

ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 2
MARCH-APRIL 2008

LEXUS IS F AND LEXUS LX 570 AT LAKE LAS VEGAS
SCOTTSDALE-PHOENIX AUCTION RESULTS
LUXURY SPORT DESERT DUEL
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A We bring four high-performance, high-lux sedans and two coupes—three Germans, two Japanese and one American—to Willow Springs Raceway to determine a champ. **By H. R. Driver**

Lexus IS F28

B The Lexus IS has been a hit since the get-go, offering decent economy, performance, style and reasonable luxury in a small rear-drive platform. Several years of intense development at Toyota has created the new "F" series, which so far consists of just one: the new Lexus IS F. We travel to Lake Las Vegas to give it a drive.

Lexus LX 57032

C Someone at Lexus took the red pen to the LX 470 specification sheet and didn't stop until horsepower, torque, towing capacity, safety features, off-road features and even the sound system were massively upgraded. This vehicle may look about the same as its predecessor, but check out the differences. While in Lake Las Vegas, we drive this, as well, including well off-road.

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Honda is known for innovation, quality and economy—and they're known for cars, SUVs, trucks and motorcycles. Well, watch out, as they enter the Advanced Light Jet category, with a racy little number you're sure to want to add to your fleet.

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E F G H From the number of cars sold and the dollars exchanged, to the success of various gala events and charities served, the annual auctions from Russo and Steele, Barrett-Jackson, RM Auctions and a new one from Gooding & Company come through again, despite a rough month on Wall Street. We present some overview results and links to websites so you can study all 1620.

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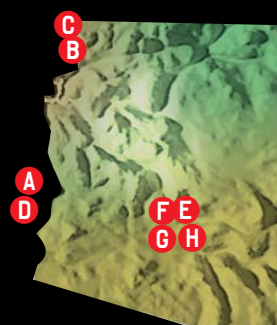
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COVER: 2008 Lexus IS F.
Photo courtesy Lexus Division, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

January went by in a flash, as it generally does, this year perhaps moreso. First up was the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, not as big as LA, but very prominent in the scheme of things. We attended, just to get a good foundation for all the excitement we'll be covering in the next year. There is great change afoot in the auto industry, at least theoretically. From there it was back home for auction season. If you think it's hard to pick one or two to attend, try doing four, plus media breakfasts and galas. Lots of fun, and as they say, time flies when... That was followed by a multi-day event outside Lake Las Vegas, where we were among the first to test drive the new Lexus IS F performance coupe, into Arizona and back, and the Lexus LX 570 upgraded SUV, including off-road trials beyond what you might expect from such a well-dressed beast. Highlights of the two Lexi, as well as auction results overviews from the four biggest are all inside.

Racetrack stringer and automotive engineer H. R. Driver brings us two great comparison features this issue: one pitting six of Germany and Japan's greatest sport luxury sedans and coupes against one another, and the other identifying the many ways to achieve high performance and fuel economy in any of six cars.

Honda, always innovative, has entered the personal jet market; we bring you a quick look at what they've put together in the Advanced Light Jet category.

February also flies by in a flash, as we'd mathematically expect it to, even in a leap year (although for our readers up north, it may indeed be the longest month of the year). It leads inexorably, though, to March and April, a great season to put the top down, head to Mexico or California, tour Monument Valley or visit Santa Fe, or just cruise the Valley freeways. Enjoy the ride.



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AUDI TT S VERSION

Audi introduced a new S version of the TT roadster and coupe at the recent North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Engineers started with the spunky 2.0-liter four-cylinder base engine, added direct injection and raised the turbo boost to produce 272 hp and 258 lb.ft. of torque. The engine will only be available with Audi's improved, quicker-shifting six-speed S-tronic double clutch transmission. The TTS accelerates from 0 to 62 mph in 5.4 seconds, according to Audi. Suspension is modified with Audi's adaptive magnetic dampening system, high performance brakes, wide 18-inch tires (or optional 19-inch) and upgraded electronic stability control. Deeply bolstered seats are a combination of leather and Alcantara. For drivers who like to keep score, the display includes a timer to record lap times. The TTS goes on sale in November 2008 as a 2009 model, for a price estimated to be about \$60,000. ▼



Audi TTS



Toyota A-BAT concept

Reminiscent of the Chevy Avalanche, Honda Ridgeline and Subaru BRAT, the A-BAT could cement this as a segment, not a "reminiscent-of" concept.

TOYOTA SHRINKS THE PICKUP

▲ While other manufacturers displayed big full-size trucks (as Toyota did two years ago), Toyota is showing a new compact pickup concept called the A-BAT (Advanced Breakthrough Aero Truck). About the same size as a Toyota RAV4, the A-BAT is a crossover pickup built on a unibody platform with a four-foot bed and muscular cab-forward design. The concept uses Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive and new all-wheel drive system. It has features like retractable rear seats, and Chevy Avalanche-like midgate, removable bed storage boxes and a fold-forward rear roof panel. Toyota principals will be watching consumer response to this concept carefully.

PONTIAC G8 SPAWNS FAMILY

General Motors plans to expand the upcoming G8 model lineup by drawing on a line of vehicles produced by GM Australian subsidiary Holden. The G8 sedan goes on sale in the US in the spring of 2008 as Pontiac's new flagship sedan, replacing the Grand Prix. The sedan should have a base price around \$25,000. GM is then expected to add a performance-oriented G8 wagon and a G8 sport

truck, similar to the Chevrolet El Camino from the '60s through '80s. The new models will be similar to the Australian Commodore wagon and VE Ute sport truck. The upcoming Chevrolet Camaro sport coupe is also being built on the rear-wheel drive platform of the G8 group.

CUSTOMIZING CAR HORNS

Looking for a unique sound for your car horn? Now you can customize your horn with the same uplifting or annoying sounds heard on cell phones, when you have the Horntones FX-550. This system mounts under your dashboard, attaches to an audio amplifier and powers weatherproof speakers under the hood. When the horn is blown, the sound can be one of 27 preprogrammed sounds or something you create or download via a USB connection. The Horntones system sells for \$299. See www.horntones.com.

BLACK BOX SHUTS DOWN VEHICLES

Now there is a black box, about half the size of a cigarette package, that can be used to protect big trucks from a multitude of potential disasters. The Astrata-GLP (Global Location Platform) can, for example, be programmed to start only

after a driver passes a breathalyzer test and thumb identification. In another use, it can tell when a fuel tanker truck veers one block off its scheduled route, potentially being used as a bomb. It can identify when an armored car is off route and possibly hijacked. If the truck is stolen or speeding, it can be slowed to 5 mph or stopped completely. The doors and windows can be locked remotely to trap would-be terrorists, thieves or reckless drivers inside. The system was developed by British accountant Martin Euler and Irish technology executive Tony Harrison and is already being used by Shell Oil, Nestle and the government of Singapore.

FEATURES ON THE HORIZON

Some of the innovative features that may be showing up in one of your future vehicles include cars that talk to each other to warn of dangers ahead. The side mirrors may give way to video cameras with displays at the edge of the rear-view mirror, on the instrument panel or on a heads-up display projected on the windshield. Another camera will read road signs, including speed limits and

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DODGE CHALLENGER SRT8 SALES START

Chrysler started taking orders on a limited edition of 4,500 Challenger SRT8 Hemi coupes (see January-February 2008 *Arizona Driver Magazine*). The base price has been set at \$37,995 including shipping, but prices are expected to soar by as much as \$20,000 over sticker price for the first cars. Places in line have been sold for as much as \$20,000 on eBay. Dodge's contemporary version of the American muscle coupe, powered by a 6.1-liter Hemi V-8, will be delivered starting this spring, and less expensive regular production models will start arriving at dealerships by late summer. ▼



Dodge Challenger SRT8



Hyundai Genesis

The Koreans have taken only a few years to pretty well catch up with mainstream Japanese offerings; it's only natural to tackle the Germans next.

wrong-way signs, to warn the driver. Future engines may have electric or electrohydraulic devices to move valves independently, producing an optimum fuel/air mixture. Fingerprints, facial features or retinal patterns may replace car key and remote keyless entry. Steering systems will not be connected to the steering wheel except by an electric signal. Bumper bags (external airbags) will protect the sides of smaller cars from the intrusion of taller SUVs and trucks.

HYUNDAI LUXURY SPORT SEDAN

▲ Hyundai is calling their new luxury sport sedan Genesis. The new rear-wheel-drive sedan has the ambitious task of competing with cars like BMW, Cadillac and Lexus. The top version of the Hyundai Genesis will be powered by an all-new V-8 engine producing 375 hp, driving the rear wheels through a six-speed automatic transmission. Other versions will get 3.3- and 3.8-liter V-6 engines. Genesis is about the same size as a Cadillac STS. A dedicated Hyundai website, hyundaiconceptgenesis.com, says features will include adaptive cruise control, heated and cooled seats, bi-Xenon headlights, navigation system,

backup camera and many other features found in mid- and upper-level luxury cars. Genesis is expected to go on sale in the US during the third quarter of 2008.

Hyundai will offer its first turbocharged four-cylinder engine in the US in the upcoming Genesis coupe. The Global Engine Manufacturing Alliance, a joint venture of Hyundai, Mitsubishi and Chrysler, is developing the engine; other turbocharged engines will follow. Hyundai likes four-cylinder turbos because they deliver more horsepower and better gas mileage through smaller displacement and direct injection. The Genesis coupe is expected in the US in spring 2009.

BIG PRICE CUT FOR ENTRY-LEVEL VIBE

Pontiac has dropped the price of the all-new Vibe four-door sport wagon by \$1,500 to \$15,895, including destination charge, for the 2009 model. Pontiac marketing director Craig Bierly said styling and performance are enhanced, but it still gets 32 miles per gallon. The base Vibe, powered by a 132-hp, 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine with a five-speed manual transmission, can be upgraded to a 2.4-liter engine. Standard safety features include four-wheel disc brakes with

ABS, StabiliTrak electronic stability control, six airbags and OnStar communications. All-wheel-drive version starts at \$19,495 and the top-level GT is \$19,895.

THE \$2,500 CAR FROM INDIA

Indian automaker Tata, the company poised to buy Jaguar and Land Rover from Ford, has unveiled an ultra-cheap car they expect to sell for \$2,500. The four-door Nano will carry up to five passengers and is powered by a 33-hp two-cylinder engine with a continuously variable transmission. Company Chairman Ratan Tata said the car will pass international side offset and side crash tests. Tata also said the Nano could bring car ownership to tens of millions of people around the world.

