

ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 2
MARCH-APRIL 2007

The
race-bred
Audi R8
hits the
streets



Also... VW Eos, Nissan Murano, Ford Edge,
Valley Auction Results, Detroit Show, PIR events,
Ad Council teen program, AAA online fuel info and more

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

RUSSO AND STEELE 2007

Monterey



#7138
1965 SHELBY GT350
"R" MODEL

In 1965 Shelby American had won the FIA World Manufacturers Championship with their 280 Cobra Daytona Coupe driven by Bob Bondurant. In the same year, their GT 350 captured the B-production road racing championship. To capitalizing on these successes Shelby American created the cobra community. It embarked on a four week tour across the U.S. stopping at 12 major cities. SR213 was completed on November 10, 1965 just in time to be loaded on the 40 foot long enclosed trailer. On board were four Shelby automobiles, the world championed Daytona coupe, a Ford GT, a 427 Competition Roadster and SR213. It is one of 36 factory prepared competition models and is recognized by Shelby enthusiasts as the preeminent example of this highly collectable mark. The meticulous restoration features all the correct 1965 vintage components including an NOS set of Blue Streak tires.

AUGUST 16-18

CONSIGNMENTS NOW
INVITED FOR 150 PREMIUM
LOTS ON TWO EVENINGS

RESERVE ENTRIES WELCOME



1972 LAMBORGHINI
MUJIRA PURA IV
#7132



1965 MUSTANG
BASE 628
#7134



1966 SHELBY COBRA
427 COMPETITION
#7110

602.252.2697

WWW.RUSSOANDSTEELE.COM

ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

CONTENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

MARCH-APRIL 2007

Auctions 24
Record high temperatures gave way to record lows and extremely rare measurable snowfall during auction week this year. Nonetheless, more records were set.

SPECIAL EVENT

Auto shows part 2 24
In our last issue, we brought you highlights of the big shows in Phoenix and Los Angeles. Now, here's Detroit.

NEW VEHICLE

Audi R8: Serious competition to the 911 24
Audi has been winning all the top spots on the racetrack for years, with their R8 and now R10 TDI race cars. They use the R8 name for this new mid-engined all-wheel-drive quattro sports coupe, a competitor to the Porsche 911.

SERVICES

AAA adds much fueling info to online services 32
AAA online adds information on local gas stations nationwide. You can even enter a route and vehicle type to find what a trip will cost, given fuel costs en route.

TEST DRIVE

Volkswagen EOS hardtop convertible 34
The convertible resurgence continues, as VW presents a contender in the hardtop retractable category.
By Barbara and Bill Schaffer

VEHICLE REVIEW

Ford Edge 40
This vehicle is launched with a big mission, as Ford has been challenged by a range of issues of late.
By Barbara and Bill Schaffer

TEEN DRIVERS

Ad Council reckless driving campaign 42
The Ad Council gives teens a chance to speak up.

VEHICLE REVIEW

Nissan Murano: ahead of the curve 44
One of the first crossover SUVs, the Murano led with curvy shapes and its continuously variable transmission. The rest of the world is catching up.
By Barbara and Bill Schaffer

MOTORSPORTS

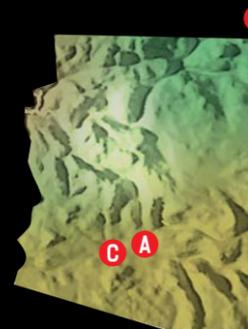
Phoenix International Raceway April events 48
Information on three NASCAR events, April 19, 20, 21.

EQUIPMENT

Dodge Avenger gets Bridgestone-Firestone tires 50

DEPARTMENTS

FROM THE PUBLISHER : START YOUR ENGINES 4
AUTO NEWS UPDATE 6
CAR SMARTS : QUIZ 17
DESTINATION DIRECTORY 38
MOTOR RESOURCES DIRECTORY 46
THE INSIDE TRACK: BRIEFS & RUMORS 52
UPCOMING FEATURES 54



COVER: Audi A8, photo courtesy Audi AG.



START YOUR ENGINES : FROM THE PUBLISHER

This is one of those issues that makes you want a bigger garage. The Audi R8 is a much-anticipated arrival. The Le Mans show car three years ago set the stage, and now we have the real thing—stirring it up a bit within the Audi-VW-Porsche family, as the confident 911 now has a close cousin in danger of showing it up. If you have a little less to spend, but still have some fun in mind, check out the Volkswagen Eos, a hardtop convertible that—while not as affordable as a Miata or Solstice—provides hardtop security and weatherproofing with top-down sunshine touring. The Nissan Murano broke a lot of new ground on its introduction, from its curvy shape in a sea of midsize SUV boxes, to its continuously variable transmission and other tech breakthroughs. Among the newcomers in this crossover category, we now have the significant Ford Edge, also visited here.

In our last issue, we presented highlights of auto (and motorcycle) shows in metro Phoenix and Los Angeles, with a teaser on Detroit. Detroit has now come and gone, and we bring you some highlights from there, as well. The Valley's big auction season has also come and gone once again, setting more records even as the weatherman did the same; results are presented here for two of them.

If you're not a member of AAA of Arizona, you should check it out. A modest membership fee brings perks galore. Check out their national website, which now includes locations of local gas stations, plus calculators to figure a trip cost based on your vehicle and their database of gas prices all along the way. Amazing.



Joe Sage
Publisher/ Executive Editor

ARIZONA DRIVER

MAGAZINE

PUBLISHER/EXECUTIVE EDITOR:

Joe Sage

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Jill Amadio, Joe Connor,
Pilar Covarrubias, Mark Cox,
Larry Edsall, Dan J. Gardner,
Gary Goldzweig, Chip Keen,
Bob Kroener, Jim Rogers,
Bill & Barbara Schaffer, Tim Sharp

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Jean-Pierre Brietta, Rich Cox,
Luis DeBonoPaula, Larry Edsall,
Dan J. Gardner, Randy Lorentzen,
Jim Pyle, Dick Reed

