phases out those two products. Built on the same platform as the Buick Enclave, Saturn Outlook and GMC Acadia, the 2009 model Traverse will be priced about \$10,000 less than the Enclave, which has a base price of \$32,790 including shipping.

CHEVY COMPACT MINIVAN FOR 2009

Chevrolet plans to build a compact minivan to fill the gap left by the discontinued Venture minivan. The new smaller seven-seater, code-named MPV-7, is modeled after the next-generation GM Opel Zafira. It is smaller than the Traverse, which is new Chevrolet version of the Buick Enclave, Saturn Outlook and GMC Acadia crossovers. According to Automotive News, the MPV-7 will be

boxier and more masculine than the sleek Zafira. Pricing should be in the high \$20,000s to low \$30,000s when dealers get the US-built product in 2009. A Saturn version may be added later.

TORQUE VECTORING

Several automakers are planning to offer a new torque vector technology on some models. Torque vectoring applies variable amounts of torque to either wheel on an axle. For example, by applying more torque to a left wheel during a right hand turn the car will turn more sharply and will react faster to the turn input. The systems are variable so at higher speeds they can actually dampen the reaction to abrupt steering input. The complex systems can be used in rear wheel and all-wheel drive systems. Currently BMW is planning to use torque vectoring technology on the upcoming X6 and possibly on the X5 SUV. Saab will use a similar system to distribute torque between the rear wheels of the 9-3 Aero XWD. Audi plans to use torque vectoring next year in the A5. The major obstacle to widespread use, however, is the \$2,700 to \$4,100 price tag.

GM DONATES HI-TECH SOFTWARE

General Motors and information technology vendors have collaborated forming an association called Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education (PACE). PACE has given the latest automotive 3-D computer aided design software and hardware to selected colleges in an effort to assure that future employees are trained on the same equipment GM uses. The latest recipient, Wayne State University in Detroit, received \$408 million worth of software and hardware. The program appears to be working; in 2006, 75 percent of GM's campus engineering hires and interns came from PACE-selected universities. PACE has given \$6.8 billion in in-kind contributions to 41 universities since 1999.

DIRECT INJECTION PORSCHE BOXER

Porsche's six-cylinder boxer engine is getting a major revision that will debut in the Boxster, Cayman and 911 in 2008. The new engine has a high-pressure direct-injection system that was developed jointly with Bosch. According to Porsche chairman, Wendelin Wiedeking, the

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NISSAN GT-R IS ALMOST HERE

Car testers who have driven the long anticipated Nissan GT-R are making comparisons with the legendary Porsche Turbo, citing a 0 to 60 mph time of 3.5 seconds and top speed of 193 mph. The GT-R is powered by a 3.8-liter twin-turbo V-6 rated at 473-hp driving all four wheels through a new twin-clutch six-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters. It is said to be as drivable on the street as it is at mid 100 mph speeds on the German autobahn or Nürburgring racetrack. The price is expected to be in the low \$70,000 range when it arrives in limited quantities at US showrooms in May or June 2008. ▼

Nissan GT-R



Dodge Challenger



With the retro Mustang well established and a new Camaro on the way, the rebirth of the '60s-'70s will be complete when the Dodge Challenger arrives.

engines will be the cleanest in production and should meet the emission standards coming in 2012. Fuel economy should be improved by 10 percent, along with a significant performance improvement.

CHRYSLER CUTS SOME, ADDS SOME

▲ In an effort to get Chrysler into the black, Chrysler VP Jim Press announced elimination of the Dodge Magnum wagon, PT Cruiser convertible (not the sedan), Chrysler Pacifica crossover and Chrysler Crossfire sports car. Plans do call for the addition of two all-new vehicles, the Dodge Journey and Dodge Challenger, in addition to two new hybrid models of the Chrysler Aspen and Dodge Durango during 2008. These changes will lead to the net elimination of about 12,000 jobs as the vehicles are phased out.

NISSAN GT-R'S HI-TECH DASH

As if some of the best performance in the world wasn't enough, the new Nissan GT-R is equipped with a seven-inch multi-function display that rivals the best video games. It shows lateral acceleration, lap times, oil temperature, boost pressure, steering angle, accelerator opening, brake pedal pressure and dozens of other bits of

data. It's like having the car hooked up to a dynamometer all the time. The screen display was designed with the help of the creator of Sony's Gran Turismo video game series.

ESCALADE IN GREEN AND IN BLING

Cadillac announced two new versions of the Escalade: a green hybrid and exclusive Platinum edition.

The hybrid is the world's first fuel-saving full-size luxury SUV. Powered by an innovative, fuel-saving 2-Mode Hybrid system it's expected to achieve at least a 50-percent increase in fuel economy in city driving. It has all the expected elegance along with a 6,000-pound towing capacity. The patented 2-Mode system consists of an advanced variable transmission and 300-volt nickel-metal hydride Energy Storage System that works in concert with the standard 6.0-liter gasoline V-8 engine. The engine has a late-intake closing technology and an Active Fuel Management (AFM) to cut off four cylinders in low load situations. The system allows the Escalade to drive at low speeds on electricity alone. Regenerative braking charges batteries. It will be available in this summer.

The Escalade Platinum special edition, available this spring, has enhanced luxury appointments and technical innovations. It will be the first SUV to use Cadillac's advanced Magnetic Ride Control to give a more precise body motion control. It will also be the first vehicle of any kind to offer Light Emitting Diode (LED) headlights. The engine is a 6.2-liter (403-hp) V-8 with six-speed automatic transmission.

SEND A WEB-MAP TO YOUR MERCEDES

Mercedes-Benz has teamed with Google and Yahoo! to offer a web-based navigation system. With the new Search & Send system, now available on the S-, CL- and C-Class cars, owners can go online and plan a route using Google and Yahoo! mapping. When the driving instructions are complete, they can be emailed directly to their Mercedes, along with details on points of interest. The email is automatically loaded into the vehicle's navigation system, where it uses the data in conjunction with the DVD-based maps, GPS and vehicle sensors to lead the driver on the pre-determined route. The system eliminates the driver having to tap in the

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Someone steals your car. You call OnStar and report the theft. They locate the car using its GPS system and call the police, who are soon in pursuit. OnStar activates the Stolen Vehicle Slowdown technology and the car's engine power is gradually reduced so there will be no high-speed chase. This system could not only save hundreds of lives a year by avoiding the high-speed chase, but could likely lower insurance premiums and even decrease the chance that the car may be stolen in the first place. These new Generation 8 OnStar services will be available starting on 2009 model year GM vehicles.

JAGUAR TO DROP X-TYPE IN US

When the sporty new XF sedan goes on sale in March, Jaguar plans to drop its entry-level X-Type in the US. The all-wheel-drive sedan has struggled for sales since it was launched in 2003. Jaguar plans to continue selling the X-Type in Europe when it switches over to the face-lifted 2009 model, but will stop building the US version. The XF was designed to replace the S-Type, but will end up replacing the X-Type, too.

ANOTHER CADILLAC UPDATE

According to information leaked by the United Auto Workers after their recent short strike, Cadillac has plans for several new vehicles. A small rear-wheel-drive car, smaller than the CTS, is in the works with possibly a less expensive variation with a Pontiac nameplate. Cadillac will also get a CTS coupe and wagon by 2009. In addition, a larger flagship RWD sedan will replace both the front-drive DTS and the RWD STS. Also under study is a Cadillac version of a fuel-cell plug-in hybrid based on the Chevrolet Volt concept.

SIRIUS RADIO-TV RECEIVER

Sirius is offering the first satellite radio tuner that can receive the new Sirius Backseat TV™ as an aftermarket installation. The system adds three live television feeds from Nickelodeon, Disney Channel and the Cartoon Network. The SCV1 tuner is available now at retailers with an MSRP of \$299.99. It works in any

car that has an FM radio and rear seat video monitor. The package includes the main audio/video tuner, wired display controller, audio and video remote controls, dual magnetic vehicle antennas and all the other equipment necessary to make the system work. Sirius service is \$12.95 per month with an extra \$6.99 for the television system. For information, go to www.sirius.com/backseatv.

AUDI Q7 3.0 TDI IN LATE 2008

Audi is now offering a 3.0-liter TDI diesel in the Q7 SUV in Europe and plans to bring it to the US market in late 2008. The V-6 ultra-modern compression-ignition diesel engine uses a Common Rail fuel injection system and piezo injectors to produce 240 horsepower and 406 lb.ft. of torque. The transmission will be Audi's six-speed Tiptronic powering the quattro drive train. Zero to 62 mph come in 8.5 seconds and fuel economy is expected to average about 24 mpg.

ELECTRONIC HIGH SPEED PURSUIT

Soon police may have an electronic option to the high speed chase in the form of a GPS transmitter. When a cop expects a suspect vehicle may try to out run the patrol car, an air cannon mounted in the front of the police cruiser can fire a sticky GPS transmitter that lodges on the suspect car. The GPS then feeds real-time location data to the police headquarters over a cellular network allowing the car to be trailed covertly, avoiding a chase. The Los Angeles Police Department is currently testing the system, which is called the StartChase Pursuit Management System. It could be on the streets in early 2008.

ULTIMATE AERO WORLD SPEED RECORD

The SSC (Shelby Supercars) Ultimate Aero Twin Turbo sports car has officially become the "Fastest Production Car" in the world with a speed of 256.18 mph. The record run was on a temporarily closed stretch of two-lane road in central Washington state. Guinness World Records™ officially validated the speed on October 9, 2007. Jerod Shelby (no relation to Carroll Shelby) developed the Ultimate Aero Twin Turbo in West Richland, Wash. A twin-turbo GM V-8

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Toyota Tundra Diesel Dually



The days when "Toyota truck" meant a lightweight compact are in the rear-view mirror. This Tundra tackles the heart and soul of its US competition.

engine producing 1183 horsepower and 1094 lb.ft. of torque powers the car. The Ultimate Aero is priced at \$579,000. So far, two have been delivered to customers and three are on the assembly line.

TOYOTA HD DIESEL DUALLY TUNDRA

▲ Now that Toyota has successfully entered the full-size truck market with the latest generation Tundra, it appears they may be preparing to go all the way by building a heavy-duty diesel version. With little fanfare, Toyota displayed a Tundra Diesel Dually at the Special Equipment Market Association (SEMA) show in Las Vegas. The engine is a turbocharged 8.0-liter inline six-cylinder from Hino, Toyota's large truck building affiliate. It also includes Hino medium-duty axles and a lengthened Tundra frame. The transmission is an Eaton 5-speed manual. The sign at the display read: "The Tundra Diesel Dually is a study in contrasts that demonstrates Toyota's commitment to explore new ideas." According to a Hino spokesperson, the 8.0-liter engine is too big for the Tundra, but could be easily scaled back to 6.0 liters. No announcement has been made by Toyota, but it looks like the project is moving quickly.

RECARO SEATS BY DHL

DHL Excel Supply Chain, a division of shipping company DHL, has contracted to do finally assembly and deliver seat systems made by Recaro to automakers and others through the company's module centers. The program is part of the company's value-added program. Other shipping companies have been doing similar fulfillment programs where products are pulled from inventory maintained by the shipping company, packed and shipped to the end user.

RUNNING OUT OF VINS

The 17-digit vehicle identification numbers (VIN) that are the DNA mapping for vehicle identification in the US will run out by about 2010. An easy fix might seem to be making the numbers longer, but that would create a crisis similar to when computers did not recognize the year 2000. All software dealing with the numbers is written for a 17-digit number. Each position in the number indicates something about the vehicle's identity including the manufacturer, make, model, type, attributes, engine type, year, plant and so on. To increase the capacity without changing the length, the Society

of Automotive Engineers has proposed moving the information from the first three positions into the second grouping and easing the restrictions on the use of letters and digits in the second section. If the Highway Traffic Safety Administration adopts the changes, the VINs are expected to last an additional 30 years before another change is needed.

KIA ADDS MIDSIZE SUV

Kia announced a new midsize SUV called the Borrego will go on sale in North America in late spring or early summer 2008 as a 2009 model. The Borrego is built using a truck-style body-on-frame construction incorporating Kia's latest noise vibration and harshness engineering philosophy. It will be available with both a V-6 and the company's first V-8 engine, to provide the enhanced towing power demanded by mid-size SUV buyers. It will also come with Kia's industry leading 10-year/100,000 mile warranty. The Borrego will help round out Kia's full vehicle line. ■

Auto News Update is compiled from a variety of industry sources for *Arizona Driver Magazine* by **BILL & BARBARA SCHAFFER** of *Auto Digest*.

HOT HOT HOT!

Heavy early interest
spurs presales effort

CHALLENGER



To meet overwhelming demand from enthusiasts, Dodge took the unprecedented step of taking early orders for the 2008 Dodge Challenger SRT8, months before production. Orders began on Monday, December 3, and more than 4,300 vehicles were ordered by customers the first day. By Wednesday, they had over 6,000, and Dodge released the first photos of the Challenger SRT8, to generate even more interest. (Compare the standard concept model on page 11.) Dodge says they have muscle car fans squealing like teenage girls at a Hannah Montana concert. Whether that statement means anything to their target market or not, the car is definitely hot. Orders kept coming in—long before enthusiasts had even seen the car. The production Dodge Challenger SRT8 makes its debut at the 100th Chicago Auto Show opening February 8 (with media preview on February 6, so expect a lot more information soon).

Whether people have seen the Challenger SRT8 or not, they are able to hear about it. The car is powered by a 6.1-liter HEMI V-8. Each features a numbered dash plaque. It's available in black, silver or HEMI orange, with dual "carbon-fiber" hood stripes that harken back to the original Challenger of some 35 years ago.

