

ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 6
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010

ASIA RISING

ECONOMY, QUALITY, PERFORMANCE, LUXURY
OR INCREASINGLY ALL OF THE ABOVE: WE DRIVE ON
WEST COAST AND DESERT VEHICLE LAUNCHES
IN LOCALES FROM SAN DIEGO TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

ALL-NEW 2011 KIA OPTIMA

Newport Coast to Temecula, Southern California

2011 INFINITI LINEUP

Napa Wine Country, Northern California

ALL-NEW 2011 SCION tC

Las Vegas and Red Rock Park, Nevada

ALL-NEW 2011 NISSAN JUKE

Sunshine Coast of British Columbia

2010 TOYOTA SEQUOIA

Freeways and trails of metro Phoenix



MOTORSPORTS: LYN ST. JAMES - BRYAN SPERBER - PIR 2011 NASCAR SCHEDULE - LUCAS OIL OFF ROAD RACING SCHEDULE

AUCTIONS: BARRETT-JACKSON LAS VEGAS - AUCTIONS AMERICA BY RM AUBURN - ARIZONA JANUARY AUCTION DETAILS

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS: RED BULL FLUGTAG LONG BEACH - ARIZONA INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW - GOODGUYS 2011 SCHEDULE

TRAVEL & ATTRACTIONS: TUCSON HIGHLIGHTS - SEDONA FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS - LA COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

ARIZONA RIDER: ZERO MOTORCYCLES ELECTRIC BIKE LINEUP • **ARIZONA FLYER:** TERRAFUGIA TRANSITION "FLYING CAR"

ARIZONA BOATER: MERCEDES-BENZ SLS AMG CIGARETTE RACING 46' RIDER - WALLYPOWER 55M MEGA YACHT.....AND MORE

VEHICLES • EQUIPMENT • SAFETY • PERFORMANCE • MAINTENANCE • MOTORSPORTS • EVENTS • DESTINATIONS • ATTRACTIONS



40TH 1971-2011 Barrett-Jackson ANNIVERSARY

ONLY ON **SPEED**

www.Barrett-Jackson.com
480.663.6255



"THE V7 IS THE FINEST I HAVE EVER SEEN — THE BEST OF THE BEST.
THE CORVETTE DUNTOV WOULD HAVE BUILT TO RACE AT LEMANS."

- Kip Wasenko
GM Performance Design Director



1963 CORVETTE - VIN 30837S111289

V7 twin turbo mid-engine Corvette
(7th Generation)

Winner of the automotive industries coveted GM Design Award, the highly styled 1963 Stingray split window coupe body has been cab-forwarded 24" and widened 10". Active air ducts feed the 1000 hp twin turbo V8 and aid brake cooling and ground effects. Based on mid-engine GT architecture the V7 incorporates a custom tube frame with adjustable Penske race suspension.

Entering the V7's cockpit is handled by a unique "sucislide" articulating door system. All deck lids open electrically. The leather wrapped interior redesign features all state of the art components.

Selling at the Scottsdale 2011 auction.

7 DAYS | HUNDREDS OF VEHICLES | EXHIBITORS | MANUFACTURER DISPLAYS | DEMONSTRATIONS & MORE
SCOTTSDALE, AZ JANUARY 17-23, 2011
NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS | REGISTER TO BID FOR EXCLUSIVE EVENT ACCESS

ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

news & features

November-December 2010

PERSONALITIES

Lyn St. James, Bryan Sperber5

ARIZONA BOATER

Cigarette Racing 46' Rider (Mercedes AMG-inspired).....6

WallyPower 55m Mega Yacht7

MOTORSPORTS

A NASCAR 2011 schedule at PIR14

B Lucas Oil Off Road Race Series 201114

VEHICLE INTRODUCTION

C 2011 Scion tC16

The third vehicle in Scion's lineup, the high-value tC gets a complete makeover. We head to the hills outside Las Vegas. By Joe Sage.

SPECIAL EVENTS

D Arizona International Auto Show info20

E Wheels of Wellness20

SPECIAL EVENTS

F Auctions America by RM's first Auburn results22

G Barrett-Jackson Las Vegas results22

VEHICLE INTRODUCTION

H 2011 Kia Optima24

Kia prepares to tackle a gigantic challenge: the midsize sedans from Honda, Toyota and Ford. They have the goods. By Joe Sage

ARIZONA RIDER

I Zero Motorcycles electrify the Valley28

This clever series of electric motorcycles includes road, sport, dual-purpose and motocross. By Randall Bohl

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

J Red Bull Flugtag Long Beach30

K Cars at LA County Natural History Museum30

VEHICLE INTRODUCTIONS

L 2011 Infiniti full line32

We get not only a taste, but the full smorgasbord, in Napa wine country, in the all-new IPL G Coupe, G Convertible, all-new G25, and updated M37 sport sedan and FX35 SUV. By Joe Sage

SPECIAL EVENTS

M January 2011 Arizona auction info36

Barrett-Jackson, Gooding & Co., RM Auctions, Russo and Steele.

VEHICLE INTRODUCTION

N 2011 Nissan Juke38

Not just a smaller crossover, the new Nissan Juke says it's part sports car. We drive it up the British Columbia coast. By Joe Sage

VEHICLE LIFESTYLES

Colors - Gender - Suzuki contest and game42

VEHICLE IMPRESSION

2010 Toyota Sequoia44

The antithesis of the Prius: the mighty Sequoia. By Joe Sage

TRAVEL

Tucson events and activities46

TRAVEL

Sedona holiday cheer48

ARIZONA FLYER

Terrafugia "Flying Car" Light Sport Aircraft52

departments

FROM THE PUBLISHER : START YOUR ENGINES4

AUTO NEWS UPDATE8

THE INSIDE TRACK : BRIEFS AND RUMORS50

UPCOMING FEATURES54



COVER: The 2011 Kia Optima midsize sedan, sporting Kia's iconic Tiger Nose grille, greets a new dawn in its segment.
Photo by Greg Jarem, courtesy Kia Motors America, Inc.



Photo: © Zero Motorcycles, Inc.

Photo: Terrafugia, Inc.

This issue took us all over the map, but we never had to change our watch. Every destination was in Pacific Daylight Time, which of course is the same on the face of a clock as Arizona's summertime Mountain Standard Time. At any rate, the travel portion can be as fun and enlightening as the vehicle drives; hence our sidebars with a few of the details, for those who may want to take a similar trip. We covered the coast from BC (British Columbia) almost to BC (Baja California), by hitting at least the north end of Baja-neighboring San Diego County. And we strayed back inland to southern Nevada, once successfully, but managed to be bumped by the airlines on a second Las Vegas trip. Fate takes a hand. Not only did we stay within the western time zone(s), but all the vehicles driven at manufacturer launch events or local weeklong drives this time around were from Asia: one from the fast-rising Koreans, the rest from Japan. Coincidence? Or a trend? Surely a little of both. So in this issue, you'll find the new Kia Optima (driven in Southern California), the new Scion tC (Nevada), the surprising little Nissan Juke (British Columbia), the Toyota Sequoia (Arizona), and the entire lineup from Infiniti (Northern California). Not a loser in the lot. And off we go.

Regular photographic contributor **Randall Bohl** became scribe in this issue, with his ride and review of the new electric motorcycle lineup from Zero, presented in our *Arizona Rider Magazine* pages. *Arizona Boater* and *Arizona Flyer Magazines* make their periodic appearances in this issue as well. Put it all together and, despite the inordinate presence of one time zone and one continent, you'll find plenty of variety herein. We



also bring wrapups and heads-ups from and for a range of auctions, events and shows, as well as personality highlights and randomly stunning factoids galore.

Enjoy the ride.

Joe Sage - Publisher/ Executive Editor

ARIZONA DRIVER

MAGAZINE

PUBLISHER / EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Joe Sage
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Nick Calderone, HR Driver, Larry Edsall, JP Molnar, John Priddy, Barbara and Bill Schaffer, Tim and Kristin Sharp, Jan Wagner, Kevin A Wilson
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS: Randall Bohl, Christina Lawrie, Brenda Priddy, Jan Wagner

DESIGN & PRODUCTION: AdZone Arizona
ADVERTISING SALES: 480-948-0200

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

BECOME A FACEBOOK FAN
 Arizona Driver Magazine, Arizona Rider Magazine, Arizona Flyer Magazine and Arizona Boater Magazine are registered trademarks of AdZone Arizona LLC.
 Arizona Driver Magazine is a member of the Motor Press Guild, Phoenix Automotive Press Association and Better Business Bureau.



LYN ST. JAMES LISTED AMONG 100 LEADING WOMEN IN THE NORTH AMERICAN AUTO INDUSTRY

Lyn St. James, president of Lyn St. James Enterprises of Phoenix, has been recognized by *Automotive News* as one of the 100 Leading Women in the North American Auto Industry. The organization (www.lynstjames.com) comprises the Women in the Winner's Circle Foundation, the Complete Driver Academy for women, Project Podium grants for women, and other programs.

St. James is best known as the trailblazing racing professional who was the first woman to win a North American professional road race driving solo (Watkins Glen, New York in 1985). She competed in the Indianapolis 500 seven times and is the first woman named Indy 500 "Rookie of the Year" (1992).

The *Automotive News* Leading Women recognition, given out by the automotive industry publication every five years since 2000, takes an in-depth look at 100 of the industry's most powerful and accomplished women. *Automotive News* celebrated the achievements of the 100 women with a special event at the Max M. Fisher Music Center in Detroit on September 21. For more information, visit autonews.com/100leadingwomen.

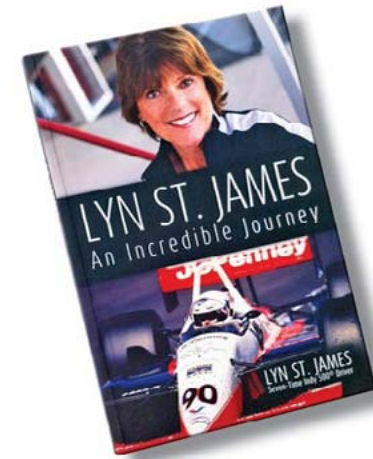
ACCELERATE WITH LYN ST. JAMES PROGRAM TARGETED TO WOMEN DRIVERS AND AUTO BUYERS

NewsProNet, a provider of original syndicated video news to local broadcasters and online news destinations, has announced a new automotive program targeted to women, starring famed professional driver, Lyn St. James. Debuting in January, "Accelerate with Lyn St. James" will be seen three times per week on hundreds of local news sites and other NewsProNet syndicated worldwide outlets.

Women account for about 50% of vehicle purchases and 80% of auto maintenance and repairs.

"I'm excited about sharing a lifetime of experience behind the wheel," said St. James. "Many women are uncomfortable financially and mechanically with cars, but it's no different than taking care of your body. The first step is knowing the basics and building on those. Like your body, if you take care of your car, your car will take care of you."

St. James has worked as an on-air auto racing commentator for ABC and ESPN, and has authored



several books, including *Ride of Your Life*, *Only This Morning You're All Grown Up* and *The Lyn St. James Car Owner's Manual for Women*, and her newest, *An Incredible Journey*. She will serve as co-producer, scriptwriter and on-camera talent for the new program. Using a format of two-minute segments, St. James will cover driving safety, auto maintenance and ownership. She'll also give viewers a sense of what it's like to be behind the wheel competing in some of the most famous motorsports events in the world.

"We're thrilled to have Lyn St. James as the driving force behind our latest video syndicated offering," said Bob Rodriguez, chairman of NewsProNet. "We believe that Lyn's vast knowledge, her passionate love of autos and her ability to relate to men and women everywhere will create a huge following."

NewsProNet news segments reach more than 50% of US TV households and millions of online visitors every month. Syndicated news content can be seen on NBC, ABC, CBS and FOX affiliates.

AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY OUT NOW: THE LATEST BOOK BY LYN ST. JAMES

Lyn St. James says that after two decades of racing professionally around the world—including wins and world speed records, as well as crashes and failures—she came to understand that besides the personal satisfaction, her accomplishments also provided an outline for others to follow. Her story and philosophies are presented in her new book, *An Incredible Journey*.

"Throughout my journey, I did everything possible with what I had to work with, never gave up, and learned so much along the way," says St. James. "Now I'm able to share that knowledge by providing some insights into a sport where more men than women have succeeded and where more women are coming to the forefront. Being successful in racing is not just about driving fast... it's about passion, preparation, experience and opportunity... and being fast!"

The late Walter Cronkite praised the book, saying, "This is the stuff of high adventure, but only part of the tale, as St. James also gives us the fascinating inside story of her assault on the male bastion that was Indy. It's a can't-put-it-down book."

An Incredible Journey by Lyn St. James is available at www.amazon.com or www.lynstjames.com. ■



BRYAN R. SPERBER PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY PRESIDENT IS NAMED NUMBER 7 SPORTS POWER BROKER IN PHOENIX MVP MAGAZINE RECOGNIZES TOP "MOVERS AND SHAKERS"

Phoenix International Raceway President Bryan R. Sperber has been named the No. 7 power broker by *MVP Magazine* in the second annual list of Top 30 Power Brokers in the Valley's sports market. Sperber ranks just ahead of Rick Welts, president and CEO of the Phoenix Suns; Ken Kendrick, managing partner of the Arizona Diamondbacks; and Jerry Colangelo, chairman of the Phoenix Suns and chairman of USA Basketball.

Sperber has been recognized for a number of accomplishments since his 2002 arrival in the Valley of the Sun, most notably his command of the track's bid to secure a second NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race. That vision came to fruition in 2005, and Sperber has now announced that Phoenix will maintain two NASCAR Sprint Cup weekends moving forward, in the face of widespread schedule realignment across the sport—making PIR the only NASCAR facility in the West with two race weekends. Based on past studies by Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business, PIR estimates the local economic impact of two Sprint Cup weekends to exceed \$400 million.

Extremely active in the community—both in business and philanthropic sectors—Sperber is an active member of Greater Phoenix Leadership, an organization dedicated to improve the greater Phoenix area and the State of Arizona by bringing together talent, resources, and leadership to create action on priority issues. He is also a member of Phoenix's Young President's Organization, and serves on the Arizona State University Foundation's Board of Trustees. In his philanthropic efforts, Sperber is also the vice president of the K Foundation, Cy Young Award-winning pitcher Brandon Webb's charity.

The annual listing produced by *MVP Magazine* recognizes the Valley of the Sun's most prominent sports business figures and influential professionals who play a key role in shaping the future of sports throughout the community. Other honorees include Michael Bidwill, president of the Arizona Cardinals; John Junker, president and CEO of the Fiesta Bowl; and Derrick Hall, president and CEO of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The magazine is online at www.mvptoday.com. ■

gobeyondordinary



CarBeyondStore
 Gallery of Fine Auto Parts



16443 N 91st ST, Suite 101
 Scottsdale, AZ 85260
www.carbeyondstore.com
 Tel. (480) 588.8600 Fax. (480) 247.6788
 Open: Mon-Fri (8a-5:30p) Sat (9a-1p)



ARIZONA BOATER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO DESERT WATERSPORTS



SMOKE ON THE WATER Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG Inspires New Cigarette 46' Racing Boat

Inspired by the Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG Super Sports Car, Cigarette Racing's custom 46' Rider—unveiled at the Miami International Boat Show—features a pair of revolutionary twin-turbocharged 552-cu.in. 1,350-hp Mercury Racing engines, capable of propelling the boat to speeds in excess of 130 mph.

The 2011 Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG—developed exclusively by Mercedes-AMG, the high performance and motorsports division of Mercedes-Benz—features a lightweight aluminum space-frame chassis, hand-built 563-hp AMG V8 and signature Gullwing doors.

The new Cigarette 46' Rider features hand-applied AMG ALUBEAM silver paintwork also available on the SLS AMG. This process, used exclusively by AMG, covers body surfaces like a metallic skin, targeting light reflections to further emphasize exterior character lines and design details. Using state-of-the-art nanotechnology, the finish embeds tiny pigments of color measuring just 30 to 50 nanometres. The ALUBEAM silver is contrasted with AMG Designo Mystic White metallic while echoing the Mercedes-AMG logo. The boat's interior features marine-grade upholstery resembling the two-tone AMG Designo porcelain and white Nappa leather offered on the SLS AMG.

From the propulsion system to the rigging, a clean sheet approach was utilized to build the 46' Cigarette. While many influences of the SLS AMG can be seen in the paint work and interior, the true benefits of the relationship lie beneath the surface. With more than 100 innovations, the 46' Rider serves as a technology showcase for Cigarette.

Since 1969, Cigarette Racing Team's iconic shapes have been recognized worldwide throughout the luxury powerboating industry. The brand is renowned for a custom approach to building, in which each customer's personal touch is incorporated. Cigarette's boats, from 38' to 50', are driven by presidents and enthusiasts alike. For information, visit www.cigaretteracing.com/legendary.



WallyPower Mega Yacht

WallyDesign® 55m hull is based on hydrodynamic naval technology



The 55m WallyPower mega yacht by WallyDesign® is characterized by its displacement hull derived from navy hydrodynamic technology. The hull's shape is the result of an extensive R&D program of CFD computer design and tank testing and is characterized by high efficiency and reduced pitching compared to traditional hulls. An exceptionally high free board enhances safety in rough seas, without compromising the sleek lines of a power yacht.

Extensive use of glass in the aluminum light alloy superstructure provides a 360-degree view from the upper decks, while very large portholes (each guest cabin features four portholes 8'2" wide and 1'8" high) flood the interior with natural light and offer greatly enhanced views from the lower decks.

WallyDesign boasts much larger interior volumes and open air spaces than other mega yachts of the same size. Five decks are designed to provide privacy for the owner and guests, with complete separation of the crew's flow on independent passageways. The **LOWER DECK** is dedicated to service and crew accommodation (eight doubles plus captain cabin). Guests on the **CABIN DECK** spread out in four double cabins with en-suites. The cabin deck also includes an 861-square-foot full-beam main salon, following the Wally inside-outside living philosophy, with direct access to an aft deck terrace, fully equipped with sauna, showers and dressing rooms. Two hangars on this deck can store three tenders of different sizes, personal watercraft, water toys and even a sailboat. The **MAIN DECK** has a 646-square-foot owner's suite forward, opening onto a private deck with cockpit and tables, and a lounge and dining area opening onto a deck veranda aft. The **BRIDGE DECK** includes wheel house, spa with gym, and aft and forward terraces. The **UPPER SUN DECK** is completely devoted to open air living with a Jacuzzi, sun bathing area and dining table. Together, the 55m WallyPower provides open air living areas on each deck, especially forward of the superstructure—a space that is much more ventilated and cooler than aft, where other mega yachts of this size usually concentrate social activity.

Main propulsion is from two 2,012-hp Caterpillar 3512 B diesel engines. Cruising speed is 17 knots, held steady in rough seas thanks to the hull design. An advanced antirolling system—VT Naiad Marine Stabilization at Anchor (S@A™)—combined with a DATUM control system stabilizes the 55m WallyPower both under way and at anchor. Range is 5,000 nautical miles at 11 knots. For more information, visit www.wally.com.

FORD SHARPENS THE EDGE WITH MORE SPORT

Launched as the flagship trim level in 2009, the new 2011 Ford Edge Sport will give owners more thrills, style and technology. A new 305-hp, 3.7-liter Ti-VCT V-6 engine powers the Sport, producing 40 more horsepower over the outgoing Edge Sport while still delivering 18 mpg city and 25 mpg highway fuel economy. The new engine is mated to a six-speed SelectShift Automatic transmission with upgraded, class-exclusive paddle shift activation inspired by sports cars. The Sport has new standard 22-inch forged aluminum wheels and enhanced sport-tuned suspension that improves handling without compromising ride quality. Standard on the 2011 Edge Sport, MyFord Touch displays information using two 4.2-inch full-color LCD screens flanking an analog speedometer and an 8-inch touch-screen LCD at the top of the center stack. Ford Edge Sport pricing starts at \$36,995 including destination charge, while the base level SE starts at \$27,995. ▼



2011 Ford Edge

2011 Mercedes-Benz CL63 AMG



2011 MERCEDES CL AMG BITURBO

▲ When the Mercedes-Benz CL63 AMG rolls into dealerships in November, a new 5.5-liter biturbo engine replaces the naturally aspirated AMG 6.3-liter V8 engine. The new AMG engine develops 536 hp and maximum torque of 590 lb-ft. The new engine uses a unique combination of innovative high-tech systems such as direct gasoline injection, twin turbochargers, air/water intercooling and the Controlled Efficiency stop/start function. Fuel economy is expected to be 27 percent better and CO₂ emissions are improved by 30 percent. The CL63 AMG accelerates from zero to 60 mph in 4.4 seconds, and has its top speed limited to 155 mph. The CL65 AMG has a 621-hp V12 twin turbo with liquid-to-air intercoolers, generating 738 lb-ft of torque.