HOW TO AVOID ROAD RAGE

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety offers the following three-step plan to avoid becoming the victim of aggressive driving or road rage: (1) "Don't offend," which includes cutting off other drivers, making gestures, driving slow in the left lane and tailgating. (2) "Do not engage,"

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MERCEDES-BENZ SLK MAKEOVER

When it goes on sale in April 2008, the Mercedes-Benz SLK sports car gets new bumpers, mirrors and interior upgrades. The biggest changes, however, will be under the skin, where the 3.5-liter V-6 engine gets higher compression, a modified valve train, redesigned inlet manifold and higher 7200-rpm redline. These changes jump the engine by 32 hp to 300 hp. The base SLK300 is powered by a 228-hp V-6, while the top-of-line SLK55 AMG is still powered by the same 365-hp V-8. ▼



Mercedes-Benz SLK

Cadillac Provoq concept



This is part of GM's five-prong program to address not only engineering realities but also consumer expectations from alternate fuels and drivetrains.

which means steering clear of trouble, not making eye contact and getting help by calling 911 in the event of experiencing a dangerous or aggressive driver. (3) At-risk drivers should "adjust your attitude," to forget about winning and putting themselves in the other driver's shoes. They also suggest that if you have a road rage problem, seek professional help.

CADILLAC PROVOQ CONCEPT

▲ Cadillac debuted a new crossover concept at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January. Called the Provoq, this BMW X3-sized crossover will initially be powered by a gasoline-powered V-6, but the model shown in Las Vegas had the fifth-generation General Motors fuel cell. The fuel cell stack is smaller in size than the fourth-generation model currently being tested in the Chevrolet Equinox version. This aerodynamic wagon takes strong styling cues from the new CTS sport sedan. Cadillac says the electric vehicle concept should have a 300-mile range—280 miles on the hydrogen fuel and 20 miles on the battery. The Provoq concept accelerates from 0 to 60 mph in 8.5 seconds and has a top speed of about 100 mph.

PONTIAC CROSSOVER MOVES TO GMC

General Motors has revealed that the Torrent crossover will be removed from Pontiac's lineup for 2009. The plan calls for moving the small crossover to the GMC brand and changing the name to Terrain. The Terrain will use the same new architecture as the next generation Chevrolet Equinox but with new sheet metal and a different interior, giving the GMC version a bolder appearance. The Terrain will be about the same size as the Jeep Liberty. Prices are expected to start at \$22,995 including shipping.

MINI COOPER S R55

MINI is adding a four-cylinder version of the Cooper S, which debuted in fall 2006. The Cooper S was initially offered only with a 3.0-liter, 220-hp, V-6 engine because, according to *Automotive News*, MINI could not afford to buy a significant number of the four-cylinder engines, built in a partnership with the former DaimlerChrysler and Hyundai. The 2.4-liter, 168-hp four-cylinder engine will now be offered as the base engine for the Cooper S, with a continuously variable transmission. The upper level LS and XLS trim levels will get

the V-6. The ES will have a base price of \$20,640, including shipping, while the LS starts at \$23,160.

PORTABLE GPS BY VOLVO/GARMIN

Volvo and Garmin have developed a new navigation system that allows users the convenience of a portable GPS navigation system with the practicality of a built-in model. Other GPS navigation systems require a suction cup mounting on the windshield and wires running down the dash to the car's nearest 12-volt plug-in. This new system has a bracket fitted on top of the dashboard, claiming a more convenient plug-and-play solution. When the GPS is removed, the mounting bracket folds out of the way. The dash mounting location is intended to not interfere with visibility but to be convenient to see without having to look too far down. Power and antenna are integrated into the mount, so no wires are required. Volvo sells the mounting bracket and Garmin 760 navigation unit for \$879. The system can be installed on any new models and a number of earlier Volvos, including the S80 from 1999, the

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S60 and V70 from 2000, the XC70 from 2001 and recent model years of the S40, V50, C70 and XC90. Future models will be available with a Traffic Message Channel to guide around congested roadways.

MAZDA'S SMART IDLE STOP SYSTEM

Mazda has developed a new way to stop an engine at a stop light to save fuel and cut emissions, without using an electric motor. The Mazda SISS (Smart Idle Stop System) stops the engine so that one cylinder is midway through a stroke. When the light changes and the accelerator is pressed, the system injects fuel into the cylinder and ignites the gas/air mixture, pushing the piston in the opposite direction for one stroke, and setting up a compression that restarts the engine in the normal operating direction. The system saves the weight of the larger starter/alternator normally required to restart the engine after a stop. It also can boost fuel economy by about 10 percent. The SISS is currently being tested on four-cylinder engines, but Mazda says it is "scalable" to work on larger engines. They expect SISS in production vehicles in some markets as early as 2009.

HONDA'S NEW V FLOW FUEL CELL

Honda's latest fuel cell vehicle, the FCX Clarity (see full feature in January-February 2008 *Arizona Driver Magazine*), is built on a new zero-emissions, hydrogen-powered fuel cell platform. With the V Flow fuel cell stack, Honda has made tremendous improvements to driving range, power, weight and efficiency, all in a dramatically styled car. V Flow works in combination with a new lithium ion battery pack and a single hydrogen storage tank to power the vehicle's electric drive motor. The new system is 65 percent smaller than the previous version, allowing it to fit in the vehicle's center tunnel, allowing for a sleek, low-slung sedan body style. Honda claims a fuel economy level equivalent to about three times that of a gasoline-powered car and about 1.5 times better than a hybrid/electric vehicle.

Honda plans to lease the FCX Clarity to a limited number of retail consumers in Southern California starting this summer. Plans call for a three-year lease at \$600 per month including maintenance and collision insurance.

SIX-CYCLE ENGINES IN THE WORKS

Two automotive engineering companies, Lotus and Bosch, are independently working on six-cycle engine designs. The engines have two power strokes for each exhaust stroke, producing more power and torque than traditional gasoline or diesel engines, while providing greater economy and massive improvements in emissions, particularly nitrogen oxides. Lotus technology will also allow the engines to be smaller and lighter. By using exotic cylinder head and hydraulic-valve technology, based on technology developed for Lotus's active suspension, they are able to add a second power stroke by minutely reopening the exhaust valves and reintroducing short-lived oxygen-free radicals to fire an extra fuel charge. Oxygen-free radicals are a by-product of normal ignition and are normally emitted with the exhaust. The new process does not require a spark plug and is essentially dieseling on the last power stroke. The Bosch system is similar, and they believe the engines can be in production within a decade.

FORD'S NEW ENGINE TECHNOLOGY

Ford's new EcoBoost engine technology will deliver up to 20 percent better fuel economy than existing engines. The EcoBoost family of 4- and 6-cylinder engines uses the existing technologies of direct injection and turbocharging to improve fuel economy and emissions with no compromise in performance, and at a much lower price than hybrid or diesel power. Ford plans to introduce the EcoBoost engines in the new Lincoln MKS flagship when it debuts in 2009, as well as in the upcoming Ford Flex and some other new vehicles. The EcoBoost system in the Lincoln will be a 3.5-liter V-6 engine. With the direct injection and turbo charging, that small engine will produce an impressive 340 hp and 340 lb.ft. of torque, making it the most powerful and fuel-efficient all-wheel-drive luxury sedan on the market. A 2.0-liter 4-cylinder EcoBoost engine will be able to deliver 275 hp and 280-lb.ft. of torque. The new engine designs will be augmented with weight reductions, better aerodynamics and more efficient transmissions.

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VW Passat CC Coupe



There is a burgeoning offering of coupes entering the market, and the four-door "coupe" trend started by Mercedes-Benz is definitely finding a niche.

VOLKSWAGEN'S 4-DOOR COUPE

▲ Volkswagen will offer a four-door coupe version of the Passat by the fourth quarter of this year. The four-door coupe styling was started by Mercedes-Benz in 2004 with the CLS. Since then, several other manufacturers have developed concepts of the sweeping coupe-style roofline with four doors for easier access to the rear seats. The Volkswagen CC will be powered by a turbocharged four-cylinder 2.0-liter engine rated at 200-hp. Transmission options include a six-speed manual or the Tiptronic six-speed automatic with the manual-shifting mode. Optional is a 3.6-liter, 280-hp V-6 but only with the Tiptronic transmission. A feature new for VW is a Panorama power vent sunroof, which covers the entire front seat area up to the B-pillar. Seating is in four ergonomically formed sport seats.

SUZUKI TO ADD LARGER CARS

As Suzuki continues to rack up record sales, plans now call for scaling up its offerings in the US. Suzuki assumes customers will graduate out of its economy cars into mid-size cars, so they plan to offer their own new mid-sizers, including a wagon, for 2009. Styling was

influenced by the recent Kizashi concept car series that debuted in Frankfurt and Tokyo Auto Show in 2007.

GM'S NEW ENGINE TECHNOLOGY

General Motors has canceled plans to build a new advanced double-overhead-cam V-8 for its luxury cars. This makes the future for Cadillac's V-8 car engines unclear. Cadillac spokesman Kevin Smith said, "We've really seen the V-6 become the predominant engine in sales on the (2008) STS because it's so close in power to the V-8." The new direct-injected V-6 in the 2008 CTS develops 304 hp, while the Northstar V-8 makes 275 hp in the 2008 DTS. The engine plant designated to build the new V-8s will be switched over to build the new 4.5-liter diesel V-8 that is due in light pickups for 2010.

BMW OFFERS PERFORMANCE DIESELS

BMW plans to offer diesel-powered versions of the X5 Sports Activity Vehicle (X5 35d) and the 3 Series sedan (335d) by fall 2008. Powered by a high-tech 3.0-liter inline six-cylinder engine with Variable Twin Turbo Technology, the engine produces 265 hp and 425 lb.ft. of torque. The engine uses a small turbocharger for

instant boost at low engine speeds and a second, larger turbocharger to maximize torque as engine speeds increase. Using BMW's new Advance Diesel with Blue-Performance technology, the engine will be legal in all 50 states. The 335d sedan accelerates from 0 to 62 mph (100 km/h) in 6.2 seconds, and the X5 xDrive 35d in 7.2 seconds. Fuel economy for the sedan will be 23/33 mpg, and the X5 19/25 mpg.

EMERGENCY CALLS WITH FORD SYNC

Ford announced the addition of a "911 Assist" feature for their new Sync™ in-car connectivity system, to help quickly connect vehicle occupants directly to a local 911 emergency operator after an air bag deployment. The service has no monthly fees. Developed jointly by Ford and Microsoft, the Sync system provides customers the convenience and flexibility to use digital media players (iPod, Zune and others) and Bluetooth-enabled cellphones in their vehicles, operating them via voice commands or with the buttons on the steering wheel or radio. ■

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

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QUIZ : CAR SMARTS



1. How much does the Detroit 3 (General Motors, Ford and Chrysler) expect to save on the new union contracts?

- a. nothing
- b. \$250 /vehicle
- c. \$500 /vehicle
- d. \$1000 /vehicle

2. What hybrid is second in sales after the Toyota Prius?

- a. Ford Escape
- b. Honda Civic
- c. Toyota Camry
- d. Toyota Highlander

3. What was the average net retail profit on each new vehicle sold in the United States during the first eight months of 2007?