When pricing was announced on November 29, website traffic at www.dodge.com went up 23 percent, which was a big influence in the company's decision to go for early sales commitments. The manufacturer's suggested retail price is \$37,995, including the \$675 destination fee. Not bad for an SRT, delivering high performance, upgraded ride and handling, stronger braking and a race-inspired interior. Pricing on the rest of the Challenger lineup will be announced at a later date.

The all-American 2008 Dodge Challenger SRT8 will be built at the Chrysler Canada Assembly Plant in Brampton, Ontario, on the same

assembly line as the Dodge Charger, Charger SRT8, Magnum, Magnum SRT8, Chrysler 300 and Chrysler 300 SRT8.

SRT performance vehicles are engineered by Chrysler's in-house performance organization: Street and Racing Technology. They currently include the Dodge Viper SRT10, Dodge Caliber SRT4, Dodge Magnum SRT8, Dodge Charger SRT8, Chrysler 300C SRT8, Jeep® Grand Cherokee SRT8, and now, the Dodge Challenger SRT8.

The 21st century American muscle car wars resumed with the sound of one hand clapping a couple of years ago, as

the current retro-inspired Mustang hit the market first (and has sold like hotcakes). This spring, when deliveries begin for the Challenger SRT8, the battle gets more serious. Add the impending return of the Camaro, and three iconic original pony car coupes will again be on America's streets, shiny and new. With the originals costing anywhere from \$50,000 to \$450,000 and climbing—and 40 years old, and too valuable for most to consider driving—this will bring a lot of fun and excitement back to the real world. Things should get interesting, indeed. ■



Goodguys 10th Southwest Nationals



By Joe Sage
Photography: Randall Bohl
www.RandallBohl.com

Photo: Joe Sage



Goodguys Rod & Custom Association 10th Southwest Nationals

Presented By RB's Obsolete
at WestWorld of Scottsdale
November 16-18, 2007

Rods, customs, classics and
muscle cars thru '72

Vendor and Manufacturer Exhibits
Swap Meet and Cars 4 Sale Corral

Model & Pedal Car Show

Thursday Hot Rod Cruise

Special Featured Car Club:
Roamin Angels of Grass Valley

The Goodguys Rod & Custom Association, founded by lifelong hot rodder Gary Meadors in 1983, produces events featuring thousands of candy colored hot rods and custom cars sprawled throughout lush fairgrounds, super speedways and large outdoor stadiums. The cars, vendor exhibits, live entertainment and colorful people create a festive atmosphere charged with electricity. Goodguys offers over 20 events annually from New York to Florida, from San Diego to Seattle and all points in between. The events range from two-day affairs attended by 30,000 to 40,000 people to three- and four-day extravaganzas attracting over 100,000 auto enthusiasts. In November, they came to Scottsdale, and John Drummond of Goodguys notes that this was a record event, with 2600 cars and a three-day crowd in excess of 55,000.

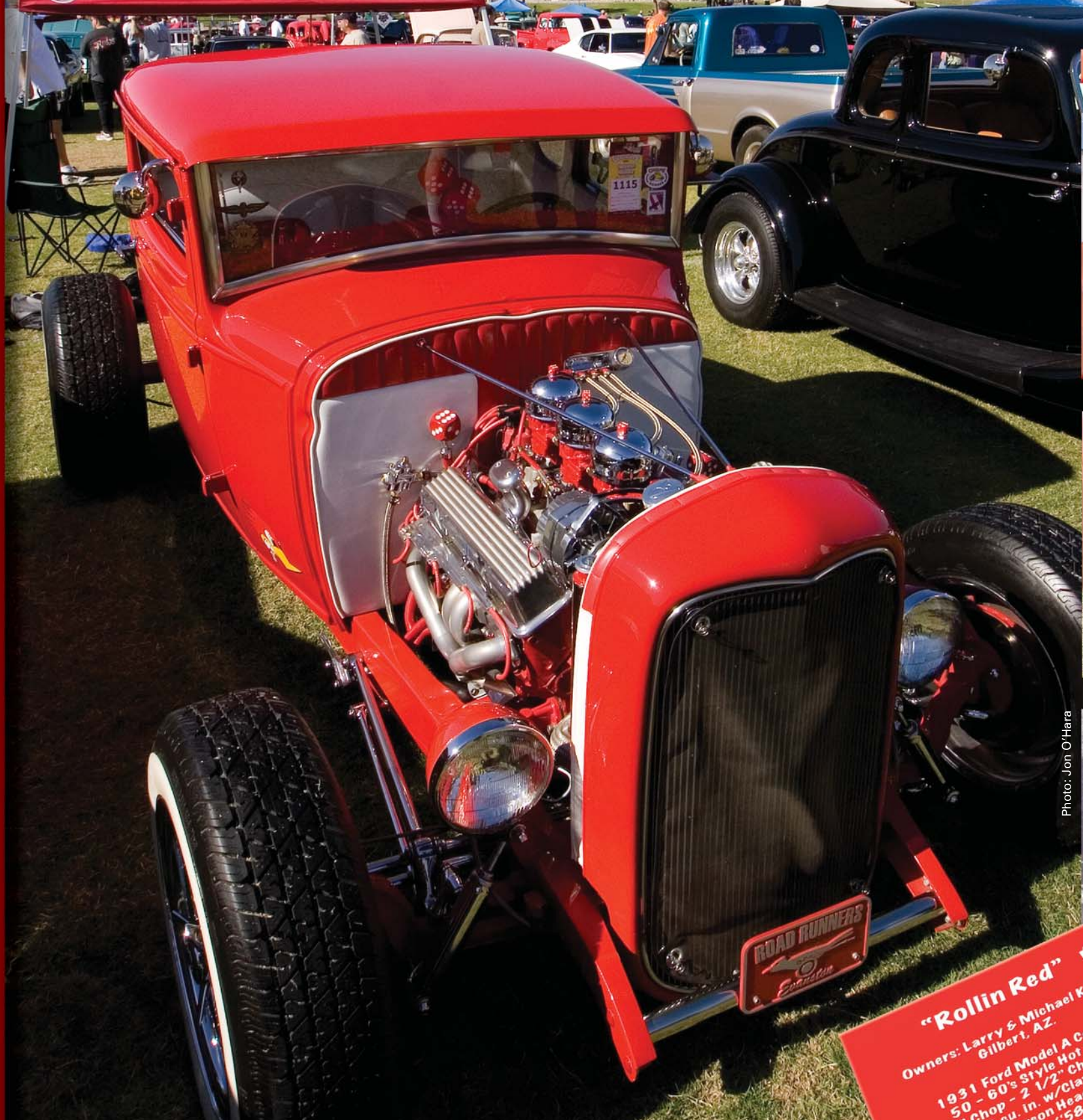
Their aim is to provide car owners and enthusiasts alike with fun, family-oriented events, where the main objective is to have fun with automobiles.

People came from all over, with the Long Distance Award going to a 1966 Chevy Suburban from New Brunswick. Arizonans were well represented, with four trophy winners in Boyd Coddington's Pros' Picks, four winners in Rod & Custom "Top Tin," a Muscle Car of the Year Finalist, and no fewer than 32 individual winners in General Awards categories ranging from Hottest Hot Rod to Best Wide Whites, Chevy Muscle, Deuces Are Wild, Fins Are Fifty, four US Radiator sponsored classes, the Young Guys Pick and many more.

Congratulations to all. Following are a few cars that caught our eye. ■

KEEP RIGHT >>

1931 Ford Model A Coupe • "Rollin' Red" • Mike and Larry Kuske • Gilbert AZ



"Rollin' Red"
 Owners: Larry & Michael Kuske
 Gilbert, AZ.
 1931 Ford Model A Coupe
 50 - 60's Style Hot Rod
 4" Chop - 2 1/2" Channel
 Engine: 350 cu. in. w/Clay Smith Cam
 Sanderson Headers
 Intake: Edelbrock w/58 GM Tri-Power
 Trans: 350 Turbo w/GM 12 Bolt Rear End
 '32 Grill Shell w/Walker Radiator
 Crager S/S Mags & Spinners
 Flowmaster Exhaust
 Built By: Jon O'Hara
 Maint. By: Arizona Street Rods

Photo: Jon O'Hara

Photo: Joe Sage

Mike and Larry Kuske, son and father, knew just what they were getting into with this project. And whereas those words might suggest "issues" with a lot of projects, in this case they knew they had a rock solid foundation. The car (see lower left) had started as an exceptionally clean and complete original, rebuilt by two-time Vietnam vet Jon O'Hara in Evanston, Wyoming. O'Hara is well known on the circuit, having built funny cars for 40 years, as well as being prominent in NHRA classics and tuners.

O'Hara retired to California, where the Ford was entered in a few shows; in 2000 he received a personal written invitation to bring it to the Indy 500 as a parade lap car. (A dash plaque commemorates this.) When it went up for sale, a friend, Lee Kugler, got wind of the deal and purchased it in Visalia CA (between Bakersfield and Fresno). Lee kept the car for four years and drove it six times. Then the Kuskes got their hands on it. And again, they knew just what they were getting into.

They set out to perfect an accurate '50s-'60s style hot rod, and many of the features and specifications can be read in the sign at bottom center. The frame had been hand-built by Jon O'Hara, with the front all custom and the back half GTO. The paint was then 17 years old, so Mike and Larry rubbed it out carefully, and they had only a few details to spruce up in the engine.

The engine has three 1958 Rochester 2G carbs (which are now rarities), plus rare authentic Stelling air cleaners. The rear end is a '65 Chevella SS 12-bolt. Rod Palmer at Arizona Street Rods helped with much of the shop work, including refurbishing the fuel system and the three twos.

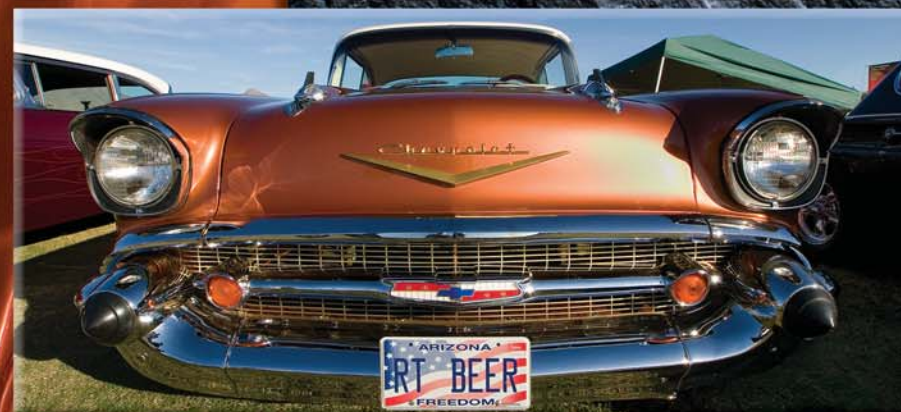
They're quite satisfied with the look and finish they've achieved, right down to the '38 Ford devil taillights.

Mike's son Zack is a specialist in polishing the Crager mag wheels. In fact, he has often been hired away by others who observe his diligent work at shows. And Larry has been detailing as a hobby since 1975.

Mike works in Semiconductor Engineering, and Larry is a retired security specialist. Both have Hyundai Sonatas as daily drivers, and Mike also has a Nissan pickup.

When asked how long they will keep it, they said they have long believed in taking a kid to a car show, so it will continue to be passed on to Zack. ■





Lou Moore has spent 30-plus years in aviation, working as director of maintenance for Evergreen. It is no surprise he was able to think of a few clever things to do with a '57 Chevy, and that they are executed with precision and taste.

Lou found this Chevy in his hometown, Globe, in 1995. It was black with blue and white flames (with no masking and plenty of overspray), and had 180,000 miles. But it had been bought new at Courtesy Chevrolet, a clean Arizona original. It took three years before the owner would sell. Lou drove the Chevy for a year, then began a ten-year project: one weekend he took the whole front end off, and thus began a full rotisserie rebuild. It was repainted in original Sierra Gold and Adobe Beige, but with Dupont Chroma base/clear.

The engine is a 1995 LT1 built by Street & Performance, linked to a 4L60E transmission. Lou stripped the engine, painted the block black and the aluminum heads, transmission and rear springs in Moonglow Silver; the entire underside is painted and polished to the same level as the top. Accessories and brackets are chromed billet aluminum. The finishes look great and provide easy cleaning (more time to cruise). Corvette beauty covers match the exterior paint. Chromed articulated Heim joints secure belted accessories, and extensive electronics are hidden behind color-keyed panels on the fenders and firewall.

The interior is tweed and ultra leather with Mercedes carpet. Seats are by Glide Engineering, and the center console is a one-off custom-made item.

Add UniSteer power rack-and-pinion steering, four-wheel power disc brakes, Heidt's 2" dropped spindles and polished stainless steel control arms, Hedman headers with 2 1/2" aluminized Flowmaster exhaust, Dakota Digital instrumentation, Ididit chrome tilt column, Vintage Air air conditioning, a polished stainless steel Rock Valley gas tank, USA Radio AM/FM cassette with 10-disc changer in the trunk.

Lou and Dee cruise with friends Jesse and Alice Aranda in their beautiful 351C-powered Plum Crazy Purple '70 Cougar.

Lou and Dee do not own a car hauler: this Chevy is too much fun to drive. There are 2000 miles on the rebuild, and they plan to keep this car "for a long time." ■

1968 Dodge Coronet R/T • 500 cu.in. • Rob Ferrari • Scottsdale AZ



Rob Ferrari's dad, Bob, bought this Dodge new in 1968, at Reedman Dodge in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Rob, in fact, came home from the hospital in this car, when he was born.

The Dodge was born with a more sedate finish and look, and served as the family car for many years. Rob first got his hands on it in high school, where he drove it until its original 318 V-8 blew at 195,000 miles. The car then sat for awhile, largely apart, actually for 10 long years, says Rob ("not 10," says Bob). It was then time to make a familiar painful choice: throw it away or fix it. The world is a better place for the decision made that day.