DESIGN & PRODUCTION: AdZoneAZ

ADVERTISING SALES: 480-948-0200

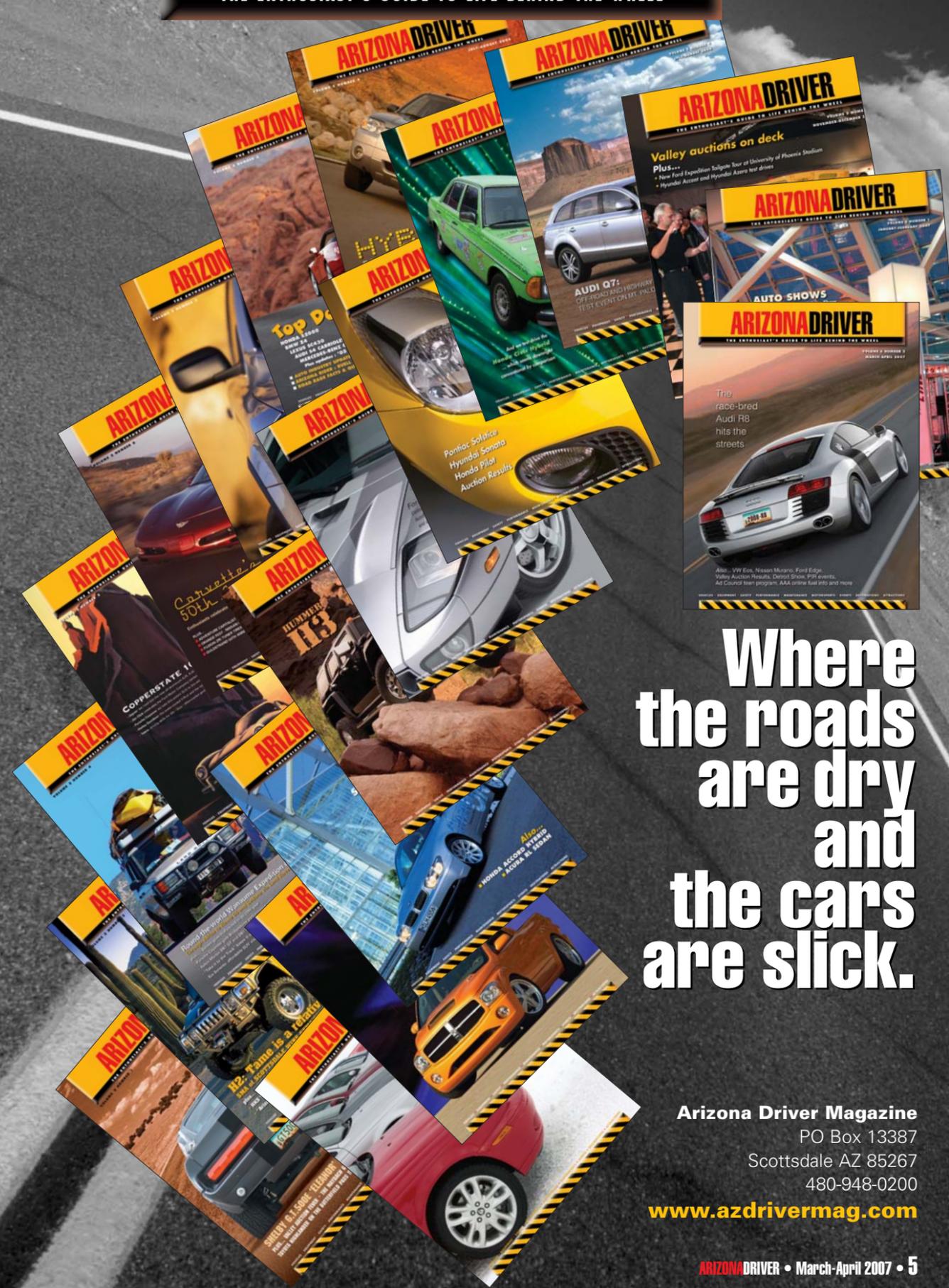
ARIZONA DRIVER MAGAZINE

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

Arizona Driver Magazine and
Arizona Rider Magazine are registered
tradenames of AdZone Arizona LLC.

ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL



Where
the roads
are dry
and
the cars
are slick.

Arizona Driver Magazine
PO Box 13387
Scottsdale AZ 85267
480-948-0200
www.azdrivermag.com

TRAVEL SITES TO BE SEEN



sedona.net
thecanyon.com
flagstaff.com
prescott.com
scottsdale-phoenix.net

Southwest Media Communications LLC - 602-748-4584
6450 E Cave Creek Rd - Suite 105 - Cave Creek AZ 85331
PO Box 5953 - Carefree AZ 85377

DETAILS ON UPCOMING SMART

Smart details continue to unfold. When the minicar goes on sale in January 2008, expect to see the current model grow to 106.1 inches long, or about the same length as the Honda Civic wheelbase. It will ride on a 73.2-inch wheelbase, measure 61.2 inches wide and be 60.7 inches tall. It is built on the same 'safety cell' platform, which is similar to a roll cage design. Power will come from a 1.0-liter 3-cylinder engine with a new five-speed manual transmission that can be driven in an automatic mode. Fuel economy should exceed 45 mpg and prices are expected to start under \$15,000. Rumors have it available in three models: a base version called Pure, a well-equipped model called the Passion and a Passion Cabriolet. The Smart will be marketed in the US by Roger Penske's UnitedAuto Group. ▼



Smart ForTwo



Lexus IS-F

The new Lexus "F" lineup begins with the IS-F, a 5.0-liter upgrade from the IS350, also featuring enhanced suspension and performance throughout.

LEXUS GETS INTO THE FAST BUSINESS

▲ Like nearly every other luxury brand, Lexus is getting into the faster car business. Mercedes-Benz has the AMG, BMW the M, Audi the S and now Lexus will have the "F"—for fast. First to market is the 425-hp, 5.0-liter version of the smallest Lexus sedan, the IS. The IS-F went on sale in December with a sticker in the low \$50,000 range. The engine is derived from Lexus LS 600h V-8 with Yamaha enhancements. Brakes are from Brembo. After the IS-F there will be the GS-F, but details have not been released.

GM WORKING ON PLUG-IN VUE

General Motors CEO, Rick Wagoner, has announced that the automaker has begun work on a plug-in hybrid version of the Saturn Vue compact SUV. The system would use an internal combustion engine and/or electric motor like conventional hybrids, but would use the electric motor as the primary power for shorter distances of up to 10 miles. When the battery starts to get low, the internal combustion engine takes over. The plug-in system would use lithium ion batteries instead of the nickel-metal hydride batteries used on most existing hybrids. The system is recharged by driving longer distances, regenerative braking or mostly

by plugging the vehicle in when it's not in use. No time has been announced, but Wagoner emphasized that this is "top priority program for GM, given the huge potential it offers for fuel-economy improvement."

IMPALA GOES BACK TO RWD

The next generation Chevrolet Impala will go back to a rear-wheel drive configuration starting late in 2008. The new Impala will be developed from the same RWD platform being used on the upcoming Camaro. The Impala will have a longer wheelbase with short front and rear overhangs and a larger cockpit. The platform is being reengineered from a design currently being used by GM's Australian subsidiary Holden. What is not known, however, is if the Impala will be moved upscale to set it apart from the next generation Malibu.

FLORIDA VIDEO TOLL COLLECTION

Florida is testing the country's first prepaid video account system on an expressway running between Tampa and Brandon, Florida. The new optional toll system reads vehicle license plates as they pass through the toll plaza. Participants must register for the service and put money in a prepaid account

using their credit card. The road will still use the existing SunPass system that uses a transponder attached to the vehicle's window. The transponder system transmits radio signals to sensors mounted in the toll lanes to allow for the electronic toll collection.

DRIVE, STEERING, SHOCKS & BRAKES

German manufacturer Siemens has developed a wheel system that integrates the drivetrain, steering, shocks and brakes. Using independently operating electronic wheel hubs, the powerful motors can replace the internal combustion engine. Then taking that technology several steps further, the eCorner system uses servomotors mounted inside the wheels to replace traditional mechanical steering, eliminate hydraulic brake systems and electronically control the ride and handling. Siemens says the electronic braking system portion will go into production by 2010.

VOLVO COLLISION AVOIDANCE

Volvo is working on a new system designed to reduce accidents at speeds under 30 km/h (about 19 mph). It uses an

KEEP RIGHT >>

LINCOLN ADDS SECOND "MK" MODEL

In keeping with the new alphabetic naming scheme, Lincoln is adding a second MK model, the MKX. Developed in conjunction with the Ford Edge, the MKX also resembles its competitor, the Lexus RX 350 in design, features and specs. Intended to appeal to the younger buyers, the MKX gets a trademark Lincoln egg-crate grille, but otherwise follows the Edge closely. Ford design chief, Peter Horbury, says future Lincolns will have a more distinctive look. The drivetrain includes a DOHC 3.5-liter aluminum V-6 hooked to the new six-speed automatic that was recently developed jointly with General Motors. It's available in front- and all-wheel drive and gets a long list of features not available on the Edge, like adaptive headlights, heated and cooled front seats, heated rear seats and power liftgate. Prices start at \$34,795, including destination charge, for the FWD and \$36,495 for the AWD. ▼



Lincoln MKX

Mercedes-Benz C-Class



The 2008 Mercedes-Benz C-Class will have a sport trim and a luxury trim available, but moreso than most makes, they will be distinctly differentiated.