- a. \$17 loss
- b. \$63 profit
- c. \$127 profit
- d. \$381 profit

4. What was the average net retail profit for U.S. auto dealers on the average used car sold during the first eight months of 2007?

- a. \$49 /vehicle
- b. \$188 /vehicle
- c. \$265 /vehicle
- d. \$306 /vehicle

5. Which automobile company worked with Boeing to build the Lunar Rover that was driven on the moon by Apollo 15 astronauts?

- a. Land Rover
- b. General Motors
- c. Ford
- d. Chrysler

6. Which college team won the recent DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) Urban Challenge for driverless vehicles?

- a. Stanford University
- b. Carnegie Mellon University
- c. MIT
- d. Virginia Polytechnic Institute

7. Of the 39 cars that made the annual *Consumer Reports* Most Satisfying Car list, how many were from Asian countries?

- a. 7 from Asia
- b. 13 from Asia
- c. 20 from Asia
- d. 25 from Asia

8. Which had the largest percentage sales increase for the first 10 months of 2007?

- a. Mitsubishi
- b. Lincoln
- c. Bentley
- d. Aston Martin

9. Which General Motors brand has been set up to be their "gas friendly" brand?

- a. Buick
- b. Saturn
- c. Chevrolet
- d. Pontiac

10. What is the most typical recommended oil change level for new cars?

- a. 3000 miles
- b. 4500 miles
- c. 6000 miles
- d. 7500 miles

11. What was the value of US-made parts exported to foreign countries in 2006?

- a. \$22.97 billion
- b. \$43.38 billion
- c. \$58.86 billion
- d. \$71.08 billion

12. How many vehicles in the EPA 2008 Fuel Economy Guide have been levied the federal Gas Guzzler Tax for cars with "exceptionally low fuel economy" ratings?

- a. 31 vehicles
- b. 43 vehicles
- c. 65 vehicles
- d. 91 vehicles

13. Which brand has the longest recommended oil change interval?

- a. Aston-Martin
- b. Jaguar
- c. Porsche
- d. Mercedes-Benz

14. Which car color was most popular in '07?

- a. white
- b. silver
- c. black
- d. red

15. How many different special-edition Mustangs are offered as of January 1?

- a. 4 Mustangs
- b. 5 Mustangs
- c. 6 Mustangs
- d. 7 Mustangs

16. How many different automotive brands (not VW models) does the Volkswagen Group of America sell in the US market?

- a. 2 brands
- b. 3 brands
- c. 4 brands
- d. 5 brands

17. How old was daredevil "Eve" Knievel when he died in November 2007?

- a. 64 years old
- b. 69 years old
- c. 72 years old
- d. 79 years old

18. How much of the world's population drives on the right-hand side of the road?

- a. 34 percent
- b. 48 percent
- c. 66 percent
- d. 75 percent

19. What name has Nissan used for the high performance GT-R in Japan since 1969?

- a. Samuri
- b. Skyline
- c. Pintara
- d. Fairlady

20. What year did Volkswagen bring the microbus to the US?

- a. 1945
- b. 1950
- c. 1955
- d. 1960

21. What was the Ford Taurus X previously called?

- a. Taurus wagon
- b. Five Hundred wagon
- c. Taurus SHO
- d. Freestyle

22. Which of the following vehicles is the least expensive, based on prices of 2008 models?

- a. Chevy Aveo
- b. Hyundai Accent
- c. Kia Rio
- d. Toyota Yaris

23. Which "affordable family sedan" ranked highest in the latest *Consumer Reports*?

- a. Honda Accord
- b. Kia Optima
- c. Nissan Altima
- d. Toyota Camry

24. What year did the then Big 3 automakers introduce compact cars to the US market?

- a. 1955
- b. 1959
- c. 1964
- d. 1969

25. Which automaker was the first to host a keynote presentation at the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas?

- a. Ford
- b. General Motors
- c. Toyota
- d. Volkswagen

26. What Indian company is buying Jaguar and Land Rover from Ford?

- a. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.
- b. Hindustan Motors
- c. Tata Motors
- d. Bajaj Auto

27. Which manufacturer had the most engines in the 14th Annual (2008) Ward's Ten Best Engines rating?

- a. BMW
- b. Nissan
- c. Toyota
- d. General Motors

28. How long did it take Alex Roy recently to drive from Manhattan to the Santa Monica pier in California setting a new record for a cross-country drive?

- a. 29 hours and 7 minutes
- b. 31 hours and 4 minutes
- c. 36 hours and 9 minutes
- d. 40 hours and 43 minutes

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE >>

>ANSWERS (quiz on previous page)



1. Answer: d. According to *Automotive News*, when the new contract with the UAW is fully effective in 2010, the provisions of the contract will save the automakers about \$1,000 per vehicle in expenses.
2. Answer: c. Prius dominated hybrid sales with 150,272 sold in the first 10 months of 2007. Toyota Camry is a distant second with 35,756 sold. Honda Civic 26,114. Ford Escape 17,551. Toyota Highlander 16,684.
3. Answer: a. According to *Automotive News*, US dealers had a net retail loss of \$17 per vehicle during the first eight months of 2007. The magazine said, "The net profit is a measure of pretax revenue per vehicle, once dealership expenses are subtracted. It includes finance and insurance income."
4. Answer: d. Used car sales are much more profitable than new cars for auto dealers. During the first eight months of 2007, the average net profit for a used vehicle was \$306, as compared to new cars, which had a \$17 net loss for the same period.

5. Answer: b. GM worked with Boeing on the Lunar Rover's unique propulsion and mobility systems.
6. Answer: b. The Carnegie Mellon University Tartan Racing Team won the DARPA Urban Challenge. The race was between robotic vehicles, which drove themselves with no remote controls through an urban environment. The winning team won a \$2 million prize.
7. Answer: c. 20 of the 39 cars listed in the *Consumer Reports* list of Most Satisfying Cars are from Asia (18 from Japan, two from Korea).
8. Answer: a. According to the *Automotive News* Data Center, Mitsubishi had racked up the largest percentage increase in sales during the first 10 months of 2007 - 15.8 percent. Lincoln 14.7 percent. Bentley percent. Aston Martin 12.7 percent (estimated).
9. Answer: c. GM has set up the Chevrolet division to be the most 'gas friendly' brand, with E85, high mileage gasoline vehicles, hybrids, fuel cells and electric vehicles under the Chevrolet name.
10. Answer: d. The most typical recommended oil change interval is now 7500 miles.
11. Answer: c. In 2006, US manufacturers exported \$58.86 billion of auto parts. Due to foreign competition, higher priced raw materials and US manufacturers moving plants to other countries, 2007 exports are expect to finish below last year's level.
12. Answer: d. According to the 2008 EPA Fuel Economy Guide, the buyers of 91 different vehicles have to pay the Gas Guzzler Tax. The tax ranges from \$1,000 to as high as \$7,700 and is levied on any car getting less than 22.5 mpg (combined) according to the EPA testing. The tax does not apply to light trucks or SUVs..
13. Answer: d. At 13,000 miles or once a year, Mercedes-Benz has the longest recommended oil change inter-

val. Under extreme conditions, their cars will automatically recommend an earlier change period. Porsche 12,000 miles or once a year. Jaguar and Aston Martin 10,000 miles.

14. Answer: a. According to the 2007 DuPont Automotive International Color Popularity survey, white squeaked by to become the most popular color on cars in North America in 2007. White was on 19 percent of cars. Silver 18 percent. Black 16 percent. Red 13 percent.
15. Answer: c. As of January 2008, Ford offers six different special edition Mustangs: Shelby GT500 coupe and convertible, Shelby GT500 KR coupe, Shelby GT coupe and convertible, Bullitt coupe, GT California Special coupe and convertible and Warriors in Pink coupe and convertible (a portion of sales of this pink-striped Mustang goes to breast cancer research).
16. Answer: d. Volkswagen Group of America (the company's new name as of January 1, 2008) sells five brands in the US market: Volkswagen, Audi, Bentley, Bugatti and Lamborghini.
17. Answer: b. Daredevil "Evel" Knievel lived to a ripe old age of 69 after a career of jumping things on motorcycles and breaking 40 bones.
18. Answer: c. According to on-line encyclopedia Wikipedia, 66 percent of the world, by population, drive on the right-hand side of the road.
19. Answer: b. Seven previous generations of the GT-R in Japan were called the "Skyline." Nissan is finally bringing the super high performance GT-R to the US as a 2009 model, but without the Skyline moniker.
20. Answer: b. VW brought the microbus to the US in 1960.
21. Answer: d. When the large Ford wagon first went on sale as a 2005 model it was called the Freestyle. For 2008, the name was changed to Taurus X. At the same time, the sedan was changed from the Five Hundred to Taurus to take advantage of established brand value.
22. Answer: a. According to Edmunds.com, the Chevrolet Aveo sedan, at \$10,030, is the least expensive new vehicle sold in the US. Kia Rio sedan \$10,890. Hyundai Accent coupe \$10,775. Toyota Yaris coupe \$11,300.
23. Answer: c. According to the latest *Consumer Reports* ratings of "affordable family sedans" the Nissan Altima 4-cyl. was rated number one with a score of 85. Honda Accord - 79. Kia Optima - 78. Toyota Camry - 77. For the "Midpriced Family Sedans" the Altima edged out the Accord with a score of 89 for the Altima and 88 for the Accord.
24. Answer: b. In 1959, the Big 3 automakers all introduced their first compact cars (as 1960 models): the Chevrolet Corvair, Ford Falcon, Dodge Dart and Plymouth Valiant.
25. Answer: b. In 2008, GM was the first automaker in the 41-year history of the Consumer Electronics Show to host a keynote presentation. The speaker was GM Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Rick Wagoner.
26. Answer: c. Tata Motors is expected to finalize the purchase of Jaguar and Land Rover during the first quarter of 2008.
27. Answer: d. GM was the only manufacturer to have more than one engine in the 2008 Wards list, with the 3.6-liter DOHC V-6 from the Cadillac CTS and the 6.0-liter V-8 Hybrid from the GMC Yukon Hybrid.
28. Answer: b. Alex Roy beat the record set in 1983 in the infamous Cannonball Run. His record time was 31 hours and 4 minutes, averaging over 90 miles per hour for the 2,795-mile distance from New York to California. He beat the old record by 63 minutes driving a BMW M5.

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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Luxury Sport Desert Duel

by H.R. Driver

Track photos
by the author



How much can you learn about the performance of a luxury sport sedan or sport coupe by driving it on the 101 Freeway or around the block of your local car dealer? With radar cameras everywhere, actually not very much.