Starting with a new engine and paint, the project became more comprehensive and ended up taking seven years. The 318 was replaced with a 500 cu.in. Chrysler crate motor. Rob and Bob installed the engine, and Greenway Auto did the wiring. The stunning purple paint job was done by Tim Simmons at Painting Plus.

The Ferraris did the interior work themselves, installing a Rallye dash and newly upholstered bucket seats. The back seat is original. The column shifter was deleted and a floor shifter installed. The Dodge has factory air, with a Sanden compressor. Rob's brother-in-law built the transmission.

The car has a completely original body, all its original chrome (which was rechromed), and all original glass except for the windshield. All the stainless steel has been polished.

The car has about 1700 miles on this engine and 325,000 miles overall.

This Dodge R/T has been entered in many shows in the Valley and won the Best Mopar trophy at the Route 66 show in Flagstaff.

Rob, who is in the mortgage business, has a Dodge MegaCab as his daily driver. He drives the Dodge about once a week, though not in the summer, when it's too hot. As you might expect, with a car he met just after the maternity ward, Rob plans to keep this car forever. It is, he says, "a family heirloom." ■





Keith Chronis splits his time between Michigan and Arizona, and this does give him his share of time behind the wheel. It also lets him discover some gems en route. This 1959 Chrysler Windsor was delivered new in Salt Lake City, so despite having just said "salt," it's a clean, dry, original Western car. The original owner had a story straight out of covered wagon days: a doctor from Pittsburgh was en route to California, when his Opel broke down in 100° heat. He walked to Salt Lake City, and this car was on the showroom floor. The doc sold the car to his son after two years, and the son basically kept it in the garage for the next 25-30 years, moving it from Pennsylvania to Niagara, New York. This is everyone's dream: the "barn find," and Keith located it for sale in *Hemmings Motor News*.

The car is all original with the exception of rechroming of the bumpers, a new top, new carpet and a carburetor. The car has all original glass, as well as its original PPG Gray Rose Poly paint. The Chrysler has 92,000 miles on it, but Keith emphasizes that it has seen no winter use and is incredibly original, right down to the original manufacturing chalk marks and tags.

Keith told us on Saturday that this car was a candidate for the Goodguys Reps' Pick award, but he'd be gone by Sunday, so had to bow out of competition.

The car is rare for its vintage, being outfitted with A/C, swiveling power seats and power windows. It was Arizona-ready then, and it's Arizona-ready now, as this is the only car in this group that's not a keeper—Keith plans to sell it at Barrett-Jackson in January, where he notes this type of car "seems to fetch six figures or more these days."

Keith works in auto sales and autobody in Michigan, and also lives in Scottsdale. As a dealer, his daily driver is "whatever is is," though he keeps a Chrysler Sebring convertible here.

Keith has fifteen cars and does keep selling them—he doesn't like to fall in love with any one. He has a 1960 Chrysler Saratoga he's working on currently (originally owned by a reverend, which sounds as legendary as a barn find). He's also about ready to part with a 1970 Dodge Challenger clone and a '71 Hemi 'Cuda clone (with original A/C, which he has reinstalled)—two cars he was considering entering in the Russo and Steele auction as we talked to him in November. ■

'08 GOODGUYS

Rod & Custom Association

EVENT SCHEDULE

MARCH

March 15 & 16 - Costa Mesa, CA
2nd MEGUIAR'S ORANGE COUNTY GET-TOGETHER
 Orange County Fair & Exposition Center. All years American Powered Cars & Trucks. Vendors, Huge Swap Meet & Car Corral.

March 29 & 30 - Pleasanton, CA
26th ALL AMERICAN GET-TOGETHER
 Fairgrounds - Pleasanton. All years American Powered Cars & Trucks. Vendors, Huge Swap Meet & Car Corral.

APRIL

April 4, 5 & 6 - Del Mar, CA
★ 8th EAGLE ONE DEL MAR NATIONALS
 Del Mar Fairgrounds. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

MAY/JUNE

May 30 & 31, June 1 - Loveland, CO
★ 11th DUPONT COLORADO NATIONALS
 The Ranch, Larimer Co. Fairgrounds. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

May 31 & June 1 - Pleasanton, CA
15th SUMMER GET-TOGETHER
 Fairgrounds - Pleasanton. All years American Powered Cars & Trucks. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

June 6, 7 & 8 - Indianapolis, IN
★ 20th HOT ROD NATIONALS
 O'Reilly Raceway Park @ Indianapolis. Rods, Customs, Classics & Race Cars thru '72. Drags, Show 'n Shine, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

June 13, 14 & 15 - Atlanta, GA
★ 2nd NAPA SOUTHERN NATIONALS
 Atlanta Motor Speedway. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

June 27, 28 & 29 - Nashville, TN
★ 3rd NASHVILLE NATIONALS
 LP Field, Tennessee Titan Stadium. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

JULY

July 4, 5 & 6 - Des Moines, IA
★ 17th 3M HEARTLAND NATIONALS
 Iowa State Fairgrounds. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

July 11, 12 & 13 - Columbus, OH THE BIG ONE!
★ 11th GOODGUYS PPG NATIONALS
 Ohio Expo Center. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Friday Nite Drags, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

July 25, 26 & 27 - Puyallup, WA
★ 21st PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONALS
 Puyallup Fair & Events Center. Rods, Customs & Classics thru '72. Friday Nite Drags, Show 'n Shine & Vendors.

AUGUST

August 15, 16 & 17 - Spokane, WA
★ 7th GREAT NORTHWEST NATIONALS
 Spokane Fair & Expo Center. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

August 15, 16 & 17 - Madison, WI
★ 19th GREAT LAKES NATIONALS
 Willow Island @ the Alliant Energy Center. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

August 22, 23 & 24 - Pleasanton, CA
★ 22nd WEST COAST NATIONALS
 Fairgrounds - Pleasanton. Rods, Customs & Classics thru '57. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

August 29, 30 & 31 - Kansas City, KS
★ 7th MID-WESTERN NATIONALS
 Kansas Speedway. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

SEPTEMBER

September 5, 6 & 7 - Norwalk, OH
★ 7th BLUE SUEDE CRUISE NEW EVENT!
 Summit Motorsports Park. Rods, Customs, Classics & Race Cars thru '72. Drags, Show 'n Shine, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

September 12, 13 & 14 - Rhinebeck, NY
★ 17th EAST COAST NATIONALS
 Dutchess County Fairgrounds. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

September 19, 20 & 21 - Joliet, IL
★ 2nd PEAK CHICAGOLAND NATIONALS
 Chicagoland Speedway. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

September 26, 27 & 28 - Pocono, PA
★ 4th GREAT AMERICAN NATIONALS NEW LOCATION & DATE
 Pocono Raceway. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

OCTOBER

October 3, 4 & 5 - Ft. Worth, TX
★ 16th LONE STAR NATIONALS
 Texas Motor Speedway. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

October 17, 18 & 19 - Bowling Green, KY
★ 1st NOSTALGIA NATIONALS NEW EVENT!
 Beech Bend Raceway Park. Rods, Customs, Classics & Race Cars thru '72. Drags, Show 'n Shine, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

October 24, 25 & 26 - Charlotte, NC
★ 15th SOUTHEASTERN NATIONALS
 Lowe's Motor Speedway. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

NOVEMBER

November 8 & 9 - Pleasanton, CA
19th AUTUMN GET-TOGETHER
 Fairgrounds - Pleasanton. All years American Powered Cars & Trucks. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

November 14, 15 & 16 - Scottsdale, AZ
★ 11th SOUTHWEST NATIONALS
 WestWorld of Scottsdale. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

★ = National Events

Goodguys Schedule as of 10/23/07. All dates subject to change.

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QUIZ : CAR SMARTS



1. What is the estimated number of cars and trucks damaged by Hurricane Katrina plus two other hurricanes in 2005?
a. 129,000 b. 312,000
c. 447,000 d. 571,000

2. Which new car's ad asks, "When you turn your car on, does it return the favor?"
a. Cadillac CTS b. Infiniti G37
c. Lincoln MKZ d. Buick Lucerne

3. Volkswagen is moving its US headquarters from Michigan to which state?
a. New York b. Georgia
c. Virginia d. California

4. Which of the following super cars accelerated from 0 to 100 mph the fastest?
a. Porsche 911 GT3
b. Chevrolet Corvette Z06
c. Dodge Viper SRT-10
d. Lamborghini Murcielago LP640

5. What percentage of BMW owners customize or add aftermarket parts to their cars?
a. 23 percent b. 41 percent
c. 55 percent d. 77 percent

6. What will the NASCAR races, formerly the Busch Series, be called in 2008?
a. Progressive Series
b. Geico Series
c. Nationwide Series
d. Safeco Series

7. How many years has Busch been sponsor of the NASCAR Busch racing series?
a. 14 years b. 18 years
c. 22 years d. 26 years

8. How many new vehicles were sold in the United States each minute in 2006?
a. 2.7 per minute b. 12.4 per minute
c. 24.9 per minute d. 31.5 per minute

9. Specialty vehicle manufacturer Saleen is associated with what vehicle brand?
a. Dodge b. Ford
c. Corvette d. Mercedes-Benz

10. What was the last model year for Britain's Triumph brand?
a. 1981 b. 1984
c. 1987 d. 1990

11. Who plans to offer a small boxy alternative to the Scion xB in 2009 called the Soul?
a. Kia b. Suzuki
c. Ford d. Hyundai

12. Which famous auto auction house recently quit selling cars?
a. RM Auctions b. Barrett-Jackson
c. Christie's d. Kruse

13. How many models does Jeep now offer?
a. 5 Jeep models b. 6 Jeep models
c. 7 Jeep models d. 8 Jeep models

14. How long did the recent United Auto Workers strike against Chrysler last?
a. There was none b. 6 hours
c. 24 hours d. 48 hours

15. How many functions can be controlled by voice on the new Honda Accord?
a. 400 functions b. 525 functions
c. 660 functions d. 745 functions

16. How much is the Bang & Olufsen sound system in Audi A8 and S8 sedans?
a. \$2,850 b. \$4,135
c. \$8,780 d. \$10,595

17. On average, how much are the Detroit 3 planning to change prices for 2008?
a. lower by \$111 b. no change
c. up by \$172 d. up by \$305

18. When did BMW build the famous 2002?
a. 1966-1974 b. 1968-1976
c. 1970-1978 d. 1972-1980

19. Which luxury brand has the youngest average age buyers?
a. Audi b. BMW
c. Infiniti d. Volvo

20. Which company is the first to offer a diesel-powered car that meets the new California emission standards?
a. BMW b. Audi
c. Volkswagen d. Mercedes-Benz

21. How many digits are in a vehicle identification number (VIN) used to identify every vehicle sold in the US?
a. 13 digits b. 15 digits
c. 17 digits d. 19 digits

22. Which of the following Infiniti models was not available in the US in 2007?
a. Infiniti QX56 b. Infiniti Q45
c. Infiniti G35 d. Infiniti M35

23. How long was the famous chase scene in the Steve McQueen movie *Bullitt*?
a. 3 min 24 sec b. 6 min 38 sec
c. 9 min 42 sec d. 11 min 12 sec

24. The Ford Mustang in *Bullitt* accelerated from 0 to 60 in 7.8 seconds; how fast is the 2008 Mustang GT in the same test?
a. 0-60 in 5.0 sec b. 0-60 in 5.5 sec
c. 0-60 in 6.0 sec d. 0-60 in 6.5 sec

25. How many vehicles get 30 mpg or more according to 2008 EPA figures?
a. 40 vehicles b. 60 vehicles
c. 90 vehicles d. 150 vehicles

26. What percentage of the US population currently has a mobile phone?
a. 55 percent b. 65 percent
c. 75 percent d. 85 percent

27. What kind of hybrid is the Toyota Prius?
a. Parallel b. Plug-in
c. Mild d. Series

28. How many new Harley-Davidson motorcycles have a base price under \$10,000?
a. none b. five
c. 10 d. 15

29. How much is spent annually on vehicle aftermarket equipment and parts?
a. \$5 billion b. \$16 billion
c. \$27 billion d. \$36 billion

30. Which is the only US brand to offer a diesel-powered vehicle other than a truck for 2008?
a. Ford b. GMC
c. Jeep d. Saturn

31. What is the top speed claimed for the new Bentley Continental GT Speed?
a. 193 mph b. 198 mph
c. 203 mph d. 208 mph

32. Of the paved roads and highways in the US, what percentage are asphalt?
a. 69 percent b. 78 percent
c. 85 percent d. 94 percent

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE >>

>ANSWERS (quiz on previous page)



1. Answer: d. According to CarFax, Hurricane Katrina and two other hurricanes damaged an estimated 571,000 cars and trucks in 2005.
2. Answer: a. An ad for the new Cadillac CTS asks, "When you turn your car on, does it return the favor?"
3. Answer: c. In September, Volkswagen announced that they will be moving their US corporate headquarters to Fairfax County, Virginia to a new 185,000-square foot building about three miles from Dulles Airport.
4. Answer: c. From 0 to 100 mph, the Viper is fastest with a 7.9-second time. Corvette 8.2-seconds. Lamborghini 8.3-seconds. Porsche 9.3-seconds.
5. Answer: d. According to the Specialty Equipment Marketing Association (SEMA), 77 percent of BMW owners customize their vehicles or add aftermarket parts.