MORE GREEN TOYOTAS FOR 2012

Toyota is expected to go even greener in 2012 with the launch of three new vehicles. Toyota's plan calls for an electric vehicle, a plug-in version of the Prius and an undisclosed Prius variant. According to unofficial information, the second Prius vehicle will be the first of a growing family of Prius-badged vehicles, but not a separate brand like Scion. The electric vehicle will be a small car, similar to the electric version of the iQ concept shown at

the 2009 Detroit auto show. Toyota is likely to limit electric vehicle sales to markets with the infrastructure to support electric vehicles, and probably in limited quantities. Look for an Internet launch using a viral marketing campaign.

AIR BAGS FOR MOTORCYCLES

Most motorcycle riders have not had the benefit of safety air bags until recently. Armored Air Jacket is an effective airbag system integrated into specially designed jackets equipped with a small CO₂ air cartridge attached to a ripcord tethered to the motorcycle. Riders connect the ripcord lanyard to the anchoring cable as they mount the bike, much like a throttle kill ripcord on snowmobiles and personal watercraft. When the ripcord is activated during an accident, the integrated airbag system automatically inflates within the jacket, filling the internal airbag bladder in just one-half second. The inflated airbag provides an armor-like layer of extra protection to the most vulnerable areas of the body, including the neck, chest, back, ribs and spine. The jacket and vest, available in a fashionable collection, can be used repeatedly and are even washable. The Armored Air Jacket and Vest retail for approximately \$595 and \$250 respectively. For more information go to www.armoredairjackets.com.

CHEVY EXPANDS VOLT PRODUCTION

Chevrolet increased its commitment to the upcoming Volt extended range electric vehicle by announcing an increase in US production capacity by 50 percent—to 45,000 units—for 2012. Participating dealers are taking orders for the \$41,000 car, which could cost \$33,500 net after a federal tax credit of \$0-\$7,500. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in launch markets late this year, with initial production limited. The lithium-ion battery has an eight-year/100,000-mile warranty. The Volt has a range of about 340 miles and is powered by electricity at all times. For up to the first 40 miles, the vehicle drives gas- and tailpipe-emissions-free using electricity stored in its 16-kWh lithium-ion battery. When the battery runs low, a gas-engine generator seamlessly extends driving range up to 300 miles.

MERCEDES-BENZ STYLE SERVICES

Mercedes-Benz is expanding its design business to reach beyond cars. Under the flag of "Mercedes-Benz Style," the design division will not only create innovative transportation products, but also furniture, lifestyle products and even industrial designs. The first product is the EC145 Mercedes-Benz Style helicopter, which is

KEEP RIGHT >>



not only luxurious, but also spacious and extremely flexible. This is the only helicopter in its class to seat up to eight passengers. For the cabin layout, Mercedes-Benz opted for a modular approach inspired by its new R-Class. Seats are mounted on rails and can be easily reconfigured or removed to make room for luggage. Mercedes-Benz designers are also working on a spectacular exterior design for a luxury yacht. For more information on Mercedes-Benz Style, go to www.mercedesbenz.com.

BUY A CAR AT CONSUMER REPORTS?

Consumer Reports is helping consumers buy new vehicles at competitive prices from local dealers. Consumer Reports' Build & Buy program, developed with Zag.com, Inc., allows consumers to get low, guaranteed upfront price quotes from dealers for a specific car of the consumer's choice. Participating dealers agree to follow strict conduct guidelines to help provide an easier, more transparent and consumer friendly car-buying experience. The program is available to online subscribers and to purchasers of Consumer Reports New Car Price Reports. Dealers participating in the Build & Buy program pay Zag a fee. Separately, Zag pays Consumers Union a flat fee for each car sold. For more information and answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.ConsumerReports.org.

YOUR ZR1—SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

▲ Corvette owners are ardent about their sports cars, and with Chevrolet's New Engine Build Experience, that passion may become a hands-on experience. A new program allows customers who order a 2011 Corvette Z06 or ZR1 the option to help assemble their cars' LS7 or LS9 engines at General Motors' Performance Build Center (PBC) in Wixom, Michigan. The Engine Build Experience is an option with a suggested retail price of \$5,800. When a customer selects the PBC option for a 2011 Corvette Z06 or ZR1 and the dealer submits the order to Chevrolet, a special concierge contacts the customer to verify participation and help coordinate arrangements. At the PBC, the customer doesn't merely view the engine's assembly; he or she builds it under the supervision of and with support from skilled technicians. The engines are still covered by Chevrolet's five-year/100,000-mile transferable powertrain warranty.

NEW FUEL ECONOMY LABELS PROPOSED

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Transportation (DOT) are jointly proposing the adoption of a different fuel economy labeling process for new vehicles. The goal is to provide consumers with a simple way to determine what kind of fuel

economy a new vehicle will get just by glancing at a redesigned window sticker, which will give a familiar letter grade from A+ to D. The new system, if approved, will be applied to everything including electric vehicles (EV), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV), and conventional gasoline-powered vehicles. The agencies are taking public comment on the new labels through the end of October before finalizing the change.

CARS THAT TALK TO EACH OTHER

Ford Motor Company researchers are working on an advanced crash avoidance system that uses wireless and GPS technologies to talk to nearby vehicles. Ford's Automatic Braking Intersection Collision Avoidance System (ABICAS) uses radio-based wireless sensors, GPS and navigation information to detect the relative location of other radio-equipped test vehicles. The system warns drivers of imminent side-impact collisions and automatically activates the brakes if necessary to avoid or minimize the damage caused by such collisions. ABICAS is enabled by wireless vehicle-to-vehicle communications, and works in conjunction with radar- and camera-based driver assist features. Although the technology is current-



NOW INVITING CONSIGNMENTS

SCOTTSDALE AUCTIONS
January 21 and 22 . 2011
Scottsdale . Arizona

AMELIA ISLAND AUCTION
March 11 . 2011
Amelia Island . Florida

PEBBLE BEACH AUCTIONS
August 20 and 21 . 2011
Pebble Beach . California



Formerly the Property of Sir Lindsay Owen-Jones
1972 FERRARI 365 GTS/4 DAYTONA SPIDER
Designed by Pininfarina, Coachwork by Scaglietti
Estimate \$900,000 - \$1,100,000
2011 Scottsdale Auctions . January 21 and 22



**GOODING
COMPANY**
Auctions and Private Brokerage
310.899.1960
goodingco.com

2011 Dodge Durango



ly available, it will be necessary for a global standard on such technology and a reliable and cost-effective system.

IT'S BACK—THE DODGE DURANGO

▲ Dodge is coming back into the SUV business with the introduction of an all-new 2011 Durango. The model, which appeared first in 1998, was discontinued after the 2009 model year. The new Durango is developed from the same platform used on the 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee, but with a three-row seating format. Powertrain options include the standard fuel-efficient 3.6-liter Pentastar V6 engine and an available 5.7-liter HEMI engine with fuel-saving, Multi-Displacement System (MDS) four-cylinder mode. The same people who did the impressive interiors in the latest Ram trucks and the Jeep Grand Cherokee designed the luxurious Durango interior. It arrives in showrooms near the end of 2010.

NISSAN LEAF CLOSER TO HOMES

Nissan moved a step closer to delivering the first mass produced electric cars to the US market as customers can now select a color and trim level. Once a consumer's order has been agreed with a dealer, it will be placed in sequence for production and delivery according to the consumer's market. The Leaf is available

in an SV trim level for \$33,600, including the destination charge and \$34,540 for the SL, which adds a solar panel, fog lights, rear view monitor, Homelink® and a couple other features. Standard equipment on both models includes a navigation system, charger and all the normal power equipment. Nissan started taking online orders on August 31 for deliveries to Arizona, California, Oregon, Tennessee and Washington.

CHEVY DEALERS BUY CIVICS, COROLLAS

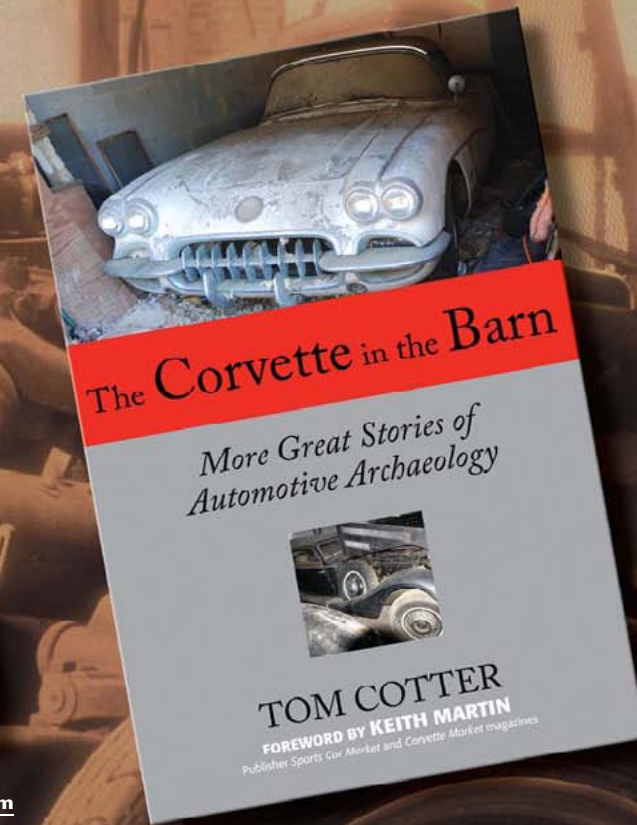
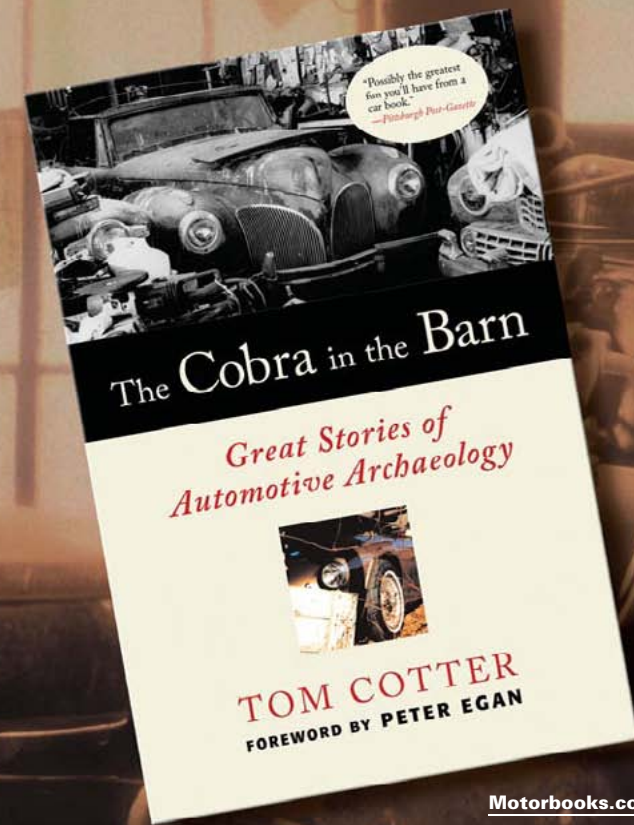
Chevy dealers may be helping Toyota and Honda sales if the Chevrolet officials get their way. Chevrolet marketing officials are encouraging the 3,000 Chevy dealers to prepare for the late September launch of the Cruze compact by purchasing a Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic to have available for comparative test drives. The Cruze LS has an estimated \$1,700 more equipment than a 2010 Honda Civic DX and has a starting price of \$16,995 including destination charge. Standard equipment on the Cruze LS includes air conditioning, keyless entry, OnStar Turn-by-Turn Navigation and XM Radio. The Cruze Eco model, powered by a turbocharged 1.4-liter four-cylinder engine with a standard six-speed manual transmission, is rated at 40 mpg on the highway.

HYUNDAI SETS 50 MPG GOAL BY 2025

Hyundai Motor America president and CEO John Krafcik told auto leaders at an industry conference in Traverse City, Mich. that Hyundai's goal is to have a corporate wide fuel economy average of at least 50 mpg by 2025 through innovative Blue Drive™ technologies. Current National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) regulations require automakers to achieve a CAFE rating of 35.5 mpg by 2016. Before those rules were enacted last year, Hyundai had already announced its own plan to reach 35 mpg by 2015. Hyundai has shown that customers will flock to high quality, stylish products offering high fuel economy. The game-changing all-new 2011 Hyundai Sonata is the first mid-size family sedan to offer only 4-cylinder engines and gets an EPA highway rating of 35 mpg.

LATEST FORD F-150 HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Ford pulled the wraps off its latest iteration of the Harley-Davidson model F-150 pickup truck exposing a bold new front fascia, six-bar-shaped billet-style satin chrome grille, 22-inch forged wheels and "Harley-Davidson" satin chrome badging. Under the hood is the new 6.2-liter V8 gasoline engine, delivering 411 horsepower and 434 lb.-ft. of torque with an improved maximum trailer towing capacity of



Motorbooks.com

7,500 pounds. Standard equipment includes voice-recognition destination entry, climate control and SIRIUS® Satellite Radio with an eight-inch touch screen. Other standard features include a power moonroof, rear view camera, second-row heated seats, ambient lighting and remote start system. Prices have not yet been released.

VOLVO SALE TO CHINA IS COMPLETE

Ford handed the Volvo keys to Geely, and Geely gave Ford a check for \$1.3 billion and a note for \$500 million, completing the sale that started in March 2010 when everyone said "yes, let's do it." It's hard to believe that it's only been 11 years since Ford paid \$6.45 billion for Volvo. Yes, Ford lost a lot of money on the transaction, but in many ways, the new sale was good for both companies. Ford gave Volvo the ability and resources to continue and didn't diminish the legendary brand; instead they have allowed it to still be Volvo. In the process, both companies benefit, assimilating each other's technologies into their products. Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Company Limited of China got a good deal on a great company, and a new page in history begins. Let's hope Geely will have the same foresight Ford had and allow Volvo to explore its full potential.

CARS IN THE BARN

▲ Everyone has heard stories about a great old car someone found in a barn. Tom Cotter, a regular contributor to *Road & Track*, has chronicled more than 40 of the stories in his book, *The Cobra in the Barn*. Released last spring, the book documents that such finds are more than just urban legends. Cobras, Ferraris, Cords and dozens of other pieces of automotive history are discovered in all sorts of places, including a Cobra in a bedroom. Cotter has followed up with *The Corvette in the Barn*, published this fall. Each chapter is an interesting vignette, setting the mind wondering what's left to be discovered. *The Cobra in the Barn*, already in its second edition as a 256-page paperback with foreword by Peter Egan, has 125 photos in color and black and white documenting these wonderful stories. *The Corvette in the Barn* is a new issue in hardcover, with foreword by Keith Martin. Both books are available through Motorbooks, a division of Quayside Publishing Group of Minneapolis. For more information or to buy these books, visit www.motorbooks.com.

TIM ALLEN THE VOICE OF CHEVROLET

Comedian Tim Allen, known as "Tim The Tool Man" Taylor on television's "Home Improvement" sitcom in the 1990s and

on the big screen in *The Santa Clause* and many other movies, is the new voice of Chevrolet TV advertising. Allen is a native of the Detroit area and has a longstanding love affair with the automobile. He has an extensive car collection, including personally designed versions of a 1996 Chevrolet LT5 Impala SS and a 2000 Cadillac DeVille DTSi. His first spot, for the new Chevy Cruze, started in September.

FORD'S NEW VEHICLE ASSEMBLY FORCE

As the new Ford Edge moves down the Oakville, Ontario assembly line, robots and workers add appropriate components and parts. Now there is a new third force contributing to the assembly process: wireless. Ford is the first automaker to use WiFi provisioning on the assembly line to wirelessly deliver SYNC software to vehicles equipped with the new MyFord Touch™ driver connect technology as they are being built. The new on-the-line WiFi capability eliminates the need for building, stocking and storing multiple SYNC hardware modules, reducing manufacturing complexity and cost. Through the WiFi connection, SYNC options totaling as much as 300 MB of data can be installed and configured. ■

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



Photo: Randall Bohl

Photo courtesy Lucas Oil Off Road Racing Series

PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY 2011 NASCAR SCHEDULE

Phoenix International Raceway has been awarded two NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race weekends in 2011. Widespread schedule realignment has seen many race dates moved among multiple facilities, but this marks seven consecutive seasons for PIR to host a pair of nationally-televised event weekends featuring the brightest stars in NASCAR.

PIR President Bryan R. Sperber has confirmed that the track will host a total of six races in 2011, including two NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races, two NASCAR Nationwide Series races, a NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race and the season finale NASCAR K&N Pro Series West race.

"We are honored to be the only facility in the West with two Sprint Cup Series events," Sperber said. "The commitment from NASCAR to race twice at Phoenix International Raceway speaks volumes for the level of enthusiasm the sport has from fans in Arizona and throughout this part of the country."

FEBRUARY 2011: The SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ kicks off PIR's 2011 season, with races in NASCAR's three top series. The SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race is Sunday, February 27—the Series' second stop of the season, following the Daytona 500. The weekend also features the Bashas' Supermarkets 200 NASCAR Nationwide Series race on Saturday and the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race on Friday.
 FRIDAY.....FEB 25.....NASCAR Camping World Truck Series
 SATURDAY...FEB 26.....Bashas' Supermarkets 200 NASCAR Nationwide Series
 SUNDAY.....FEB 27.....SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ NASCAR Sprint Cup Series

NOVEMBER 2011: NASCAR returns to Phoenix for its traditional fall weekend in November, with the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series semi-final race in the Chase for the Sprint Cup—the Kobalt Tools 500—on Sunday, November 13. The weekend also features the WYPALL* 200 NASCAR Nationwide Series race and NASCAR K&N Pro Series West season finale race on Saturday.
 SATURDAY...NOV 12.....NASCAR K&N Pro Series West
 SATURDAY...NOV 12.....WYPALL* 200 NASCAR Nationwide Series
 SUNDAY.....NOV 13.....Kobalt Tools 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series

*Event names are subject to change

TICKETS: 2011 Season Tickets are on sale now, with prices starting at just \$99. 2011 SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ individual tickets go on sale November 11 from as low as \$25. (Tickets for this year's November 11-14 Kobalt Tools 500 NASCAR event weekend were also still available at press time, with prices starting at just \$25.) For information or tickets, call 866-408-RACE (7223) or visit phoenixraceway.com/tickets. ■

LUCAS OIL OFF ROAD RACING SERIES 2011 SCHEDULE

The Lucas Oil Off Road Racing Series is the evolution of longstanding support of short course racing by Forrester Lucas and Lucas Oil Products. Steeped in the Midwest tradition of short course off road racing, infused with a West Coast influence, Lucas Oil Off Road Racing brings intense four-wheel door-to-door action to challenging, fan-friendly tracks.

As this year's season enters the final two weekends of competition, the Lucas Oil Off Road Racing Series visits Las Vegas Motor Speedway for Rounds 13 and 14 on November 6-7. This year's Championship Weekend is held December 11-12, 2010, at Firebird International Raceway in Chandler, where both the season titles in all classes and the Rockstar Energy/Lucas Oil Challenge Cup will be decided.

Closely mirroring the 2010 schedule, teams and fans can look forward to another thrilling season at familiar venues. The fifteen-round battle for the 2011 championship begins March 19 at Firebird International Raceway and returns here on December 11 and 12 for the Lucas Oil Challenge Cup season finale. Other series stops include events at Speedworld Off Road Park in Surprise AZ, Glen Helen Raceway in San Bernardino CA and Miller Motorsports Park in Tooele UT.