>> AUTO NEWS UPDATE - cont'd

optical based radar system integrated into the upper portion of the windshield near the rear-view mirror. Called "City Safety", it monitors vehicles that are up to 6 meters (20 feet) ahead. Based on the distance to the vehicle in front, which may be standing still or moving, the system calculates 50 times per second the braking force needed to avoid a collision. When a collision becomes likely, the system will pre charge the brakes to help the driver avoid an accident by braking or let the driver steer away from a potential collision. However, when it senses a collision is unavoidable, the car will brake automatically. The system works during the day or night, but can be affected by fog, mist, snow, heavy rain or if the windshield in front of the sensor is too dirty.

TWO MUSTANG VARIANTS IN 2007

Two of the more famous factory Mustangs ever built should find their way back to dealerships in 2007. There will be a model based on the 1968 Mustang that Steve McQueen raced through the streets of San Francisco in the movie *Bullitt*. The Bullitt model will have a plain grill without driving lights and a black painted panel between the taillights. The engine will be

the same 325-hp as in the recently announced Shelby GT. Expected later in 2007 is a racing style Boss model with a 425- or 435-hp V-8 and stripped down interior, but with optional air conditioning. The Boss production will be limited to 1,000 cars.

NEXT-GEN MERCEDES-BENZ C-CLASS

▲ Look for the next generation Mercedes-Benz C-Class to be much more stylish with a wide new grill, angular headlights and sharp wedge styling. Two front-end treatments will be offered; one with a traditional star mounted on the top of the leading edge of the hood or a sporty version with the large three-point star mounted in the center of the grill, as on the CLK. The C-Class will be longer, wider, taller, and much roomier inside. Insiders say the C-Class has more rear seat space than the larger E-Class. The interior is cleaner with new switches and a more furniture looking design. Engines will be a 231-hp 3.0-liter V-6, 272-hp 3.5-liter V-6 and 450-hp 6.3-liter V-8 for the AMG version. It will make its first appearance at the 2007 Geneva motor show.

NEW EPA FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS

We don't drive as we did in 1984 when the Environmental Protection Agency set up the original fuel economy estimate

standards. After receiving thousands of complaints from consumers, carmakers and environmentalist that the ratings were not accurate, the EPA has changed the standards to include factors such as higher speeds, aggressive acceleration and air conditioning use. The 2008 vehicles will be the first to get the new fuel-economy estimates. Because of the changes, most vehicles will get significantly lower (as much as 12 percent) EPA estimates on the new vehicle window stickers.

THE TRANSITION FLYING CAR

Imagine going to your garage; climbing behind the wheel of your two-seat Transition; driving to the airport; lowering the wings; taxing onto the runway; then flying 100 to 500 miles. If a 29-year-old aeronautics PhD candidate at MIT gets his way there may be thousands of these flying cars or driveable planes on the roads and in the air. Inventor Carl Dietrich developed the vehicle while a student and in the process won the prestigious \$30,000 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize in February. He is currently working with investors to raise \$2 million to \$3 million to develop a working model. Dietrich's company, Terrafugia, expects the Transition to sell for

KEEP RIGHT >>

ACURA DEBUTS NSX CONCEPT

Acura calls the dramatic car with its long, pronounced hood, deeply sculptured lines and embossed air vents their "Advanced Sports Car Concept". The concept has slim, LED headlights, wraparound rear taillights and an all black cockpit. It rides on 108.8 inch wheelbase, sits low to the ground and has carbon fiber underbody. Power comes from Honda's sophisticated new front-mounted V-10 engine and new high-performance rear-wheel based version of Acura's exclusive Super Handling All-Wheel Driver™ (SH-AWD™). ▼



Acura Advanced Sports Car Concept



GM Rollover Crash Test Center

"Don't try this at home." But if you do try it on the way home someday, GM is working hard to improve your chances in a vehicle rollover situation.

>> AUTO NEWS UPDATE - cont'd

about \$148,000 and to appeal to the "short-hop market." The vehicle would fit well with a new aviation rating developed in 2004 by the Federal Aviation Administration for light sport aircraft. The new classification would require half the training and licensing fees required for "regular" aircraft. The FAA expects the new classification to add as many as 15,000 new pilots by 2009.

FORD & MICROSOFT PARTNER

Ford and Microsoft are launching a new factory-installed, in-car communications and entertainment system that allows consumers to operate electronic devices using voice commands or controls on the vehicle steering wheel or radio. Called Sync, the system is fully upgradeable so it will always be compatible with the latest phone or music player on the market. Sync uses Bluetooth® for wireless connection and a USB 2.0 port for command, control and charging digital media players – including the Apple iPod, Microsoft Zune and other music systems. Sync features include voice-activated hands-free calling, audible text messaging, advanced calling features, voice activated music, instant voice recognition, ring tone

support and automatic phonebook transfer. The system even allows for uninterrupted connections – when someone enters the vehicle while still talking on the phone and touches the telephone button on the steering wheel, Sync will instantly connect to the Bluetooth phone. Sync will be available on 12 Ford products later this year.

GM ROLLOVER CRASH TEST CENTER

▲ In December General Motors opened a new \$10 million rollover-crash test center at their proving grounds in Milford, Mich. The facility is the first such test center developed and owned by a US automaker. Plans call for 150 to 200 rollover crash tests annually on GM vehicles from the US and some foreign subsidiaries. The company will study possible safety measures and will develop an airbag system to prevent occupants from being ejected from the vehicle.

CHEVY WILL OFFER A SPORTY EQUINOX

Chevrolet will offer a sport version of the Equinox crossover beginning in the third quarter of 2007. The 2008 model will have lowered suspension, 18-inch wheels and a 263-hp dual overhead cam engine with a six-speed automatic transmission. The transmission will have a sport tap-

up/tap-down control. The exterior will lose the roof rack and will be outfitted with body-colored fascias. Like the standard model it will be available in front-wheel and all wheel drive.

SUZUKI NEW SMALL SEDAN COMING

Suzuki plans to add a new small sedan to its lineup by the fall of 2007. Expected to debut at the New York Auto Show in April, the four door is expected to be based on the SX4 hatchback that was introduced last September, leaving the option open for the new car to have available all-wheel drive. According to Gene Brown, American Suzuki vice president of marketing, it will "not necessarily replace" the Forenza and Reno, instead it will offer a more spacious and powerful model, more in tune with market demands.

V-12 AUDI DIESEL READY FOR Q7 SUV

Audi has unveiled a 500-hp, V-12 diesel engine that is ready to go into the new Q7 SUV. The 6.0-liter TDI engine will produce 0 to 62 mph (100 km/h) acceleration times of 5.5 seconds, which is especially impressive for a big 5,300 pound vehicle. The engine, which produces 738-ft.lbs. of torque, was developed from the same

KEEP RIGHT >>

SAGE

ADVERTISING

DESIGN

PUBLISHING



Brochures / Catalogs / Magazines

Concept / Design / Production / Print Publishing
Media Planning & Placement

Call to discuss individual projects or strategic needs.

**AUTOMOTIVE / AVIATION / BOATING
MANUFACTURERS / IMPORTERS
INDUSTRIAL / CONSTRUCTION
TOURISM / ACTIVITIES / EVENTS
RESORT / HOTEL / LODGING
INSTITUTIONAL / FINANCIAL
REAL ESTATE / DEVELOPMENT**

480-948-0200

ADZONE ARIZONA LLC

>> AUTO NEWS UPDATE - cont'd

basic diesel engine that powered the R10 racecar, which went undefeated in 2006 in the American Le Mans series and the Le Mans 24 hour race. In Europe, Audi offers six and eight-cylinder diesels including the 2.7 TDI, 3.0 TDI and 4.2 TDI.