6. Answer: c. According to *Advertising Age* magazine, Anheuser-Busch has dropped their sponsorship of the NASCAR Busch Series after the 2007 season and Nationwide Insurance will become the new name sponsor of the race, which will then become the NASCAR Nationwide Series, in a seven-year agreement.
7. Answer: d. At the end of the 2007 NASCAR Busch Series, Anheuser-Busch dropped its name sponsorship. Busch beer had sponsored the event for 26 years.
8. Answer: d. For 2006 there were 16,559,625 new vehicles sold in the US: 31.5 vehicles per minute.
9. Answer: b. Since 1984 Saleen has specialized in building aftermarket hi-performance Ford products like the Saleen Mustangs, sold at Ford dealerships.
10. Answer: b. The last year a Triumph brand car was offered was 1984.
11. Answer: a. Kia will build a boxy- small car to compete with cars like the Scion xB and Honda Fit starting in the 2009 model year.
12. Answer: c. Christie announced in September they would no longer sell cars.
13. Answer: c. Jeep currently offers seven different models including the Commander, Patriot, Wrangler, Grand Cherokee, Compass, Liberty and Wrangler Unlimited.
14. Answer: b. The UAW strike against Chrysler lasted only six hours before a settlement was reached.
15. Answer: d. Honda says the Voice Activation system in the new Accord controls 745 of the vehicle functions.
16. Answer: c. The Bang & Olufsen audio system in the new Audi A8 and S8 sedans is an \$8,780 option. The first year Audi sold 4,000 of the very exclusive systems.

17. Answer: c. According to *Automotive News*, the average price of a 2008 model vehicle sold by the Detroit 3 (GM, Ford and Chrysler) will go up by \$172.
18. Answer: b. The 2002, which put BMW on the map in the US was built from 1968 thru 1976 before it was replaced with the 320i. The lightweight coupe was noted for its excellent handling, smooth turbine-like engine and reasonable price. Many writers are calling the upcoming BMW 1 Series coupe the rebirth of the 2002.
19. Answer: a. According to the Power Information Network, the average age of an Audi buyer was 44 years old for the first 9 months of 2007. BMW 45. Infiniti 45. Volvo 46. The average age for luxury car buyers is 48.
20. Answer: d. Mercedes-Benz is the first carmaker to offer a diesel vehicle meeting the new California emission standards. Only about 100 of the E320 Bluetec diesels will be offered, and only by lease, starting in January 2008. The 2 year/24,000 mile lease will be about \$600 per month, or about the same price as the gasoline-powered E350.
21. Answer: c. A vehicle identification number (VIN) has 17 digits.
22. Answer: b. The flagship Infiniti Q45 was not available in the US market for the 2007 model year due to weak sales in previous years. No decision has been made about the future of the Q and CEO Carlos Ghosn is rhetorically asking the question, "Do we need something above the M?" (The M35 and M45 are the largest Infiniti sedans currently sold in the US.)
23. Answer: c. The edited version of the famous Bullitt chase scene lasted 9 minutes and 42 seconds.
24. Answer: a. The 2008 Special Edition Bullitt Mustang GT hits 60 mph in 5.0 seconds with a quarter mile time of 13.7 seconds at 102.7 mph. The original did the quarter mile in 15.2 seconds and 94.0 mph.
25. Answer: c. According to the 2008 EPA Fuel Economy Guide there are about 90 vehicles that achieve 30 mpg or more. The EPA changed the method of calculating mpg for 2008 models. In 2007 there were about 200 vehicles reaching that level under the previous calculation method.
26. Answer: d. According to research firm SNL Kagan, 85 percent of the US population currently has a mobile phone.
27. Answer: a. All Toyota hybrids are classified as parallel hybrids. That means they have both an electric motor and internal combustion engine, which both power the vehicle sometimes separately or in combination. Most hybrids sold in the US are parallel.
28. Answer: c. Harley-Davidson says they have 10 bikes priced under \$10,000.
29. Answer: d. According to SEMA, \$36 billion is spent annually on aftermarket equipment and parts.
30. Answer: c. Jeep is the only US manufacturer to offer a diesel engine for 2008 in a vehicle other than a truck. The 3.0-liter 215-hp V-6 engine is a \$2,585 option in the 4x2 models and \$3,235 in the 4x4 models.
31. Answer: c. By increasing the horsepower in the Bentley Continental GT from a mere 552 to 600 hp they increased the top speed from 198 to 203 mph. The larger engine comes with the new Speed package, which adds an extra \$24,000 to the \$182,285 price tag.
32. Answer: d. According to the Asphalt Pavement Alliance 94 percent of the US paved roads and highways in the US are surfaced in asphalt.

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

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Photography: Randall Bohl
www.RandallBohl.com



Representatives were present from all three partners, including (L-R) Gary Owens, VP Marketing, Shelby Automobiles; Tim Stoehr, Ford Regional Sales Manager, Phoenix Region; Steve Davis, President, Barrett-Jackson; Craig Jackson, Chairman/CEO, Barrett-Jackson; David Kimmerle, President, Sanderson Ford; and Gary Bennett, Vice President of Consignment, Barrett-Jackson. Cues to the model are low-key but powerful, from the rear deck medallion to a Shelby dashplate.

Ford Motor Company, the Barrett-Jackson Auction Company and Shelby Automobiles have collaborated to create a limited edition 2008 Barrett-Jackson Mustang Shelby GT, unveiled the day before the opening of the Arizona International Auto Show.

A total of 100 will be produced, in both coupe and convertible body styles, and will be sold through Arizona Ford dealers. Sales started on the day of the announcement, and a quick sellout was anticipated. (However, you will likely find some were bought specifically for resale; these may show up on eBay, or they may cross the block during January's auctions.) Prices start at \$38,980, including a \$250 donation to the Carroll Shelby Children's Foundation.

Ford sponsors Barrett-Jackson's Family Value Day at the kickoff of their Scottsdale auction, with discounted tickets for adults and children under the age of 12 free. "(Shelbys) are among the most desirable cars ever built," said Craig Jackson, Chairman/CEO of Barrett-Jackson. "Over the past several years, we've worked with Ford Motor Company to raise almost a million and a half dollars for Carroll's Foundation by offering new Shelby cars for sale. It was natural to celebrate our connection to these cars with a very limited edition Shelby."

The Barrett-Jackson Shelby GT engine is upgraded with a Ford Racing package pumping out 319 hp and 330 lb.ft. of torque through a high-flow exhaust system with

X-pipe crossover. A five-speed manual transmission with Hurst short-throw shifter is standard; a five-speed automatic transmission is optional. Sources at the launch event anticipated the following model split:

- Coupe - manual transmission47
- Coupe - automatic transmission14
- Convertible - manual.....28
- Convertible - automatic.....11

The package includes a Ford Racing Handling Pack with special-tuned dampers, unique sway bars and 3.55:1 ratio rear axle assembly. The car sports black 18-inch wheels; overall ride height was dropped and a front strut-tower brace added.

Unique features of the Barrett-Jackson edition will include:

- Black exterior with "Barrett-Jackson Red" LeMans Hood and Side Stripes
- Shelby Cobra roadster hood scoop
- Barrett Jackson Edition Door Sill Plates
- Black interior with the Shelby GT serial number plate
- Special Gas Cap Insert
- Autographed photo of Carroll Shelby, Craig Jackson, Amy Boylan and Steve Davis

"I'm very proud to be part of this limited edition car," noted Steve Davis, President of Barrett-Jackson. "Rarity and documentation are two of the keys to collectibility, which is why only 100 Barrett-Jackson Shelby GTs are scheduled to be built. Each car will come with complete documentation and be included in the factory authorized registry." ■





Photos courtesy of RM Auctions

THE 9TH ANNUAL RM Auctions Automobiles of Arizona JANUARY 17-18, 2008

RM Auctions to offer innovative pair of world's first true concept cars, an array of classics, and hot rod "rolling works of art"

The collector car world will turn their attention to the cars that put Chrysler at the forefront of styling in the early 1940s, when RM Auctions returns to Phoenix for their "Automobiles of Arizona" auction event. The annual multi-million dollar sale at the luxurious Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa, 24th Street and Missouri, kicks off RM's 2008 auction season (which in addition to a number of well-established annual events will include their highly anticipated return to Maranello, Italy). An auction preview will be held January 17 from 9am to 6pm. The auction will take place between 10am to 6pm on January 18.

All attention will however be on Arizona in January as the Canadian-based auction house presents a rare 1941 Chrysler Thunderbolt by

LeBaron and a 1941 Chrysler Newport by LeBaron for auction. Considered the very first true concept cars, and each with limited production, both cars are expected to draw significant interest in Phoenix.

"The Thunderbolt and Newport were considered some of LeBaron's last and most interesting projects. They are a testament to automotive engineering like no other concept cars. Without question, they rank as some of the most important American cars ever built," said Ian Kelleher, Managing Director of RM Auctions. "Both cars being sold at the one auction together for the first time will likely exceed all expectations of what each is worth both individually and collectively. We expect to see strong prices and spirited bidding."

The remarkable 1941 Thunderbolt (Lot #140 at upper right, and previously featured in the May/June 2007 issue of *Arizona Driver* as one of the Phoenix Art Museum "Curves of Steel" exhibit cars) is a sleek roadster with concealed headlights and retractable metal hardtop. Styled by Alex Tremulis, who went on to pen the legendary 1948 Tucker, and built by coachbuilders LeBaron, this car made history not only with its futuristic styling, but

as America's first electrically-operated retractable hardtop. Today, only four of five original Thunderbolts remain; the fully restored example on offer at RM's Arizona sale is considered by some to be the finest and most correct in existence. Restored to national concours competition standards, it has enjoyed considerable success as a show car: at the 1997 Pebble Beach Concours d'Élegance, it so impressed both the public and the judges that it earned a remarkable 99.5 points and was a winner in its class. Its sale in Arizona presents a rare and unique ownership opportunity. (Anticipated sale price is estimated as \$1.5 million - \$2 million.)

The exceptional, highly original 1941 Newport LeBaron on offer at Arizona is also predicted to attract significant interest. Produced at the same time as the Thunderbolt, the Newport was one of LeBaron's last hand-built designs before World War II halted production. Described as a "revelation," the Newport (#141 at right) was designed as a showpiece to be paraded on sunny days only, as it is without a top or side windows. Like the Thunderbolt, production of the Newport was limited; only six cars were ever built. The

example on offer at RM's Arizona sale was the first in the series built and, having been carefully preserved and maintained, is considered the finest and most important of the surviving five. (Its estimated sale price is also between \$1.5 million - \$2 million.)

For those who prefer more traditional design, the Arizona sale also presents a series of luxury classics, including: a luxurious 1929 Duesenberg Model J Dual Cowl Phaeton (Lot #136, shown in the table of contents, page 3), also by LeBaron; an elegant 1917 Pierce-Arrow Model 48B Series Four-Passenger Touring Car (#170 at right), formerly belonging to lyricist George Cohan, who penned many patriotic tunes, including "Yankee Doodle Dandy"; a 1911 Locomobile Model 48 Seven Passenger Touring; and three gloriously appointed Packards: a 1930 Packard Custom Eight Roadster, a 1934 Packard Eight Convertible Sedan, Coachwork by Gläser (#156 at right and also featured on the cover of this issue), and a 1934 Packard Twelve Coupe by Dietrich. A 1962 Lincoln Continental Towne Limousine, used by President John F. Kennedy, will also cross the auction block.

In addition to these classics, RM Auctions

will shine a spotlight on a range of unique custom cars. Individually customized by some of today's premier hot rod builders, including Ken "POSIES" Fenical, plus Boyd Coddington and Rick Dore, the one-of-a-kind custom cars are bound to turn heads and unlikely to ever be duplicated.

Headlining the "Kustom" category is a 1947 Chevrolet Fleetliner Street Rod by famed custom builder, Ken "POSIES" Fenical (Lot #127, large photo at left). Presenting a radical concept of mating the era of streamlining with a modern drivetrain chassis, this one-off original certainly fits POSIES' trademark, saying, "we don't build cars, we build statements." Sporting a distinctive hot rod look—reminiscent of a modified "Sportsman" racer—the car is finished in PPG Dark Regal Blue semi-gloss and sports a 400hp 308 cu.in Ford engine and sleek, art-deco headlamps. It rides on one-off, slotted Colorado Custom wheels with 19-inch front and 20-inch rear Excelsior racing tires. POSIES originally built the Fleetliner for the 1st Annual "Driven Dirty" cross-country tour to SEMA in Las Vegas in 2006 and since its completion it has only clocked 1,700 miles.

Also included in the "Kustom" category is an ultra-clean, elegant 1934 Ford Roaster by Boyd Coddington (#174 at right). An early Chip Foote-inspired design, built in Boyd Coddington's shop, this highly refined rod combines timeless lines and understated simplicity with proven on-road performance. Featuring a reshaped fiberglass body on a lengthened Larry Sergejeff-built chassis, the exterior is painted luscious yellow and features a snug-fitting removable hardtop. Inside, luxury touches abound, with tan leather upholstery by Boyd, rich wool carpeting, custom Recaro sport seating, a twin-spoke, leather-wrapped custom steering wheel, a unique instrument panel, Kenwood audio system and high-fidelity Orion speakers.

A third highlight of the sale is a 1951 Mercury "Radical Custom" Coupe by Arizona-based Rick Dore (#168 at right). Recognized as one of the country's premier custom craftsmen—he has won awards at every major venue including SEMA in Las Vegas—Dore's inimitable technique is to subtly elaborate on classic custom car themes, enhancing them with a combination of past and contemporary styling cues. This retro-inspired example features a reshaped Mercury body mounted on a modified 1980 Buick Chassis atop Colorado Custom billet wheels (created to resemble those of a '56 Cadillac).