In the midst of final preparations for the final two event weekends of 2010, Series Director Tony Vanillo spoke about next season's schedule. "We have had the opportunity to establish some fantastic partnerships while building these unique, purpose-built tracks. It's a great feeling to know that we're preparing to return to these facilities for a second or third year. This sort of stability is fantastic for the sport."

LUCAS OIL OFF ROAD RACING SERIES - 2011 SCHEDULE

Round 1,2.....March 19-20.....Firebird International Raceway.....Chandler AZ
 Round 3,4.....April 16-17.....Speedworld Off Road Park.....Surprise AZ
 Round 5,6.....May 21-22.....Glen Helen Raceway.....San Bernardino CA
 Round 7,8.....June 25-26.....Miller Motorsports Park.....Tooele UT
 Round 9,10.....August 6-7.....Glen Helen Raceway.....San Bernardino CA
 Round 11,12.....Sept 24-25.....Speedworld Off Road Park.....Surprise AZ
 Round 13,14.....Nov 5-6.....Las Vegas Motor Speedway.....Las Vegas NV
 Round 15.....Dec 10.....Firebird International Raceway.....Chandler AZ
 ...and...

THE LUCAS OIL CHALLENGE CUP - 2011

Championship.....Dec 11.....Firebird International Raceway.....Chandler AZ

INFORMATION: For further information on the Lucas Oil Off Road Racing Series, visit lucasoiloffroadracing.com. For more information on Firebird International Raceway in Chandler, Arizona, visit firebirdraceway.com. ■

2011 **GOODGUYS**
 Rod & Custom Association

EVENT SCHEDULE

MARCH

March 11, 12 & 13 - Scottsdale, AZ 🚩
 ★ **2nd SPRING NATIONALS**
 WestWorld of Scottsdale. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

March 18, 19 & 20 - Ft. Worth, TX 🚩 **NEW EVENT**
 ★ **1st SPRING LONE STAR NATIONALS**
 Texas Motor Speedway. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

March 26 & 27 - Pleasanton, CA
29th ALL AMERICAN GET-TOGETHER
 Fairgrounds - Pleasanton. All years American Powered Cars & Trucks. AutoCross, Vendors, Huge Swap Meet & Car Corral.

APRIL

April 1, 2 & 3 - Del Mar, CA 🚩
 ★ **11th MEGUIAR'S DEL MAR NATIONALS**
 Del Mar Fairgrounds. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

MAY

May 20, 21 & 22 - Nashville, TN 🚩
 ★ **6th BRIDGESTONE NASHVILLE NATIONALS**
 LP Field, Tennessee Titan Stadium. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

JUNE

June 3, 4 & 5 - Loveland, CO 🚩
 ★ **14th COLORADO NATIONALS**
 The Ranch Events Complex. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

June 4 & 5 - Pleasanton, CA 🚩
18th SUMMER GET-TOGETHER
 Fairgrounds - Pleasanton. All years American Powered Cars & Trucks. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

June 24, 25 & 26 - Rhinebeck, NY
 ★ **20th EAST COAST NATIONALS**
 Dutchess County Fairgrounds. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

JULY

July 1, 2 & 3 - Des Moines, IA 🚩
 ★ **20th HEARTLAND NATIONALS**
 Iowa State Fairgrounds. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

July 8, 9 & 10 - Columbus, OH 🚩 **THE BIG ONE**
 ★ **14th GOODGUYS PPG NATIONALS**
 Ohio Expo Center. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Friday Nite Drags, AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

July 22, 23 & 24 - Puyallup, WA
 ★ **24th PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONALS**
 Puyallup Fair & Events Center. Rods, Customs & Classics thru '72. Friday Nite Drags, Show 'n Shine, Vendors & Swap Meet.

AUGUST

August 12, 13 & 14 - Joliet, IL 🚩 **NEW DATE**
 ★ **5th PEAK CHICAGOLAND NATIONALS**
 Chicagoland Speedway. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

August 19, 20 & 21 - Spokane, WA
 ★ **10th GREAT NORTHWEST NATIONALS**
 Spokane Fair & Expo Center. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

August 26, 27 & 28 - Pleasanton, CA
 ★ **25th WEST COAST NATIONALS**
 Fairgrounds - Pleasanton. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

SEPTEMBER

September 2, 3 & 4 - Kansas City, KS 🚩
 ★ **10th MID-WESTERN NATIONALS**
 Kansas Speedway. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

September 16, 17 & 18 - Indianapolis, IN 🚩 **NEW EVENT**
 ★ **1st WIX FILTERS SPEEDWAY NATIONALS**
 Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Rods, Customs, Classics & Trucks thru '72. Show 'n Shine, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

OCTOBER

Sept. 30, Oct. 1 & 2 - Ft. Worth, TX 🚩
 ★ **19th LONE STAR NATIONALS**
 Texas Motor Speedway. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

October 28, 29 & 30 - Charlotte, NC 🚩
 ★ **18th SOUTHEASTERN NATIONALS**
 Charlotte Motor Speedway. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

NOVEMBER

November 12 & 13 - Pleasanton, CA 🚩
22nd AUTUMN GET-TOGETHER
 Fairgrounds - Pleasanton. All years American Powered Cars & Trucks. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

November 18, 19 & 20 - Scottsdale, AZ
 ★ **14th SOUTHWEST NATIONALS**
 WestWorld of Scottsdale. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

November 25, 26 & 27 - Del Mar, CA 🚩 **NEW EVENT**
 ★ **1st FALL DEL MAR NATIONALS**
 Del Mar Fairgrounds. Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars & Trucks thru '72. AutoCross, Vendors, Swap Meet & Car Corral.

★ = National Events
 🚩 = AutoCross

Goodguys Schedule as of 10/20/10. All dates subject to change.

Goodguys • P.O. Box 9132 • Pleasanton, CA 94566 • 925.838.9876 • www.good-guys.com

bolder, better and more clearly scion

- MORE POWER • INCREASED MPG • DYNAMIC PERFORMANCE
- AGGRESSIVE PREMIUM STYLING • ADDED SAFETY FEATURES

Toyota is widely thought of as being fairly neutral and very mainstream—despite such offerings as the very cool Venza, the über-macho Tundra or the Toyota Celica Supra of the past (RIP). Lexus was introduced in 1989 to—seemingly improbably at the time, but ultimately very successfully—take on the German luxury brands in the US market (and now sold globally). The lineup was rounded out in 2003 with the introduction of Scion, their third marque, conceived to bring a quirky and youthful image to the quirky and youthful automotive market.

First up were the original xA, a diminutive hatchback, and the xB, a boxy little affair that was more function, style and statement than performance. The xB has been highly redone since then, while keeping its original name, and the xA has been only mildly redone, while taking the new name of xD.

The Scion tC coupe arrived a year after

the xA and xB, despite having been represented in the original show teasers at the 2002 New York International Auto Show, in the ccX concept. And whereas it demonstrated the same quality and value as the other two models, it struck us as being far less distinctive in styling—closer to what Toyota itself might present under its own flag, than to the quirky individualism of the Scion nameplate.

Roll forward to today. The Scion tC has been upgraded in performance, features, even fuel mileage—and its style has taken a subtle but effective turn toward the distinctiveness that makes a Scion a Scion. Scion has been a great platform for Toyota show concepts, and the new tC's more aggressive stance derives from the Calt studio-designed Scion FUSE concept. The 2011 tC is immediately recognizable by its angular C-pillar and relatively flat roof, which evoke the look of the xB. But much is new with this car beyond its sheetmetal.

NEW FOR 2011

A 2.5-liter 16-valve 4-cylinder DOHC engine with aluminum alloy block and head and Dual VVT-i replaces the 2.4L unit, upping horsepower by 12%, from 161 hp in the 2010 model to 180 hp today. Transmissions are replaced, the old 5-speed manual with a 6-speed, and the old 4-speed automatic also with a 6-speed. Both performance and fuel economy benefit from these changes, with EPA city figures moving from 20 mpg with manual and 21 mpg with automatic, in the old model, to 23 mpg with either transmission for 2011; similarly, highway figures climb from 27 (MT) and 29 (AT) in the 2010 model, to 31 mpg with either transmission for 2011. (The tC with automatic has an ECO drive indicator, so you can check on your green credentials.) Zero-to-60 acceleration time moves up significantly, from 8.2 seconds to 7.6 with the manual and from 9.1 to 8.3 with automatic. These specs all represent solid win-wins.



Wheels are increased from 17" to 18", tires gain a slight performance edge, moving from P215/45ZR17 to P225/45R18, though they lose the Z rating. Front ventilated disc brakes are increased from 10.83" to 11.65", back solid discs from 10.59" to 10.98". Safety first: more go comes with more stop.

And speaking of safety, the 2011 tC adds a front knee airbag, now bearing two, and adds all-new active front headrest, brake override system, VSC, TRAC and brake assist. You'll feel better than ever putting your kid or your own young self in this.

But we're not here to crash. Inside, the audio system—a critical element in a youth machine—not only adds iPod connectivity, a natural, but augments the 160-watt Pioneer amp with a 140-watt 2-channel



KEEP RIGHT >>

BY JOE SAGE



LAS VEGAS TRAVEL NOTES

If you travel to Las Vegas from Arizona, you probably either stay on the Strip, to be in the heart of the action, or on the metro fringe, to decompress, save a buck and have one foot out the door for the drive back to Arizona.

For the Scion tC launch, we were shown the best of both worlds: the Hard Rock Hotel



& Casino. Just a mile from the Strip (east on Harmon Road from Planet Hollywood) and at the north end of McCarran International Airport (LAS), it offers a panoramic view of the glittering Strip that you can't get when staying on the Strip itself.

Being a Hard Rock Cafe at its core, it has



more than the average share of rock'n'roll memorabilia, throughout the casinos, hotel lobby, restaurants and extensive hallways.

The facility is easy to navigate, with the wheel-and-spoke nature of its casino. Yet it



is very complete, with a wide range of restaurants and shops, multiple room towers and options, night clubs, fitness centers, multiple pools including one with a sand beach and one upstairs with a glass side, as

Travel Notes (cont'd) >>



A moon roof with mesh wind deflector is new on the 2011 Scion tC. Toyota Racing Development (TRD) offers a full complement of specifically engineered and factory approved add-ons. Trunk space is very generous, and split folding rear seats expand its utility considerably. The 2.5L DOHC 4-cylinder with VVT-i boosts power, acceleration and fuel economy.

amp, for 300W total rocking power, while also bringing speaker count from seven to eight. The sound is tops.

NEVADA DRIVE TIME

Starting from the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, our test drive routes included the Strip, the Las Vegas metro grid, and a great loop through Red Rock Canyon park. Red Rock was some distance from downtown Las Vegas, so it also included metro freeway and open highway time. The tC performs on the freeway alongside its larger brethren without a second thought and is great fun on the two-lanes. The park loop was a one-way with plenty of twists, turns and hills, and despite pushing it considerably, it never exceeded its limits, under our control nor even at the hands of our race champion codriver. A great performer.

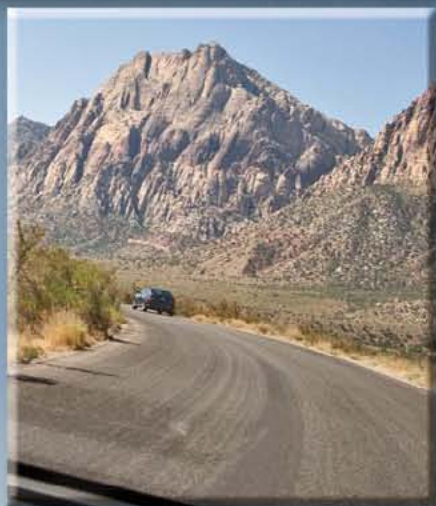
YOU WANT ONE

Aimed at a youthful buyer, the Scion tC starts at just \$18,275 manual or \$19,275 automatic (MSRP, plus \$720 destination charge). As with all Scions, the base model comes fully equipped. A 36-month/36,000-mile new vehicle warranty is augmented by a 60,000-mile powertrain and uncapped corrosion warranty, and 5,000- and 10,000-mile maintenance are included at no cost.

Scion's youth roots run deep. Statistics show it is the youngest brand in the industry, with the average buyer a 26-year-old male. There are over 800,000 Scions on the road today, and of their buyers, 71% were new to the Toyota brand family. And that was one of the company's primary goals in establishing Scion. Of the total, over 300,000—over 41%—are the Scion tC, so this sporty coupe has brought the most buyers to the brand, of any.

Scion has inspired many clubs, a wealth of aftermarket products, and passionate loyalty. Marketing for the new Scion tC has included social media, of course, as well as major market gatherings nationwide, with a fusion of art and music, from college house parties to rocking events with the Jack Beats, Blu Jemz and others, plus events at such iconic venues as Knott's Berry Farm. Scion Installation LA is a permanent creative venue from Scion Space.

Though aimed at a youthful buyer, our advice could ruin their youngest-brand statistic: we see no reason the new Scion tC coupe wouldn't appeal to everyone. ■



LAS VEGAS TRAVEL (CONT'D)

well as a convention hall and a variety of conference rooms and breakouts for the business planner. The Hard Rock presents concerts, poolside shows and more entertainment at The Joint. Rooms were spacious, postmodern and high style, bathrooms were enormous, with glass walls



back to the bedroom; even the lighting was spectacularly executed. A fine place to stay.

We enjoyed Tuscan-style dinner at AGO, named for restaurateur Agostino Sciandri. A Mexican buffet lunch at the Pink Taco passed the tamale test with high marks—as so few do. We missed the Hofbräuhaus,



kitty-corner from Hard Rock, but had heard raves from a world-traveling colleague who had also stayed at Hard Rock just a couple of weeks prior.

The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino is at turns



flashy and classy, while equally casual and down-to-earth. An excellent choice.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas
4455 Paradise Road, Las Vegas NV 89169
800-HRD-ROCK (800-693-7625)

Travel was via US Airways from Phoenix, a slam-dunk. —JS

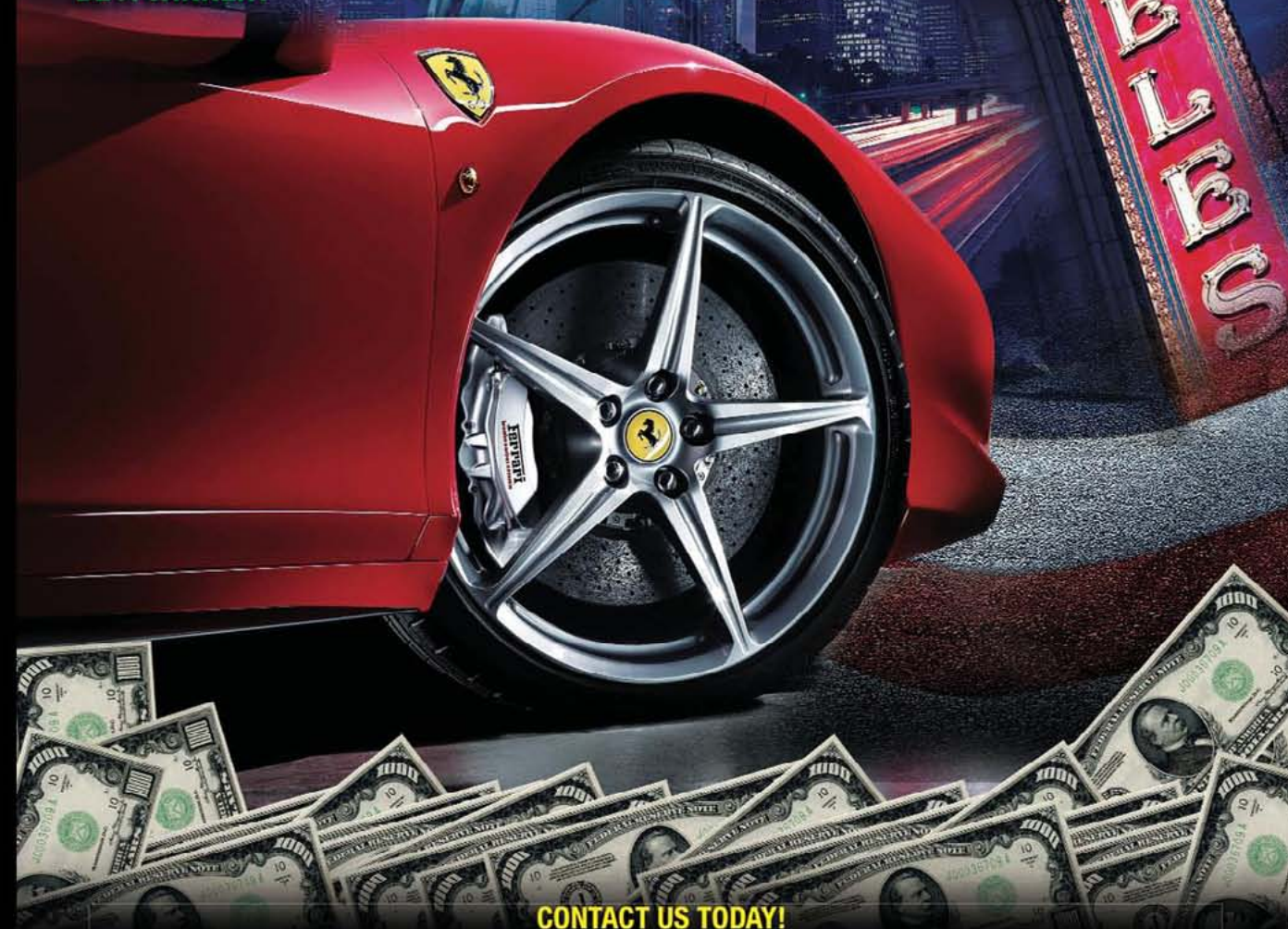


AN ALL NEW CONCEPT
CRACK THE CODE TO
WIN THE CASH!
A CLASSIC CONCEPT
WITH A FRESH NEW TWIST

THE RAT RACE

COAST-TO-COAST!
NEW YORK TO LOS ANGELES
SEPTEMBER 3rd 2011 TO
SEPTEMBER 9th 2011

HAVE YOU
GOT WHAT IT
TAKES TO
BE A WINNER?



CONTACT US TODAY!

www.cannonballworld.com • email info@cannonballworld.com

UNITED KINGDOM OFFICE TEL: 011-44-1403-276191 • UNITED STATES OFFICE TEL: (317) 531-2486





Photo: Mathieu Heurtault, AEE-Images



Photo: Joe Sage

Arizona International Auto Show Rolls Into Phoenix Convention Center

New cars, exotics, alternative fuel vehicles, ride and drives and more

Thanksgiving Weekend: November 25-28, 2010

The 2011-model Arizona International Auto Show is set to pack hundreds of new cars, crossovers, hybrids and more into the Phoenix Convention Center, starting on Thanksgiving day and running all weekend.

This automotive extravaganza will feature luxury vehicles, ride and drives and the latest alternative fuel vehicles. Attendees are invited to check out all the latest vehicles in this non-selling environment, sit behind the wheels, inspect engines, learn about new automotive technologies and more.

Representatives from leading automotive manufacturers will be on site to answer questions and provide information on the latest vehicles.

The Arizona International Auto Show is owned and presented by the Valley Auto Dealers Association and produced by Motor Trend Auto Shows, LLC, the nation's largest auto show producer.

DATES AND TIMES

Thursday, November 25 (Thanksgiving Day)...9am-7pm
 Friday, November 269am-9pm
 Saturday, November 279am-9pm
 Sunday, November 289am-7pm

LOCATION

Phoenix Convention Center
 100 N 3rd Street, Phoenix AZ 85004

TICKETS

Adults.....\$9
 Seniors (62 and older).....\$5
 Military and students with ID.....\$5
 Children (7-12).....\$5
 Children six and youngerfree

On Family Day, Sunday, November 28, children 12 and younger are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult.