VW DIESELS TO DISAPPEAR FOR NOW

Volkswagen diesels will become rare at dealerships early this year as the last of the extra 2006 models are purchased. The company has developed a new 2.0-liter turbocharged diesel engine with an all-new common-rail, high-pressure fuel injections system, but it will not be coming out of the factory until January 2008. The new model will be priced at least \$1,000 more than the previous version because of the extra emissions equipment required to meet strict new federal standards that require the diesels to run as clean as gasoline engines.

WATCH OUT FOR "CLONED VEHICLES"

Did you find a "too good to be true" price on that "like new" Cadillac Escalade, BMW 7 Series or other luxury vehicle? Beware, it may have been cloned. The National Insurance Crime Bureau warns consumers to watch for cloned vehicles – vehicles that have been stolen but have a vehicle identification number (VIN) title, federal sticker and labels from a legitimate vehicle. Tips offered to avoid such vehicles include: (1) Is the price too good to be true? (2) Is the VIN plate (usually located on the dash) scratched or marked? (3) Encourage title clerks to "look" carefully at the paperwork to make sure it's original, not forged. (4) Check out the vehicle with a service like CARFAX or AutoCheck for mileage and titling variances. (5) If the vehicle has a GPS or OnStar device check to see if it is disabled. If so, ask why. For more information or to report a vehicle you suspect go to www.nicb.org or call 1-800-TEL-NICB (800-835-6422). The call is free, anonymous (if you like) and there may be a reward.

FOOSE STALLION AT FORD DEALERS

Custom Foose Stallion Ford Mustangs, which were previously only available through select Ford dealerships, are now available at any Ford dealership. The new

base model will get a Ford Racing exhaust and suspension system along with 11-inch rear and 12-inch front DecelRotors. The Foose signature logo will be on the seats, sill plates and the dash. Other modifications include upper and lower billet grille and 20-inch Foose Nitrous wheels all for a base MSRP of \$36,365. A supercharged version will be added by the end of the first quarter of 2007.

FORD TWINFORCE™ ENGINE

Ford has developed a new engine they call the TwinForce™, which delivers V-8 power and performance with the fuel economy of a V-6. The engine uses direct injection technology and twin turbochargers to more precisely control how much fuel is injected into the cylinders allowing for more efficient burn and improved combustion control. The TwinForce was developed from Ford's Duratec 35 all-aluminum engine. First designed to go into Lincoln's upcoming MKR, the engine is flex-fuel capable and produces 415 horsepower and 400 lb.ft. of torque.

FEATURE-LADEN CHRYSLER MINIVANS

The fifth generation Chrysler division minivans will take on a new look that at first glance resembles a stylized and larger version of the original 1970s minivans. As is the tradition with new generation minivans, these are filled with great new features, which Chrysler bills as a "family room on wheels." The Swivel 'n Go second row seats can rotate to the rear to face the third row. Then a table can be popped up in the middle so occupants can play cards, eat or whatever. It's something like the Volkswagen buses, but with swivel seats. The minivans are offered with DVD players and the new MyGIG hard drive system that can store songs and movies, similar to an iPod, for passenger entertainment. The new big engine option is a 4.0-liter V-6 rated at 240-hp and with an available six-speed automatic transmission. The new Dodge and Chrysler minivans will only be available in long-wheelbase versions, which will be nearly two inches longer than the previous generation.

SUBARU CHANGES B9 TRIBECA

After only two years on the market, Subaru has major changes planned for

Chevrolet Police Tahoe



Some may not find this the prettiest picture in this magazine, but at least it gives a good heads-up for when you need to be on your best behavior.

the 2008 B9 Tribeca. When the new version is launched in May, it will have new front and rear styling and a more powerful engine to try to counteract the style and power criticisms the SUV crossover vehicle has received. Replacing the current boxer (horizontally opposed) 3.0-liter six-cylinder engine, which requires a premium fuel, is a new 3.6-liter version with significantly more power and it runs on regular gas. The access to the third row seat in the seven seat version has also been improved. Subaru of America CEO Kunio Ishigami said the pricing would be the same starting at \$30,620 including shipping for the five-passenger model. He also hinted there may be more standard equipment added.

CHEVY REDESIGNS POLICE TAHOE

▲ Chevrolet has redesigned the Tahoe police package to make it the first SUV designed from inception as a law-enforcement vehicle. Horsepower has been boosted to 320, the suspension is lowered and stiffened and it has all the electrical enhancements needed for the light bars, communications systems and other "police stuff." Available only with rear-wheel drive, the new police SUVs also have the Active Fuel Management

system that cuts off four cylinders when the vehicle is cruising. The engines will be able to use both E85 fuel and gasoline.

TESLA ELECTRIC SEDAN CROSSOVER

Martin Eberhard, chief executive office and founder of Tesla Motors, said his company is working on an electric sedan crossover vehicle to carry four or more people. Tesla is the small California car company that has created the revolutionary roadster that runs on an array of lithium-ion batteries. The \$92,000 roadster accelerates from 0 to 60 mph in four seconds, has a top speed of 130 mph and a range of 200 to 270 miles depending on driving conditions. Eberhard said the company has already hired a dozen engineers for their new technical center in Rochester Hills, Mich. and expects to have about 60 by the end of the year. He expects the new vehicle, called White Star, to sell for around \$50,000.