Yes, you can rate a car's comfort, ergonomics, acceleration and braking from stoplight to stoplight. However, what does this really tell you about the car's true performance and handling? Actually, not very much.

Since your local dealer will not let you take his cars to the race track, we decided that we would do that for you. We

performed a back-to-back track testing of four luxury sport sedans and two luxury sport coupes. Herein are our driving impressions.

Also, rather than put just any automotive writer in these fast machines, *Arizona Driver Magazine* decided to have a former professional race driver test the cars. Thus, if there were any brake fade, mechanical or safety issues with the cars, better he deal with them than you.

Finding the perfect place to test "Luxury Sport Desert Duel" was elementary. Willow Springs Raceway in the high desert of Lancaster, California was the ideal spot. It has

KEEP RIGHT >>



Mercedes-Benz C350 Sport



Cadillac CTS



comparable temperatures to Arizona's Valley of the Sun. However, being situated on a steep mountainside, Willow Springs is also extremely tough on brakes. So, whether you drive in Scottsdale or Sedona, our track testing will have relevance for you.

We decided upon six four-passenger luxury sport machines for our "Desert Duel." The first four cars in our test are practical four-door models. The final two are utterly self-indulgent sport coupes. Find the one which best suits you.

Mercedes-Benz C350 Sport

In the automotive world, the premier luxury automotive icon is the three-pointed star. However, the old Mercedes-Benz C Class was dated and a bit small. The new C350 Sport is larger, but has the same powerful 3.5 liter, 268 hp V-6 engine.

While not in the 300-plus horsepower range with some of its competitors, the C350 has an "equalizer" with its slick-shifting 7-speed automatic transmission. The extra gear leverages the 268 horses to optimal advantage, while still maintaining a respectable 17 mpg city/25 mpg highway.

Mercedes has also incorporated AMG aero-body styling, 6-spoke 17" alloy wheels and an updated electronic ESP suspension system. In basic terms, the Mercedes ESP system helps keep you on the road in miserable weather. In complex terms, ESP traction control interacts with the ABS brakes to help correct oversteer and understeer.

On track, the C350 has slightly more body roll than some of its competitors. However, the C350's chassis takes a solid set in the corners and it telegraphs every bit of road information to the driver. Brake fade from the large 4-wheel disc brakes is nonexistent.

Ergonomics is excellent on the C350. The standard tilt and telescopic steering wheel allows the driver to achieve the perfect driving attitude, with hands in the 3 and 9 position.

Easier to drive and more predictable for the average driver, the C350 Sport is an excellent blend of performance, handling and luxury. Starting at a base price of \$36,500, our test car topped out at a MSRP of \$43,285 due to the Nav system, Xenon headlights, 6-CD Harman/Kardon surround sound, power rear window shade and other details.

Cadillac CTS

When Cadillac launched their 400 hp V-8 CTS-"V" with a 6-speed manual transmission several years ago, they served notice that they were now in the luxury sport sedan market with BMW and Mercedes-Benz.

Cad's road racing success in the USA vs. the Germans further supported their position.

However, there was a huge power gap between the base 240 hp V-6 CTS and Caddy's 400 hp CTS-"V" performance flagship. With the introduction of a 3.6 liter, 304 hp quad-valve V-6, that gap has been markedly narrowed.

With its standard 6-speed automatic transmission, the 3.6 DI V-6 Cadillac CTS has become a genuine market contender vs. the imports. Moreover, with \$3.00 per gallon gasoline, Cadillac seems to have timed the market well. The CTS gets 17 mpg city/26 mpg highway.

"But what about the performance and handling?" you ask. Well, the rear-wheel drive CTS has closed that gap as well. On par with the C350 and Lexus IS350, the CTS's handling is a good compromise between luxury and performance.

While the new CTS's acceleration is quicker than last year's, the braking and handling have also been improved. Under heavy braking, the CTS exhibits little forward weight transference. The CTS's body roll is gradual and predictable.

The base price of a CTS is \$34,545. Ours ran \$44,715 with the optional 18" mag wheels, sport suspension, larger brakes and every electronic accessory known to man. The performance package alone is \$3,300, but well worth it.

Lexus IS 350

Lexus once was known strictly for its opulence and reliability. However, the IS 350 is Lexus' first serious attempt to invade BMW's sport sedan turf. How did they do? Pretty well. Lexus' 3.5 liter V-6 boasts 304 hp, has steering-wheel-mounted paddle shifters, large 4-wheel disc brakes, standard 17" alloy wheels and low profile performance tires.

Like the Cadillac CTS, the IS 350 is a compromise between performance and luxury. It has slightly more body roll than a BMW 335xi or the Audi S5; however Lexus does offers an "F" model with 100 extra horses and stiffer suspension.

The IS 350's 4-wheel disc brakes are very effective, and they did not fade. On the track or on back roads, the IS 350 is a kick to drive with its Ferrari-styled paddle shifters. However, you still have the option of leaving the IS 350 in "D" for daily commuter use.

The IS 350's 18 mpg city/ 25 mpg highway is average for luxury sport sedans in this class. Its \$35,905 base price is also decent. However, the Nav system, Mark Levinson sound system, optional sport suspension and

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Lexus IS 350



18" alloys quickly elevated our sticker to \$47,800. Consequently, you should examine the IS 350 option packages carefully.

BMW 335xi

Our BMW 335xi test car had a twin-turbocharged 3.0 liter straight-six, all-wheel drive and a 6-speed manual transmission. It was the only sedan in our test with a standard transmission, and BMW made no apologies for it. Why should they? It was the quickest, best handling car in the group, and it was also the most fun to drive. If you want a 6-speed automatic, BMW will sell you one. However, they believe that real drivers prefer sticks.

BMW did not list their horsepower on the price sticker as the other manufacturers did. While the 335xi has 300 horsepower, it feels like much more when the turbos spool up.

With its AWD system, the 335xi also has remarkable cornering ability. In high speed corners, you simply set the chassis going into the corner and get back on the throttle. The 335xi's AWD system does the rest as it pulls the car into the corner apex. Yes, this car makes you feel like a professional driver. However, the 335xi has its adhesion limits. You had best respect the laws of physics, lest you exit the road at an obscene rate of speed.

With 19 mpg city/27 mpg highway, the Bimmer had the best overall mileage of any of our luxury sport sedans. However, you will probably never achieve 27 mpg. It is just too tempting to step on the gas and listen as the 335xi's twin-turbo engine winds up!

At \$40,00, the base price of our 335xi was reasonable for a BMW. However, you should pass on the \$475 optional paint and \$850 Cold Weather Package if you want to stay south of \$45,000.

Which Luxury Sport Sedan For You?

For the enthusiast who enjoys serious recreational driving, the BMW 335xi is your car. With AWD, the BMW also has the edge in foul-weather driving (considering only the sedans in our group). From this point forward, however, your choices become less obvious.

The Lexus IS 350 has a slight edge over the Cadillac CTS and Mercedes C350 Sport in the area of "enthusiast driving" because of its steering-mounted paddle shifters.

The Cadillac CTS has the "value advantage" based upon its low base price, strong engine, interior space and cutting edge styling. The CTS also gets good gas mileage.

Of course, the Mercedes-Benz leads in the categories of prestige, interior luxury and historically high resale value. Starting at \$36,500, the C350 Sport is a very reasonable Benz.



Infiniti G37 Coupe



(shown with automatic)

Adding Two Luxury Sport Coupes

Our final four-passenger test cars were coupes, not sedans. Not everyone needs or wants a four-door automobile. Generally, coupes are also lighter, have a more rigid chassis and they handle better. That was the case with the Infiniti G37 and Audi S5 Coupes.

Infiniti G37 Coupe

The 330 hp, 3.7 liter V-6 G37 comes with all the right stuff. A 6-speed manual gear box, limited slip differential, competition tuned suspension, 19" standard wheels and tires.

The G37 Coupe proved its prowess on the race track. Like a well prepared tuner car, the G37 took a positive set in corners and was neutrally balanced under throttle.

Obviously, Nissan's NISMO racing division had a hand in the development of the G37. It handles like a slightly larger NISMO 350 Z... and that is a quite a compliment. But the G37 lacks in the ride quality and chassis sophistication of the Audi S5.

However, with 17 mpg city/26 mpg highway and a base price of \$35,500, the G37 does give you maximum bang for your buck when it comes to acceleration, braking and handling. Like our sport sedans, the G37 can be had with a vast array of options.

Audi S5 Coupe

The technology transfer from Audi's race cars is evident in the Audi S5. Their Quattro AWD system allows for optimal torque split between the front and rear drive wheels, with more bias to the rears for perfect handling in the corners.

Of course, the Audi S5's 354 hp, 4.2 liter V-8 engine and a slick shifting 6-speed gearbox also make a substantial contribution to the S5's awesome on-track handling. The S5 also has giant brakes, 19" alloys, high performance tires and an excellent electronic active suspension system.

Collectively, the S5's remarkable components make it one of the most effortless and predictable handling street machines you will ever drive on a race track...or a twisty Arizona back road.

At a base price of \$50,500 the S5 is not inexpensive; however it is worth every penny. The 14 mpg city/21 mpg highway mileage is decent, but not exceptional. However, how many people do you see driving a Prius with a big silly grin on their face? With the Audi S5, the big silly grin comes standard.

Which Luxury Sport Coupe For You?

Need you even ask? If you can afford it, buy the Audi S5. If you cannot, the Infiniti G37 Coupe is a most attractive alternative. ■



Audi S5



BMW 335xi



Arizona

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http://www.nps.gov/state/az

Grand Canyon National Park
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923-638-7888 Visitor Info Recorded Message

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520-387-6849 Visitor Information

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

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

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

PARKS AND OUTDOORS

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

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

TOURISM - LODGING - EVENTS

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

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877-CALLPHX • 602-254-6500 • phoenixcvb.com

Nevada

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

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

California

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

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

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

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

New Mexico

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

New Mexico Department of Tourism
800-733-6396 x 0643 • www.newmexico.org

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505-984-21221 • www.innonthealameda.com

Utah

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

PARKS AND OUTDOORS

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800-574-4386 • www.southeastutah.org

Southern Utah Scenic Tours
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888-404-8687 • www.utahscenicstours.com

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888-475-7673 • www.DesertRoseInn.com

Colorado

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

Mexico

RESORTS AND LODGING

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Beachfront home rentals in Rocky Point.
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Edificio Plaza Patria Nivel 3
CP 22400 Tijuana BC • (66) 81-9492

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

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

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

Of national interest

AUTOMOTIVE

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

Imperial Palace Auto Collections (see Nev.)

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

National Automobile Museum (see Nev.)