DISCOUNTS AND MORE INFORMATION

More information and discount coupons can be downloaded at www.AutoShowPhoenix.com. Advance e-tickets may also be purchased online at a savings of \$1 off the regular adult admission price. ■

The 4th Annual Wheels of Wellness Charity Event

Racing Greats Dario Franchitti, Danica Patrick, Bobby Rahal and Denise McCluggage: teen and family cancer support programs benefit from exclusive, world-class showcase

The Wellness Community, 360 E. Palm Lane in downtown Phoenix: 11am-3pm, Sunday, January 16, 2011

Now in its fourth year, Wheels of Wellness has become a much-anticipated gathering of racing luminaries and car aficionados that kicks off Arizona Auction Week, a series of events that draws car enthusiasts from across the nation and throughout the world. The event is the brainchild of a small group of Phoenix and Scottsdale business executives who are avid vintage car collectors and drivers, and whose lives have been touched by cancer. 2009 IndyCar Series Champion Dario Franchitti and Danica Patrick, the first woman to win an IndyCar race, are among the racing greats who will participate in a Legends of Motorsports panel. The event, title sponsored by GoDaddy.com, the world's largest Web hosting provider and top domain name registrar, will also feature Lyn St. James, the first female Indy 500 Rookie of the Year, who will serve as moderator for the panel discussion. The panel will include such female racing luminaries as Denise McCluggage and Desiré Wilson. Justin Bell, son of celebrated racing driver Derek Bell, will also attend. Celebrities, racecar owners and sponsors are donating their time and talents to help raise funds to support programs provided by The Wellness Community—Arizona for teens with cancer and families impacted by cancer.

GUESTS

Among the racing greats who have been invited to appear at the event are:

- Two-time Indianapolis 500 winner and 2009/2007 IndyCar Series Champion Dario Franchitti
- Danica Patrick, the first woman to win an IndyCar race and star of 2009's most watched Super Bowl commercial
- Lyn St. James, the first woman to win the Indianapolis 500 Rookie of the Year award
- Noted auto racing driver, journalist, author and photographer Denise McCluggage
- Desiré Wilson, the only woman in history to win a Grand Prix race (the Aurora series)
- Justin Bell, FIA GT2 champion, Trans Am Rookie of the Year, correspondent for Jay Leno's Garage and for ALMS
- Bobby Rahal, winner of three championships and 24 CART open-wheel races, including the 1986 Indianapolis 500

WOMEN IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE EXHIBIT

A special highlight will be an exclusive preview of the Women in the Winner's Circle Exhibit, which will subsequently tour the nation. Presented in partnership with The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, the 600-square-foot exhibit documents the extraordinary history and accomplishments of women in motorsports. Included are personal artifacts from significant drivers, an interactive kiosk and informational panels documenting the accomplishments of women drivers in racing since 1903.

HISTORIC RACECARS

Attendees will stroll among a world-class display of more than two dozen rare, exquisite vintage racecars. This year's special focus is on American-built racecars from the '50s and '60s, plus rare, vintage motorcycles. Racecars include:

- Lance Reventlow's dominating 1958 Scarab Mk1 (chassis #1)
- An original 1962 Chaparral I (Hall/Sharp Road America 500 winner)
- 1958 Echidna, 1 of 3 ever built ('59 SCCA national champion)
- 1962 Ol' Yeller VIII (built by Max Balchowsky)
- 1951 "Fabulous" Hudson Hornet stock car
- 1963 Ford Galaxie stock car (Dan Gurney's Riverside winner)
- 1964 McLaren-Elva MK1A (Cro-Sal Special)
- 1971 Alfa Romeo Tipo 33/3 (5th at the Targa Florio)
- 1976 IROC Camaro (A.J. Foyt)

TICKETS

Showcase entry tickets are \$75, with \$50 of this amount tax-deductible. There is limited availability, so RSVP as soon as possible. To purchase tickets, contact Stephanie DiStefano at 602-712-1006 or sdistefano@twccaz.org. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets online, visit wheelsofwellness.org. ■



The Tucson Attractions Passport is an unbeatable savings guide to the best there is to see and do in Southern Arizona. Each booklet includes over 30 **two-for-one** offers and **discounts** to the area's top attractions, museums, shopping, and fun!

Get \$400 worth of savings for only \$15.

WWW.TUCSONPASSPORT.COM

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum • Colossal Cave Mountain Park • Reid Park Zoo • Fox Tucson Theatre
 Kitt Peak National Observatory • Old Tucson Studios • Biosphere 2 • Kartchner Caverns State Park
 Pima Air & Space Museum • Tohono Chul Park • La Encantada • International Wildlife Museum
 Tucson Botanical Gardens • Tucson Museum of Art • Tucson Symphony Orchestra

Produced in cooperation by the Southern Arizona Attractions Alliance, Metropolitan Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Pima County





Photos: Auctions America by RM



Photos: Barrett-Jackson Auction Company

THE 3RD ANNUAL BARRETT-JACKSON AUCTION COMPANY LAS VEGAS COLLECTOR CAR EVENT

MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO - SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2010

\$23 million in sales, \$1.1m for charity; 41 percent sell to first-time bidders, with new collectibles taking top spots.

The collector car hobby continued to exhibit resiliency in a challenging economy, with strong prices for more than 500 hot rods, resto-mods, exotics, classics, muscle cars and new collectibles that crossed the block during the 3rd Annual Barrett-Jackson Las Vegas Auction in late September. Barrett-Jackson reported nearly \$23 million in total sales during its final event for 2010. All vehicles were sold at No Reserve with some 51,000 fans in attendance, 1000 bidders, and 21.5 hours of live *SPEED* coverage. Sales were up from the 2009 Las Vegas auction, with late model vehicles the most coveted.

A full week of activities kicked off with Saturday's 3rd Annual Cruise-In hosted by Gaudin Ford, featuring over 100 classics, hot rods and new collectibles, with food and beverage proceeds benefiting local charity Keep Memory Alive. Wednesday brought a mini cruise-in at Fairway Chevrolet with live music, food and drink, the 2nd Annual Road Rally down the Las Vegas Strip, and ride'n'drives by Ford and GM. Barrett-Jackson and MGM Resorts provided five days of "REVVED" activities, including spas, cooking, fashion, gaming, liquor, cigars, concerts, movies, three Barrett-Jackson Choice Awards and one Participant's Choice Award, and an Elvis impersonator to wow the crowd.

"The hottest category was that of new collectibles, followed closely by resto-mods that can be taken out for a cruise or for a jaunt around the neighborhood," noted Steve Davis, president of Barrett-Jackson Auction Company. "Vintage cars were strong, but the newer vehicles were definitely a hit." Top sellers were a 2008 Bugatti Veyron for \$770,000, a 2009 SLR McLaren Roadster for \$412,500 and a UFC limited edition 2010 Chevrolet Camaro for \$350,000 (shown above).

Many top auction sales benefited charities, including the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, YMCA of Southern Nevada and others, with all commissions waived. The company also raised money for Keep Memory Alive during its Opening Night Party, through the sale of four Las Vegas-inspired car hoods. Two 1981 Corvettes benefited the Ralph Braun Foundation: the first 'Vette off the assembly line in Bowling Green on June 1, 1981, and the last built at the legendary St. Louis plant before its doors closed on July 31, 1981. The winning bidder announced he would offer the two again in Scottsdale this January, again to benefit the Foundation.

Barrett-Jackson is on Ethisphere's 2010 World's Most Ethical Companies list, and the company's ethical policies were tested during this auction. The top bidder for the Bugatti Veyron attempted to back out of the purchase once in the cashiering office. To honor the company's commitment to a transparent forum for bidders and consignors, Barrett-Jackson chairman and CEO Craig Jackson returned to the auction block and offered the vehicle to any interested under-bidder at the same price. With no other bidder stepping in at the winning bid, Jackson purchased the Veyron himself. ■

THE INAUGURAL AUCTIONS AMERICA BY RM AUBURN FALL COLLECTOR CAR AUCTION

AUBURN AUCTION PARK - AUBURN, INDIANA - SEPTEMBER 2-5, 2010

New event launched with the July acquisition of the Auburn Auction Park and creation of Auctions America by RM.

Collector car enthusiasts flocked to a familiar site in Auburn, Indiana, for the long-standing tradition of celebrating the automobile over Labor Day weekend. This year marked the successful debut of Auctions America by RM, only two short months after its formation. With such a tight window to revamp the auction park, there was much to do, and RM Auctions set themselves to the task. Car enthusiasts expressed their enthusiasm for all the upgrades, providing a warm reception and truly fun atmosphere.

Auctions America hosted over 25,000 visitors at the completely renovated Auburn Auction Park. In addition to the daily preview of quality automobiles and auction action, the event presented a swap meet, car corral and food vendors.

The inaugural four-day Auburn Fall Collector Car Auction posted \$13.4 million in total sales, with a 52.7 percent sell-through rate of all lots including cars, motorcycles and memorabilia. Top seller for the weekend was a majestic and rare 1934 Duesenberg Model JN Convertible Sedan by Rollston (shown above, top), which went to a telephone bidder for \$962,500 in the packed auction arena during the Saturday session. American Classics were the toast of the Auctions America sale, also including:

- 1929 Duesenberg Model J 7-passenger Sedan - \$357,500
- 1934 Packard Twelve Runabout Speedster by LeBaron - \$275,000 (above, lower right)
- 1938 Lincoln Model K Convertible Victoria Convertible by Brun - \$200,750

Complete official results for the 'Auburn Fall Collector Car Auction' are available at www.rmauctions.com. (Figures include the 10 percent buyer's premium.)

"Our first Auburn sale exceeded our expectations in every respect," said Donnie Gould, of Auctions America by RM. "But the most rewarding aspect of the weekend was the many compliments received from visitors and clients about the quality of our sale and of the upgrades to the Auction Park."

Auctions America returns March 3-5 for the Collector Cars of Fort Lauderdale sale at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center in Florida. And they head back to Indiana April 29 through May 1 for the Auburn Spring Collector Car Auction in Indiana. For more information or to consign, call 1-954-566-2209 for Fort Lauderdale, 1-877-906-2437 for Auburn, or visit rmauctions.com. ■

*It's not just a car.
It's a time machine for your soul.*



Drive your dream.®

You never forget your first love.

With thousands of classic cars and trucks for sale, ClassicCars.com plays matchmaker every day to car buffs just like you. Travel back in time and fall in love all over again.

www.ClassicCars.com



ACCORD, CAMRY AND FUSION: MEET THE NEW COMPETITION

Kia has had tremendous growth during its 16 years in the US market. This was not preordained. Despite the heavy presence of Japanese vehicles in this country for decades—which, itself, had taken quite awhile to establish—the influx of Korean vehicles required new familiarization and perhaps a leap of faith, a leap that was given a tremendous head start with Kia's unprecedented 10-year/10,000-mile warranty.

The battle for logic is won. Now it's time to tackle the soul. Speaking of which, Kia logs its current transformation by the benchmark of what has happened "since Soul"—the smash hit Kia Soul.

HEAD MEETS HEART

Kia has consistently presented solid, well-conceived vehicles. Their build quality, feature set and even styling have rapidly adapted to North American tastes and feedback. Left-brain qualities such as purchase price economy and fuel economy have been well established. But the Kia Soul was the first showroom-tangible evidence of a new design-led transformation within the brand.



Photo: Greg Jarem

How many automakers have tried to come up with a distinctive face across their lineup, only to make us wish they hadn't? Kia has really nailed it with their "Tiger Nose" grille, especially in this latest iteration on the new Optima. Kudos to Kia Design Center America. Note the striking repeat of this shape above the windshield.

Kia is now ready to add what they term an "emotional connection" with the customer's right brain. The time is ripe for a giant leap forward by Kia—and it has already begun. In one of the

industry's most aggressive product launch cycles, Kia has in short order introduced the all-new Soul, Forte and Koup, and a new Sorento, to be followed by a new Sportage and a Sorento SX. Today

they launch the all-new Optima, soon the Forte 5-Door—and more is promised following that.

The effort is bearing fruit, with sales up 9.6% year to date. The company had its best first quarter, second quarter and first half-year ever. The all-new Sorento has been their number-one seller since its January launch, finding 9000 new homes per month. Kia sold 3 million vehicles by March. Five months this year have set monthly sales records. And residual values are up over 6 percent, twice the industry rate.

Kia's strongest sales and market share areas are the Northeast, Great Lakes, Atlanta, south Florida, Texas, California, the Pacific Northwest—and Arizona, all identified as stylish and affluent markets. "Since Soul," sales are up 38 percent in the West (LA-PHX-SF-SEA) and 79% in the Northeast. Sales success begets dealer satisfaction, now standing at 4th best out of some 30-40 brands. The stage is set for one of Kia's most ambitious moves: introducing an all-new Optima to take on the important midsize sedan segment.

THE NEW OPTIMA IS BORN

The 2011 Kia Optima derives from the Ray concept (see next page), a plug-in electric hybrid presented at the Chicago Auto Show last February. The production Optima (developed in both their

Irvine and Frankfurt, Germany studios) is tamed a bit from the concept, but on a continuum from the preceding Optima to the Ray concept, the new car breaks ground at every level.

The first two generations of the Optima got the job done, but didn't get the blood pumping. Not so, the third. Fit and finish are tops. Color and trim options abound. The designers have given the Optima a very driver-oriented interior and the brand's Tiger Nose grille, a stylish identifier on all the most recent models which has evolved to its most stunning yet in this iteration.

WELCOME ABOARD

Kia has given itself an enormous assignment with the new Optima: to make inroads in a market dominated by the Toyota Camry, Honda Accord and the new Ford Fusion. To do so by offering the same affordability, fuel economy and extreme warranty, while incorporating features normally found in a vehicle at least one class up, plus increased space (2" more front legroom, spacious rear seating, a larger trunk and split folding rear seats). For the emotional side, says Ralph Tjoa, Senior Product Strategy Manager, major restyling provides "the antidote to sedandom." Inside and out, the Optima is intended to fit "like a perfectly

KEEP RIGHT >>

KIA OPTIMIZES ANOTHER KEY SEGMENT

BY JOE SAGE



SO CAL TRAVEL NOTES

This event was held in Newport Coast CA, aptly nicknamed "the Pacific Riviera." We had our choice of airports, but the handiest and most obvious is the one with three names: Orange County, a.k.a. John Wayne, a.k.a. Santa Ana (code: SNA). We flew to John Wayne Airport on US Airways.



Lodging was at the Pelican Hill Resort, a 504-acre resort complex of bungalows and villas, with ocean views, also featuring 54 holes of golf (36 Championship holes), spa facilities, dining and meeting/event space.

The resort has a sprawling campus-like layout, with staff always at the ready to



transport you by cart, but also offering great strolls among the major points. The days started and ended with an ocean view from our bungalow. 15-foot ceilings in the rooms, along with oversized collonades, doors and windows throughout the property, add to an overall feeling of comfort and elbow room. Meals at the hotel's restaurants were superb, as was the ambience.

Outdoors among the villas and bungalows, ample grassy lawns that were home to static displays of the new Kia Optima were transformed at night into an outdoor movie theater, complete with popcorn and candy.



The resort has large swimming pools, walking/jogging pathways, and large common living areas with comfortable furnishings and fireplaces, in the main building. The surrounding neighborhood is reportedly populated, appropriately enough, by nothing but billionaires.—JS



Photos: Greg Jarem (4)

tailored fine Italian suit."

Does it work? Right from the get-go. As we arrived at our destination in California, staff at the hosting facility were abuzz. How much is it? When can we get one? They loved it. In the morning mist, early walkers were pausing to study it in detail, even parked amid Mercedes and Ferrari.

Kia has everybody's attention.

DRIVE TIME & FEATURES

Our drive took us right out of the developed lowlands of Irvine and into the Santa Ana Mountains. The winding and altitude-gaining two-lane Ortega Highway would be a challenge for any car. Our new midsize sedan did exceptionally well. Power was plentiful, steering demonstrated no noticeable torque, and handling was flat and smooth.

The front seats are heated, but—perfect for Arizona—they also have class-exclusive cooling. "Once you try it, there's no going back," their engineers say, and that gets no debate from us. In addition, there is a refrigerated glove box. Kia had

provided us with bottled water, which was kept mildly cool, with our a/c not running very high.

The Infinity audio system is from HARMAN of Farmington Hills, Michigan. The purpose-built 12-speaker premium system has a 550-watt amp and advanced Digital Signal Processing (DSP), with a 100mm center speaker and a 200mm dual voice coil subwoofer in the rear deck. The result? Every seating position receives optimized sound. You can enjoy broadcast, satellite, iPod/MP3, or other sources via built-in jacks and USB. We've been in plenty of cars in which the sound system cost a third of what this whole car (including audio) costs, that didn't hold a candle to the dramatic sound quality of this Infinity system.

YOUR NEW OPTIMA

The 2011 Optima is available with two all-new, fuel-efficient Theta II 4-cylinder powerplants. A 2.4-liter GDI engine produces 200 hp, while upgrading to the smaller but more potent 2.0L turbo GDI (EX Turbo and SX models) delivers 274 hp of V6-like power.

The 2.4L is mated to a six-speed automatic. A six-speed manual is available only with the LX model. All automatics feature Sportmatic® clutchless shifting. The 2.4L boasts 24/35 mpg (city/highway) with manual and 24/34 mpg with automatic transmission, while the 2.0L turbo achieves 22/34 mpg (automatic only). Power/fuel numbers for the Optima place it at the top of its segment. A 2.4-liter hybrid Optima will be introduced in 2011.

All models have direct fuel injection, power rack-and-pinion steering, independent MacPherson strut and coil spring front suspension, independent multi-link/coil rear suspension, antiroll bars front and rear, high-performance dampers, and four-wheel power disc brakes with ABS. The front discs are larger on the 2.0L turbo models, and the SX has black front calipers.

The 2011 Optima is available with four different wheel sizes and styles. Two are 18 inches, the first time two of the largest have been offered. The interior features mood lighting, derived from the Soul. A panoramic sunroof is another class-

exclusive feature, with automatic sliding blind function, essential under the blazing Arizona sun. And when things cool off, there's a heated steering wheel—yes, another class-exclusive feature.

The Kia Optima LX is the base model with the less powerful engine, but available with either manual or automatic shift. The EX is available with either engine, but automatic only. And the SX has the more powerful 2.0L turbo, also with automatic only. Pushbutton start, more power options, leather and power/heated/cooled seats, the panoramic sunroof and many more options kick in at the EX level. Navigation, backup camera, Infinity premium sound and dual-zone climate control are available on all but the LX manual.

Standard safety features include six airbags, front active headrests, side-impact door beams, advanced seatbelts and child anchors, tire pressure monitoring, electronic stability control (ESC), traction control, a brake assist system (BAS) and hill assist control (HAC).

MAKING MARKET INROADS

Knowing that displacing current Camry, Accord and Fusion customers is a tall order, Kia has its eye on Generation X, those roughly in their 30s and 40s. Income and demographics are right, and market research has shown this group to be self-sufficient, self-reliant and pragmatic—i.e. not bur-

dened by preconceptions. In focus groups, the Optima rated #1 with this group on first impressions; and after more details were provided, it was still #1. As this group has matured, they find themselves in a place they had never imagined: in need of a midsize sedan. They are very research-oriented, emotional as well as practical, and willing to take a calculated risk. Calling their own product a calculated risk may sound like damning with faint praise, but research shows the calculations are in their favor (and the risk not really perceived): with earlier models, the conclusion to buy an Optima registered a degree of disappointment, but with the new model, customers are very excited.

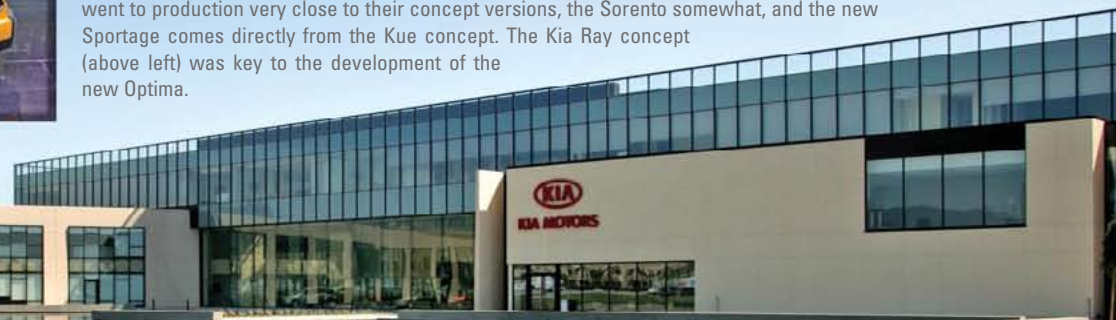
BOTTOM LINE

Kia is very confident about their new Optima, saying it "will become the standard other midsize cars are compared to." That's a strong statement, and whereas it may be a little new to be the number one benchmark, we can guarantee you the competition will be studying it in depth.