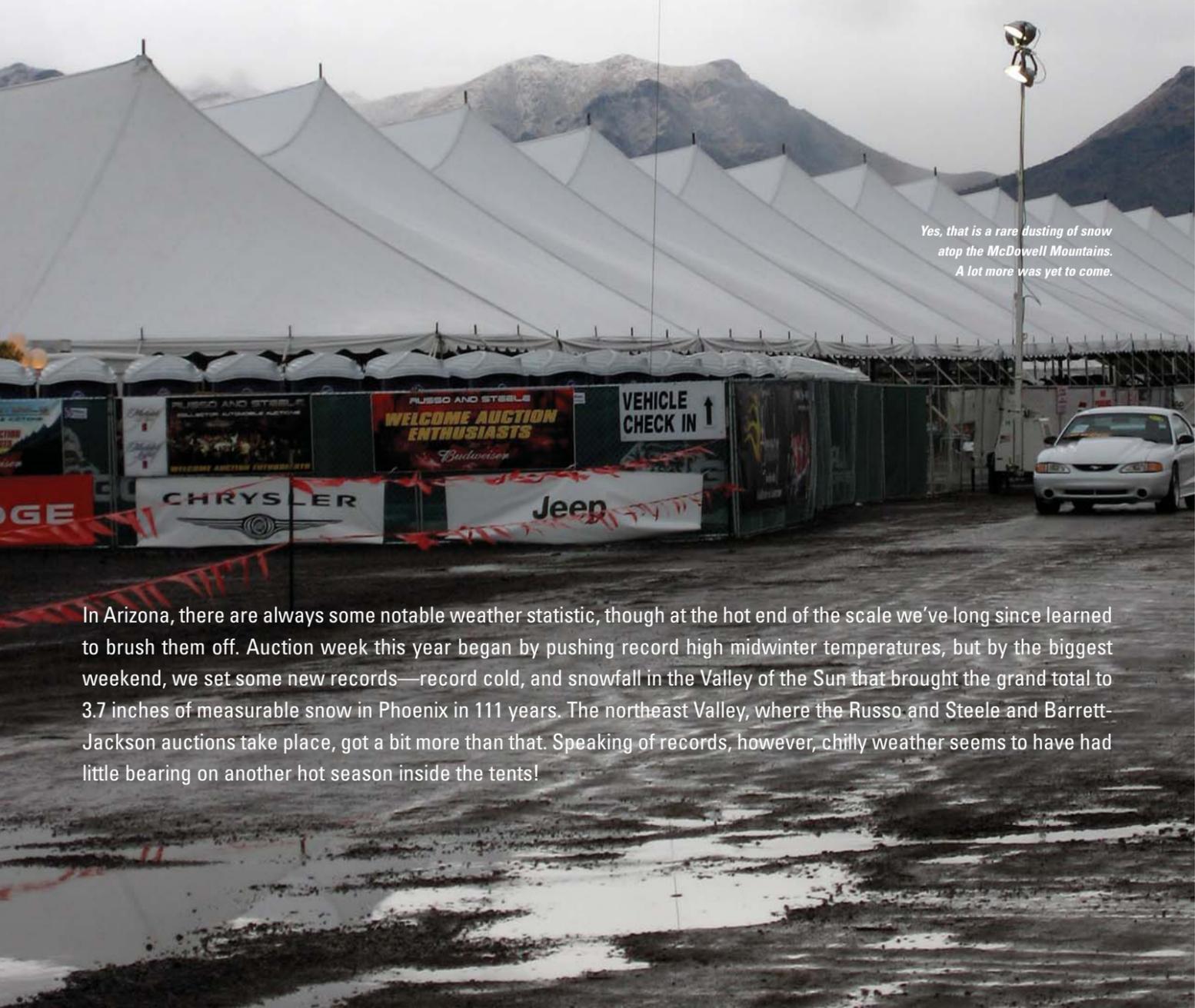
MINI'S PERSONAL BILLBOARD ADS

First Mini driver's were presented with exclusive ads in magazines that required specialized decoder glasses to read and now Mini drivers in a few markets can get personalized messages from the company's new "talking" billboards. To

get messages from the billboards, which are currently in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Miami, a Mini owner fills out a questionnaire on the Mini Motorby website. They are then sent a key fob with a small Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system in it or as Mini describes them as "Really Fun Interactive Devices". Then every time the Mini drives by one of the interactive billboards the owner will get a personalized message like "Motor like you mean it, Scott!" or "Motor on, Mary". Motorby generates customized content to Mini owners in real-time. Content is created using a number of factors, including information provided by the owners, geography, time, and other general information. When not displaying custom messages, the boards show content that's relevant to Mini or the location of the board. The Motorby key fob can only be used near one of the four Mini Motorboards. No personal data or information is contained on the key fob. The information provided by the survey questions will not be used or given to third parties. ■

Auto News Update includes news compiled for *Arizona Driver* by **BILL & BARBARA SCHAFFER** of *Auto Digest*.

Third Phoenix snowfall in 111 years fails to dampen spirits or auction sales



Yes, that is a rare dusting of snow atop the McDowell Mountains. A lot more was yet to come.

In Arizona, there are always some notable weather statistic, though at the hot end of the scale we've long since learned to brush them off. Auction week this year began by pushing record high midwinter temperatures, but by the biggest weekend, we set some new records—record cold, and snowfall in the Valley of the Sun that brought the grand total to 3.7 inches of measurable snow in Phoenix in 111 years. The northeast Valley, where the Russo and Steele and Barrett-Jackson auctions take place, got a bit more than that. Speaking of records, however, chilly weather seems to have had little bearing on another hot season inside the tents!



There were more warm clothes than usual, as in this scene from Russo and Steele, but all the more reason bidders stayed close to the action.

January is collector car heaven in the Valley of the Sun, with thousands of visitors from around the globe arriving to check out the car auctions staged here that month.

New to the auction scene? "Don't go to a gunfight armed with a pocket knife," advises Drew Alcazar, car industry veteran and owner of Russo and Steele Collector Automobiles. Do your homework. For novice car enthusiasts, Alcazar suggests reading car publications, attending a few auctions and tracking the results of the cars in which you're most interested. Define what category of car really makes your heart race and study it carefully.

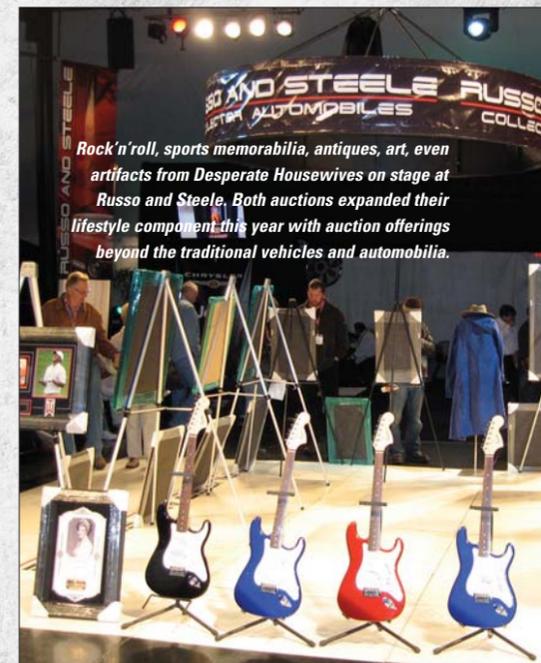
"Don't buy what you haven't seen," said Alcazar. Some people go to auctions, get caught up in the excitement and buy a car on the block they haven't even inspected, having no idea how well the car has been maintained. "Before the auction starts, hang out by the car but stand back and listen to what the more

experienced people are saying about it." Newcomers could also benefit by striking up relationships with other enthusiasts who can help with the education process.

Why are collector car auctions so popular? "It's the visceral buzz, an adrenalin rush," gleams Alcazar. "After all, emotion is what it's all about! Nowhere else can you genuinely FEEL the excitement than on the hot auction block." Alcazar continues, "No other medium exists where you can physically participate in the purchase or sale of our passions than the powerful energy created by a live auction."

Russo and Steele sales exceed \$20 million 500 automobiles in 5 Days

The Russo and Steele Collector Automobile Auction in Scottsdale has established itself as one of Arizona's "Big Three" premier January auctions. Russo and Steele has announced



Rock 'n' roll, sports memorabilia, antiques, art, even artifacts from Desperate Housewives on stage at Russo and Steele. Both auctions expanded their lifestyle component this year with auction offerings beyond the traditional vehicles and automobilia.



WestWorld in north Scottsdale, taking on an aura more like a cross between WetWorld and NorthWorld.



Traffic seemed lower on the vendor fairways during the inclement weather, but content was still top-flight.

Sales pass \$110 million at Barrett-Jackson Auction

that total sales figures for their January 17-21 "Sports and Muscle in Scottsdale" auction broke the \$20,000,000.00 mark.

2007 marked Russo and Steele's seventh year in the Arizona January automobile scene. Among their successes on the auction block, Russo and Steele broke two records, with a 1969 Shelby GT 500 (consignment #6627) selling for \$451,000, and a 1965 Shelby GT350 (#6758) for \$358,600. They also exceeded the million-dollar mark with one individual sale: a 1969 Shelby Daytona Coupe 427 for \$1,320,000. Russo and Steele had a 65% sales rate for their automobiles.

Phoenix-based Russo and Steele Collector Automobiles stages two auctions annually: Scottsdale in January and Monterey, California, in August.

Collectors spent nearly \$112,000,000 at the 36th Annual Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction in Scottsdale, January 15- 21. Continued strong demand made the event the most successful collector car auction in American history, as bidders snapped up 1,271 total cars sold at No Reserve, as well as rock and pop culture memorabilia—in spite of a soggy WestWorld facility. "The World's Greatest Collector Car Event™" attracted over 250,000 visitors and was featured on SPEED with 40 hours of live coverage during 2007. Their website recorded 128 million hits during auction week. 55 bidders purchased online.