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

Petersen Automotive Museum (see Calif.)

Shelby American Collection (see Colorado)



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

'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**
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★ = National Events

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F as in Fast

Lexus IS F makes short work of Lakeshore Scenic Drive to Hoover Dam

Ever since Honda, Toyota and Nissan brought the Acura, Lexus and Infiniti brands to North America, with what originally seemed like a daunting challenge, unseating the German quality/luxury brands from a good share of their market, they have made remarkable inroads, especially Toyota's Lexus. The Germans, however, have had another tier in their lineup: enhanced performance vehicles from BMW with its M series, Audi with its S and RS cars and AMG from Mercedes-Benz. Now, Lexus tackles those head-on, with its new F series, engineered and marketed to compete head-to-head with the above.

First up is the IS F, a performance sedan built off the popular Lexus IS, first introduced in the US in 2001. We traveled to Lake Las Vegas, Nevada, to give this car a hands-on trial.

David Nordstrom, Lexus Division VP Marketing, explained that the F cars began as an internal project code-named Circle F, which evolved to F1. The development process was unusual for the Japanese, with a "skunk works" development team doing their own thing, their own way, much as the original Pontiac GTO, Corvette and Ford Mustang came to be. When the IS F neared production, it almost followed the existing nomenclature to become the IS 500, but instead the F name came to life, and today we have the first in what will surely be a series: the 2008 Lexus IS F.

The fundamentals are strong. The engine is the car's key

element: a 416 hp V-8 with aluminum block and cylinder heads, generating 371 lb.ft. of torque, and mounted within a 3780-pound body and chassis. The IS F also boasts the world's first 8-speed transmission, with noticeably fast paddle-shifting Sport Direct Shift and a console shifter with Manual mode, for those who like shifting control, but without a clutch. The 8-speed transmission, at just 211 pounds, is about the same size as the preceding 6-speed, due to reengineering that replaces four gears with just two. Weight distribution is 54% front / 46% rear, and the car features performance-favoring rear-wheel drive.

As with many performance cars entering the market today, special attention was paid to the sound effects that bathe the driver and occupants in the power experience. Lexus claims more of a range inside the cockpit, with more attention paid to intake noise than to exhaust noise. Four exhaust diffusers built into the rear fascia enhance performance by reducing backpressure. Hands are connected to the road via Electric Power Steering, which is calibrated for ideal force and feel.

VDIM—Vehicle Dynamics Integrated Management—comprises a comprehensive set of electronics including Vehicle Stability Control, Traction Control, Anti-lock Braking System, Electronic Brake-force Distribution, Brake Assist and throttle input. With both a Normal and a Sport mode (and a cut-off switch), Lexus states that the VDIM system in Sport mode was faster than professional track drivers with the system off, in tests at Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey.

Toyota is already walking a fine—or wide—line, offering the gas-sipping Prius halo car, as well as the thirsty Toyota Tundra and Lexus LX 570, among others, so where does a small but seriously sporty sedan fall on the fuel mileage continuum? The anticipated ratings as of test time are 16/23 MPG, which could have the car in Gas Guzzler Tax range, but they expect to come out better than that in final ratings, having determined the finer points of performance modes and their effects on mileage during the testing regimen. We're confident they'll end up where they want to be on this, and you will still have wide-ranging ability to balance economy and performance to suit your own tastes.

David Hubbard, Lexus Senior Product Education Administrator, responsible for making sure dealers know exactly what they're selling, says, "This is the car you didn't think we were." In a market of well-executed, reliable but not exactly pulse-pumping Toyota and Lexus vehicles, he makes a point. Certainly, they don't want to erode any of the market that has been pushing Toyota to the number one spot in US sales, but as surely as Chevrolet can market a Corvette, Lexus can market an F car. And whereas Corvette may notice some impact from the IS F, Lexus certainly hopes the Germans notice the most.

We had a choice of test routes for the IS F and, saving the rugged northern route for the LX 570, took the Lakeshore Scenic Drive through Lake Mead National Recreation Area to US 93, across Hoover Dam and back into Arizona. We'd heard from the first media wave that there was a significant speed enforcement presence the first day, so we were pretty



Background and inset photos: Joe Sage

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much on our best behavior. However, this road gave us plenty of opportunity to experience the acceleration, roadholding, curve- and hill-commanding and general power and performance of the IS F, none of which were lacking. The two parties in our car were over six feet tall, and despite the generally compact nature of the vehicle, we were comfortable on ingress and egress, and once seated we were in the lap of high-performance comfort and fully-appointed luxury. We experimented with Normal and Sport Modes, and each offers a largely transparent but well-tuned driving experience. Similarly, it's easy enough to use the Sport Direct Shift paddles, the console shifter with manumatic controls, or just to leave the car in D and concentrate on steering, braking and acceleration. Of course we'd love to try the IS F with a manual transmission.

Toyota expanded its presence significantly when the Lexus brand came to our shores. The introduction of Scion gave Toyota three marques in America. They identify the F as a new Lexus sub-brand, on the one hand addressing a new and expanded market (as they did with Scion), while on the other hand addressing BMW M, Audi S/RS and Mercedes-Benz AMG (as they do with their performance sub-brands or lineups).

As with Scion, Lexus is aiming for a new generation of buyers, which they identify as those ready to migrate from such vehicles as the Subaru WRX STi, while offering an alternative to the European brands. In comparing demographics with the three Germans, all numbers are very close, with Lexus IS F toward the higher end of an already heavily male scale, expanding the lower end by age (targeting those 40-45, compared with 44-47 for the various Germans), more singles by as much as 10 percentage points, and an income level of about \$150k, compared to a range of \$145k for AMG to \$180k for Audi S4/RS4.

The car will be promoted through an all-new "F is..." ad series, track events and a new line of F-Sport accessories, which was launched at this winter's SEMA show. Their goal is to sell 200-300 cars per month, at about a \$56,000 base price. Lexus has its work cut out, going up against the German performance brands. But they had their work cut out for them when they tackled the luxury sedan market, too, and with prestige writ large, they made huge inroads in a market that seemed already fully defined. There is no reason to think, with performance writ equally large, that they can't achieve the same with the powerful, well-built and ergonomically-friendly F series. ■

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Background: Joe Sage - inset photos: Lexus



as in Luxury

Lexus LX 570 LUV shows that luxury can be very compatible with utility

We've heard some people refer to a larger SUV as a living room you can drive down the road (and for some that's a good thing). And we've all heard others lament whether a vehicle this large serves any defensible purpose at all. Still others can see the theoretical purpose, but doubt that many such vehicles get put into much actual off-road or otherwise taxing duty. The more luxuriously outfitted the SUV, the less likely it seems, to some, that it could possibly have been purchased for any "real" reasons or that it will ever get off-road. Or, if it does, that it'll make it back.

Enter the Lexus LX 570.

The specs are solid. This is the third generation of the large Lexus utility vehicle, replacing the LX 470 in their lineup. The new vehicle has a 5.7-liter V-8 boasting 383 horsepower, up over 100 hp from its predecessor, and 403 lb.-ft. of torque, up 22% from the prior. A DOHC 32-valve design with intelligent Dual Independent Variable Valve Timing optimizes power output for improved performance, "balanced" economy and reduced emissions. (This engine is shared with the Toyota Land Cruiser and Toyota Tundra full-size pickup.)

Towing capability has been massively upgraded, from 5000 pounds to 8500 pounds. The company promotes this as the first serious Lexus tow vehicle, suitable for such challenging loads as boats and horses. Easy access is one of the goals addressed

vehicle-wide. While everything else has been "upped," the tailgate has been lowered, providing friendly access for groceries, kids, pets and those other around-town tasks. Seats are promoted as being "semi-automatic folding," readily providing 1589 cubic feet of space in maximum cargo mode.

Visibility is enhanced by wide view front and side monitors, with cameras located in the lower grille, below the Lexus badge, and integrated into the passenger-side rear-view mirror. The navigation screen, inside, can thereby display the peripheral view in front of the vehicle, the full range of activity to the right side, or a split-screen showing both. Parking assist uses ultrasonic sensors in the front, rear and four corners of the vehicle, and provides audible beeps to warn the driver if things are getting too close for comfort.

Active headrests are an integral part of the LX 570's pre-collision system: in the event of impact from the rear, sudden body movement backward induces the headrest to move forward, quickly reducing the distance from head to headrest, thus reducing the risk of whiplash injuries. (This feature, unlike airbags, will not require reset maintenance in most situations.) Ten standard airbags are a best-in-class inclusion.

The LX 570 is available with a Mark Levinson Reference Surround 19-speaker, 5.1 surround sound 450-watt audio system.

The complete list of best-in-class and new first-in-class features is extensive indeed.

Suspension is engineered to accommodate both highway and off-road travel, and its adjustment is automatic, lowering the LX 570 at highway speeds. (There are also user-operated controls for optional heights located inside the vehicle.) The LX 570 features full-time four-wheel-drive and has a 6-speed automatic transmission with two overdrives. Multi-terrain ABS senses conditions and applies stopping power accordingly, a nice thing to know for a vehicle intended to be equally at home on the freeway, around town or hovering near the edge of a cliff.

We drove the LX 570 immediately after the IS-F, starting on the Lake Mead National Recreation Area's scenic Northshore Drive along Lake Mead. Amazingly, coming directly out of a performance sport sedan, we found the LX 570 to be extremely comfortable, capable and confidence-inducing on the open road. With plenty of hills and curves to tackle, the LX 570 ate them up.

The LX 570 is referred to by Lexus as a Luxury Utility Vehicle, or LUV. Okay. We've been exposed to many variants of the SUV moniker. And it's a Lexus, so the luxury aspect is a given. But what of the utility factor? Would we expect much, given that the defining aspect of a Lexus is its luxury?

Well, here the LX 570 is full of surprises. Granted, it spins off the sizable legacy of the Toyota Land Cruiser. That should give it plenty of off-road credibility. But has it been softened for the Lexus iteration and the luxury crowd? The course set up by our hosts would put it to a pretty strong test. We turned from Northshore Drive north into BLM land, in Nevada's stunning Redstone area. From the paved highway, we exited onto the Callville Wash Road and headed up some serious two-track to

Background and inset photos: Joe Sage

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Background: Joe Sage - Inset photos: Lexus

the Callville Wash Road—some *extreme* two-track.