If you're shopping the midsize sedan category—one of the most useful and popular—you will absolutely want the Kia Optima on your list, at or near the top. Pricing had not been established by the time of the media launch, but Kia says the Optima will start under \$20,000, probably in the lower 19s. It will be extremely competitive. ■



TRANSFORMED BY DESIGN: To get a feel for the process whereby an enormous market segment is tackled by a smaller company, we headed to the Kia Design Center America, in Irvine. We found a facility that is staggeringly well-outfitted for the task. Kia used to share a team and facility with parent company Hyundai, not far away. Chief Designer Tom Kearns recruited his own team and provided considerable input into the new facility. There are some 27 major design studios in the region, but Kearns describes the Kia Design Center as more than a creative think tank: it is part of the production path. Designers and digital sculptors bring ideation sketches to full digital renderings, transmitted to a virtual reality room for review at full size, on three screens. Five digital sculptors are housed next to a modeling room able to generate eight full-size projects at one time, one of the largest in the region. Computer-carved clay models are wrapped in a paint-keyed coating that mimics metal. A color and trim room is flooded with clerestory natural light. The sculptors create one-off items such as lamps, wheels and interior details. The finished model is displayed in a viewing courtyard, with three turntables. We are shown the development of the Kia Soulster concept (lower left). We want one. It's enough to make you marvel at how designs ever succeeded in the pre-digital era. Compromises from concept show car to production are highly eliminated with this level of control and preview during development. Kearns points out that, indeed, the Kia Soul, Forte and Koup went to production very close to their concept versions, the Sorento somewhat, and the new Sportage comes directly from the Kue concept. The Kia Ray concept (above left) was key to the development of the new Optima.



OUR DRIVE ROUTE

Our drive started at the Kia Design Center America in Irvine, thus beginning with some urban surface street and freeway time. Kia headquarters is some 8-10 miles from the ocean, but only about three miles from the hills. We took a longer route out of town, to California 74, the Ortega Highway, from San

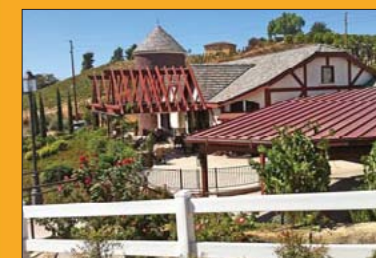


Juan Capistrano to Lake Elsinore. Google this road, and you'll see it was a spectacular test drive (on which the Optima did well).

During a break and driver change at Hell's Kitchen, a popular biker stop, a forest fire broke out nearby (and the power went out). The next hour or so were shared with



a stream of fire, forest and sheriff's vehicles, while helicopters buzzed overhead. Ultimately, the fire was fairly quickly contained, fortunate in challenging terrain and with Santa Ana winds due overnight.



Lunch was at the Leonesse Cellars Winery in Temecula Wine Country, at an outdoor buffet overlooking the vineyards.

We then headed back west to the fringes of Oceanside, and up the coast through Dana Point to Newport—involving Orange, Riverside and San Diego Counties in all.—JS

ZERO MOTORCYCLES LIGHTWEIGHT, QUICK, ALL-AMERICAN AND VERY "ELECTRIC"

Story and photos by Randall Bohl • www.randallbohl.com

Zero Motorcycles of Santa Cruz, California, is producing a lineup of electric motorcycles for Street, Dual Sport, Motocross and Trail riding. They are all lightweight, clean designs using aircraft-grade aluminum frames weighing only 18 pounds for the street and dual sport and 13 pounds for motocross and trail. As you can imagine, the lithium-ion array battery is the heaviest individual part of the bike. Yet this, located in place of your internal combustion engine, weighs only 95 pounds in the street and dual sport models and 46 pounds in the motocross/trail bikes. Total weights range from 273 pounds down to just 161 pounds. Operating cost: less than \$.01 per mile.

SMOOTH AND QUIET RIDES

We recently did a test ride on the Zero S street model when TJ, Bryan and Brock of Zero Motorcycles brought the lineup to Street Eagle Motorcycle Rentals in Scottsdale. Different from, but similar to a conventional motorcycle, we first note no clutch lever and no shift lever. We turn the key and wait just a moment while the engine control unit comes to life and the battery capacity and digital speedometer displays come up. Your engine is "on," but there is complete silence. As a safety feature, there is a kickstand switch like our bike at home and, similar to a starter button, at your right hand is the throttle on/off switch. Flip this and the throttle is "live."

The suspension feels stiff and we expect a jolt when we roll on the throttle, but instead it's a smooth application of power, as the throttle is a rheostat, and the brushed permanent magnet motor displays a ton of torque but sends absolutely no vibration through the handlebars—again, smooth is the operating word. Zero-to-50 goes past like nothing, as the major sound is the wind in your ears, and there is no RPM to watch or gear shift to make. We quickly forgot about the missing clutch and shift levers, until we wished to downshift coming to a yellow light at 40 mph. Being completely dependent on the brakes alone was very different. We came to appreciate the stiff front suspension, which did not nose over, and the front and rear disk brakes, which hauled the bike down to a firm stop quickly after we reached for the clutch and went for a gear out of habit. This didn't happen a second time.

We rode the Zero S along with TJ while he rode

the Zero DS (dual sport), on city streets. The bike handled well when we ran it up to 50-plus. Top speed for the Zero S is 67 mph. You can relax, lean and turn this thing with two fingers on the bars. Again, smooth.

It turns out you can get in trouble on a quiet electric as quickly as on a loud Harley—the Zero is not stealth to radar. Earlier in the morning, TJ had taken one of the bikes out for a little test ride and was promptly welcomed to town by a speeding ticket. We won't quote the number, but it was just short of felony speeding.

FRUGAL AND GREEN

The guys at Zero didn't push it, which was a relief to us because we already consider our regular rider "green" at 45 mpg. They're here to sell motorcycles to riders, and the degree to which these are environmentally correct is a bonus. One such bonus is that you can take the Zero X out trail riding and not scare the wildlife or irritate hikers and mountain bikers.

This brings up a design difference on the off-road bikes: engineers on these two models applied their own mountain-biking experience to put the rear brake lever on the left handle bar, freeing your feet completely.

There are also federal and state tax incentives—check those out for current info.

All four models use external chargers, which can be 110 or 220 volts AC. The range on the Zero S and DS is 50 miles. Recharge time from empty is 2 hours to 80% and less 4 hours to full. Range on the Zero MX and X is 40 miles with a full recharge time of less than 2 hours.

At the aforementioned \$.01 per mile to recharge, the Zero S or DS make very economical daily commuters. The lithium-ion battery arrays come with a full two-year warranty and eight-year pro-rating.

DEAR SANTA

Why do we want a Zero S for Christmas? Summer nights in Arizona. Call us soft, but we don't like to ride at over 105 degrees Fahrenheit. We like to night ride, and here's our polite side. The neighbors have a problem with "noise pollution," namely a motorcycle rolling out in the middle of the night when the temps dip below 100. Odd how they have normal sleep patterns? The Zero S will be perfect for sneaking out and laying down 50 miles around the city, returning home guilt free. ■



All the Zero electric bikes are mono-shock with chain drive. An exhaust tube is for an electric motor cooling fan.

There's no tach, just speed and battery gauge. The speedo includes redundant needle and digital; we found ourselves reading the digital.

Top to bottom right: the Zero S Electric Motorcycle for the street lists for \$9,995, as does the Zero DS dual sport. The Zero X dirt bike lists for just \$7,495 (or \$9,295 for the Extreme version), and the Zero MX motocross bike for \$8,295 (\$9,950 for the Extreme).

Zero Motorcycles
1 Victor Square, Scotts Valley CA 95066
www.zeromotorcycles.com • 888-786-9376

Street Eagle Motorcycle Rentals
9419 E. San Salvador - Suite 106-B
Scottsdale AZ 85258
www.streeteagle.com • 480-391-9959



Zero DS lead photo (left), Zero X and Zero MX photos: © Zero Motorcycles, Inc.



Photos: Chris Tedesco, Red Bull Photofiles (2)

RED BULL FLUGTAG

Team Peepin' it Real of Newport Beach catches air at Red Bull Flugtag in Long Beach's Rainbow Harbor. The all-female team nabbed first place with a 98-foot flight.

Team New Year No Limits' craft was modeled after the Subaru Travis Pastrana that jumped 269 feet on New Year's Eve from the exact same location.

GIRL POWER REIGNS BEFORE 105,000 SPECTATORS

Red Bull Flugtag brought many things to Long Beach this summer: the Spruce Goose, the Jetsons, the Flintstones and more than 105,000 spectators. The crowd was so enormous that the 710 freeway's exit ramp to the area was closed, all parking garages were at capacity and traffic was gridlocked throughout the downtown area. The hundreds of thousands who secured a spot were rewarded with the spectacle of human flight, as 34 teams launched their crafts off a 30-foot flight deck in an attempt to defy gravity.

Girl power ruled the day as team Peepin' it Real floated into first place with a flight distance of 98 feet. The all-female team from Newport Beach, who are students at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and UCLA, beat out teams comprising mechanical and aerospace engineers, US Navy rescue divers and the Coast Guard. Team pilot Corinne Schnieders admitted that "This was probably the most fun I've ever had. My flight was much smoother than I'd imagined. I just floated down and landed like a marshmallow."

"It was peepstastic!" added teammate Suzy Strutner. For claiming first place, team Peepin' it Real will be headed to Arizona for a flight with Red Bull Air Race World Champion Kirby Chambliss, at his Flying Crown Ranch. In second place was eco-friendly team Green Machine from Las Vegas, and in third was team Airforce One, who sailed into the harbor on an 8-foot tall paper mache head modeled after President Obama. The coveted People's Choice Award went to Green Army Men, who, despite the heat, stayed in their eye-catching head-to-toe green army men costumes the entire day.

Red Bull Flugtag dares both the brave and the brainy to design, build and pilot home-made flying machines off a 30-foot high ramp in hopes of achieving human-powered flight. While distance was definitely important, the crafts were also judged on two other criteria—creativity and showmanship—by a panel of celebrity judges including actor Cheech Marin, Dave "The King of Mexico" Sanchez from KROQ's The Kevin and Bean Show, actress Nicole Sullivan, professional skateboarder Ryan Sheckler and "The Bachelor Pad" reality star Tenley Molzahn. Sheckler, who opened the event by launching himself off the flight deck on his skateboard, said, "This was amazing! We got a ton of people to show up and there were some really great crashes." ■



Photos: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (2)

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LA COUNTY STORAGE FACILITY OPENS TO PUBLIC FOR FIRST TIME

The Natural History Museum has been collecting and preserving California's automotive culture since 1929, amassing the largest collection on the West Coast at a public institution. The collection consists of 63 historic cars and motorcycles dating from 1900 to 1984, made or designed in Southern California.

Until now, these vehicles were on display at the Petersen Automotive Museum on a rotating basis. But on October 1, the Natural History Museum launched a monthly, behind-the-scenes tour series at the Gardena, California storage facility. Participants will learn about the history of automotive design, and Los Angeles' rich—and sometimes surprising—automotive past.

One of the standouts in the collection is the 1908 Pierce Great Arrow, which in August won first prize in the Prewar Preservation Class and the Chairman's Trophy at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. The Pierce remains in original, unrestored condition. It was donated by the widow of T.C. Wohlbruck in 1937; her husband owned a private car museum in the San Jose area. Before entering Mr. Wohlbruck's collection, the car has been owned by Mrs. Edward de Nivernois, the wife of the editor of the *San Francisco Examiner*, and her initials can still be seen in gold leaf on the door of the car.

Other highlights include a 1909 Case steam traction engine used in a San Fernando Valley orange grove, and the "newest" car in the collection, a 1984 Buick convertible which served as the Olympic Torch Relay Car in the LA summer games.

Though the focus of the collection is on automobiles made or designed in Southern California, it includes a wide variety of vehicles:

- 1902 Tourist (produced by the first car manufacturing company in Los Angeles)
- 1932 Duesenberg (body designed and manufactured in Pasadena)
- 1953 Cadillac El Dorado (defining post-WWII American design exuberance)
- Industrial designer Raymond Loewy's personally-designed 1957 BMW 507 Coupe

Guided tours are held on the first Friday of the month. Reservations are required; group tours are available by special arrangement. Tours last approximately one hour and cost just \$10 for the general public, \$8 for NHM members, and are free for NHM Fellows and employees. There is a 20-person cap on each tour, and visitors must be 16 years of age or older. Call or email for information and reservations: .

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90007
213-763-3218 – cars@nhm.org ■

SCOTTSDALE 11

RUSSO AND STEELE

JANUARY 19-23, 2011



1970 PLYMOUTH HEMI 'CUDA CONVERTIBLE

FOR ENTHUSIASTS-BY ENTHUSIASTS™

REAL QUALITY | NO BUYBACKS | REAL VALUES

FROM THE CONCOURS FIELD TO ROAD RALLIES - VINTAGE RACING TO CAR CLUBS - WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!



INVITING QUALITY
CONSIGNMENTS

602.252.2697
WWW.RUSSOANDSTEELE.COM

AN INFINITE NUMBER OF INFINITIS

WELL, ALL OF THEM ALL AT ONCE, ANYWAY...

JOE SAGE



Anything worth doing is worth doing right. Infiniti has several major new introductions in the pipeline, along with some important refreshing of some of their other vehicles, so—to do it right—we flew to northern California to see and drive the whole lineup.

Driving opportunities would include the new 2011 Infiniti IPL G Coupe, the first representative of the brand's new Infiniti Performance Line™. The Infiniti G lineup has been expanded at both ends, from the new Infiniti G25 Sedan—which opens the door of the Infiniti brand to more early adopters—to the first-ever G Coupe AWD Sport, a combination we've been anticipating since the first G Coupe. The IPL G Coupe and G25 Sedan had debuted at the Pebble Beach Concours in August. The G line was also represented by the retractable hardtop Infiniti G Convertible. The 2011 Infiniti EX has been refreshed with a 7-speed automatic. Also on hand were the 2011 Infiniti M and QX, both of which had completely new models introduced earlier this year, plus the Infiniti FX.

Welcome to the candy store.

INFINITI G COUPE AWD SPORT

For starters, the Infiniti G lineup is originally kin to the Nissan Skyline in Japan, basis of the all-out Nissan GT-R sports car. Nice credentials. It also shares its platform with the 350Z (and the Infiniti FX). When the third-gen G Sedan was introduced, including a G35x all-wheel-drive model, we wished for an AWD G Coupe, which arrived within a couple of years. With the Sport Package on the 2011 G37 Coupe AWD, we find our favorite feature—a manual transmission (6-speed)—along with other upgrades: a revised front, with fog lights moved to the lower fascia, new 18- and 19-inch aluminum-alloy wheels, two new exterior colors, and navigation standard. The G37 Coupe AWD Sport 6MT was on static display in Napa, not quite ready for driving. It is due on the roads and at dealers in November.

INFINITI G CONVERTIBLE

The first Infiniti we grabbed for a drive was the new G37 Convertible. The Limited Edition has a special exterior and interior, Navigation Package (now standard on the G37 Convertible Sport 6MT, though ours was a non-Sport and automatic), and as with the other G models a revised front fascia, new wheels and two new exterior colors. It was still early morning, foggy and cold for an Arizonan, so we started with the retractable hardtop up. Roads in Napa Wine Country are beautiful, hilly, curvy two-lanes, and the car has a nice, firm suspension, though it wasn't always as flat on corners as its firmness might have indicated. The sun was starting to break through, so we pulled over to put the top down. At first it seemed to be going down very fast, with various parts transforming



Infiniti G Coupe AWD Sport

and relocating in the rear quarters, but the full process took a bit longer. We didn't time it, but we got it done and hit the road again, as another Infiniti from our group came up fast from behind. The suspension settled in, as did we, and we enjoyed the rest of the drive, curves and all, thoroughly, as we rolled past the vineyards and palms. We pulled over again and this time started the clock: top-up operation took about 30 seconds, starting with the windows up, ending with the windows down, basically just a top and trunk operation. Starting with the windows already down, it took about 28.5 seconds to put



Infiniti G Convertible (top up)



Infiniti G Convertible (top down)

the top back down. These are respectable times for a retractable hardtop, and the combination of closed cabin, open air and aerodynamic coupe form are tough to beat. We imagine the Sport model, with manual shift and perhaps one size larger wheels, would be unbeatable.

INFINITI IPL G COUPE

Infiniti has always emphasized performance (their rear-drive bias confirms that), but customers often ask their dealers what they have along the lines of the Audi S/RS, BMW M and Mercedes-Benz AMG offerings. Thus was

born the Infiniti Performance Line, and the IPL G Coupe is its first vehicle. The Infiniti Performance Line is more than an option list: it's an in-house division. IPL vehicles have integrated design and engineering upgrades (not add-ons, and not available to add on). This approach, in the case of the IPL G Coupe, delivers a car that might have cost upwards of \$70,000 for about \$50,000.

The IPL logo includes red for "sport and performance" and violet to represent the "Infiniti brand promise." Infiniti expects the IPL G Coupe to represent about five percent of its total G Coupe sales volume.

The 2011 IPL G Coupes (one manual, one automatic) were in great demand in Napa. We were about to take the G25 Sedan, when in pulled the IPL G Coupe with 6-speed manual, so we grabbed it. The previous driver had left the IPL's audio rockin', and we figured that was a good sign. This coupe was very responsive, and we loved the manual, of course. The gear ranges were such that we could downshift or not, through the variety of hills and curves on our route. We noted that the power curve overall felt a little flat, but also noted that, if anything, this gives you a feeling of no drama while actually providing plenty of drama with its sheer power. The IPL G Coupe had great handling, able to take anything we threw at it on these roads. A driver's car—very nice.

The IPL G Coupe's transmission generates a strong, high-tech sound from the gearing, and there is a deep but not overdone rumble from the exhaust. It's a very powerful precision effect overall, with no boy racer feel. Infiniti has worked hard on these acoustics, with a goal of establishing "the IPL sound."

On Henry Road, one of our favorite stretches out of three overall routes, we were able to really push performance—and loved it. With about a \$50,000 price cap and a well-balanced set of performance and comfort features, this is a reasonable, powerful, great ride. If you understand the philosophies of, say, an affordable Mustang GT versus a no-holds-barred Shelby, you'll appreciate the logic of the IPL G Coupe.

KEEP RIGHT >>

NAPA TRAVEL NOTES

Flying to the Bay Area means choosing among the San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose airports. Since this event was held in Napa County, to the north of the Bay, it would be either SFO or OAK. Given the traffic and lack of a through freeway in San Francisco, and the general location of our



destination in Napa, we went with Oakland. All are well served from Phoenix; in this case, we found the best schedule and fare on Southwest Airlines.

We had a midday event in Phoenix, which put us into the East Bay later than would have been ideal. But it's all free-



ways, most of the way. Turns out, that's not the good news. If you make this dash, especially around rush hour, allow a good two hours or more. One interesting oddity is that one stretch of this route uniquely requires three occupants for the HOV lanes. We've often wondered what would happen if HOV programs were really particularly successful: would they have to add more lanes? Well, here's our answer.