The highlight of the auction was the sale of Carroll Shelby's 1966 Shelby 427 Cobra for a

world record \$5,500,000, including buyer's premium. The Warrior One Hummer overhauled by Chip Foose following a CNN tour of duty in Iraq hit \$1,000,000. Proceeds from the sale of the CNN Hummer were donated to The Fisher House Foundation, which builds comfort homes for families of hospitalized military personnel; bidder Dave Ressler donated another \$250,000 to the charity during the bidding.

The selection of cars this year was the broadest ever in the Barrett-Jackson Auction Company's rich history, ranging from a vintage stagecoach to an Amphicar, a Russian rescue craft, 1950s classics, contemporary cars and exotics. Results from the week uncovered interesting new trends that will be analyzed by collectors worldwide. ■



Hard not to feel sorry for the folks who loaded up these babies and packed on the miles to enjoy a week in the Valley of the Sun. It was comfy inside the homes, though, and comfy inside the big auction tenets.

QUIZ : CAR SMARTS



1. Which auto company is dropping its minivans in favor of crossovers?
a. Ford b. General Motors
c. DaimlerChrysler d. Toyota

2. How many manufacturing plants does Toyota have in the US?
a. 6 plants b. 8 plants
c. 10 plants d. 12 plants

3. What percent of vehicles sold in 2006 were classified as small?
a. 15.8 percent b. 20.2 percent
c. 31.3 percent d. 38.4 percent

4. When did General Motors buy Cadillac?
a. 1909 b. 1919
c. 1929 d. 1939

5. What percentage of new vehicles during the first nine months of 2006 were leased?
a. 9.4 percent b. 17.7 percent
c. 22.1 percent d. 28.6 percent

6. Which 2007 luxury brand has the highest estimated retained value at 36 months?
a. Audi b. BMW
c. Lexus d. Infiniti

7. When were the first personalized license plates offered?
a. 1937 b. 1958
c. 1970 d. 1982

8. When was the first traffic signal installed in a US city?
a. 1914 b. 1920
c. 1926 d. 1930

9. What percentage of full-size truck owners switch brands at trade-in?
a. 25 percent b. 38 percent
c. 50 percent d. 59 percent

10. What other brand is Subaru planning to build in their Lafayette, Indiana plant?
a. Ford Fusion
b. Toyota Camry
c. Nissan Altima
d. Honda Civic

11. How many stolen vehicles have been located by the OnStar system in the 10 years the system has been active?
a. 10,000 b. 17,000
c. 24,000 d. 31,000

12. Approximately how many cubic inches displacement does a 4.2-liter engine have?
a. 210 cubic in. b. 256 cubic in.
c. 292 cubic in. d. 327 cubic in.

13. What did the IRS raise the business driver mileage rate to on January 1, 2007?
a. 0.5 ¢/mile b. 44.5 ¢/mile
c. 48.5 ¢/mile d. 52.5 ¢/mile

14. How many HomeLink garage door openers have been sold since it was introduced as an option in many cars in 1985?
a. 5 million b. 15 million
c. 25 million d. 35 million

15. How much money was spent in 2005 on replacement tires for vehicles?
a. \$5.1 billion b. \$14.4 billion
c. \$22.7 billion d. \$29.2 billion

16. When did Toyota set up its first US design studio in California?
a. 1973 b. 1980
c. 1986 d. 1991

17. Which luxury sedan is not available with a V-8 engine?
a. Jaguar XJ b. Acura RL
c. Lexus GS d. Volvo S80

18. What percentage of 2006 total sales were luxury vehicles?
a. 5.8 percent b. 8.2 percent
c. 11.3 percent d. 14.5 percent

19. Which automaker produced the SUV style Travelall vehicle from 1956 to 1975?
a. GMC
b. International Harvester
c. American Motors
d. Dodge

20. The Japanese regional consulate (currently located in New Orleans) is planning to move to what city because of the growth in Japanese automotive businesses locating there?
a. Atlanta b. San Antonio
c. Nashville d. Little Rock

21. How many states require front and rear license plates?
a. 12 states b. 20 states
c. 31 states d. 40 states

22. What was the original GMC clone of the Chevrolet El Camino called?
a. Caballero b. Typhoon
c. Sprint d. Jimmy

23. How many new vehicles are scheduled to be launched in 2007?
a. 15 new vehicles b. 34 new vehicles
c. 61 new vehicles d. 82 new vehicles

24. How much extra is the diesel engine in the new Ford Super Duty pickup?
a. \$3,295 b. \$4,795
c. \$5,995 d. \$6,895

25. Which automaker will be the first to offer the new HD radio as an option on its entire product line?
a. BMW b. Nissan
c. Hyundai d. DaimlerChrysler

26. How much is the average insurance claim after a vehicle collides with a deer?
a. \$1,300 b. \$2,600
c. \$3,900 d. \$5,200

27. What was the average factory incentive on a vehicle in 2006?
a. \$1,458 b. \$1,927
c. \$2,469 d. \$3,011

28. What percentage of cars on the market get a five-star crash rating from the NHTSA?
a. 23 percent b. 48 percent
c. 69 percent d. 87 percent

29. How many motorists had emergency fuel delivered last year because they ran out?
a. 500,000 b. 1 million
c. 2.5 million d. 4 million

30. What was General Motors CEO Rick Wagoner's first car?
a. 1966 Ford Mustang
b. 1964 GTO
c. 1973 Chevrolet Camaro
d. 1969 Triumph TR6

31. What is the "next big thing" automotive companies will be getting into, according to Microsoft's founder Bill Gates?
a. aircraft
b. home power plants
c. light rail systems
d. robots for the home

ANSWERS ON PAGE 8 >>

>> ANSWERS (quiz on page 17) >>



1. Answer: b. General Motors is canceling the next generation of minivans (Buick Terraza, Chevrolet Uplander and Saturn Relay) and plans to address the people-moving category with new Crossovers like the Saturn Outlook, GMC Acadia and Buick Enclave.
2. Answer: c. Toyota now has 10 manufacturing plants in the United States.
3. Answer: c. According to the Power Network 31.3 percent of the new vehicles sold in 2006 were classified as small, that's up from 27.9 percent in 2005.
4. Answer: a. General Motors bought Cadillac in 1909.
5. Answer: b. According to Edmunds.com, 17.7 percent of the new vehicles purchased in the first nine months of 2006 were leased.

6. Answer: c. According to the 2007 Automotive Lease Guide, Lexus is highest with a residual value of 50.8 percent. BMW was nearly identical at 50.7 percent, followed by Audi at 50.4 and Infiniti at 49.8 percent.
7. Answer: a. In 1937 Connecticut offered personalized license plates with names, nicknames or initials to drivers who had clean driving records.
8. Answer: a. The first US traffic signal was installed in Cleveland in 1914. It was operated by a traffic officer sitting in a nearby booth.
9. Answer: c. According to the Power Information Network, 50 percent of the full-size truck owners, on average, switch brands when they buy their next truck.
10. Answer: b. Since Toyota bought a stake in Subaru's parent company, Fuji Heavy Industries; Subaru has agreed to build up to 100,000 Toyota Camry's annually at the Indiana plant. The plant currently builds about 110,000 Subaru Outbacks/Legacys and Tribeca B9's each year.
11. Answer: c. In the 10 years since OnStar started, 24,000 stolen vehicles have been located.
12. Answer: b. A 4.2-liter engine is just over 256 cubic inches in displacement.
13. Answer: c. On January 1, 2007, the IRS raised the business driving rate from 44.5 cents per mile to 48.5 cents per mile.
14. Answer: d. Since they were first installed in 1985, the HomeLink garage door openers have been installed in more than 35 million new vehicles. The systems are now available as portable units. For more information go to www.opendoorsandmore.com.