Most of this was already enough to impress us with the serious off-road nature of the LX. But the topmost point included a test of the vehicle's Crawl Control. As the name suggests, this feature offers engineered assistance to the slow and purposeful pace required in some of off-roading's most challenging spots, allowing the driver to pay that much more attention to such details as razor-sharp boulders and the edges of cliffs. It achieves this by modulating the throttle, along with braking force, working uphill or downhill, in forward or reverse, in any of three low-speed settings. There is a specific sequence to activate the system, and we recommend you give yourself an orientation and master the finer points before you get to the real thing. Our test route was the real thing, and then some. As the sun was going down, with tricks of light and shadow blurring the distinction between rough trail and sheer cliff, we considered taking one route that we're sure would have been certain death, as closer inspection revealed two tracks becoming one and then none. If they were tracks at all in the first place. But we can say this for the LX: it would have had no trouble getting to the edge of that cliff. This is one very capable off-road machine.

Make no mistake: Lexus is not abandoning the luxury market, just because this LUV is so capable. Their typical demographic target remains the affluent, the young and families (or all three in one customer). The LX 570's typical customer lives in a \$1.2 million house and has an average 2.9 vehicles per household. Of current LX owners, 30% have another Lexus, and that's usually an LS sedan. Nonetheless, with stats like those, Lexus finds their customers are not status- or indulgence-oriented. They buy for solid and practical reasons.

The LX 570 is going to be launched in two marketing phases: first, they will promote to Lexus loyalists, including those who need an LS stablemate; then they will target all-new customers, via a specific website, driverempowered.com. Both of these programs will be run in lifestyle media.

The Lexus assembly line includes ten Takumi stethoscope-equipped master craftsmen, ensuring all is running perfectly. Robots take 1300 photos of each vehicle on the line. Combine this solid quality with the serious attention paid to both on- and off-road capabilities, to general utility and to occupant comfort and luxury, and if this is the type of vehicle you need, well then—this may very well be *exactly* the vehicle you need. ■

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MPH+MPG=Maximum GPM

By H. R. Driver

Automobile enthusiasts know that MPH stands for, "Miles Per Hour." They also understand that MPG equals "Miles Per Gallon." Getting either high MPH or high MPG from a car is a good thing. However, getting both from the same vehicle is even better!

So, what's the formula? Add high MPH to high MPG and you get maximum GPMs. "What are GPMs?" you ask. Grins Per Mile! Hey, isn't this what fun motoring is all about?

Unfortunately, in a world of \$3.00-per-gallon gasoline, fuel economy has become a primary consideration when shopping for a new car. Does this mean you must sacrifice performance and buy a boring hybrid sedan? Absolutely not. You have options.

At the recent MPG Track Days (this time MPG stands for Motor Press Guild, not Miles Per Gallon) we drove a group of pocket rockets which delivered volumes of grins or GPMs. These compact machines offered crisp handling, great braking, superb top speed and excellent fuel economy. Yes, you do have options.

Comparing Prices And Fuel Economy

Before testing our pack of small sport sedans on the track, we thought it might be a wise idea to compare the prices and fuel economy of our candidates. Thus, even before the track testing begins you can eliminate any car which exceeds your maximum purchasing parameters. From the least expensive to the most dear, here are our candidates:

Sport Sedan	MSRP as Tested	MPG City	MPG Highway
Sentra SE-R Spec V.....	\$21,000	24 MPG	31 MPG
MINI Cooper S.....	\$23,650	29 MPG	36 MPG
Caliber SRT 4.....	\$23,990	21 MPG	26 MPG
VW GTI 2.0 T.....	\$24,950	23 MPG	32 MPG
Subaru WRX.....	\$29,258	19 MPG	24 MPG
Audi A3 2.0T.....	\$34,650	23 MPG	32 MPG

Comparing Performance on an Autocross Course

When it comes to performance, isn't the most expensive car always the best? Doesn't the fastest car also get the worst gas mileage? Not necessarily. In fact, the best performing car on our autocross comparison was also the second least expensive car and the most fuel efficient car in our group. Said compact sport sedan was the MINI Cooper S.

1. MINI Cooper S - The secret of the MINI Cooper's superb autocross handling lies in its chassis architecture, light weight and slick engine. The little MINI Cooper S has a short wheelbase-to-track ratio which gets it into and out of corners quickly. With 176 supercharged ponies and minimal body roll, the MINI S takes a set, lays down the power and exits corners with precision. The gearing of the 6-speed is perfect for blasting around tight autocross tracks in second. Sure the tiny MINI Cooper S is not as smooth riding as the Audi A3 on the road, but what do you want for 24 grand?

2. Audi A3 - Admittedly, the A3 we tested was loaded and cost \$34k. However, the A3's base MSRP is \$25,300. So, pass on the expensive NAV and sound system and get a more basic model. With a longer wheelbase than the MINI Cooper S, a 6-speed and a torquey 200 hp 2.0 turbo, the A3 is the perfect intermediate and long track autocross weapon. The A3's impressive 32 highway MPG is only second to the MINI's 36 MPG. The Audi A3 provides max GPM's and has a very smooth ride.

3. VW GTI - Aesthetically, the GTI is nicer looking than the Audi A3. At \$24,900, it is also less expensive. It also has bigger wheels and tires (225/40x19" on the VW vs 225/45x17" on the Audi). The MPG and on-track performance are virtually identical. Is the prestige and luxury of the Audi worth a couple of grand more? It is your call.

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NOPI
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Bug-O-Rama
26-27
Fridays
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Nationals
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Spectacular
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602-268-0200





4. Dodge Caliber SRT-4 - We won't kid you here. This tall two-box machine is heavier, has more body roll and it did not negotiate our tight autocross track as well as any of the aforementioned vehicles. However, it does have a 285 hp turbo-charged engine, air dam, big brakes and giant tires which make it a very serious autocross and time trials car. The upside is the \$23,990 price. The downside is the relatively poor 26 MPG highway. Both the 6-speed and torque steer are standard, so be prepared to turn left when exiting tight corners. Serious drivers only need apply.

5. Sentra SE-R Spec V - Great torque, but slightly nose-heavy on our tight autocross course. Better suited of longer autocross circuits and full-course tracks. Also, the least expensive car in our test. A decent 31 MPG highway and a very fun machine.

6. Subaru WRX Impreza - At \$34,650, this was the most expensive car in our group. It also was the biggest and most ponderous around our tight Willow Springs autocross course. Why not simply go the extra couple of grand and get a WRX STi? With almost 70 hp more and a killer suspension system, the WRX STi would probably have been the clear winner in our test. However, Subaru was holding back the new WRX STi launch for the LA Auto Show. Far better on a full-course track, the WRX Impreza is also the best riding road car in our test.

Conclusion

The decision is clear if you are looking for the car which gets the best mileage and is the quickest car to run on a tight autocross course: The MINI Cooper S is your machine.

The decision becomes less clear if you factor in performance on longer autocross courses and ride quality. The clear winners are the Audi A3 and the VW GTI.

Let's muddy the waters more with the great power of the Dodge Avenger SRT-4, the excellent long-course handling of the Sentra SE-R Spec V and the Subaru WRX Impreza. These are three excellent alternatives to our top three light weight pocket rockets.

Our choice? For the money, mileage and Grins Per Mile (GPMs) we like the MINI Cooper S...actually the 200 hp John Cooper S model if we were laying down our own hard-earned cash. However, the Audi A3 and VW GTI are more practical daily drivers/weekend autocross cars. You need not wear a kidney belt with these teutonic twins and your wife would be far less likely to divorce you on the grounds of "physical abuse." Not married? Are you a great driver? Want to kick ass at stop lights? Want to embarrass people on track days? Don't care about MPG? Your choice is obvious: The Dodge Avenger SRT-4 with 286 hp, tons of torque, big brakes and fat tires. You decide. ■



DRIVING SCHOOL ■ TEEN DRIVING ■ DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Delivering the driver's edge to teen drivers.

DrivingMBA programs reduce the risk and magnitude of death, injury and property damage caused by teenage drivers. We accomplish this through the use of state-of-the-art simulators to teach students how to drive through experience in a no-risk environment. Our students develop:

- A better understanding of the mental skills required to be safe, responsible drivers
- Safe driving habits
- Better decision making skills, particularly in hazardous or dangerous situations
- A better understanding of personal and vehicle limitations



MVD Licensed Driving School Programs

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.

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

Driving is the most critical lifelong skill to learn—don't take short cuts!



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Little Honda Goes Faster Faster



HondaJet is an advanced light jet with revolutionary technology and design attributes that help it achieve far better fuel efficiency, more available cabin and luggage space, and higher cruise speed than conventional aircraft in its class.

HondaJet Innovation

A patented over-the-wing engine-mount (OTWEM) configuration was developed using advanced concepts in aerodynamics and design simulation. The OTWEM configuration eliminates the carry-through structure of conventional fuselage-mount designs, allowing for greater use of fuselage space for the cabin and cargo areas. The configuration is also expected to reduce cabin noise. Through optimization of the design and placement of the engine nacelles, the OTWEM configuration actually exhibits less drag at high speeds than conventional "clean wing" designs, contributing significantly to HondaJet's superior performance and fuel efficiency.

A natural-laminar flow (NLF) wing and NLF fuselage nose were developed through extensive analyzes and wind tunnel testing. These designs help achieve lower aerodynamic drag at high speeds together

with a high lift coefficient.

An advanced all-composite fuselage structure, consisting of a unique combination of honeycomb sandwich and stiffened panels structures joined using a patented integral co-curing process, reduces weight for optimal performance and payload capacity, while also reducing manufacturing complexity.

An advanced, all-glass cockpit utilizes the next generation of the Garmin G1000 avionics platform with features and capabilities unique to the HondaJet.

Milestone Achievements

HondaJet was designed and developed by Honda engineers working in the US and Japan. Research work that led to the creation of HondaJet began in 1986. The jet was constructed by Honda R&D Americas in Greensboro, North Carolina, and all flight tests have been conducted in the US Honda Aircraft Company, Inc., headquartered in Greensboro, was established in October 2006 to oversee certification, production and sales of HondaJet. Major ground tests including structural proof tests, control-system proof test, system function tests and ground vibration tests were completed in December 2003. HondaJet made its first flight on Dec. 2, 2003. HondaJet has recorded more than 330 flight hours through September 2007. Application for FAA type-certification was made on October 11, 2006.