Our destination was The Carneros Inn, carefully chosen by Infiniti because it offered not only a full campus for all aspects of our event, but also offered it all with style, convenience and innovative design that allowed a surprising amount of privacy for guests, in a tight area. This property is also convenient to Infineon Raceway at Sears Point, so it's a great base

Travel Notes (cont'd) >>



Infiniti IPL G Coupe



INFINITI G25 SEDAN

The Infiniti G line has been a *Consumer Reports* top pick for years. In the most recent quarter, Infiniti G sales exceeded 10 percent of the entry luxury segment's total for the first time (a 25-percent jump from a longstanding position of about eight percent). There is news throughout the G lineup, as noted—upgrades to the G Coupe and Convertible, the new G Coupe AWD Sport, the IPL G Coupe—but the big news in G Sedans is a move downline, to a G25 entry-level model. Aware of significant sales of the Lexus IS 250 and BMW 328i, Infiniti is deliv-



Infiniti G25 Sedan



Infiniti M37 Sport

ering a solid sedan to a wider audience, while keeping its entry-level specifics to itself within the G lineup.

With all the exciting machinery available to us this day, the Infiniti folks were surprised to find the G25 Sedan was one of the most sought-after. Maybe it's the current economy, or maybe it's the eternal logic of value, but this solid new entry was very well received.

The G25 features a new 2.5-liter DOHC 24-valve V6, producing 218 horsepower and 187 lb-ft of torque, and a 7-speed automatic transmission. It shares its exterior, interior and chassis with the G37 Sedan, but its smaller

engine improves fuel economy. Icing on the cake? The G25 Sedan is available in both rear-wheel drive and Intelligent All-Wheel Drive. Estimated fuel mileage is 20/29 mpg (city/highway) or 19/27 with AWD.

G25 Sedan standard equipment includes leather-appointed seats, Shodo aluminum interior trim, 8-way driver's and 4-way front passenger's power seats, automatic climate control, six-speaker audio with satellite available, 17-inch aluminum-alloy wheels, HID Xenon headlights, 4-wheel ABS, Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC) and traction control. The G25 Sedan Journey adds RearView Monitor, heated front seats, heated outside mirrors, auto on/off headlights, dual zone climate control and more.

Three models are offered: the G25 Sedan with a base price of \$30,950, the G25 Sedan Journey at \$32,350 and the G25x Sedan AWD at just \$33,950.

(The G37 has a 328-hp 3.7L 24-valve V6 and ranges from \$35,050 to \$39,450 for the G37 Sport 6MT.)

INFINITI M

The 2011 Infiniti M is available in two iterations, M37 and M56, each with rear-wheel drive or AWD. The V6 M has moved closer to the prior V8 M. The new M37 has a 330-hp 3.7-liter V6 with increased power and fuel economy compared to the previous M35's 3.5L V6. The M56 has an all-new 420-hp 5.6-liter V8 (up from the M45's 4.5L V8). Both engines feature the VVEL (Variable Valve Event & Lift) system and have a 7-speed automatic. A Sport Package on RWD models adds 4-

Wheel Active Steer (4WAS), sport-tuned suspension, upgraded brakes and 20-inch wheels and tires.

User-focused technologies include Infiniti Drive Mode Selector, a four-mode control of throttle and transmission mapping; Active Noise Control, masking engine harmonics for a quieter cabin; Blind Spot Warning (BSW) and Blind Spot Intervention™ (BSI), the latter helping a driver return toward the center of the lane of travel; Forest Air™ for natural "breeze-like" airflow; Eco Pedal, which provides driver feedback to encourage eco-driving behavior; and Active Trace

Control, which adjusts engine torque and the control of braking to enhance cornering performance. The 2011 M also has next-gen navigation, Bose® premium audio, and a range of electronic safety systems.

The M interior has leather-appointed seating, Japanese Ash or available silver powdered White Ash wood trim, and a power-sliding tinted glass moonroof.

With our test roads a great handling course, we chose the M37 over the M56, which would be fine but even better suited to the autobahn. With Infiniti's prompting, we wanted to try the Eco Pedal to experience how it "fights back" (which we can then override). We headed to a favorite shorter loop where we could run it repeatedly with different settings. We turned the knob to Sport, or so we thought, but we learned that the lettering turns with the knob, not the indicator, and we had switched to Eco. Wondered why it felt a bit doggy. So we proceeded with an Eco test, and sure enough, when we tried to give it a little gas, the gas pedal fought back. Coming into a sporty curve, we gave it a little gas for a performance sweep, and yes, it let us override it, as the Eco indicator changed from green to yellow. Next: Sport. Now we do whatever we want. A fourth setting is Snow, but we're in Napa, it's 71 degrees, and we skip this one.

We can see why they encouraged us to try Eco mode. It had sounded like something we might not want, and if we had might not turn on. But it didn't take any time at all to wish we had this on a couple of vehicles of our own that consume entirely too much fuel. It's not fun to nurse the behavior on those and think about their appetites, but the M is nursing the fuel and thinking about it for us. We're just having a pleasant ride. We've handed off some of the performance driving, but it has plenty of power, we're not overdoing it, and presumably we're not running our fuel mileage way down. And in reserve, if we want to punch it, it'll let us do that—without even leaving Eco mode, which is a very clever departure from most brands. Let's try that right now: coming into a corner, we give it gas. We didn't feel it fight back at all: it just let us do it. But we're here to feel it fight back. So we slow down and try again. Coming to a favorite turn, we give it gas, and it does fight back. We conclude that a jackrabbit start might be where it corrects you most, not when you're on the road and need quick power. That seems like a great algorithm: it doesn't keep you from accelerating purposefully, does keep you from being foolish, and probably adds up to significant savings. Is it a draconian system? No, it's no big compromise; at most, it's almost like getting a foot massage.



Infiniti FX

INFINITI FX

The 2011 Infiniti FX adds a power rear liftgate added as standard, new 20-inch aluminum-alloy wheels with P265/50R20 V-rated all-season tires on the FX50, replacing previous 21-inch wheels and tires (optionally available on FX35), and a new black lacquer interior trim standard on the FX50. We drove the FX35.

We had never quite taken to the FX's exterior styling. But as soon as we slid inside, we noted one nice look or finish after another. First were the quilted and ventilated leather seats, then the center stack, with a panel that

on. Feels great. The rear-view mirror is very large, which we appreciate, though it blocks the windshield a bit.

We moved the transmission to manumatic, as it was shifting up and down entirely too much on our little curvy roads, but then wished it would shift more. As an owner, we would study its curves and pattern, and surely find both approaches easy to master. We definitely look forward to driving the FX at greater length.

INFINITI EX

We ran out of time before we had a turn with the 2011 Infiniti EX, but its biggest news is a new standard 7-speed automatic, plus new standard 18-inch wheels and tires, standard Dual Zone climate control (previously on EX Journey models only), revised electroluminescent gauge illumination, Blind Spot Warning added to the Technology Package, a few more updates, and three new exterior colors.



Infiniti EX

INFINITI QX

We had driven the new 2011 Infiniti QX56 at its product launch a few months back (see our July/August issue) and found a powerful and comfortable large SUV with the panache of an executive jet, as Infiniti had promised. We could happily drive this one all week, but as we'd had a major drive in the Kentucky bluegrass hills, we had to pass on another chance. Too bad, that.

The big news on the QX for 2011 is comprehensive: all-new second-generation design, engineering and styling. Of note is its new 5.6-liter V8 engine, which provides both h25% more power



Infiniti QX56

and 14% better fuel economy than the previous V8.. bevels toward the window, a very classy control point. Then we noted the wood inserts in the door, more different brown leather in the split dash, and metal surfaces on the doors. Put it all together, and it's a very rich combination of textures, surfaces, shapes, colors, finishes, materials... all coming together really well. We can see how someone would really like the interior of the FX.

The cabin generated such a positive response, we no longer cared whether we liked the outside styling or not. The interior is a tour de force, and we are in total comfort. And no wonder: it turns out the cooled seats are already

and 14% better fuel economy than the previous V8..

INFINITI AND BEYOND

Infiniti and parent company Nissan are making great strides with their already strong lineups. The Nissan brand promises "innovation," and the upscale Infiniti brand promises "performance," which the 2011 lineup demonstrates they provide, in spades.

All the 2011 vehicles presented here, along with their siblings and model iterations, should be available at dealers as you read this, or within a couple of weeks. ■

NAPA TRAVEL (CONT'D)

for events held there, as well. But we weren't doing the speedway this time; we were hitting the open roads of Napa Wine Country.

The amount of space available for resort development in the middle of priceless vineyards is limited, and the demand is



huge. This has led to a very clever property. The density you see when looking on Google maps is belied on the ground. Spacious views abound, and each residence enjoys a high degree of privacy, with private decks visible only from their own units—so private, in fact, that they include



a personal outdoor shower, opening from the spacious indoor shower. The architects have taken a fairly tight space in each unit and dressed it in top-quality furnishings and finishes, giving each guest a very nice luxe cabin for the night.

Restaurants on the property include the Hilltop, where we have just two words of advice: sea bass. Our hosts, who had been there for several days already, had long



since settled on this as a favorite, but we had just taken a stab. The bed of white corn ragout under the bass alone is worth another visit.

For business needs, the facility also has a number of breakout rooms, where instead of the normal meeting/conference layout, we gathered in front of a roaring fireplace in comfortable leather chairs, to learn all the ins and outs of Infiniti's latest, from their development team. Comfy.—JS



BARRETT-JACKSON
40TH ANNUAL COLLECTOR CAR AUCTION EVENT
MONDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 17-23, 2011
 WestWorld - E Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd. and Arizona Loop 101 - Scottsdale

In 1967, Russ Jackson and Tom Barrett presented the *Fiesta del Auto Elegance*, a fund-raising show for the Scottsdale Library and other local charities. In 1971, they put together a classic car auction, at which they sold Barrett's own Mercedes-Benz 770 Phaeton for \$153,000 (some 5-13 times that in today's dollars). 2011 marks 40 years since that first auction. Boasting the longest and most comprehensive schedule, Barrett-Jackson starts with a Family Value Day benefitting charities, then continues on to several days of auctions, rounded out by a wide range of food, booths, displays and other events. Tickets are available with early-purchase discounts, or during the event by individual day, multi-day or full-week pass, with discounted prices for evenings and for seniors, students, military and children. ▼ Barrett-Jackson hosts annual auctions in Scottsdale in January, Palm Beach FL in spring, Orange County in summer and Las Vegas in fall. For tickets or the latest schedule info, visit www.barrett-jackson.com.



GOODING & COMPANY
4TH ANNUAL SCOTTSDALE AUCTION
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JANUARY 21-22, 2011 - (VIEWING THURS-SAT)
 West end of Fashion Square - E Camelback Road and N 68th Street - Scottsdale

This is the fourth year in Arizona for Gooding & Company, who have quickly established themselves as a major player here, with the high-dollar auction now expanded to two days. Viewing hours are from 9am to 6pm on Thursday and Friday, and 9am to 5pm on Saturday, at the west end of Scottsdale Fashion Square. The auction starts at 11am both Friday and Saturday. An auction catalog for \$80 admits two to the viewing and auction. General admission to the viewing and auction can be purchased at the tent for \$30 per person. Children under 12 are admitted for free. ▼ Gooding & Company is the official auction house at the world-renowned Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance near Monterey each August, and last spring marked their first event at Amelia Island, Florida. For information, call 310-899-1960 or visit www.goodingco.com.



RM AUCTIONS
12TH ANNUAL AUTOMOBILES OF ARIZONA
THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 20-21, 2011 - (PREVIEW THURS-FRI)
 Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa - N 24th Street and E Camelback Rd - Phoenix

Held at the majestic Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa, RM Auctions' annual Automobiles of Arizona event remains one of the premier events on the collector car calendar, attracting enthusiasts and collectors from around the world to Phoenix each January. Now in its 12th year, the 2011 event will again feature highly desirable and historically important motor cars. Following the success of last year's "The British are Coming" Thursday night sale, RM especially welcomes high-quality consignments of British marques for this year's "The British are Back" segment. Admission requires the purchase of the official auction catalog for \$100, which admits two and must be presented at the entrance to be granted entry. ▼ RM Auctions is the official auction house of the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance in Florida and presents auctions worldwide throughout the year. For full details, visit www.rmauctions.com or call 519-352-4575.



RUSSO AND STEELE
11TH ANNUAL SPORTS AND MUSCLE IN SCOTTSDALE
WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 19-23, 2011
 N Scottsdale Road and E Mayo Boulevard at AZ Loop 101 - Scottsdale

Russo and Steele celebrated "A Decade of Distinction" at its 10th annual Scottsdale auction last year. The Russo and Steele event promotes its For Enthusiasts By Enthusiasts™ grounding and a boutique-style, theater-in-the-round setting. The experts at Russo and Steele actively participate in concours d'elegance shows, road rallies, vintage racing and other collector car events all year long, in addition to attending auctions nationwide to keep a close eye on market movements. ▼ Events by locally-based Russo and Steele include its signature auction in Scottsdale every January, its August event during Monterey Auto Week, and they are hard at work on plans for a new event in China. For more information, call 602-252-2697 or visit www.russoandsteele.com. ■

50 YEARS OF TAKING VEHICLES SERIOUSLY.



It began with a single tractor trailer and a lasting commitment over 50 years ago: transport any vehicle to any location with an unparalleled level of care and untouchable degree of professionalism. Today,

Reliable Carriers is the country's largest enclosed auto transport company,

servicing the 48 contiguous United States and Canada. Whether it's

for a concours event, relocation, corporate event, or shipping the car

of your dreams from one location to another, Reliable Carriers, Inc.

provides fully enclosed and air-ride equipped transport, with \$5 million

worth of insurance on every load, and GPS tracking. **This is Reliable.**



Vehicles taken seriously.

www.reliablecarriers.com

AN OFFICIAL CARRIER FOR BARRETT-JACKSON, MECUM AUCTIONS, AND RUSSO & STEELE

For your transportation needs please call: 877-744-7889

EAST / Canton, MI • WEST / Chandler, AZ • SOUTH / Orlando, FL • CALIFORNIA / Sun Valley



Photos: Randall Bohl Photography (3)

Photo: Joe Sage

SPORTY CRITTER

WE TRAVEL TO BRITISH COLUMBIA'S SUNSHINE COAST TO DRIVE THE NEW LITTLE NISSAN JUKE CROSSOVER

While Toyota has been targeting a youth market with its idiosyncratic Scion brand for most of a decade, Nissan has marched to its own drummer all along, presenting a mix of powerful and desirable sports machines, such as the 370Z and GT-R, and out-of-the-mainstream urban fare such as the Nissan Cube. The Nissan SUV lineup—Xterra, Pathfinder and Armada—has been fairly conventional, while the sweeping lines of the Murano crossover, and its smaller sibling the Rogue, were born ahead of the curve and retain very contemporary appeal.

New to the lineup is the Nissan Juke. On the one hand, this is simply a third and smaller crossover, trimmer and tighter than the Rogue. On the other hand, it introduces a

whole new perspective to the brand.

We had seen, and published, early promotional photos of the Juke, and we found it kind of an odd duck at first. We weren't alone, apparently, as the first thing Nissan told us was that it will look very different in person, largely due to its diminutive size. And they were right. This is the baby duckling in the lineup. And that does make all the difference. As surely as any vehicle looks great at 1:18 diecast model size, the Juke looks just right in its actual dimensions. Whether you want to cuddle it, or take it out on backwoods wilderness trails, it's ready and waiting.

INNOVATION FOR ALL

Nissan has been on a roll. Its market share now stands at 7.7%, an all-time record, and they are quick to emphasize this represents retail sales, not fleets such as rental cars. They've embarked on a major effort to grow in the Americas, from Chile to Canada. The Juke is new today, but Nissan has eight more new models in the pipeline, to be introduced over the next two years, representing a whopping 85% of their total volume. Others will include the new electric (EV) Nissan Leaf, an all-new Quest minivan, and an unexpected convertible version of the Murano, due to be revealed at the LA Auto Show in November.

And why not? Nissan tells us that "Innova-

tion for All" is part of their DNA. They brought the world its first compact pickup (1960), the first king cab pickup (in the '70s), the 240Z (1969) which at the time was a major departure from sports cars in the MG and Triumph mold, and such technologies as push-button start. More recent innovations include pioneering a Service Rewards Program with online booking. At the time of our program, the new electric Leaf already had 18,000 orders in place, before anyone had driven one. (55% of those orders are in initial launch markets: five states including Arizona, along with California, Oregon and Washington, and Nissan's home state of Tennessee.) And on deck is the NV2500, the first ground-up all-new full-size van in over 50 years, which will be followed by a smaller van and an EV model. (When it comes to alternative power-trains, Nissan is "all in" on electric.)

POSITIONING THE JUKE

So just how innovative is the Nissan Juke? Is it just a smaller crossover with a new approach to styling? Nissan tells us its segment was not that easy to identify. Small crossovers are red hot, now the fourth largest vehicle segment, and projected to have more than tripled from 2005 to 2014. They calculate that their customers want urban versatility as well as sportiness, within a compact footprint, but agile and



The interior has a motorsports feel, with high seating and shifter, sculptural "liquid metallics," and a slick motorcycle-body-inspired center console. Nissan says the headlights define the front end (below). Not the big round units—the headlights are the stylish slivers atop the hood. Boomerang taillights evoke the 370Z.

very adaptable. Thus the segment is described as "sport cross" (reminiscent of the short-lived but innovative Isuzu Vehicross), for a target 18-to-34-year-old male with \$45,000 income.

The Nissan Juke is expected to bring new customers to the brand. Its position in the lineup was illustrated to us as smaller (naturally) than the Rogue and Murano crossovers, but beyond that, farther away from the SUV category than those are, along an axis toward sports cars. It's a smaller crossover, yes, but should appeal a bit more to the GT-R fan and a bit less to the Xterra fan, than the Murano.

As such, Nissan believes it has no direct competitors currently, but rather is likely to be cross-shopped against such vehicles as the Mazda3, MINI, Toyota Matrix and Suzuki SX4.

HITTING THE ROAD AND SEA

We flew to Vancouver, British Columbia, to drive pre-production models, completely outfitted but due for some more fine-tuning before export. Built on Nissan's small B-platform, the Juke has its wheels pushed toward all four corners, giving the vehicle an aggressive look and

handling beyond its size. The styling starts to make sense. The upper portion has the racy confines of a sports car, but the lower portion has the stance of a much bigger cat.

The Juke sports a 1.6-liter turbocharged 16-valve DOHC 4-cylinder engine putting out 188 hp. The vehicle's weight ranges from 2970 to 3221 pounds, depending on transmission and front- or all-wheel-drive variables. Weight distribution favors the front, in the 60/40 range. The FWD version has a choice of 6-speed manual (24/31 mpg city/highway) or CVT automatic (27/32). The AWD model is CVT-only, rated at 25/30 mpg. There are S, SV and SL trim levels, for a total of eight models.

An all-new Human Machine Interface (HMI) connects the driver to climate controls and a choice of three drive modes: Normal, Sport and Eco, which control a combination of throttle, transmission and steering settings.

With sportiness a key attribute, we ran the CVT in Sport mode on the first stretch, and it performed admirably. Our test route took us

KEEP RIGHT >>



BC TRAVEL NOTES

We flew from Phoenix to Vancouver on US Airways, past the Columbia River and Mt St Helens, then right over Tacoma Harbor and downtown Seattle, an air traffic surprise and photographic plus. This was our first time having to bring a passport to our closest cousin country; customs went smoothly.

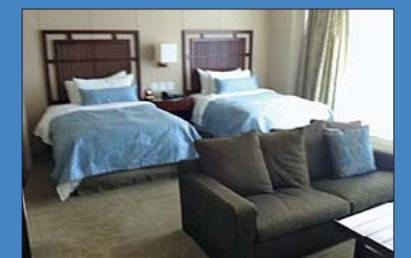


Our shuttle took us to the Chinese-owned Shangri-La Hotel, at 62 stories the tallest building in the Vancouver skyline. Vancouver remains a clean, friendly and inviting city, though the downtown streets were congested enough that we took our driver's advice and walked the last dozen



blocks or so, to make better time.

The staff at Shangri-La will turn themselves inside out to take care of you. We, in turn, remembered to hand over our paperwork with two hands, per manners learned when visiting China. The first Shangri-La Hotel opened in Singapore in 1971; the chain is now headquartered in Hong Kong and has five-star hotels and resorts across Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.