Admission to the auction is by catalog only, which admits both the catalog holder and a guest. The full-color collectible catalog is available for \$80 US (plus shipping), by calling 800-211-4371 or at www.rmauctions.com. ■



140



156



141



174



170



168

THE 8TH ANNUAL Russo and Steele

Collector Automobile Auction
Sports and Muscle in Scottsdale
JANUARY 16-20, 2008

Russo and Steele "Sports and Muscle in Scottsdale" kicks off on Wednesday, January 16, with the Motown Charity Gala benefiting the Phoenix Children's Hospital's Emily Center, and runs through Sunday as over 500 cars drive across the auction block. Gates open at 10am daily for a vehicle preview, and the auction starts at noon. Of the 500 cars, here are a few favorites:



7296: 1967 FORD MUSTANG REACTOR

Built by the Ringbrothers, this car was unveiled at the 2006 SEMA Show in the Roush Performance Booth where Jack Roush personally flew in to unveil the car and autograph it. It won the Ford Outstanding Achievement in Design Award and the Mothers Shine Award at SEMA, plus the 2007 award for the Goodguys PPG Nationals Street Machine of the Year.

The exterior includes: BASF Glasurit Chernobyl Green basecoat/clearcoat and dozens of custom touches, plus Mustang stock and reproduction parts. The Roush 427-IR generates 551 hp and 525 lb-ft of torque. The interior is done with a sleek Euro look, nothing stock. Everything on this car is nickel plated, to stay away from the chrome look.



7297: 1937 FORD MINOTTI 3 WINDOW

This 1937 Ford Minotti 3 Window coupe in Hambre Green and Sunlight Sand is one of only 6 built by Roger Burman of Lakeside Rods and Rides. It features a billet grill, '37 headlights and a trick LED slot taillight. Powered by a 350 Chevy, the car includes TCI chassis, boxed rails, Mustang II IFS, tubular "A" arms, T56 transmission and much more, detailed to the max. The Recovery Room built the custom dash and all interior panels. Light green ultra leather covers the seats, headliner

and interior panels. Classic instruments combine with power windows, air, remote entry and Pioneer sound system.



7467: 1956 CORVETTE CUSTOM ROADSTER

This is an original 1956 Chevrolet Corvette Basket Case, with approximately 100 body modifications to every area. The engine is a C5 Corvette LS1 with many performance and appearance modifications and remote operated hood. The chassis includes original 56 side rails with stamped VIN retained; the rest is hand framed tube chassis. Brakes, exhaust, suspension and drivetrain are highly upgraded. A digital dash cluster is made from the original speaker grill bezel and steering column bezel. Switches and controls and a Sony audio system are hidden. The trunk area is power operated, has a stainless fuel cell, audio amplifier, and Nitro Oxide by NEX. This has won 2007 Super Chevy "Top 10 Cars of 2007," Street Machine of the Year Finalist, Custom Rod of the Year Finalist, SPEED's "Best of Show" at SEMA, Detroit Auditorium 2007 1st Place Radical Custom and more.



7362: 1950 JAGUAR XK120 X ALLOY

Jaguar introduced the XK120 Open Two Seater Super Sports roadster at the 1948 London Motor Show at Earls Court to showcase the new dual overhead camshaft six-cylinder high-performance engine developed for the upcoming Mark V sedan. Not intended for production, it was given a hand-made light aluminum alloy body designed by company founder William Lyons. It was the sensation of the show, and Jaguar quickly seized the opportunity to put it into production with hand built alloy-bodied cars built until dies could be made to stamp out steel production bodies.

Chassis No. 670170, Engine 3442cc dual overhead camshaft inline six-cylinder, dual SU carburetors, 160hp @ 5,400rpm, 4-speed manual transmission, independent front suspension with torsion bars and telescopic shock absorbers, live rear axle with semi-elliptical leaf springs and lever shock absorbers, four-wheel hydraulic drum brakes.

It comes with a Jaguar-Daimler historic certificate authenticating its origin. The alloy-bodied XK120 OTS Super Sports is the most rare and avidly sought of all Jaguar roadsters.



7444: 1950 ALLARD J2 ROADSTER

The Allard J2 is an excellent example of Anglo-American hybrid ingenuity. The J2 offered the incredible performance and reliability of the mighty Cadillac V8 and the race-proven chassis and Spartan alloy coachwork of Sidney Allard. As a result they were very popular and their competition history is most impressive. During the production run (1950-1951), a total of only 90 examples were produced. This car was delivered to Moss Motors in California on April 24, 1950. It was fully restored in 1998 to an extremely high standard and was a prize winner at Pebble Beach in 1999. The 331 CI 300 BHP Cadillac engine is fitted with a performance camshaft, three 2-barrel carburetors and polished, stainless steel side pipes.



7462: 1971 PLYMOUTH HEMI CUDA COUPE

This documented Hemi Cuda 4-speed is one of only 59 4-speeds ever produced and one of only a handful left in existence. This is one of the highest optioned 1971 Hemi Cudas ever produced. It retains most of its original sheet metal, its original cowl and radiator support stamps, and has received a full rotisserie restoration. As with most high performance cars in the day, the original drive train is long gone but it was replaced using correct parts and a date coded motor. The car has complete owner history along with copies of original titles from every registered owner. Other documentation includes a copy of the original manufacturer's Statement of Origin along with a full in-depth inspection and documentation from Mopar expert Galen Govier. And yeah, it's got a Hemi in it!

FULL LISTINGS ONLINE

For a complete look at consignments before the auction, or to check final sales results, visit www.russoandsteele.com

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THE 37TH ANNUAL Barrett-Jackson

Collector Car Auction Event
JANUARY 12-20, 2008

FAMILY VALUE DAY

Barrett-Jackson offers free admission to all service men and women, police officers and firefighters with valid ID at Family Value Day, Sunday, January 13, 8am to 5pm. Sponsored by Ford and in its third year, Family Value Day



1311



1323.1

is dedicated to the next generation of car enthusiasts, with discounted tickets to adults and free admission for children under the age of 12. In 2007, Ford and Barrett-Jackson welcomed over 25,000 people to the gathering.

OVER 1000 VEHICLES AT AUCTION

The 37th Annual Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Event features an array of Shelys and Stingrays, Rolls Royces and Road Runners, 'Cudas and Caddies, Bel Airs and Benzes, all joining comeback classics, concepts from Italy, customs from Barris and cars from the stars, sold at No Reserve from January 12-20. The auction features over 1000 top collector vehicles, plus lavish lifestyle events. SPEED broadcasts live during all six auction days.

1933 DUESENBERG J DUAL COWL PHAETON

With coachwork by LeGrande, the 1933 Duesenberg J Dual Cowl Phaeton (Lot #1311) features beautiful swept-panel body design that places this historic marque in a class of its own. The tan-on-tan giant has a 3-speed manual transmission and houses an enormous 420cid Straight 8 engine that produces 265 hp. Its 100-point restoration has garnered it an ACD Club certification and a Best of Class award in August 2007 at the renowned Meadowbrook Concours d'Élegance.

2008 CONCEPT 'CUDA

Hailing from the opposite end of the collector car spectrum is the 2008 Concept 'Cuda (Lot #1323.1), designed and built to encourage Chrysler to bring back the celebrated 'Cuda

model. Although loaded with design and performance cues from various 1970-74 "E" body predecessors, it was constructed to look and drive like a car off of the assembly line. The Concept 'Cuda was handcrafted by the famed Metalcrafters, the builders behind Dodge's Concept Challenger.

To construct this modern 'Cuda, they began with a 2007 Charger SRT8 and proceeded to remove the body and completely disassemble the car down to its chassis. The chassis was then modified and fit with a custom carbon



1310



1304

fiber body, and the interior adjusted from a 4-door sedan to a 2-door coupe. Stock wheels and tires were replaced with chrome 22-inch Zenetti "Fives" wrapped with Pirelli P Zero tires. The 'Cuda was finished with a functional Shaker Hood scoop, Flowmaster mufflers and a Lamborghini Pearl Orange and black paint scheme. The contemporary muscle car matches the power of its predecessor with a 6.1 liter Hemi that pumps out 425 hp. The '08 Concept 'Cuda made its official debut inside the Mopar booth at the 2007 SEMA show in Las Vegas, where it received rave reviews from the automotive community.

BLASTOLENE B-702 CUSTOM ROADSTER

Hailed as a "rolling sculpture" and powered by a mammoth 702cid V12 engine, the famous Blastolene B-702 custom roadster (Lot #1310) will be sold at No Reserve. The latest creation from the "Blastolene Brothers," Michael Leeds and Randy Grubb, measures 19.5 feet long and nearly 8 feet wide and crosses the block during SPEED's live prime-time coverage on Saturday evening. The B-702 is featured on the cover of the 2008 Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale auction program, penned by celebrated artist and Automotive Fine Arts Society president Ken Eberts.

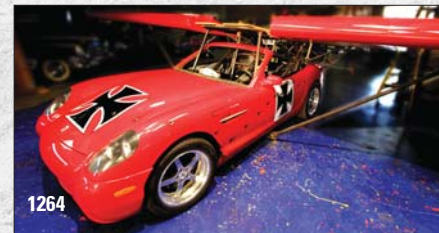
The Blastolene B-702 blends America's passion for high-powered, large displacement engines with refined European design cues, especially those of 1930s French classics. A hand-formed aluminum body flows effortlessly from end to end, accented by dramatic

separation of pod-style fenders, glass grille bars, Woodlight headlights and hand-blown glass taillights, all riding on a custom chassis that is entirely nickel-plated or powder-coated, giving the B-702 a glamorous touch to complement its commanding stature.

The roadster's 702cid V12 engine, originally produced by GMC from 1960-1965 for their 2.5-ton medium duty trucks, produces 650 lb-ft of torque at 850 rpm on regular gasoline. A modern Allison 4-speed transmission sends power to a 9-inch Ford Currie



1306



1264

rear end, while 4-wheel power disc brakes and power steering make the 4,800-pound beast drive like a dream. The exterior is a mesmerizing midnight blue and the interior is finished in maroon leather.

Famous for their oversized V12 custom cars and hot rod blends, the Blastolene Brothers burst onto the auto scene in 2002 with the design and construction of the Jay Leno Tank Car. The B-702 has been exhibited nationwide, leading up to this January sale.

ADDITIONAL VEHICLE HIGHLIGHTS

2008 Dodge Challenger SRT8 badge No. 1 (Lot #1331) and a special one-of-one 2008 Ford Shelby GT500KR (Lot #1300) are being sold at No Reserve. The Challenger's winning bid benefits Not My Kid, Inc., while the Shelby GT500KR's proceeds goes to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Muscle cars at this year's auction are led by a vintage Shelby Mustang from each year that performance legend Carroll Shelby produced his street-ripping 1960's classics. The highlight of the crop is Mr. Shelby's personal 1969 GT500 convertible (Lot #1287), followed by a pristine 1967 GT500 (Lot #1318) originally gifted by Carroll to his son, Mike Shelby.

Bidders with MOPAR muscle on their lists will want to be near the block for Lot #1274, a rare burnt tan metallic 1970 Plymouth Hemi 'Cuda 2-door hardtop, and Lot #1270.1, a dark green metallic 1969 Dodge Hemi Charger 500 2-door hardtop with less than 1,500 original miles.

One-off concept cars from the '50s and '60s are an intriguing segment that is once again poised to turn heads. Prime examples are crossing the block: the 1963 Pininfarina-bodied Chevrolet Corvette "Rondine" (Lot #1304) and the 1963 Ford Thunderbird "Italien" (Lot #1306). These cars managed to escape the crusher that destroyed most concepts and demonstrate a beautiful mixture of American tradition and Italian panache.

Underscoring the pre-war segment are the 1933 Duesenberg Dual Cowl Phaeton, a rare 1935 Rolls Royce Phantom II sport coupe (Lot #1312) and a 1929 Ruxton Prototype Muller front drive roadster (Lot #1313).

For collectors in the market for a fire-breathing, car-crunching robot, Barrett-Jackson will auction the world famous Robosaurus (Lot #1307).

A 1996 Cadillac Fleetwood Presidential Series Limo (Lot #1328) will be Barrett-Jackson's first. One of only three armored Presidential Series parade cars and weighing a whopping 12,000 pounds, the limo has only 500 original miles and is equipped with a 454cid engine custom built by Jack Roush, level B6 armor and blastproof standards, an on-board oxygen and fire suppression systems, and run-flat tire inserts. Amenities include custom power footrests, fender-mounted flag standards and a halo lighting system to aid nighttime visibility inside. This is the only one in private hands, as the other two are owned by the US Government.

Cars from the big screen include the 1966 Ford Thunderbird from the 1991 Oscar-winning film "Thelma & Louise" (Lot #1285), "Mojo," the 2006 custom Marine Technology Inc. 39RP catamaran (Lot #1309) with a matching Hummer and trailer (Lot #s 1309.1 and 1309.2) from the 2006 movie "Miami Vice," and William Shatner's custom painted 1995 Harley Davidson (Lot #1297.1).

John Schneider's 1969 Dodge Charger Coupe, a.k.a. "General Lee" (Lot #1321), from TV's "The Dukes of Hazard" reunion specials has a powerful 511cid, 725 hp engine with a 727 transmission. A 2004 Panoz Esperante with wings (Lot #1264), aka "The Flying Car" from the "Monster Garage" of Jesse James, is one of over 40 cars being sold from the hit TV show.

Hot rodders, TV lovers and rock'n'rollers will take notice when the iconic "Monkeemobile" (Lot #1297) takes center stage. Based on a 1966 Pontiac GTO and modified by hot rod legend George Barris. Famous rocker, avid collector and Valley local Alice Cooper will return to the event in 2008 to auction his smooth 1955 Mercedes Benz 300 SL Gullwing custom re-creation.

For more information or final auction sales results, visit: www.barrett-jackson.com ■

THE PREMIERE Gooding & Co.