15. Answer: b. According to studies done by the Frost & Sullivan marketing consultants, North American consumers purchased \$14.4 billion worth of tires in 2005.
16. Answer: a. Toyota set up their Calty Design Research center in Newport Beach in 1973.
17. Answer: b. Of the luxury cars listed, only the Acura RL does not have an available V-8 engine. The Volvo S80 got a V-8 for the first time in 2007. There is a rumor, however, that Acura is working on a V-8 for the RL.
18. Answer: c. According to the Power Information Network, about 11.3 percent of the new vehicles sold in 2006 were considered to be luxury vehicles.
19. Answer: b. International Harvester built an SUV style wagon called the Travelall from 1956 through 1975.
20. Answer: c. The Japanese consulate is moving to Nashville to be closer to the growing number of Japanese-owned automotive business located in that area. Nissan recently moved their US headquarters to Nashville.
21. Answer: c. 31 US states require vehicles to have license plates front and rear – the other states only require a rear plate.
22. Answer: c. The original GMC clone of the Chevrolet El Camino was called the Sprint from 1971 to 1977. The second generation, from 1978 to 1987 was renamed the Caballero.
23. Answer: c. According to Auto Remarketing magazine, there will be 61 new vehicles launched for 2007. That's up from the average of 35 from 1987 through 2006.
24. Answer: d. The new Ford diesel engine used in the Super Duty pickup is loaded with new high-tech features like piezo electric fuel injectors and government required emissions equipment that reduces emissions. The added equipment raises the price about \$1,600 over the previous generation and now adds \$6,895 to the price of the heavy-duty pickup.
25. Answer: a. BMW will be the first to offer an HD radio option starting with all its 2007 model vehicles. HD Radio technology provides listeners with enhanced digital audio quality and clear, noise-free reception, as well as multicasting and on-screen text information.
26. Answer: b. According to Insurance Information Institute the average cost per insurance claim for a vehicle colliding with a deer is about \$2,600.
27. Answer: c. According to Edmunds.com, the average factory incentive for 2006 was \$2,469 – that is down 2.6 percent from 2005.
28. Answer: d. According to US Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, 87 percent of the cars on the market get a five-star crash rating. To give consumers better information to differential between vehicles, the crash tests will be changed this year.
29. Answer: c. According to AAA (American Automobile Association), in 2006, 2.5 million motorists had to have fuel delivered to them after running out.
30. Answer: c. Rick Wagoner, GM CEO, says his first car was a new 1973 Chevrolet Camaro, which he bought for \$3,502 after his junior year of college..
31. Answer: d. According to Microsoft founder Bill Gates, the "next big thing" for auto industry giants will be robots for the home. Gates told Automotive News, just about every home will rely on robots to do a variety of chores. He cites data from the International Federation of Robotics, which predicts 9 million personal robots will be in use by 2008. Currently Toyota and Honda are building sophisticated human-like robots.

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

Drive America With AAA

Grand Canyon, Kartchner Caverns, Tombstone, Sedona Red Rocks

See America
From sea to shining sea and everything in between.

Let AAA help you plan your next drive vacation. Whether you're taking a weekend trip close to home or visiting one of North America's major travel destinations, AAA Drive Trips provide all the information you need to keep your vacation on course.

Each AAA Drive Trip includes a route map, estimated driving time, mileage, and details about what to see and do along the way.

So, on your next drive vacation, take along AAA—your trusted provider of quality travel information, including Tourbooks® and other travel guides, TripTiks®, discounted lodging, theme park tickets, excluding member discounts, and much more.

Visit us online at www.AAA.com or stop by your local AAA office.

MEMBERSHIP · FINANCIAL SERVICES
TRAVEL · INSURANCE · AUTOMOTIVE

visit
AAA offices

click
AAA.com

call
877-248-6962

The Online Automobile, Racing and Classic Car Community

- Auto Reviews
- Classics
- Racing News
- Larry's Blog
- Editorial

www.izoom.com

We speak your language: performance.

PERFORMANCE TIRES AND WHEELS

Performance tires are the key to performance cars

480-596-9655 / 1-800-766-2588

Auto Show Season part 2



DETROIT

NAIAS: North American International Auto Show

COBO CONFERENCE/EXHIBITION CENTER
JANUARY 13-21, 2007

50 new vehicles revealed, nine days of activities, and a midwinter break from our relentless beautiful desert weather

The Detroit show (renamed a few years ago as the North American International Auto Show, though most will still just say "Detroit") is a biggie. Over a few months' time, the biggest announcements come at Detroit, Tokyo, Paris, Frankfurt and Geneva. Out of these, Detroit is the most accessible to most of us.

While tradition would have you wait until next fall to see the 2008 models, Detroit brings quite a few of them to you now. It also gives you a very good idea of what's in store for 2009, 2012 and beyond. Sometimes the line between new release and concept is very thin indeed. A list of new product reveals and concept vehicles at the 2007 show was presented in our January-February issue. Here is information on just a handful of highlights:

Chevrolet Camaro Convertible Concept

The convertible version of the well-received Camaro Concept arrives. Now we all look forward to this new Camaro being produced. It has some catching up to do, with the new retro Mustang already selling like hotcakes for a couple of years. GM overall introduced:

Chevrolet Volt Concept

GM's most electrifying advanced technology vehicle introduction, literally, is the Chevrolet Volt concept, a battery-powered, extended-range electric passenger vehicle that uses a gas engine to create additional electricity, making pit stops practically passé. The technology behind the Volt concept, GM's E-flex System, allows electricity to be produced from gasoline, ethanol, bio-diesel or hydrogen, helping to provide a global solution to diversifying transportation energy sources.

Chrysler Nassau Concept

The four-door, four-passenger Chrysler Nassau luxury coupe is, as Alan Barrington, principal exterior designer of the concept said, "a more emotional and artistic articulation of what it means to be a Chrysler."

Though built on a full-size 120-inch wheelbase, the Nassau appears more visually compact than a

KEEP RIGHT >>



Acura Advanced Sports Concept



Chevrolet Camaro Convertible Concept



Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm and the Chevrolet Volt Concept



Chrysler Nassau Concept

comparable Chrysler 300C. Traditional exterior proportions have been enhanced with a silhouette that recalls the classic English 'shooting brake.' The Nassau has deliberately concise front and rear overhangs, with the body surface wrapped around large 10-spoke 21-inch wheels.

Dodge Viper SRT10 2008

The new 600-horsepower 2008 Viper SRT10 has an additional 90 horsepower on tap from its new 8.4-liter Viper SRT10 V-10 engine, a dramatic new hood with restyled, functional air extractors, does 0-60 mph in under four seconds, 0-100-0 mph in just over 12 seconds, and brakes in under 100 feet. The Viper SRT10 also has new exterior and interior colors for increased customization options.

Ford Airstream Concept

Ford Airstream Concept speaks to the future of crossovers as the market segment is projected to top 3 million units annually by the end of the decade. Green Journey : Ford Airstream Concept is powered by a new plug-in hydrogen hybrid fuel cell—called HySeries Drive—that operates under electric power at all times and delivers the combined city/highway equivalent fuel economy of 41 miles per gallon.

Jaguar C-XF Concept

AutoWeek announced that the Editors' Choice Award for Best in Show 2007 was awarded to Jaguar for its new C-XF concept car. The all-new Jaguar C-XF, a stunning four-door sedan that blends dynamic, modern features with classic heritage cues, made its debut here. The C-XF, with a 4.2-liter supercharged V8 engine, signifies a new era for the company and is a clear indication of the design direction for the company's next-generation of sport sedans.