Shangri-La in Vancouver is the group's first North American property; a second will open in Toronto in 2012. Of the building's 62 stories, the first 15 are the hotel; the balance are condominiums. From lobbies to restaurants to room, the property presents extremely modern yet comfortable Asian-influenced decor and furnishings. Welcome to the 21st century.

Travel Notes (cont'd) >>

BY JOE SAGE





World car: we stay in a Chinese hotel in Canada to drive the Japanese Nissan Juke before its launch into US markets in early October. The vehicle has been a hit, with over 50,000 orders worldwide in the first four months since its launch in Japan. Nissan had expected 1300 sales per month in Japan, but recorded 20,000 in those four months, or more than 15 times their expectation. **Hurry down.**

from downtown Vancouver to Horseshoe Bay and a ferry to BC's Sunshine Coast (see sidebar). We had run up to the ferry in Sport mode, through city streets, across Lions Gate Bridge, up the westernmost mainland stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 1), through the northwest suburbs along the mountains' edge, to the ferry. Here we joined a flock of fellow Jukes, a few Muranos and Rogues, and a host of curious onlookers waiting to load. The Juke was quite a hit.

After the ferry crossing, we shifted over to its Eco mode. As we weren't paying for gas, that was a very quick experiment; we noted an immediate and noticeable drop in performance. Back in Sport mode, we were soon climbing hills and glad we hadn't stayed in Eco, but wait. It's only fair to give it another try, in this even more challenging terrain. Did we dare? We did. And in the words of our copilot, "We're still going! *And* saving fuel!" We were starting to gain altitude now, along with latitude, noting that our ears were popping. We concluded every mode will have its time and place, over the long haul.

The 2011 Nissan Juke comes highly equipped, with 17" alloy wheels, iPod and Bluetooth connectivity, V-rated tires, six air bags, active front headrests, 60/40 split rear bench seat and 35.9 cu.ft. of cargo space when flat. Navigation, intelligent key with push-button start, rear camera and heated leather front seats are among the many options available.

The all-wheel-drive version features an Advanced Torque Vectoring AWD System that splits torque 50/50 between front and rear and can also split torque side-to-side across the rear axle, making this little champ ready for a variety of challenging road and weather conditions. This is the world's first application of such an advanced system in a B-segment vehicle.

What does all this cost? Hold onto your hat, as the Nissan Juke starts at just \$18,920 for a Juke S with CVT automatic and front-wheel drive. The same model in AWD is just \$20,460. Top model is the SL CVT AWD at \$24,550. The manual transmission and AWD are unfortunately mutually exclusive, but an SV 6-speed manual FWD is just \$20,260, and an S CVT AWD is just \$20,460.

If you like the Juke's looks, the total package will knock your socks off. If you're not so sure, we suggest you take another look. ■

BC TRAVEL (CONT'D)

Our drive route took us north out of Vancouver through beautiful Stanley Park, across the Lions Gate Bridge, to the Horseshoe Bay Ferry. This sits below the Sea-to-Sky Highway, which had been massively rebuilt, carving heavily into the wooded slopes along water's edge, to



accommodate the 2010 Winter Olympics at Whistler. The ferry surprised us by arriving on time but departing some 50 minutes late. This impacted our midday break, as we had to turn around and catch the same ferry back, presumably on time.

And what a midday break. After one driv-



er swap along the coast, which was to have included some time with the Murano and Rogue, had the ferry been timely, we arrived at the north end of the Sunshine Coast, at the West Coast Wilderness Lodge. Set in a high wooded point above the water, the site offered spectacular views of the forests, ocean, inlets and peaks beyond, from its 3500-sq.ft. deck. Equally suitable for personal getaways and corporate retreats, the



West Coast Wilderness Lodge is a hub for adventure travel activities, from kayaking and mountain biking, to helicopter or float-plane tours to fishing, hiking and skiing beyond the ordinary.

Dinner was appropriately—for a waterfront city—held at the Blue Water Café + Raw Bar, a casually elegant restaurant in a converted historic brick-and-beam warehouse in Vancouver's Yaletown district, a happenin' evening spot. —JS

1957 Ford Thunderbird F Code
312/300 HP, Factory Supercharged



TIME TO CONSIGN FOR KANSAS CITY!



750 VEHICLES

KANSAS CITY '10

EXPANDED TO 3 DAYS **DECEMBER 2-4**

Bartle Hall • Kansas City Convention Center • Kansas City, MO

1969 Chevrolet Camaro RS/SS
L-78 396/375 HP, 4-Speed



TIME TO CONSIGN FOR KISSIMMEE!



1750 VEHICLES

KISSIMMEE 2011

JANUARY 26-30

Osceola Heritage Park • Kissimmee, FL

MECUM AUCTIONS

815-568-8888

www.MECUM.com

Nobody Sells More Collector Cars Than Mecum. Nobody.™



Watch Mecum Auctions Saturday Nights on HD Theater





FORD DATA REVEAL US BUYING TASTES: PHOENIX LOVES ORANGE, RANKS HIGH FOR HYBRIDS AND LIKES TO SHIFT FOR ITSELF

Ford Motor Company's annual look at US car buying preferences reveals that American tastes for car colors and features vary widely from city to city.

When it comes to color, based on Ford statistics, Boston buys the highest percentage of green vehicles, San Francisco is tops for white vehicles and DC buyers have an affinity for blue. New Yorkers order the highest percentage of rear seat DVD entertainment systems, and Dallas buyers love towing packages.

Ford figures it's no surprise that customers in sizzling Phoenix order the most Ford vehicles painted Molten Orange. Or that the most red cars are sold in the home of the Cincinnati Reds, while tops for green is Boston, where the Celtics are an institution. But who knew rainy and cool Seattle would be number one in moonroofs and air-conditioned seats? Another unexpected trend is that drivers in some large cities prefer the stick shift, defying the perception that only rural owners like to work their own gears. The top five manual transmission markets are Seattle, Minneapolis, Denver, Phoenix and Boston.

San Francisco and Seattle, known for environmentally conscious consumers, are one and two in hybrid sales. Los Angeles, Washington DC and Phoenix make up the remainder of the top five hybrid markets.

Navigation systems are understandably popular in sprawling LA, but when it comes to knowing where you are going, San Francisco is actually the leading market. New Yorkers order the highest percentage of rear seat DVD players, followed by Los Angeles and Dallas.

Top markets for tow packages include perennial pickup capitals Dallas and Houston. Towing is also a priority in Memphis, Kansas City and Atlanta, however, likely reflecting business needs and residents interested in getting out of town with a boat or travel trailer. "About 95 percent of our Super Duty customers tow," notes Doug Scott, Ford Truck Group marketing manager.

Software hub Seattle ranks as the top market for vehicles equipped with both a rear view camera and Ford's Blind Spot Information System (BLIS®). Seattle also takes second place only to San Francisco for active park assist, a system that offers drivers hands-free parallel parking.

Ford uses knowledge of regional preferences to help stock popular vehicles at dealerships, boosting sales performance and customer satisfaction. ■



LEASETRADER.COM DATA REVEALS THE HONEYMOON STAGE LASTS MORE THAN THREE TIMES LONGER FOR WOMEN THAN FOR MEN

You know the honeymoon's over when you give your wife money for dinner and ask for the change. Love doctors have spent countless hours calculating the honeymoon stage somewhere between seven years and 24 hours. So what's the honeymoon period on a vehicle? LeaseTrader.com polled roughly 2,500 men and women and received some entertaining feedback.

LeaseTrader.com, a company that helps people trade their car lease to someone else, set up the survey to ask men and women how long they loved their car and when they finally realized the honeymoon period was over. For men, the average was four months until they started parking close to other cars (33%) and began transporting sports equipment in the back seat (22%).

The survey finds huge differences between men and women. Women are over three times more likely to stay in love longer with their car, at an average of fourteen months. The first rules women started breaking are letting their spouse drive their car (39%) and starting to car pool other kids (24%) for the first time.

"Generally drivers living a leasing lifestyle have a shorter honeymoon period with their car," said Sergio Stiberman, CEO and Founder of LeaseTrader.com. "Every car lease driver goes through this stage, and LeaseTrader.com helps them get out of their unwanted lease to start a new honeymoon period with a car of their choice."

Based on the questions they asked respondents, the honeymoon period is over when the following occurs:

- MEN:**
- Parks around other cars.....33%
 - Starts transporting sports equipment.....22%
 - Less frequent car cleaning.....17%
 - High payment starts to bother them.....12%
 - Stops using gas mileage button.....7%
 - Stops fighting over who drives on long trips.....3%
 - Other.....6%

- WOMEN:**
- Lets spouse finally drive car.....39%
 - Starts car-pooling other kids.....24%
 - Starts eating in car.....12%
 - Puts makeup on while driving.....9%
 - Leaves clothes in car.....6%
 - Starts smoking in car.....2%
 - Other.....8% ■



SUZUKI ALLPOINTS PROGRAM "LIVE LARGE!" VIDEO CONTEST AND KIZASHI™ RING OF FIRE ONLINE RACING GAME LAUNCHED

American Suzuki Motor Corporation has expanded its national Suzuki AllPoints initiative, a reward points and sweepstakes program, to include a video contest and online racing game. AllPoints offers participants the opportunity to win prizes through activities on www.SuzukiAuto.com as well as Suzuki's Facebook, Twitter and YouTube channels, providing yet another way for people to win and interact with the brand.

Suzuki believes that there is something extraordinary in the way their customers live and looks to highlight those lifestyles through its user-generated "Live Large!" video contest. Participants create and upload short videos showing how they "live large"—a brand mantra. The top videos will be posted at www.SuzukiAllPoints.com and on YouTube at www.YouTube.com/SuzukiAuto for voting. The top three videos, in part based upon online votes, will be awarded prizes. The grand prize winner will receive a trip for two to any city in the 50 US states, and first and second prize winners will win a \$1,000 shopping spree to Target or Macy's, and a Sony PlayStation® 3, respectively.

Suzuki also launched the Kizashi™ Ring of Fire racing game. Produced on the cutting-edge Unity 3D platform, the game features the 2011 Suzuki Kizashi SE and 2011 Suzuki Kizashi Sport GTS. Throughout each of four stylized, futuristic race tracks, the hero vehicle races to gain points and place in the top three, to move onto the next level. Each level is a new city based upon the Tokyo to LA: The Hard Way road trip and includes Tokyo, Siberia, Alaska and Los Angeles. The registrant with the highest game score by the end of the AllPoints program will win a trip to a racing school. The Kizashi™ Ring of Fire game can be played at www.suzuki.com/allpoints/kizashi-ring-of-fire-racing-game or on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SuzukiAuto.

Registered Suzuki AllPoints users earn points and a sweepstakes entry for each program activity; entries are only given with actions for which points are earned. The Suzuki AllPoints program runs through Monday, January 3, 2011 and will award nearly 250 prizes to registered participants, including the sweepstakes grand prize, a 2011 Suzuki Kizashi GTS Sport. The promotion can be accessed via www.suzukiauto.com/allpoints. For complete terms and conditions, click through to www.suzukiauto.com/allpoints/rules. ■

RESOURCES: PERFORMANCE DRIVING SCHOOLS

STOP DREAMING.

ALL IT TAKES IS A DRIVER'S LICENSE AND THE DESIRE.

BOB BONDURANT
SCHOOL OF HIGH PERFORMANCE DRIVING
FIREBIRD RACEWAY IN CHANDLER

The Official High Performance Driving School of General Motors.

bondurant.com 480.961.0143

SPRING MOUNTAIN
MOTORSPORTS RANCH

THE NEW RON FELLOWS
PERFORMANCE DRIVING SCHOOL

Experience a new level of performance driving while you test your limits on the racetrack.

RON FELLOWS
PERFORMANCE DRIVING SCHOOL
SPRING MOUNTAIN

800.391.6891 / racespringmountain.com

It's a matter of choice.

There's only one school that gets you on the race track in a collection of the world's finest and fastest sports cars. It's called the Skip Barber High Performance Driving School. Mean machines from Lotus, Porsche, BMW and Lexus. Choose your track: Road Atlanta. Sebring. Lime Rock Park. Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. Then choose your car.

The Skip Barber High Performance Driving School. It's a matter of choice.

THROW LIFE SOME CURVES **SKIPBARBER.COM**

800-221-1131

BRIDGESTONE
WINTER DRIVING SCHOOL

THE CENTER FOR DRIVING SCIENCES

THINK OF IT AS **APPLIED ADRENALINE**

Have the time of your life at North America's premier winter driving facility. Our top driving pros will take your skills to the next level whether you are a new driver or a racing professional. Learn the mechanics behind the moves and practice them on real ice and snow covered tracks. We offer both safety and performance based programs ranging from a half day to two days.

call 1.800.WHY.SKID
visit winterdrive.com

Steamboat Springs, Colorado

High and mighty Sequoia

By Joe Sage

Some people seem to think

Toyota makes nothing but the Prius and

GM makes nothing but the Escalade ESV.

That's not the case, and as proof,

we enter into evidence this

elegant beast, the Toyota Sequoia.



You know those vehicles you see with a cartoon family on the back window (just for fun, or possibly to justify to the world the bulk they've opted to drive). In a world where some large vehicles brag about seating for seven, the Toyota Sequoia offers eight: sufficient for decals representing mom, dad, six kids, and still the dog and cat. And it offers all this with the quality, fit and finish you appreciate from Toyota.

The Sequoia is the SUV sibling of the Toyota Tundra pickup, which we've driven in iterations from a short-cab, short-bed 2-wheel-drive performance model, up to an extended cab, full-bed 4x4. And we've come away thoroughly convinced that Toyota has found their foothold in the highly competitive realm of full-size pickups. The Toyota Sequoia represents the same triumph. Its size brings the word "beast" to mind, but in an admiring way. The Sequoia does have bulk, and it certainly contains a full volume of space, but it has a subtle streamlined look, almost like a Raymond Loewy luxury liner.

MODELS AND POWERTRAINS

The Sequoia is available in SR5, Limited and Platinum grades. Sequoia is available with a choice of two V8 engines: a 4.6-liter (introduced for 2010) and the original 5.7-liter unit. Both run on regular fuel. You can have rear-wheel drive or multi-mode 4-wheel drive with any.

The 310-hp 4.6L (standard on the SR5) has aluminum alloy cylinder heads with dual independent Variable Valve Timing with intelligence (VVT-i) and generates 327 lb-ft of torque. The 381-hp 5.7L iForce DOHC (the only engine on Limited and Platinum, and optional for SR5) pumps out 401 lb-ft of torque, also with VVT-i. The Sequoia features standard E85 Flex Fuel capability on 5.7-liter 4x4 models in our area.

The 5.7L V8 tows up to 7400 lbs. and produces 90 percent of its peak torque at just 2200 RPM, a big towing advantage. An Acoustic Control Induction System (ACIS) has two stages to optimize torque across the power curve, a Tow/Haul mode modifies shift points for optimal performance, and the hitch is integrated into the frame as a single unit.

An electronically controlled six-speed automatic transmission optimizes both performance and fuel economy.

PRICING AND OPTIONS

Our test vehicle, a 2010 model, came in Limited trim with the iForce 5.7-liter V8 and 4-wheel drive. Sticker was \$55,255, with a base of \$52,365 and options including a navigation-audio package (\$1460), skid plate (\$425), door sill protectors (\$55) and destination charge (\$950). Base for the same vehicle for 2011 is \$53,890.

The 2011 Sequoia has minor interior trim changes, a trailer hitch connector the same as the Tundra, and a new off switch for the standard Daytime Running Lights.

Base prices for 2011 range from \$40,555 for a rear-wheel-drive SR5 with the 4.6L V8, to \$60,930 for a 4-wheel-drive Platinum model with the 5.7L V8 (plus \$975 destination). The vehicle is very well equipped in base



form. Options include DVD-based navigation and a couple of rear-seat DVD entertainment systems, one at \$1670 or a voice-activated version at \$3130. There is also a healthy list of interior, exterior and performance accessories.

ROAD TIME AND DIRT TIME

We had good drive time on metro Phoenix surface streets and freeways and were very impressed with the Sequoia's ride and handling, particularly its tight turning circle and ease of parking (see sidebar).

The Sequoia features four-wheel independent suspension for ride quality, handling and straight-line control, with upper and lower A-arms at each wheel, shock absorbers, coil springs and a tubular anti-roll bar.

To give the vehicle more of a challenge, we drove out Seven Springs Road. On the paved portion—which gets quite narrow and winding, and is penned in by tight guardrails—as large as this vehicle is, it felt quite easy to control, a very manageable size and form.

The 2011 Sequoia is equipped with Toyota's STAR Safety System™, including Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), an Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD) and Brake Assist (BA), plus Traction Control (TRAC). On 4WD models, TRAC is replaced by A-TRAC (Active-Traction Control). We gave the Sequoia a minor 4WD test in a large gravel area along the edge of one road. There's a center differential lock, but we didn't need that, nor the 4LO setting, for anything we were doing. But the regular dash switch between 2HI and 4HI couldn't be simpler. We gave it a little gas in 2WD, a little gas in 4WD, to see the difference, ran through some deep rutted areas while getting back on the road surface, and all was just fine. There were no really wild differences between 2WD and 4WD, given where we were, and most owners may never even push it this far, but it's great to know it's that capable.

The Toyota Sequoia gives an impression of being big, tall and heavy, but it's not quite as tall as it seems—it's a little low for access/egress if you're tall. And it's so well-balanced, you won't find it bulky or heavy.

The Sequoia is not a race car, nor is it intended to be, but driven as intended, it performs admirably in daily duty around town, and you can expand its limits considerably: take it on a small road, a challenging road, a dirt road, off-road, and you have quite a machine. ■



TOYOTA SEQUOIA LOGBOOK

- It was plenty hot when we first got in. On the plus side, a/c was on *and* recirc was on (unlike many vehicles that require recirc to be constantly reset). Oddly, you set a temperature, but the fan has a separate control.
- As with the Tundra pickup, we loved the gargantuan center console storage.
- First impressions of handling were as expected: feels big, a power cruiser, lots of power steering, lots of power brakes. It delivers what buyers would expect and want.
- We wish it came standard with integrated blind spot bubbles on the side mirrors.
- The brakes did seem soft at our first stop. Sequoia uses 13.9-inch ventilated disc brakes up front and 13.6-inch ventilated disc brakes at the rear.
- Our first pass over speed bumps was very noticeable, but our next move was pulling into a head-in parking space, and it performs the impossible as you pull in, targeting itself neatly into just one space.
- Power and shift range seem good, anecdotally, on our first long stretch of surface street. Best of all, we're happy to have it feel like 35 when the speed is posted 35, not running at 55 without knowing it, easy to do in a vehicle this size. However, we next notice ourselves cruising toward 55 in a 45 and pay better attention.
- The radio seems to have six presets for AM, six for FM but none for satellite none, so you have to search from that long list every time; the manual seems to confirm this. Audio controls on the wheel turn with the wheel (common enough), limiting effectiveness. We try to tune up/down and find jump 40-50 stations at a time. We reach over to tune by the knob, and it reverts to the nav screen. From there, you would have to take your eyes several feet off the wheel to see whether to hit audio or sat, or either, then reach for the farther knob and start turning. It has tactile detents, but not one detent per number, nor two, more sort of one-ish. Distracting.
- Audio quality is average, despite a full set of features/interface. Besides bass-treble-fader, etc., there is DSP, surround on/off and automatic sound levelizer. We tried automatic features both on and off, but it didn't make any difference.
- We found it hard to be certain how much of the rear liftgate is power-activated and how much can (or can't) just be manually lifted. There's a hold-and-punch on the key, or if the vehicle's unlocked it seems you can just grab it, but it fights you on the way up and on the way down. As with most such features, a few days of actual ownership and use should reveal all mysteries.
- We love tight turning circles. The Sequoia easily does a U-turn in the available space of a 4-lane road separated by only the slimmest of dividers. Sure enough, specifications show that the Sequoia has a turning circle of 39 feet, noted as one of the tightest in its class. —JS

DISCOVERING TUCSON ON MANY LEVELS

TUCSON EVENTS HIT THE STREETS, SKY, TRAILS, STUDIOS, THEATERS AND MORE



EL TOUR BEST BIKE EVENT & FIESTA

Bicycling Magazine gives three initial reasons for ranking Tucson as the second-best place among cities its size for riding a bicycle: "Sunshine, sunshine, sunshine." The sun should be bright on Saturday, November 20, for the 28th El Tour de Tucson, one of the most successful road bicycling events in the US (www.pbaa.com). More than 8,000 cyclists, 2,700 volunteers and 27,000 spectators are expected. Riders will find events at all levels, including 109-, 80-, 67-, and 35-mile races, plus a 4-mile and 1/4-mile Kids & Family Fun Ride. Spectators will find plenty to do at the El Tour Downtown Fiesta, starting at 6:30am, with exhibitor and food booths, and live music between award presentations. Next door at the Tucson Museum of Art's Holiday Craft Market are more than 120 Southwestern artisans, live music, and a beer garden, from 10am to 5pm (www.tucsonmuseumofart.org).