BASIC DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

Maximum Cruise Speed @ FL300420KTAS
Service Ceiling.....FL430
Pressurization (Differential)8.7psi

RANGE PERFORMANCE:

VFR Range (Maximum fuel with available payload - 644lbs) 1400nm
NBAA IFR Range (Cruise@FL410, Alternate 100nm, 45 minute reserve, 1 Pilot plus 3 Passengers)1180 nm
Rate of Climb3990 ft/min

AIRPORT PERFORMANCE:

Take-off Distance (distance required to climb to 35 feet above the runway plus a 15% factor).....3120 ft
Landing Distance2500 ft

ENGINES:

Manufacturer / ModelGE HONDA / HF120 (x2)
Output1880 lb/each (Max Take-Off)
Bypass Ratio2.9

EXTERNAL DIMENSIONS: Height13.21 ft (4.03 m)
Length41.70 ft (12.71 m)
Span39.87 ft (12.15 m)

CABIN DIMENSIONS: Height4.94 ft (1.51 m)
Length (fwd. pressure bulkhead to aft pressure bulkhead).....17.80 ft (5.43 m)
Width5.00 ft (1.52 m)

SEATING: Typical2 crews + 5 passengers (or 1 crew + 6 passengers)
Air taxi.....2 crews + 6 passengers

BAGGAGE CAPACITY: Nose Baggage9 cubic feet.
Aft Baggage57 cubic feet

1986 Honda begins research in Japan on both small aircraft and jet engines.

1993 Honda begins research on composite body aircraft with Mississippi State University (MSU), leading to development of aircraft called "MH-02" that is jointly fabricated and tested by Honda and MSU. Research continues until 1996.

1995 Honda begins high altitude testing of its first generation turbofan engine, HFX-01, conducting more than 70 hours of tests through 1996.

1999 Development begins of the HF118 turbofan jet engine in the 1,000 to 3,500-pound thrust class, featuring a compact, lightweight, and fuel-efficient design.

2000 Honda R&D Americas establishes a research facility at Piedmont Triad International Airport in North Carolina in October 2000 for the purpose of researching, fabricating and flight testing of HondaJet.

2002 Honda conducts high altitude tests of the HF118 engine starting in June 2002. Honda publishes and reports its first technical paper in June 2002 concerning technological achievements of the new airframe. Honda continues publishing technical papers, with the most recent paper in June 2005.

2003 HondaJet takes first test flight, December 3, 2003. Honda makes first public announcement of the achievement days later.

2004 Honda and GE Aviation announce February 16, 2004, an alliance to commercialize the HF 118 engine, and establish a joint venture, GE-Honda Aero Engines, LLC, in October 2004, to pursue the development, production and sales of Honda's HF118 turbofan engine in the light business jet market.

• In July 2004, Honda establishes Honda Aero, Inc. to manage its aircraft engine business in the US and the Wako Nishi R&D Center in Japan to research and develop turbofan jet and piston aviation engines.

2005 HondaJet makes its public "world debut" at the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) AirVenture 2005 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, July 28, 2005.

2006 Honda announces that it will commercialize HondaJet at the EAA AirVenture 2006 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, July 25, 2006.

• Honda Aircraft Company, Inc. (HACI) established in August 2006, responsible for Honda's overall airframe business strategy, and the further development, sales promotion and production of the innovative HondaJet.

• Honda Aircraft Company, Inc. begins sales of HondaJet at the NBAA (National Business Aviation Association) annual convention in Orlando, Florida, on October 17. HondaJet will be powered by the HF120 turbofan engine. HondaJet is targeted for type certification in 3-4 years with production in the U.S. beginning 2010.

2007 Honda Aircraft Company announces location of its \$100 million world headquarters and production facility at Piedmont Triad International (PTI) Airport in Greensboro, North Carolina, Feb. 9, 2007.

• Honda Aircraft Company breaks ground for new headquarters and production facility, June 27, 2007. Construction of the 219,000 sq. ft. offices and airplane hanger is scheduled for completion in Spring 2008. The remaining 150,000 sq. ft. production facility is expected to be completed by Fall 2009.

• Honda Aero announced plans, July 17, 2007, to establish its headquarters and jet engine manufacturing facility in Burlington, North Carolina, beginning with production of the GE Honda HF120 turbofan engine in 2010.

• Honda Aero conducted an official groundbreaking ceremony, November 28, 2007, for its new headquarters and engine manufacturing facility in Burlington, North Carolina, near the Burlington Alamance County regional airport.

THE 8TH ANNUAL Russo and Steele

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

305 CARS - \$19.8 MILLION
RUSSO AND STEELE'S 8TH "SPORTS AND MUSCLE IN SCOTTSDALE"
A SMASHING SUCCESS

Russo and Steele Collector Automobiles, specializing in European sports cars, American muscle cars, hot rods and customs, reports a tremendous start for its 2008 year with its Scottsdale Auction Event total results of \$19,831,080 and a 61% sale rate. Despite shocks running through the financial markets, Russo and Steele came out with numbers comparable to Scottsdale 2007.

The Scottsdale 2008 event was held in over 200,000 square feet of tent space at the intersection of the Loop 101 Freeway and Scottsdale Road, in north Scottsdale. With enhancements including a new VIP Lounge and specialized bidder seating, Russo and Steele's auction had standing room only at its four-day event.

The event's top five sales were a 1969 Chevrolet Corvette sold at \$412,500, a 1971 Plymouth Cuda Coupe at \$396,000, a 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle Coupe at \$341,000, a 1971 Ferrari 365 GTB Coupe at \$319,000, and a 1966 Lamborghini 350 GT Coupe at \$283,800.

"Our clients and enthusiasts have proven their passions for this hobby and those passions were realized through the robust sales of our high quality offering of our European Sports, American Muscle, Hot Rods and Customs. A heartfelt thank you to one and all for once again joining Russo and Steele for our flagship event," said auction owner Drew Alcazar.

More than 700 guests attended the 2008 Russo and Steele "Motown Muscle" Charity Preview Gala on January 16th raising more than \$105,000 for The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital, the most comprehensive pediatric health library in the Southwest.

Russo and Steele also announced during this year's event plans to implement a format change to an ALL RESERVE sale in 2009. Alcazar states that this format change will serve to best perpetuate the high level of integrity enthusiasts have come to expect from the company.

For further information, or complete results, visit www.russoandsteele.com ■



THE 9TH ANNUAL RM Auctions

Automobiles of Arizona
JANUARY 17-18, 2008

88 CARS - \$26.7 MILLION
EXCEPTIONAL AUTOS DRAW
EXCEPTIONAL BIDS AT RM AUCTIONS
ARIZONA BILTMORE EVENT

RM Auctions kicked off the 2008 collector car calendar in grand style at the luxurious Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa. It was standing room only at this single-day auction, which attracted a fashionable crowd of collectors from across North America and Europe.

A considerable plunge in the Dow Jones did not seem to affect the outcome of the RM sale, with total sales exceeding \$26.7 million for 88 investment quality automobiles, with six motor cars breaking the million-dollar mark. "Despite the financial climate, outstanding cars will always bring exceptional prices," said Ian Kelleher, Managing Director of RM Auctions.

Proof is clearly in the results: a Pebble Beach Concours-winning 1934 Packard Twelve Coupe and a 1936 Mercedes-Benz 540K Special Cabriolet sold for \$2,035,000 each. Such prewar cars dominated the top-sellers list. The sports and racing segment also remained strong, with a 1963 Shelby AC Cobra, the first Cobra sold to the public and one of just three factory competition examples, hitting top bid of \$1,732,500. Another top-seller in this category was an extremely rare 1966 Ferrari 275 GTB, which brought \$1,375,000.

Additional auction highlights include:

- an elegant 1929 Duesenberg Model J Dual Cowl Phaeton with coachwork by LeBaron, sold for \$1.76 million
- a 1941 Chrysler Thunderbolt concept car, also by LeBaron, at \$1.32 million
- an impressively original 1929 Bentley 4-Liter Tourer, sold for \$880,000.
- a magnificent 1957 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Roadster, with a final bid of \$742,500
- a 1935 Pierce-Arrow 12 Convertible Coupe, one of four left, sold at \$374,000
- a beautifully restored 1969 Iso Grifo Coupe, bringing \$308,000

As the first event on their 2008 calendar, RM Auctions used the Arizona sale to launch a new look for their North American events, with elegant new decor, complemented by a professionally choreographed video presentation of each car on the block.

For further information, or full sales results from the Automobiles of Arizona event, visit www.rmauctions.com ■



THE 37TH ANNUAL Barrett-Jackson

Collector Car Auction Event
JANUARY 12-20, 2008

1163 CARS - \$88 MILLION
BARRETT-JACKSON SHATTERS
RECORDS AT 2008
SCOTTSDALE EVENT

Barrett-Jackson again set records at the 37th Annual Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Event at WestWorld in Scottsdale. Preliminary figures indicated over \$88 million in sales, including sales from the Showroom Pavilion, in addition to record-breaking attendance of 280,000 and over 100 million website hits. SPEED broadcast 39 hours of live auction coverage during the event. The auction featured 1,163 collector vehicles, over 100 fewer cars than the company sold in 2007.

"Despite our efforts to limit the number of cars offered in Scottsdale, the demand for a diverse, high-quality selection of vehicles dictated that we exceed our original plan," commented Steve Davis, president of Barrett-Jackson.

"Despite premature predictions, Barrett-Jackson showed that the collector car market remains strong and viable for collectors across the board," said Craig Jackson, Chairman/CEO of the Barrett-Jackson Auction Company. "For example, Corvettes fetched strong prices, as did 'trifive' 1955-57 Chevys throughout the week. And the average hammer price of these two groups increased by 13 percent. We also broadened the docket to make collector cars more accessible to the general public and let first time buyers in on the action."

Shelbys, MOPARS, Corvettes, Rolls Royces, Mustangs, Cadillacs, Bel Airs and Mercedes joined classics, concepts from Italy, customs from Barris, Robosaurus and cars of the stars. Muscle cars, pre-war gems, resto-mods, entry level cars and outrageous custom machines from across the globe were also represented.

Three cars hit at least \$1 million. Demand for automobilia skyrocketed by 47 percent to \$851,000. Total sales via the Internet were \$2,464,525, doubling the total from Scottsdale in 2007; the number of sales to online bidders also increased by 45 percent. The Showroom Pavilion, where cars are sold at set prices, enjoyed enormous success, selling 34 cars for a gross total of \$1,879,157.

For more information and a list of the top 100 cars by hammer price, visit www.barrett-jackson.com



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 1934 Ford Street Rod \$53,500 ClassicCars.com/34463	 1971 Olds Cutlass Supreme \$19,500 ClassicCars.com/38235	 1970 Dodge Challenger R/T \$112,995 ClassicCars.com/42874
 1959 Chevrolet El Camino \$83,500 ClassicCars.com/37009	 1947 Cadillac Street Rod \$18,500 ClassicCars.com/36589	 1956 Studebaker Champion \$9,850 ClassicCars.com/34427

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THE PREMIERE Gooding & Co.

Scottsdale Auction
JANUARY 17-19, 2008

64 CARS - \$21 MILLION GOODING & COMPANY ANNOUNCES OUTSTANDING RESULTS FROM FIRST-EVER SCOTTSDALE AUCTION

The inaugural Gooding & Company Scottsdale Auction achieved a grand total of more than \$21 million for the sale of 64 vehicles, of which seven sold for more than \$1 million individually. World-record sales were set for an Alfa Romeo 6C 1750 (\$1.54 million) and a Rolls-Royce Phantom II Streamline Saloon (\$852,500).