Scottsdale Auction
JANUARY 17-19, 2008

Award-winning 1959 Ferrari 250 GT LWB California Spider, famous Packard Eisenhower/Nimitz parade car and distinguished Raymond Loewy Lincoln Continental Coupe headline offerings

Santa Monica-based Gooding & Company expands its portfolio in 2008 to host its first-ever Scottsdale Auction. The lineup of cars to be auctioned is on display to the general public Thursday and Friday, January 17-18, from 9am to 6pm, and on Saturday from 8:30 to 10:30am. The auction begins at 11am Saturday, adjoining Scottsdale Fashion Square at N. 68th Street and E. Camelback Road.

Following their record-breaking \$61 million auction at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Élegance last August, Gooding decided to inject its operations into Arizona's busy January auction scene. Consignments include the 1959 Ferrari 250 GT LWB California Spider (shown at upper right), the famous 1934 Packard Eisenhower/Nimitz Parade Car (center right) and the 1941 Loewy Continental Coupe (lower right). Others among 70 cars crossing the block are a 1956 Ferrari 250 GT Boano Alloy Coupe, a 1959 Aston Martin DB4GT, a 1932 Packard Model 904 Convertible Victoria by Dietrich, a 1936 Duesenberg Clear Vision Sedan by Murphy and a 1971 Ferrari 365 GTS/4 Daytona Spider.

Gooding & Company's star car at the Scottsdale Auction will be the 1959 Ferrari 250 GT LWB California Spider. This vehicle is one of only fifty long-wheelbase California Spiders produced. Following a comprehensive restoration by Paul Russell & Company, this Ferrari 250 GT has won several important awards, including First in Class at the Amelia Island Concours d'Élegance in 2001. Gooding & Company sold a similar Ferrari California Spider at the 2007 Pebble Beach Auction for \$4,455,000.

The Packard Super 8 1104 Touring is a car that was equated with wealth and good taste in 1934, and this is the eleventh Series 1934 Packard Gooding & Company has offered. This automobile has provided transportation for numerous dignitaries. Originally owned by Michael Salvato, a Philadelphia livery service owner, it then passed to Wendell Wilkie, who ran against Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential

election. On January 17, 1948, General Dwight D. Eisenhower paraded down the streets of Philadelphia in this very Packard, en route to paying his respects at the gravesite of Benjamin Franklin. General Wainwright, Admiral Nimitz, King George II of Greece and General Marshall were also escorted to various events in this automobile.

Gooding & Company is also showcasing a one-of-a-kind 1941 Lincoln Continental Coupe whose designer and



former owner, Raymond Loewy, is arguably the most famous and prolific American industrial designer of the twentieth century. Loewy was responsible for creating, among many other things, the iconic Coca-Cola fountain dispenser and the '50s redesign of their classic bottle, the Pennsylvania Railroad's streamlined locomotives, and Studebakers right up through the Avanti. He had applied his own personal vision to this custom-executed 1941 Lincoln Continental. Loewy's unique design elements are still recognizable in this extraordinary car today.

A Gooding & Company Scottsdale Auction catalog costs \$75 and includes admission for two to the viewing and the auction. General admission to the viewing and the auction can also be purchased at the site for \$30 per person. Bidder registration forms, a complete list of consignments, final sales results and additional auction information can be found at www.goodingco.com ■

Arizona

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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923-638-7888 Visitor Info Recorded Message

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

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

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

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

PARKS AND OUTDOORS

Chiricahua State Park
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520-824-3560

Lake Havasu State Park
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928-855-2784

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AUTOMOTIVE

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National Automobile Museum
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California

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Palm Desert Visitor Information Center
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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

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800-777-8642 • www.coloradoinfo.com

AUTOMOTIVE

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

Mexico

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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
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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
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www.motorcyclemuseum.org • 614-856-2222

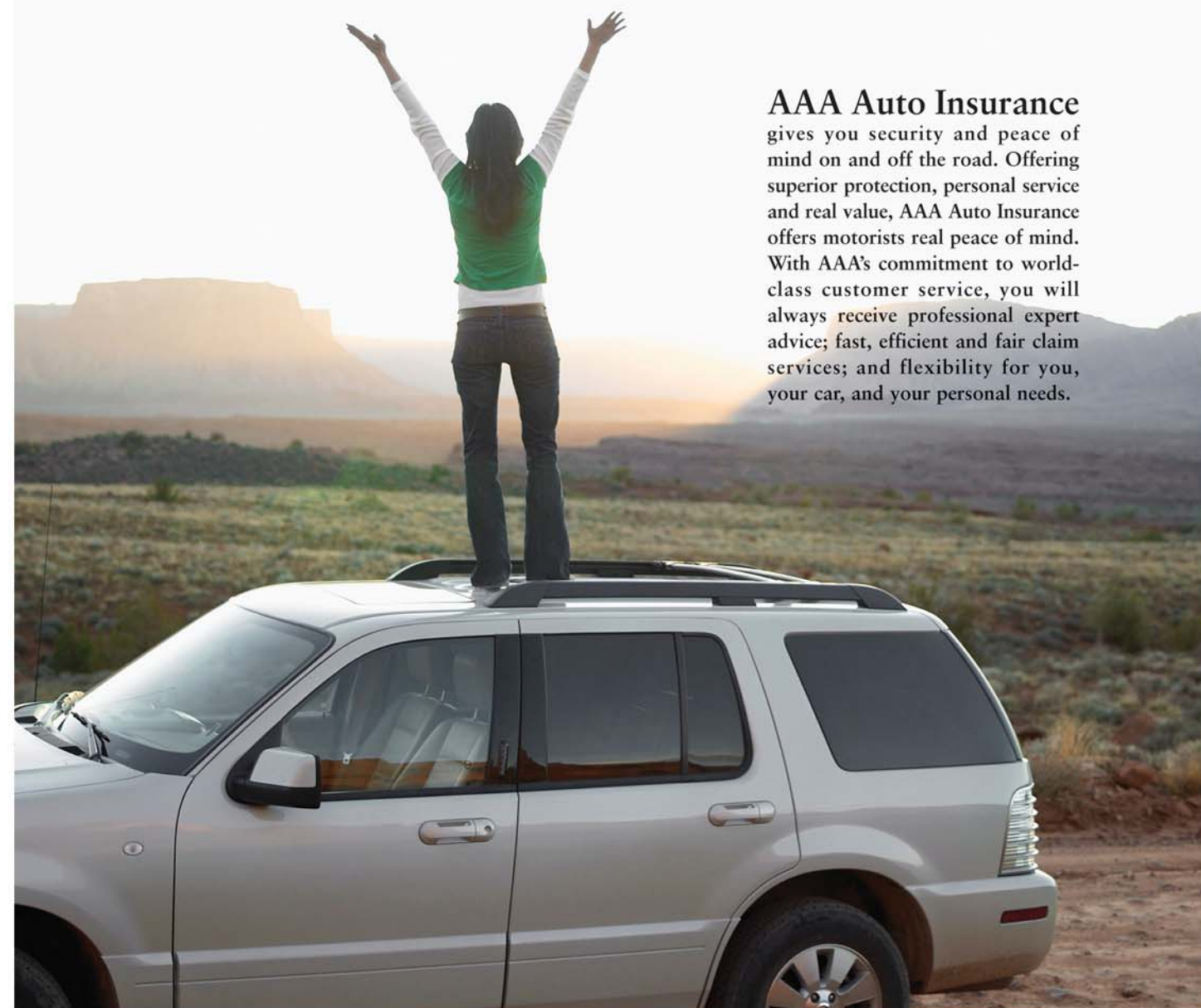
National Automobile Museum (see Nev.)

National Corvette Museum
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Petersen Automotive Museum (see Calif.)

Shelby American Collection (see Colorado)

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25th Annual IHBA Coors Light World Finals

November 15-18, 2007

Photography: Randall Bohl
www.RandallBohl.com



The world's most daring drivers took to the water at Firebird International Raceway in the world's fastest boats in November, for the Coors Light World Finals. These rocket-like vessels reached speeds of 250 miles per hour as they flew across Firebird Lake. Top Fuel Hydros, Top Alcohol Hydros, Pro Modifieds, Pro Gas Flats and more battled it out at the season-ending race. It was fun in the sun at crazy speeds.

By special appearance, the Unlimited Light Hydroplane Racing Association conducted a competitive demonstration on Firebird Lake at the 2007 IHBA Coors Light World Finals. Foster children were invited to come and bring their foster families for a weekend of family fun, fast boats, good weather and great memories. Blocks of discounted tickets were offered by Firebird International Raceway and local sponsors. Kids 12 and under were free to general admission with a paying adult. The event included a racing exhibition by the Unlimited Light Hydroplanes, pit tours, autograph sessions, racing souvenirs and programs.

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Top Fuel Hydro

Unlimited Hydro Exhibition



IHBA COORS LIGHT WORLD FINALS 2007 CHAMPIONS - Firebird International Raceway, Phoenix

Finals	QP	Boat#	Boat Name	Driver	Owner	Hometown	RT	ET	MPH
Top Fuel Hydro	3	572	Nitro Chicken	Doug Verstuyft	Doug & Amanda Verstuyft	San Antonio TX	319	4.927	212.70
Top Alcohol Hydro	1	904	Black Draggin	Kent Price	Kent Price	Gardner KS	316	5.419	217.71
Top Alcohol Flat	1	076	Habit Forming III	Don Bausher	Don Bausher	Las Vegas NV	175	6.742	162.80
Pro Modified	1	055	Crapshoot	Scott Loomis	Dan & Jan Bowers	Ojai CA	029	7.017	165.18
Pro Comp Eliminator	5	699	Head Over Heels	Ray Florez	Paul Prange	Las Cruces NM	186	7.859	124.06
Pro Eliminator	3	302	Centsless	Mike Schiller	Mike Schiller	Gardnerville NV	150	8.244	111.94
Top Eliminator	8	316	Mojo	Jim Dunn	Jim Dunn	Clarksville TN	362	9.048	108.94
Modified Eliminator	20	925	Nut-N-Up	Jeffrey Gibson	Jeffrey Gibson	Houston TX	130	10.000	101.42
Stock Eliminator	4	028	Hallet Hath No Fury	Tom Bandy	Tom Bandy	Westminster CA	076	11.174	87.74
River Racer	3	800	Long Time Coming	Bobby Laster	Bobby Laster	Bullhead City AZ	397	12.475	80.46

Top Alcohol Flat



River Racer K Boats



Modified Eliminator



Top Alcohol Hydro



Pro Eliminator



Harrier Jump Jet flyover



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Nationals
28-Mar 2 NHRA Division 7 Opener
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March

Feb 28-2 NHRA Division 7 Opener
15-16 NOPI
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April

5-6 AHDR Nationals
13 Bug-O-Rama
26-27 The Tire Pros Monster Truck
Nationals
25-27 IHBA Lakefest
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21 Coors Light Summer
Spectacular
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October

3-5 PSCA
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18 Night Shift - Hot Import Nights
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StreetDrags
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November

20-23 IHBA Coors Light World Finals
Boat Races
27-30 Santa's Christmas Theme Park
Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
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December

1-31 Santa's Christmas Theme Park
Fridays "Run What Ya Brung"
StreetDrags
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Photos © Copyright Brenda Priddy & Company

In August 2007, Brenda Priddy & Company, Arizona's world-renowned automotive spy photographers, put authentic field camouflage duct tape from the top-secret 2009 Jaguar XF Prototype up for auction on eBay, with the proceeds going to charity. Nine individual bidders entered 27 bids, closing at \$405. The winner received the camo duct tape, two "espionage" pens and a signed 12x18 enlargement, and as the bid exceeded a certain amount, they also won an "espionage" hat and a second 12x18. The winner specified a donation to the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, for children with leukemia and other cancers.

After the overwhelming success of that first charity auction, Brenda created another. As before, the winning bid went directly to a charity: the winner picks the charity, and the auction goods are all theirs.

This auction presented an extremely rare and possibly one-of-a-kind "Crew" nameplate from the upcoming Dodge

Journey crossover. Priddy & Company caught their photos early: up until a week or two before last September's Frankfurt Auto Show, the production vehicle was to be called "Crew," and a badge had been produced. They have no idea whether other chrome "Crew" badges were produced before the vehicle was renamed Journey—but they could assure their bidders that they had seen only this one—they got their spyin' hands on it, and it's the one they put up for auction.

In the world of automobilia, this one is about as rare as it gets. Brand new and still adhered to clear plastic, this is a rare



piece of modern Dodge history; it's doubtful you'll ever see another—anywhere.

Brenda included these buzz words in the eBay listing: Dodge, Mopar, Chrysler, SUV, Crossover, Journey, Crew, Chrome, Badge, Spy, Camouflage, Espionage, Automobilia,

Collectible, Rare, Auto Show, Emblem, Press, Prototype, Test Car, Future Car ... and this auction was certainly all of the above.

In addition to the chrome name badge, the auction included rear camouflage from a Crew/Journey prototype, in like-new condition, with foam padding, mesh covers for the lights, clear plastic for the license plate and an industrial-strength zipper. Also included were a Dodge Rubik's Cube given to the media at the Journey's LA Auto Show introduction in

November, and a 12x18-inch signed photo of the test vehicle (with the cover blowing in the desert wind as engineers attempt to install it). The photo is for the winner's personal enjoyment, and not for publication anywhere. But you can see it here.

If the winning bid went over \$300, Priddy would add 2 hard-to-get limited edi-

CREW

tion we-can't-tell-you-what-it-does-or-we'll-have-to-kill-you official Brenda Priddy & Company purple "espionage" pens. And if the bidding were to top \$500, the winner would also get an official company "espionage" hat. On top of all the goodies, Brenda pays all the eBay fees, and the winner paid just \$35 to offset US-only shipping (camouflage materials are quite durable and quite heavy).