ART HOUSE FILM FESTIVAL

Tucson's premier venue for art films will host its first international film festival, November 11-18. Inspired by the untamed spirit of alternative, cult, independent, and foreign movies, The Loft Film Fest will showcase 24 feature films, including favorites from Cannes and Sundance, and a variety of short films and special events. All screenings take place at The Loft Cinema, which boasts a 500-seat auditorium with a fabulous 50-foot-wide screen. The nonprofit Loft Cinema is one of 19 community-based cinemas in the US invited by the Sundance Institute to join its Art House Project in 2008. For more information, go to www.loftfilmfest.com.

GLOWING HOT AIR BALLOONS IN TUBAC

Giant bumblebees and towering cartoon characters will glow in the evening sky at the first annual Tubac Balloon Festival on Saturday, November 20 from 4-10pm. Audiences of all ages will delight in the clusters of colorful balloons hovering over the fairways at Tubac Golf Resort & Spa, located on the historic 500-acre Otero Ranch in the Santa Cruz River Valley, 41 miles southeast of downtown Tucson. A variety of food and beverages will be available from the resort's Dos Silos restaurant and The Stables Grill; country music will be performed by Beau Renfro and The Clear Country Band; and arts and crafts will be sold by local merchants. The grand finale will be a glow-in-the-dark sky-diving show by the Arizona Skyhawks Parachute Team. Tickets are \$5 to \$8 at the door. For more details, visit: www.tubacballoonfestival.com.



ORO VALLEY HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Just in time for the holiday gift-giving season, more than 80 arts and crafts vendors will sell their wares at the Oro Valley Holiday Festival of the Arts, December 4-5, at the 115-acre Oro Valley Marketplace, located on Metro Tucson's north side. Shoppers will find unique arts and crafts items, including handmade jewelry, sculptures, textiles, photography, framed paintings, candles, glass art, pottery, apparel, and more; gift-wrapping will be available. A play area with jumping castles and arts-and-crafts activities will offer entertainment for children; and a food court will provide sustenance. Learn more at www.SAACA.org.

EXPLORE ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIOS

Visual artists will open their studios to the public during Tucson's fall Open Studio Tour, from 11am to 5pm, November 13-14. This free, self-guided and self-paced tour into the creative and entertaining heart of Tucson's visual arts community makes a fun and educational weekend adventure for all ages. View artists of every kind: bookmakers, sculptors, photographers, ceramists, fiber artists, metalsmiths, glass blowers, and painters. See artworks in every stage of production, and explore what lies behind the creative process. For more information, visit the Tucson Pima Arts Council online at www.tucsonpimaartsCouncil.org.

How much SHELBY PERFORMANCE & DESIGN can you handle?



Only Shelby American can deliver the kind of balanced performance and design magic that makes dreams come true. From the original Shelby Cobra to the powerful V6 Shelby Terlingua Mustang and limited edition 725 hp Super Snake, Shelby American has the perfect fit for every performance enthusiast.

The only question is, just how much Shelby can you handle?

Visit ShelbyAmerican.com or call us at 702.942.7325 to learn more.



HOLIDAY CHEER IN SEDONA

SEDONA ABOUNDS WITH FUN AND FESTIVALS, AND THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS ESPECIALLY BUSY



RED ROCK FANTASY

November 18, 2010 - January 1, 2011. The 20th Annual Red Rock Fantasy, a festival of nearly one million lights and two dozen displays created by families from the Southwest, promises marvels that leave children in wonderment and move adults to enjoy the holidays as they did when they were young. It is a magic that can bring cartoon favorites to life, challenge children to scavenger hunts within the displays, or illuminate an undersea adventure—last year's winner. "Lights On" is at 5pm on Thursday, November 18, and "Lights Out" is on Saturday, January 1. The festival is open each evening (weather permitting) from 5-10pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 5-9pm Sunday through Thursday. Displays are built by families competing for a vacation ownership at Los Abrigados and other ILX Properties. A "People's Choice" award is given based on ballots that event visitors fill out. The event benefits local charities and dozens of families. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$2 for children 5-12 and complimentary for children 4 and under. Blocks of 20 tickets or more are sold at a discounted rate of \$4 per person. For more information, call 928-282-1777 or toll free 800-521-3131.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

November 2 - December 5. The exciting Festival of Trees opens at the unique Tlaquepaque complex on Friday, November 26. Area artists and galleries will have over 30 Christmas trees fully decorated in fun and exquisite ways. Kick off your holiday season with a beautiful pre-decorated themed tree. Trees are on display on through-

out the courtyards of Tlaquepaque, accompanied by silent auction bid sheets. Viewers may visit Tlaquepaque and check their bids through 4pm on Sunday, December 5. Proceeds will go to local charities. For more information contact Wendy Lippman at 928-282-4838.

HOLIDAY CONCERT AT TLAQUEPAQUE

December 10. Lead singers Ron Tolson and Bryan Pace, from the River of Life Tabernacle Choir, will help kick off this year's Festival of Lights with a free performance in the Chapel at Tlaquepaque Arts and Crafts Village on Friday, December 10, from 4-7pm. Taking place the day before the lighting of 6,000 Luminarias, this special concert will feature piano playing and vocals from a new CD featuring sacred hymns and holiday music. Tolson's melodic baritone has been described as "powerful" and "deeply moving." His music crosses age, ethnic and socioeconomic barriers. He has appeared in musical productions such as *Brother, Brother, Stop* and *Fiddler On The Roof*. He has recorded two albums and has been featured on a number of others. His most recent release, featuring pianist Pace, is *Hymns...Timeless*. The non-denominational Chapel at Tlaquepaque is one of the most special venues in Northern Arizona and boasts great acoustics. Primarily used for weddings or other private gatherings, this is a rare opportunity for the public to attend an event in this memorable location. Stained glass windows and hand-carved leather pews, a stunning mural over the altar, and whitewashed adobe walls make for a beautifully intimate setting. Contact Tlaquepaque at 928-282-4838 or www.tlaq.com.

PERSONALIZED LUMINARIAS

December 11. The Festival of Lights offers personalized luminarias in honor of cancer survivors or victims, on Saturday, December 11. The American Cancer Society will have a booth in the Patio del Norte, where you can purchase a special luminaria to honor a friend or family member who has had cancer, and your donation will go directly to the American Cancer Society. Each personalized luminaria is \$10, and you can light your own luminaria at 5pm during the Festival of Lights. You can also purchase a personalized luminaria in advance by calling the office at 928-282-4838 or online at www.tlaq.com.

SEDONA AND VERDE VALLEY WINE COUNTRY

The majority of area wineries are located on an easy loop through Cornville, while a few are located off the main arteries between local towns. There is even a tasting room located in the heart of Uptown Sedona, The Art of Wine, with wines from Sycamore Canyon Winery. Many restaurants in the area serve local wines, while wine tours and activities are becoming more widespread: "Water to Wine" kayak tours, jeep wine tours and more. The Verde Valley enjoys a long agricultural history. Early settler records mention hay sales to Fort Verde, cattle drives to Flagstaff, and produce sold to miners and smelters in Jerome and Clarkdale. Keeping the spirit of this abundant ranching and farming heritage, a new agricultural cottage industry of grape growing has cropped up in close proximity to Camp Verde. If you're headed to Sedona, make plans to stay awhile. ■

Bondurant's Advanced Teenage Driving Program!



Developed Specifically for Teens

We teach teens the skills they really need to know — active driving skills that could someday save their lives. This advanced program offers ground-school sessions, skills pad exercises and extensive time behind the wheel. The students learn proven techniques in maximum car control that no other school can match.



Advanced Skills That Could Save Lives

The right instruction:

Vehicle dynamics, proper vision, awareness, and anticipation

Exercises:

Slalom, Skid Control, Cornering Techniques, Precision Maneuvers and Accident Avoidance



bondurant.com



FIREBIRD RACEWAY • CHANDLER, AZ

GOODYEAR

Call TODAY!

1.800.842.RACE

7 2 2 3



GM The Official High Performance Driving School of General Motors.

Proudly Located on the Gila River Indian Community.

THE INSIDE TRACK: BRIEFS & RUMORS

■ **Porsche's** 918 Spyder plug-in hybrid sports car has received the approval of the company's supervisory board. With styling evolving from Carrera GT, the 3,300-pound carbon-fiber body Spyder is powered by a mid-mounted 500-hp, gas V8 engine and a pair of electric motors adding an additional 218-hp. The all-wheel drive two-seater accelerates from 0 to 62 mph in just 3.2 seconds and has a top speed of 198 mph. Did we mention it's expected to 78 mpg? Production of the 918 Spyder is expected to be limited to 1,500 cars and will likely carry a price tag of about \$650,000.



Porsche 918 Spyder concept

■ **Nissan** announced in plans to build a convertible version of its popular Murano crossover. Nissan revealed the concept at a Las Vegas dealers' meeting in August, calling it a family adventure vehicle. The two-door soft-top is being labeled the CrossCabriolet, and it is expected to go on sale in early 2011. Nissan plans to unveil the CrossCabriolet to the public at the Los Angeles Auto Show in November. Chrysler made a similar move in 2005 when they built a convertible version of the PT Cruiser, however the Murano is 20 inches longer and six inches taller than the PT Cruiser.



2011 Nissan Murano

■ **Ford** has placed a cap on orders for the 2011 Shelby Mustang GT500 at 5,500 units in order to maintain the exclusivity of the sports car. Sales of the 550-hp supercharged Mustang have exceeded expectations, with about 3,300 sold by mid-July.



2011 Ford Shelby GT500

not only on engine power and acceleration, but also on redefining total vehicle performance.

■ **Subaru's** current TV spot has a little girl, age six, sitting in the driver's seat of a Subaru Legacy with her father speaking to her through the passenger side window. She smiles patiently as her father gives her the "safety talk." As he hands her the keys, we realize that, all along, it has been a 16-year-old waiting for her first ride alone and Dad still sees her as his little girl. You can see the spot at youtube.com/Subaru under "Baby Driver."

■ The **Infiniti** IPL G Coupe arriving at dealerships in December will be the first of a new line of Infiniti performance vehicles. The IPL (Infiniti Performance Line) coupe will be the first Infiniti powered by a new 348-hp version of the 3.7 liter DOHC V6 engine. The line focuses

■ Rumors have **Ford** working on a hybrid version of the rally-inspired high-performance Focus RS. According to The Detroit Bureau blog, the RS will be outfitted with a 250-hp, 2.0-liter four-cylinder EcoBoost engine driving the front wheels with additional power coming from electric motors driving the rear wheels to create over 300 total horsepower. Derrick Kuzak, vice president for product development, confirmed that Ford is working on the new RS to debut at the Geneva Motor Show in Switzerland as a "global performance version" of the Focus.

■ Sometimes you just need to be connected, even in the woods, so **Subaru** is offering the new Subaru Mobile Internet system in the 2011 Outback crossover. It creates a WiFi hotspot giving internet access to 10 or more users for up to 150 feet around the vehicle. Operating on the 3G network and with all WiFi enabled devices, Subaru Mobile Internet provides users a fully encrypted connection with download speeds of 400kbps-1.2mbps and can be used when the car is moving. The service can be added as a port or dealer-installed accessory to any 2011 Outback for an MSRP of \$499, plus a \$35 activation fee. A one-year subscription at \$29 per month is required, though the first three months of service are free.



NASCAR Then & Now



■ Ford barely had time to take the check to the bank from the sale of **Volvo** to Chinese automaker Geely before the new owner was talking about moving the brand more upscale. Li Shufu, founder and chairman of Geely said through a translator, "We want to make more high-level cars that compete with the S-Class of Mercedes-Benz and the 7 Series of BMW." Li also said they would invest up to \$900 million above the \$1.5 to \$1.8 billion purchase. Geely plans to build a new manufacturing facility in China nearly doubling the Swedish carmaker's capacity.

■ **Mercedes-Benz** created the four-door coupe concept when it introduced the CLS in 2003 and that great styling has led to many other car companies producing their own interpretations of the dramatic look. Now Mercedes debuted the second generation (2012) of the CLS at the Paris auto show in October. A distinguishing feature of the new CLS is the headlamps, the world's first to offer all dynamic light functions using LED technology. They are divided into three arrow-shaped layers from top to bottom with a total of 71 LEDs providing an unmistakable appearance as well as a significantly enhanced view of the road.



2012 Mercedes-Benz CLS-Class

mail on company networks. Passengers front and rear can use all of these features while traveling in the Audi A8, just as if they were in their own office.

■ Suggestions written on napkins at a December 1947 meeting were the roots of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (**NASCAR**). A new book documents the ripple of an idea that grew into a tsunami. NASCAR founder Bill France Sr. and a cast of colorful characters are portrayed in the new book *NASCAR Then & Now* by Ben White. With 260 photos by Nigel Kinrade and from the collection of Smyle Media, it captures the drivers, teams, fans, cars, tracks, preparation and the races themselves. It is on sale for \$25 at bookstores or online at www.Motorbooks.com.

■ Capable of leaping small hills in a single bound and performing aerial feats previously only seen from profes-

sional racers, the **Ford** SVT Raptor pickup has become the ultimate family and friends off-roader with its new four-door SuperCrew cab option. Now with a standard new 411-hp 6.2-liter V8, the Ford Raptor offers new technologies and more choices in cab size.

■ Owners of the new **Audi** A8 can opt for their own factory-installed WLAN hotspot that can simultaneously access the Internet through the car's integrated WLAN module and via UMTS, using up to eight devices such as laptops, Apple iPads or netbooks. The system is capable of everything from wireless surfing to checking e-

■ **Ford** started production on a new 6.7-liter Power Stroke turbocharged V8 diesel engine for 2011 Ford F-Series Super Duty trucks. Leapfrogging its competitors, the new engine boasts best-in-class power with 800 lb-ft of torque and 400 horsepower, an increase of 65 lb-ft and 10 hp. In an industry-first customer loyalty program, Ford will provide the power upgrades free of charge to all current owners of a 2011 Super Duty diesel pickup. Customers will receive letters explaining the procedure, a 30-minute software adjustment to the truck's powertrain control module, and inviting them to visit their dealerships for the upgrade.

■ **Nissan** engineers have developed an air filter that dispenses vitamin C into the car's cabin to moisturize occupants' skin.



2011 Ford SVT Raptor SuperCrew

Part of Nissan's "health and well-being" concept designed to create a more comfortable in-car environment, it uses direct application of vitamin C to help keep skin

looking young and healthy. According to Nissan engineers, an hour's drive with the system is more effective than applying a moisturizing cream. There is no indication whether the new system will be available in US Nissan models. ■

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*.

TERRAFUGIA "FLYING CAR"

Company moves into initial low-volume production facility



Terrafugia, Inc. is gearing up for low-volume production of the Transition® Roadable Aircraft or "Flying Car" to begin as early as late 2001, in Woburn, Massachusetts. They unveiled a model of the next-generation design to aviation press and aircraft enthusiasts at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh last July, and two prototypes are currently under construction. One will undergo extensive drive testing, while the other will be used to complete Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) certification flight testing. This experience will also help finalize the initial price point of the vehicle, which is expected to be \$200,000-250,000.

Founded by five pilots and award-winning engineers, graduates of MIT, and supported by a network of advisors and private investors, Terrafugia's mission is the innovative expansion of personal mobility.

Improvements in this generation were based on drive and flight testing of the Proof of Concept Transition, completed in 2009, plus computer-aided optimization. A recent 110-pound grant by the FAA for the Transition within the LSA category allows for modern automotive-style safety features unavailable in other light aircraft. Simulated dynamic crash testing—complete with airbags and digital crash test dummies—has been used to help the vehicle meet stringent Federal safety standards—the only Light Sport Aircraft to simulate crash testing in this manner. The Terrafugia team expects the Transition, equipped with a full-vehicle ballistic parachute system and the ability to drive in bad weather, to prove itself one of the safest LSAs in the world.



Features include an energy-absorbing crush structure in the nose and a rigid safety cage for the occupants; a customized, intuitive touch-screen interface in the cockpit; a wing with optimized airfoil and folding mechanism that operates smoothly from inside the cockpit; a pusher propeller with an open empennage that makes efficient use of the 100-hp Rotax 912S mid-mounted engine in flight and is locked in place when driving; and rear-wheel drive with continuously variable transmission (CVT) and tuned independent suspension for responsive road handling.

Reservations have already been placed for aircraft to be built in the first two to three years of production and are being accepted with a \$10,000 refundable deposit. Deliveries of the Transition are scheduled to begin in late 2011. More info: terrafugia.com.



Di*sel

it's no longer a dirty word.

TDI clean diesel



The Audi A3 TDI®
2010 Green Car of the Year

The Audi Q7 TDI®

It's official. Audi A3 TDI is the 2010 Green Car of the Year. Clean Diesel Reigns! Diesel has made a comeback and Audi TDI clean diesel is the reason why. The proof is in the super efficient engine. 42mpg hwy for the Audi A3 TDI and 25mpg hwy for the Audi Q7 TDI to be exact.* Combine that with powerful, off-the-line low-end torque and 20% fewer emissions than gasoline engines and you have the complete diesel package.** Test-drive an Audi TDI clean diesel today at a dealer near you. audiusa.com/tdi

Audi North Scottsdale

18088 North Scottsdale Road, Phoenix, AZ
(480) 538-4000 :: audinorthscottsdale.com

Audi Chandler

I-10 & Ray Road, Chandler, AZ
(480) 941-0000 :: audichandler.com

*EPA estimates 42mpg hwy/30mpg city for Audi A3 TDI clean diesel with automatic transmission, and 25mpg hwy/17mpg city for Audi Q7 TDI clean diesel with automatic transmission. Your mileage will vary. **CO₂ emissions claim based on comparison to gasoline engine. "Audi," "Q7," "A3" and the four rings and Audi emblems are registered trademarks of AUDI AG. "Truth in Engineering" is a registered trademark of Audi of America, Inc. "TDI" is a registered trademark of Volkswagen AG. ©2010 Audi of America, Inc.



UPCOMING FEATURES

Corvette Grand Sport Convertible



Lexus CT 200h - New Orleans vehicle launch



Ford Explorer - San Diego vehicle launch



Kia Sorento



Jeep® Wrangler, Patriot, Grand Cherokee



Lincoln MKX



Nissan Maxima SV Premium



Ford Fiesta 5-Door Hatchback



Be a Part of **ZOOMTOWN, U.S.A.** Phoenix International Raceway

THE GREATEST WEEKEND IN NASCAR

X2



FEBRUARY 25-27, 2011
It's Rock'n Roll.
It's NASCAR.
It's life in the fast lane.



TICKETS START AT \$25 FOR EACH RACE
866-408-RACE // PHOENIXRACEWAY.COM



NOVEMBER 10-13, 2011
The Playoffs...NASCAR style.
The Semi-Final Race in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup.



THINKING OF SELLING YOUR COLLECTOR CAR?

JOIN US IN ARIZONA

JANUARY 21, 2011

ARIZONA BILTMORE RESORT & SPA • PHOENIX, ARIZONA

NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS



OFFERING THE WORLD'S FINEST MOTOR CARS

+1-519-352-4575 +44 (0) 20 7851 7070 www.rmauctions.com

Sale produced by RM Auctions, Inc. • info@rmauctions.com



RM AUCTIONS