Additional highlights included a 1963 Ferrari 400 Superamerica and a Packard Individual Custom Eight Convertible, each sold at more than \$1 million. A Model J Duesenberg "Clear-Vision" Sedan also broke the million dollar mark, due in part to its remarkable history.

Gooding & Company's star car, a 1959 Ferrari 250 GT LWB California Spider, sold for \$3.3 million, the highest price paid during the week-long Scottsdale auctions. This vehicle was one of only fifty long-wheelbase California Spiders ever produced.

"We were thrilled with our \$21+ million sales results from our first Scottsdale auction. We sold 90% of our cars, with the average price per sale exceeding \$300,000," said President and Founder David Gooding. "We had an exceptional turnout of both established buyers as well as newcomers. Our auction allowed us to develop a great relationship with the City of Scottsdale and we look forward to being a part of the city's renowned classic car week in 2009."

The day began with an elegant champagne breakfast where bidders and consigners feasted on everything from Rolls-Royces to Lamborghinis. The energy and excitement in the tent during the auction was contagious, as attendees from around the world anticipated their moment to bid in a standing-room only crowd of bidders.

Preview days were open to the general public on Thursday and Friday. The auction was held on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at Scottsdale Fashion Square.

Impressive results assure Gooding & Company's continued presence at the 2009 Scottsdale Auction Week.

Catalogs from this year's auction are still available for \$75. For full results, visit www.goodingco.com



Photo: Randall Bohl Photography : randallbohl.com

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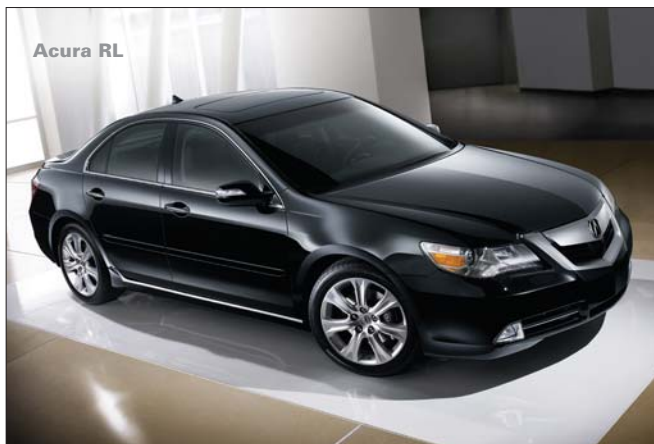
THE INSIDE TRACK: BRIEFS & RUMORS



Chevy Beat concept

■ **Chevrolet** plans to start global production of a new minicar by mid-2009. Motivated by Daimler's move to sell the Smart in the US starting in January 2008, Chevy planners are looking at bringing the minicar to the US. The global minicar is based on the Beat concept that was a favorite with consumers at the 2007 New York Auto Show.

■ The **Acura** RL flagship luxury sedan is getting a major makeover for 2009, as revealed at the Chicago Auto Show in February. Honda and Acura always keep their plans quite secret, so little was known about the changes until then, other than to expect significant sheetmetal changes. Since it was introduced in 2004, the RL has been a slow seller, so dealers have asked for three things: better styling, more rear legroom and a V-8 or turbocharger for the current V-6 engine.



Acura RL

■ **Porsche** plans to offer a hybrid version of the upcoming Panamera sedan. The hybrid will operate either the gas or electric individually or jointly to produce about 30 percent better fuel economy than the gas version.

■ Ford halted production of the **Lincoln** Town Car earlier last year, but planned to restart building the large sedan again in early 2008 mostly as a fleet vehicle for a limousine business that has taken the car's name—Town Car. The Town Car will be dropped from the Lincoln lineup in the summer of 2008 when the 2009 MKS goes on sale.

■ **Honda** has started a new "Honda Mile Makers" web site to collect unique stories from Honda owners who have driven their vehicles more than 100,000 miles. It's a place for owners to show off how well their Honda holds up. For information on how to participate or to see the stories, go to automobiles.honda.com/mile-makers/.

■ Watch for **MINI** to introduce a crossover vehicle for 2009. It will be slightly larger than the upcoming Clubman wagon, have the distinctive "MINI" look and will come with all-wheel drive.

■ Watch for **Mazda** to make provocative design changes starting with the next generation Mazda2, which is scheduled to arrive for 2009. Chief designer Laurens van den Acker told *Automotive News* there will be a more distinctive five-point shield-shaped grille on all models, longer wheelbase silhouettes, shorter overhangs and flowing styling as shown on the recent Mazda Taiki concept.

■ Rumors have **Range Rover** testing a new 5.0-liter V-8 to replace the current



Lincoln MKS

4.2-liter V-8 being shared by the Land Rover and Jaguar. A supercharged version is estimated to produce as much as 500-hp for the Range Rover top models and the Jaguar R versions of the XF and XK. However, the pending sale of both brands may ultimately affect the change.

■ Chrysler has priced the upcoming muscle coupe, the **Dodge** Challenger SRT8, at \$37,995 including destination charge. A 6.1-liter Hemi V-8 engine powers the top-of-the-line performance version of the new retro-styled coupe. Colors will be black, silver and Hemi orange. On December 3, dealers started to take reservations on the limited-edition hot rod; more than 4,300 customers placed orders.

■ **Volkswagen's** only North American assembly plant, located in Puebla, Mexico, nears capacity output of 450,000 vehicles annually, so the VW is moving 'full speed' to find a location in Mexico or the southeastern US for a second North American plant. Insiders have indicated the US will likely be chosen, but a final decision is still several months away.

■ Nissan will build a mid-size truck for **Suzuki** Motor Corporation at their Smyrna, Tennessee plant starting in 2008. Based on the Nissan Frontier, the



Suzuki Equator RMZ concept

new truck stems from a 2006 agreement between the two automakers. Currently Nissan supplies Suzuki with the Serena minivan in the Japanese market.

■ **Bridgestone/Firestone** made big points with Tennessee farmers recently when the company offered to haul hay from neighboring states on their return trips to the Tennessee plant. A drought in that area caused farmers to have to buy hay out of state to feed their cattle, but transportation costs would have doubled the price of the hay. Bridgestone/Firestone started "Project Hayride" to help the farmers and made the deliveries free of charge.



Bridgestone/Firestone Project Hayride

■ **Land Rover** is showing a new compact SUV concept that's smaller than the current LR2. Labeled as the LRX, it's described as a "cross-coupe," aimed at the market targeted recently by Audi and Hummer prototypes. With stylish 20-inch wheels, a trendy interior and LCD instrument panel, the three-door LRX appears that it will be targeted more at on-road drivers.



Land Rover LRX concept

■ **Ford's** next generation navigation system will offer the Sirius Travel Link system that provides information about gas prices and movie listings in addition to all the normal navigation functions. In a related note, Ford is expected to announce that all Ford and Mercury brands will make Sony their exclusive supplier of audio equipment.

■ Chevrolet will have two **Corvette** Z06 pace cars for Emerson Fittipaldi to drive at the Indianapolis 500 race in May. In addition to the silver and black convertible, they will also have a special E85 concept model burning ethanol fuel. The E85 car is a one-of-a-kind, but 500 copies of the special edition coupes and convertibles will be built and signed by Fittipaldi.

■ **Acura** announced it will offer a clean diesel engine



Corvette E85 Indy Pace Car

in North America for 2009. No details on the vehicle specifications of the engine were revealed other than the engine uses an optimized combustion chamber design and reduced injection time to make the engine clean and quiet. Acura claims the iDTEC engine will offer excellent performance and will meet the ultra-stringent US EPA.

■ **Chevrolet's** Malibu Hybrid will only be available in 11 markets in the Northeast and on the West Coast. Chevrolet marketing officials said hybrid quantities will be limited at first and they don't want them to sit unsold in low volume dealerships. Eventually distribution will expand to dealers that meet Chevrolet's training and tool requirements plus other criteria. It may take until the 2009 model to get the Hybrid into all qualifying dealerships.

■ Possibly taking advantage of the success of Helio Castroneves winning TV's *Dancing with the Stars*, **Infineon Raceway**, north of San Francisco, is

planning to make a record attempt on the twist dance record. During the IndyCar weekend in August, race (and dance) fans will be invited onto the track to do the Chubby Checker Twist for five minutes. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, 1691 high-school students and staff members in Yorkshire England set the previous record in 2004. ■

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

UPCOMING FEATURES

Evolution Motorsports



This Scottsdale shop supports its customers' addiction to speed and performance. EVO-M engineers, manufactures and race tests its own components and runs a monthly Dyno Night.

Kia Rio5, Kia Spectra5, Volvo C70, Volvo XC70



We'll be test driving and reporting on two Kia 5-door hatchbacks in the small and smaller categories, as well as the upgraded Volvo C70 and its awd XC70 wagon sibling.

Rinspeed Squba



From the Geneva Motor Show comes this \$750,000 one-off open-cockpit aquatic motoring oddity, conceived by a classic James Bond fan and executed by Switzerland's Rinspeed.



Share your stories, your dreams, your tricks of the trade, and your fabulous craftsman with your fellow enthusiasts. After all the cars we have worked on, all the summers spent interning at restoration shops, all the knuckles wrecked using junk tools, we created a site you can visit to get quick answers to that pesky ground short, or select your city and find a terrific body shop for a great price. Finish that project in the back yard, or post pictures of your classic ride and the journey it took. Our vision is to build a community of dealer networks, local shops, local clubs and friendly gatherings, the great contacts that are needed to get the job done. We invite you to join the community and join the fun.

Contests - Classic Car Community

Best Ride Contest

Calendar 6/11 Contest

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Q & A

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Radiator	Insurance	Warranty	Wax & Polish	Wiring/Electrical
Parts	Chrome Plating	Diecast/Pedal Cars	Transmission	

Event Calendar

Find upcoming Classic Car events in your area

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Ask the Experts, chat with members, ask questions, find answers

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Tell us your stories & the journeys your cars have made

Classified Cars

Wanted/For Sale

Classified Parts

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CLASSIC CAR WORK	MUSCLE	CLASSIC CAR WORK	CLASSIC CAR WORK	CLASSIC CAR WORK
CLASSIC CAR WORK	CLASSIC CAR WORK	CLASSIC CAR WORK	CLASSIC CAR WORK	CLASSIC CAR WORK

Welcome to Classic Car Community!

Here you will find useful tools to help finish restoring your classic car. You will find everything from classic parts, services and if you are in a bind, ask the experts! If you are not already a member, [Join the Community!](#)

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THE DAILY NEWS

Last Crown Nile of the season brings crown for classic car nostalgia (Santa Paula Times)

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