With the proceeds going to charity, Brenda's advice is to "bid EXTRA high—it's for a good cause!" The winning bidder gets to make a donation directly to one of the following charitable organizations (in the amount of the winning bid—or more) by way of credit card or PayPal (the winner pays, and Brenda never touches a dime):

- Make A Wish Foundation
- American Heart Association
- March of Dimes
- American Cancer Society
- Fisher House
- Shriners Hospitals for Children

(Not enough choices? The winner could suggest another.)

The winner has the organization send proof of the donation, plus a copy of the e-mail confirmation they sent upon receiving the funds, and Brenda happily sends all the goodies.

It's that easy to participate, and the winner can safely expect to be the only one on their block with priceless camouflage from a Dodge crossover and a (possibly) one-of-a-kind chrome nameplate for a vehicle that will never be.

The manufacturers' test engineers try pretty hard to keep Priddy & Company's lenses from focusing on their biggest secrets. But our favorite spies do have their ways. And when the engineers realize so much of her hard work goes to charity ... really, what can they say?

This auction was scheduled to end on December 14, just as we went to press, but if you'd like to dig up the results, or check for future auctions, search item # 200180987808 or look up items from seller ID "brendapridycharityauctions." ■



Lean, green hydrogen machine



Hydrogen-powered Honda future with history of firsts

Fully-certified Honda fuel cell vehicles on roads now and refueling infrastructure solutions for the future

Honda unveiled the FCX Clarity fuel cell vehicle at the LA Auto Show in November.

The FCX Clarity is a next-generation, zero-emissions, hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicle based on the entirely-new Honda V Flow fuel cell platform, and powered by a compact, efficient and powerful Honda V Flow fuel cell stack. Driving range, power, weight and efficiency are all improved—and the stylists were able to develop a low-slung, dynamic appearance previously unachievable in a fuel cell vehicle. Honda's continuing goal is to tackle the real-world performance and appeal of a hydrogen-powered fuel cell car.

Honda plans to lease the FCX Clarity to a limited number of retail consumers in Southern California, with the first deliveries taking place in summer 2008. Full details of the program will be set closer to launch, but current plans call for a three-year lease term at a price of \$600 per month, including maintenance and collision insurance. Honda is also developing a service infrastructure to balance convenience and high quality service. For periodic maintenance, the customer brings their car to a local Honda dealer; Honda will transport the vehicle to their fuel cell service facility, where work is performed, and the customer will pick their car back up from the dealer.

The technology

The FCX Clarity utilizes Honda's V Flow stack in combination with a new compact and efficient lithium ion battery pack and a single hydrogen storage tank, to power the vehicle's electric drive motor. The fuel cell stack operates as the vehicle's main power source. Hydrogen combines with atmospheric oxygen in the fuel cell stack, where chemical energy from the reaction is converted into electric power used to propel the vehicle. Additional energy captured through regenerative braking and deceleration is stored in the lithium ion battery pack, much as a gasoline/electric hybrid works now, and used to supplement power from the fuel cell, when needed. The vehicle's only emission is water.

Honda V Flow fuel cell platform

The FCX Clarity's new V Flow platform packages the ultra-compact, lightweight and powerful Honda V Flow fuel cell stack (65 percent smaller than the previous Honda FC stack) in the vehicle's center tunnel, between the two front seats. Taking advantage of a completely



new cell configuration, the vertically-oriented stack achieves an output of 100 kilowatts (kW), versus 86kW in the current Honda FC stack, with a 50 percent increase in output density by volume (67 percent by mass). Its compact size allows for a more spacious interior and more efficient packaging of other powertrain components, which would otherwise be unattainable in a low-slung sedan.

The FCX Clarity boasts numerous other advances in performance and packaging, compared to the current-generation FCX:

- a 20-percent increase in fuel economy—to the approximate equivalent of 68 mpg combined fuel economy (about 2-3 times that of a gasoline-powered car, and 1.5 times that of a gasoline-electric hybrid vehicle, of comparable size and performance)
- a 30-percent increase in vehicle range—to 270 miles
- a 25-percent improvement in power-to-weight ratio, in part from an approximate 400-pound reduction in the fuel cell powertrain weight, for superior performance and efficiency despite a substantial increase in overall vehicle size
- a 45-percent reduction in the size of the fuel cell powertrain—nearly equivalent, in terms of volume, to a modern gas-electric hybrid powertrain
- an advanced new lithium-ion battery pack that is 40 percent lighter and 50 percent smaller than the current-generation FCX's ultra-capacitor; and
- a single 5,000-psi hydrogen storage tank with 10 percent more hydrogen capacity than the previous model.



California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger greets Dan Bonawitz, Vice President Corporate Planning and Logistics for American Honda Motor, Co., Inc., during a news conference at the Los Angeles Auto Show in November 2007.

FCX Clarity design

Not only has Honda been able to push the envelope on the physical design of a hydrogen fuel cell car; they've been freed from the usual constraints of conventional powertrain technologies. The FCX Clarity's four-door sedan platform features a short-nose body and spacious cabin with comfortable accommodations for four people and their luggage. Major powertrain components—including the

KEEP RIGHT >>



electric motor, fuel cell stack, battery pack and hydrogen tank—have been made more compact and are distributed throughout the vehicle to further optimize space, comfort and total vehicle performance.

Advanced materials and components

In keeping with its theme as an environmentally-advanced automobile, the FCX Clarity features seat upholstery and door linings made from Honda Bio-Fabric—a newly-developed, plant-based material that offers CO₂ reductions as an alternative to traditional interior materials, along with outstanding durability and resistance to wear, stretching, and damage from sunlight.

The car is also equipped with advanced

safety, comfort and convenience features, including a state-of-the-art navigation system with hydrogen station locations, backup camera, premium audio, climate-controlled seats and Bluetooth® connectivity.

Other tech touches include shift-by-wire, electric power steering (EPS), and a newly-designed instrument panel with an easy-to-read hydrogen fuel-consumption display.

CO₂ emissions

The FCX Clarity's only emission is water. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions come earlier during the production of hydrogen, which varies by source; however, well-to-wheel CO₂ emissions using hydrogen reformed from natural gas—the most wide-

ly used method of production today—are less than half that of a conventional gasoline vehicle. With the production of hydrogen from water by electrolysis, CO₂ emissions can be further reduced and ultimately approach zero if the electricity used for electrolysis is generated using solar, wind, water or nuclear power.

Honda has developed its own solar cells, with half the CO₂ emissions in the production stage compared to conventional crystalline silicon cells, and has begun mass-production and retail sales of this technology in Japan for both commercial and residential use.

Clean and sustainable vision

Under its slogan of *Blue Skies for our Children*, Honda has worked for forty years at reducing the environmental impact of the automobile, including efforts to reduce emissions, boost fuel efficiency and now many industry-leading efforts to advance the hydrogen fuel cell vehicle—a technology and fuel that Honda believes may hold

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DrivingMBA's primary objective is to keep teen drivers and all of us safer on the road. Stories about teen drivers continue to be featured in newspapers and publications across the country. DrivingMBA is the only driving school in Arizona that uses state-of-the-art driving simulators to train its students. The airline industry has been using this type of technology for decades to train pilots. The military also uses this type of technology to train soldiers, AND DrivingMBA's equipment is the same equipment that is being used by police academies throughout the country, including here in Arizona, for its advanced driver training. The effectiveness of this type of driver training is indisputable, and DrivingMBA has documented results that prove its driver education program works.

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the ultimate promise for a clean and sustainable transportation future. Honda's pioneering achievements in this area include the first EPA and CARB certification of a fuel cell vehicle (2002); the first lease of a fuel cell vehicle (2002); the first fuel cell vehicle to receive an EPA fuel economy rating (2002); the first cold-weather customer (2004); the first and still only individual retail customers (2005, 2007); and the first and still only fuel cell vehicle to be eligible for a federal tax credit.

In five years of use with fleet customers including government entities in California, Nevada and the state of New York, the FCX has performed well under often harsh conditions, with minimal service support even in the extreme heat of the Western deserts and the bitter cold of the Northeast.

2006 Honda FCX Specifications

ENGINE

Drive MethodFront-wheel drive
Motor TypeAC Synchronous
Electric Motor (permanent magnet)
Maximum Output (horsepower)107
Maximum Torque (ft.-lbs.)201
Fuel Cell Stack TypeProton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC)
Fuel Cell Maximum Output (kW)*86
Ultra-Capacitor Electrostatic Capacity (F)*8
Maximum Speed (mph)93
Vehicle Range (miles, EPA mode)190

EXTERIOR DIMENSIONS

Length (in.)164.0
Overall Width (in.)69.3
Overall Height (in.)64.8
Wheelbase (in.)99.3
Tread (front/rear, in.)59.1/60.2
Vehicle Weight (lbs.)3,713
Number of Occupants4

FUEL

TypeCompressed hydrogen gas
StorageHigh-pressure hydrogen tank
Tank Capacity (L)156.6
Gas Volume when Full (kg)3.8
Maximum Pressure when Full (psi)5000.0

* Honda in-house test values

Hydrogen Home Energy Station and improved solar-cell technology

Honda is also developing technology to answer the "chicken and the egg" dilemma of the vehicle and the refueling infrastructure. The Home Energy Station is a home refueling unit that provides hydrogen from natural gas for vehicle refueling, heat for domestic hot water use and electricity for the home.

Honda has begun using the Home Energy Station IV at its Honda R&D Americas, Inc. facility in Torrance, California. This fourth-generation experimental unit is designed to provide fuel for a hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicle, as well as heat and electricity for a home. The new system is more compact and efficient, with a lower operating cost than previous models; it was announced along with the FCX Clarity hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicle at the LA Auto Show.

Honda's Home Energy Station technology is designed to facilitate the broader adoption of zero-emissions fuel cell vehicles, like the FCX Clarity, by developing a home refueling solution that makes efficient use of a home's existing natural gas supply for production of hydrogen, while providing heat and electricity to an average-size home.

The Home Energy Station IV can reduce both cost and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions for the consumer. Compared to the average U.S. consumer's home with grid-supplied electricity and a gasoline-powered car, a home using Home Energy Station IV to help produce heat and electricity and also to refu-

el an FCX Clarity can reduce CO₂ emissions by an estimated 30 percent and energy costs by an estimated 50 percent.

"Honda is striving to address the need for a refueling infrastructure for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles," said Ben Knight, Vice President of Honda R&D Americas. "The Home Energy Station represents one promising solution to this issue, while offering the added benefit of heating and powering the home more efficiently."

Working with technology partner Plug Power, Inc., Honda began operation of a Home Energy Station in October, 2003. Home Energy Station IV represents the latest evolution of the technology with a 70 percent reduction in size compared to the first unit, making it even more suitable for household installation. By combining gas purification and power generation components, overall size reduction and efficiency gains are achieved, while enabling it to switch from hydrogen refining to power generation when needed.

Info is available at www.honda.com

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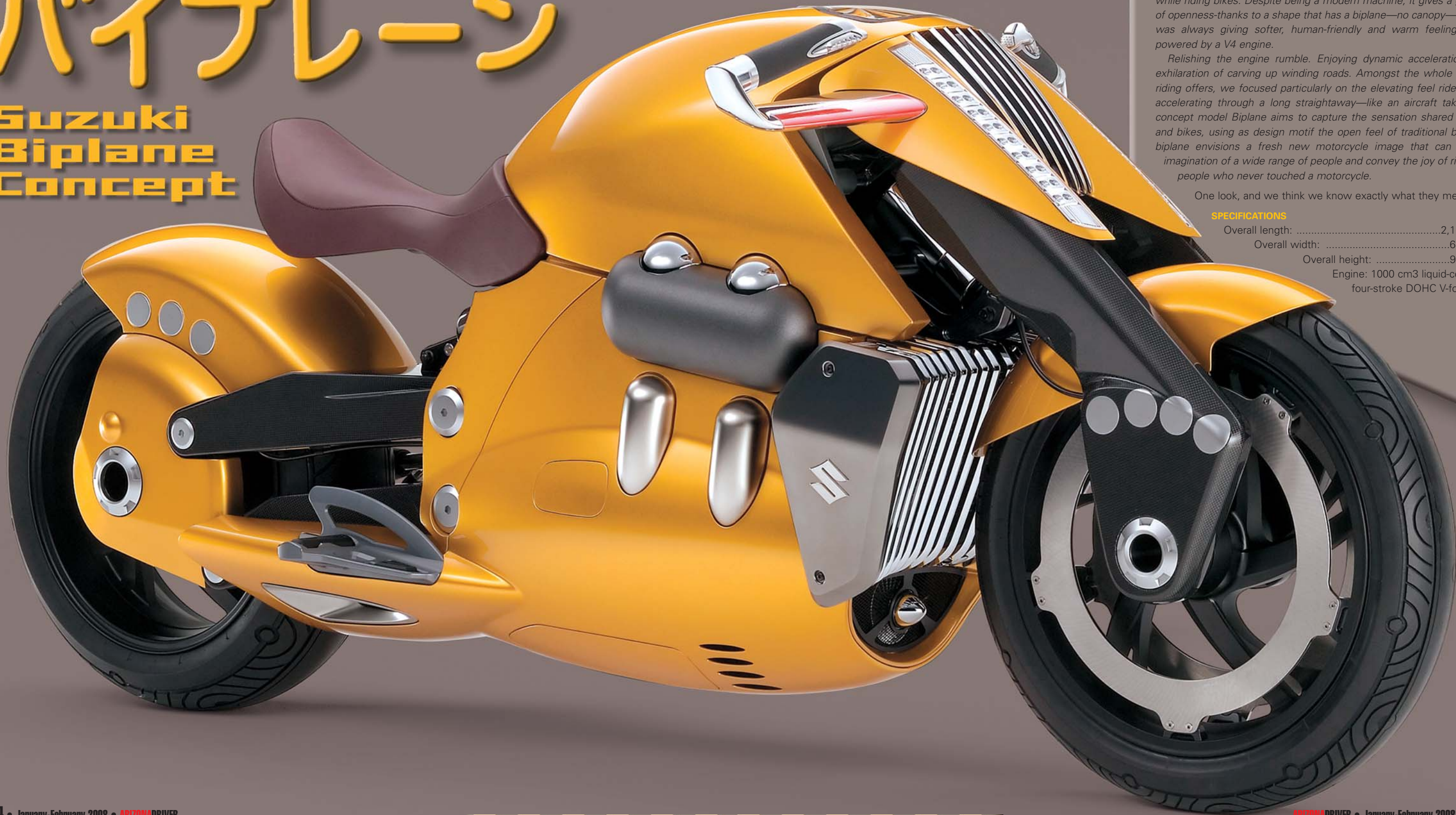
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バイプレーン

Suzuki Biplane Concept



Straight from the 40th Tokyo Motor Show, Suzuki has bent the edges of the universe with this remarkable concept bike. The Biplane hasn't been brought to the US as of press time; we inquired at the LA Auto Show and were sent to Suzuki Global for more information. Their copy and specs are as follows:

DATELINE TOKYO— *Feel the joy of riding motorcycle! Look at this motorcycle! This concept model "The Biplane" communicates the joy of two-wheel mobility through a design that was uniquely inspired by the feeling of flying or piloting an aeroplane, which gives motorcyclists a similarity feeling while riding bikes. Despite being a modern machine, it gives a great feeling of openness—thanks to a shape that has a biplane—no canopy—motif, which was always giving softer, human-friendly and warm feeling to us. It's powered by a V4 engine.*

Relishing the engine rumble. Enjoying dynamic acceleration feel. The exhilaration of carving up winding roads. Amongst the whole range of joy riding offers, we focused particularly on the elevating feel riders get when accelerating through a long straightaway—like an aircraft taking off. The concept model Biplane aims to capture the sensation shared by airplanes and bikes, using as design motif the open feel of traditional biplanes. The biplane envisions a fresh new motorcycle image that can capture the imagination of a wide range of people and convey the joy of riding even to people who never touched a motorcycle.

One look, and we think we know exactly what they mean.

SPECIFICATIONS

Overall length:	2,166 mm
Overall width:	645 mm
Overall height:	906 mm
Engine: 1000 cm3 liquid-cooled four-stroke DOHC V-four (CVT)	

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Lexus GS 460

■ **Lexus** is rumored to be working on a sedan to compete with BMW's M5, Audi's RS6 and the Mercedes-Benz E63. If built it will be based on the next generation GS sedan and called the GS-F in keeping with the new performance naming scheme. Projected engines are a V-10 from the Formula 1 program or a twin-turbo V-8. If the project is approved it will probably arrive at dealerships as a 2012 model.

■ **Hertz** has a new bargain basement car rental business called "Simply Wheelz." To keep prices low, customers reserve cars online and use self-service machines to pick up and drop off the vehicles. Prices for cars like a Ford Focus and Hyundai Accent are as low as \$15 a day and \$94 for a week. Currently the service is only in Orlando, but we imagine it will be expanded to other cities, if it works well. For details go to www.simplywheelz.com.

■ An engine with more than 500 horsepower will power the next generation **Cadillac** CTS-V, which is expected about a year from now. It was not revealed if the engine will be a V-8 or V-10. Earlier rumors suggested a supercharged version of the Corvette V-8 or the Northstar V-8. The CTS-V will be available with either a six-speed manual and automatic transmission. The source claims the new CTS-V will blow away the BMW M5.

■ **General Motors** is rumored to be working on a seven- or eight-speed automatic transmission for future models. The product development is being done to keep GM competitive with Lexus, BMW and Mercedes-Benz vehicles with such transmissions. The major consideration is whether the transmission can produce

a sufficient fuel economy gain to justify the extra engineering cost and inherent parasitic losses.

■ **Volvo** is considering the development of a five-door hatchback version of the C30. Les Kerssemakers, Volvo senior vice president of brand, business and product strategy, told an *Automotive News* reporter at the Tokyo auto show, that strong sales of the new three-door C30 would go a long way in helping Volvo with a decision to build the larger C30.

■ **Ford** sent a hydrogen-fuel-cell-powered Fusion to Bonneville Speed Week in August and set the first world speed record for such a car. The record of



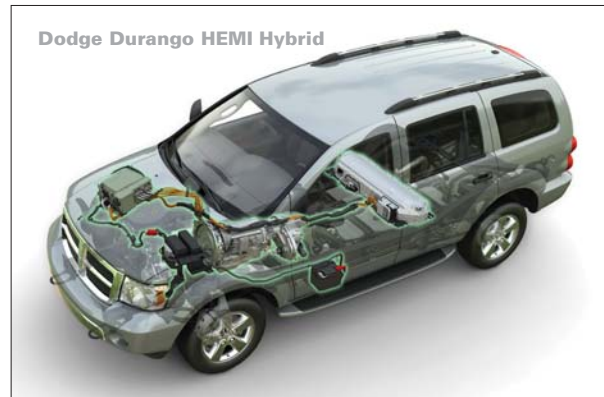
Ford Fusion Hydrogen 999

207.297 mph will undoubtedly encourage record attempts by other fuel cell cars.

■ One of National Public Radio's most popular programs, **Car Talk** with Tom and Ray Magliozzi, is going on PBS television next summer with an animated situation comedy based on the long-running radio show.

■ **MINI** will add a five-door crossover to their lineup starting in 2010. Designated as a sport activity vehicle (SAV) the new MINI will be offered in front-wheel or all-wheel drive. The off-road MINI, which is being developed under the code name Colorado, is 157-inches long or about one foot longer than the current hardtop.

■ **Chrysler** introduced two hybrid Hemis at the recent Los Angeles auto



Dodge Durango HEMI Hybrid

show, powering the Chrysler Aspen and Dodge Durango SUVs. The hybrids use the new 2 Mode hybrid technology, developed jointly with Daimler, BMW and General Motors, which uses a new hybrid transmission to improve fuel economy by about 25 percent.

■ If early information is correct, the new super high performance **Corvette** will again be called the ZR1 or ZR-1 (with a dash). Although nothing is official, the ZR1 engine is expected to be a supercharged 6.2-liter overhead valve V-8 rated at about 650 horsepower. It's also rumored to have massive carbon-ceramic disc brakes rather than conventional steel rotors. The price is estimated at \$100,000. Full details were expected as the Corvette debuted at the Detroit auto show in January, after this issue went to press.

■ **Ford** is going to keep the Volvo brand for the present time. It's trying hard to get rid of Jaguar and Land Rover, but Ford CEO Mulally said Ford wants Volvo to operate more independently and achieve greater efficiency through group buying and cooperative product development. He said this does not rule out a future sale.

■ Due to the sophistication of the new **Nissan** GT-R supercar, dealers selling the car will have to send a technician to Japan for four weeks of special training to work on the car. Those technicians will then be called Super Mechanics and part of their



Nissan GT-R

job will be to tune the car's engine, free, once a year for three years to the original specifications.

■ In addition to the upcoming hi-performance M3 coupe, **BMW** has announced a sedan version of the M3. It will be powered by the same 414-hp V-8 engine and include all the chassis, suspension and drivetrain enhancements included on the coupe. It's expected to arrive at dealerships by the fall of 2009.

■ The next generation **Audi** A4, shown at the Frankfurt Motor Show, is longer, wider and taller than the previous model. It is obviously designed to compete directly with the BMW 3 Series. The standard drivetrain is a 3.2-liter, 265 hp V-6 with a six-speed Tiptronic. Other powerplants will come later and include a diesel. The new A4 is due to arrive in the US in the fall of 2008.

■ **General Motors** has developed an all-new diesel engine that eliminates 24 parts, is much smaller than traditional diesel engines and is much quieter. With fewer parts and smaller size, GM can save from \$350 to \$600 producing each engine. It will fit in the same space as a small-block gasoline V-8 engine and is lighter weight than a traditional diesel. The 4.5-liter Duramax turbo diesel V-8 is a double-overhead cam configuration producing at least 310-hp and 520-lb.ft. of torque. It will be available in new light-duty trucks in 2009.



Chevrolet Equinox Fuel Cell

■ **Chevrolet** is doing a major fuel-cell vehicle test by lending one hundred hydrogen-powered Equinox SUVs to families for a three-month test period. Starting in January the Project Driveaway program will give the electric vehicles to the first group in the Los Angeles, New York City and Washington, D.C. areas. After three months the vehicles will be rotated to one hundred more until about 1,000 families have driven the vehicles. The fuel-cell Equinox runs hydrogen through a fuel cell stack to make electricity, which powers a motor driving the front wheels. The hydrogen is stored in three carbon-fiber wound storage tanks that hold 10,000 psi each giving it a range of about 160 miles. Weighting in about 500-pounds more than a gas-powered version, the fuel cell Equinox accelerates from 0 to 60 mph in 12 seconds and has a top speed of 100 mph.

■ The **Honda** Fit, new to the US last year, has been sold around the world since 2001. Now the Fit is getting ready for a second-generation launch and we'll get it in a more timely fashion, late in 2008 as a 2009 model. The new model is slightly larger, with two more inches of wheelbase and overall length. It's also nearly an inch wider and the extra size only weighs 22 pounds more. The new version gets a more powerful 1.5-liter, 118-hp, four-cylinder engine. A revised chassis will help it ride better.



BMW M3 Sedan

■ **Ener1** has a prototype lithium ion battery for hybrid vehicles that stays cool under stress. The alternate-energy development company, partly owned by Delphi, says this lithium ion battery weighs 35 percent less and is 55 percent smaller than the current nickel-metal hydride battery packs. Chrysler and GM have formed a group called the US Advanced Battery Consortium, which has awarded Ener1 a \$6.5 million contract to conduct lifetime testing of the batteries over the next 18 months. An Ener1 spokesman claims the new battery would cost the consumer about \$1,500 rather than the current \$4,000. ■

■ **Mazda** has developed the world's first catalyst for cars using a single nanotechnology, which takes 70 to 90 percent less platinum and palladium than existing converters. The process does not change performance of the exhaust cleaning system, nor does it change the durability, but it can control even smaller particles.

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*.

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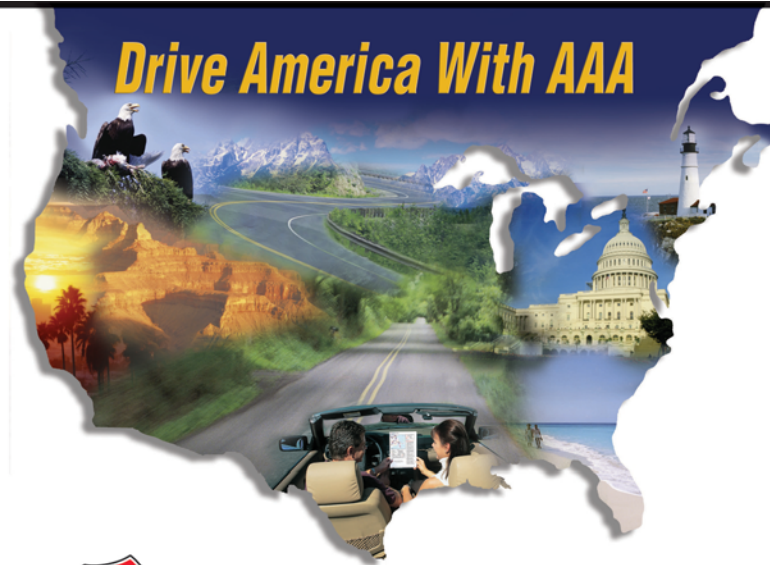
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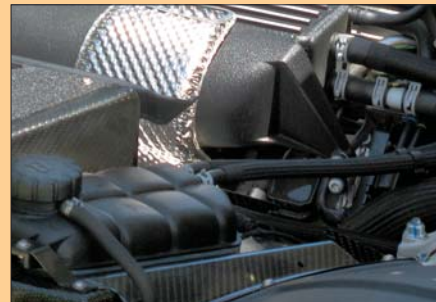
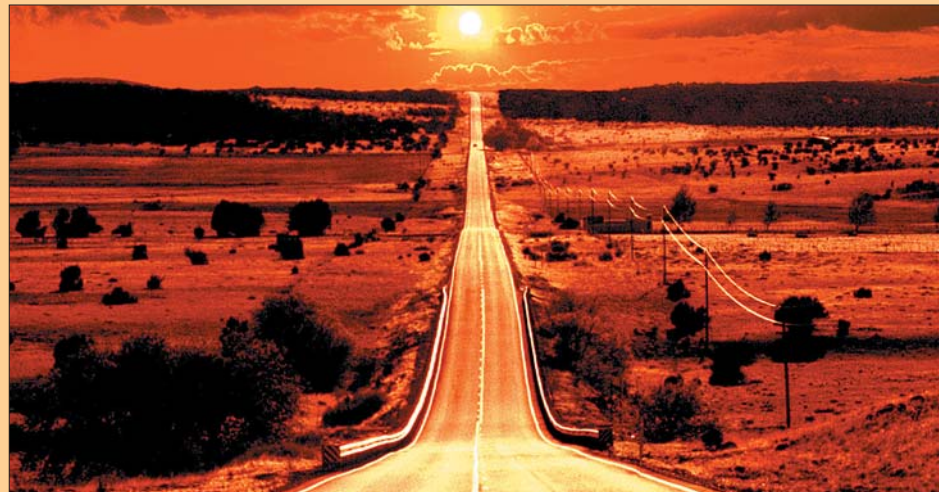
UPCOMING FEATURES

Lexus IS F and Lexus LX 570



We're off to Lake Las Vegas to test-drive both of these new vehicles, each highly anticipated in its class. We've been looking forward to these and will report our impressions.

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