Jeep Trailhawk Concept

The Jeep® Trailhawk concept combines the core off-road features of the new body-on-frame four-door Jeep Wrangler Unlimited with the refined sophistication of an all-new on-road open-air concept vehicle, more of a refined highway cruiser but without sacrificing Jeep's legendary off-road capabilities. Fender flares enclose large 22-inch, five-spoke wheels, each with hefty 34-inch specially-crafted tires accented by a red stripe, with the color repeated on exposed brake calipers.

Mazda Ryuga Concept

Ryuga builds on Mazda's concept of flow. Japanese for "gracious flow," Ryuga reflects a higher level of sophistication through the use of rich fabrics, engineered fits and hidden details. Ryuga is elegant

Dodge Viper SRT10



and refined, but radiates spirit and edge while portraying unique Japanese beauty.

Mazda Tribute HEV 2008

Mazda also debuted the 2008 Tribute HEV, one of the least-polluting vehicles on the road, yet still delivering the performance required by SUV owners. With a combined power output of its gasoline engine and electric motor of 155 hp, the Tribute HEV provides plenty of power yet meets strict Super Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle (SULEV) and Advanced Technology Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle (AT-PZEV) standards in California – the strictest emission regulations a gasoline-fueled vehicle can meet.

Mitsubishi Prototype X

Prototype X hints at the next production version of the world-renowned Mitsubishi Motors rally-winning Lancer Evolution, which will be released later in 2007. The high performance engine, excellent dynamics and striking design will appeal to enthusiasts worldwide—as a daily driver with street credentials or for those anticipating weekend club or rally performance. The Prototype X is closely related to the all-new 2008 Lancer, which also made its show debut in Detroit.

Nissan Bevel Concept

The Nissan Bevel Concept is a dynamic, multi-purpose vehicle that places its focus strictly on the primary user—male empty-nesters actively engaged in hobbies, recreation and community service. Bevel offers unique, function-inspired asymmetrical styling, a high-utility three-zone interior and technology ranging from glass roof-mounted solar panels to drive-by-wire steering, throttle and braking.

Porsche Cayenne 2008

The world debut of the more powerful second generation of Porsche's sport utility vehicle, with engines offering as much as 500 horsepower and with new dynamic technologies that allow the Porsche of SUVs to perform like a nimble sports car while being fully capable of carrying five people, towing a trailer and blazing over unpaved terrain and through inclement weather.

Suzuki Flix Concept

Built by the Carlab of Orange, Calif., and based on the all-new 2007 XL7, the Flix concept offers film and entertainment enthusiasts the ultimate mobile movie experience. In addition to its eye-catching exterior appearance, the Flix is outfitted with an unprecedented in-vehicle movie system.

See you in Detroit next year? ■

Suzuki Flix Concept



Mitsubishi Prototype-X Concept



Volvo XC60 Concept



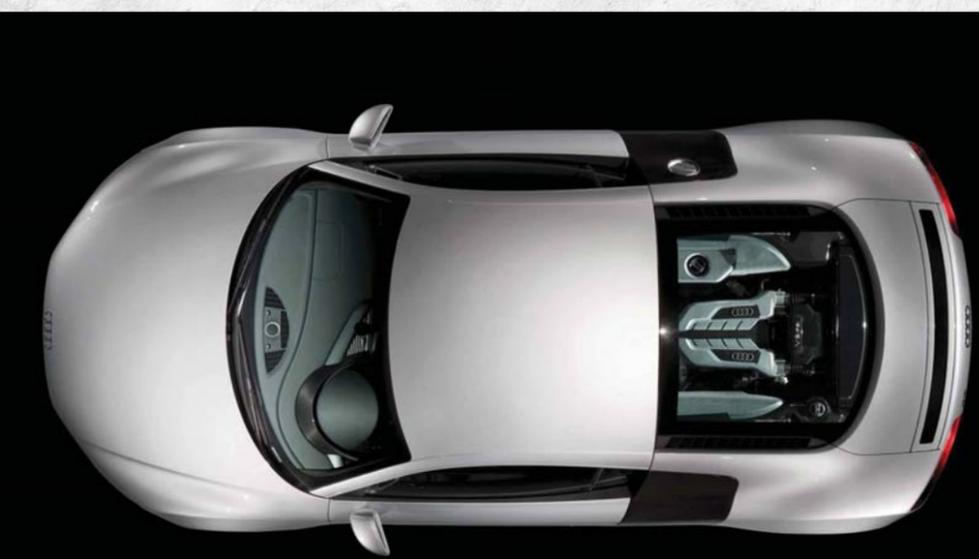
Audi R8

A DEAD SERIOUS 911 CHALLENGER IN THE FAMILY

Audi has incorporated the name and the genes of the five-time Le Mans winner, the Audi R8, into a spectacular sports car. Three years after the unveiling of the Audi Le Mans quattro concept car, the production version made its debut at the Paris Motor Show as the new Audi R8 mid-engined sports car. It is a fascinating driving machine and the performance-gearred pinnacle of the Audi brand. A mid-mounted 420 hp V8 FSI engine, quattro permanent all-wheel drive and Audi Space Frame aluminum body form the basis for truly outstanding driving dynamics.

KEEP RIGHT >>





Audi is entering the most discerning segment of the car market with its R8 mid-engine sports car—and immediately taking up a position among the leaders: equipped with the expertise that Audi has gathered from its involvement in motor sport and from building sporty premium-class cars, the R8 is the embodiment of superlative road behavior, pioneering technology and fascinating design. The 420 hp V8 FSI engine, quattro permanent four-wheel drive and the aluminum space-frame body endow the R8 with outstanding qualities to challenge for leadership of this segment, as do its excellent everyday suitability and Audi's typical standards of perfection in quality and finish. Deliveries will commence in the fall of 2007.

Following on from rally success with the revolutionary Audi quattro and the triumphs of its touring car, Audi has added another chapter to the history of motor sport with the R8 racing car: with five wins to its name in the Le Mans 24 Hours, the R8 is the most successful model ever to have competed on the legendary circuit at Le Mans. In a total of 79 starts at venues all over the world, this exceptional athlete has emerged victorious on a total of 62 occasions.

The genes of the winner

The repeat winner was thus the ideal role model for the new production sports car. The genes of the triumphant racing car were also passed on to the passenger car—which admittedly feels distinctly at home on the racetrack, too—in the model designation R8. The mid-engine concept is as integral to this genetic stock as the high-revving V8 engine with FSI petrol direct injection and the sequential gearbox with steering-wheel control. Whereas the use of quattro permanent four-wheel drive was prohibited on the racing version, the new R8 can of course now be equipped with it, for superior road behavior and safety in all conditions.

There are even design parallels—not just in functional terms—in how it cuts its way through the air even at very high speeds. The same design team that had previously styled the racing car was given the task of styling the R8 roadgoing sports car. The striking wing structure of the Le Mans



version did, however, have to be abandoned. After all, the roadgoing version was meant to express its sports qualities through a typically Audi quality of elegant styling.

With power and elegance

The wide, full shape of the R8 seems to hug the road. It demonstrates its potential through its imposing proportions, accentuated wheel arches and substantial air apertures. It is like no other Audi before it—with the unmistakable proportions of a mid-engine car. These proportions are dictated by the forward position of the cabin and the clearly separate engine compartment behind it. A characteristic feature of the side view of the R8 is the "sideblade", which visually accentuates the engine's position as well as acting as an air deflector.

And yet the R8 is undeniably first and foremost an Audi, not just because of the characteristic single-frame grille at its front end. For the first time, the four rings are positioned not on the grille, but on the lid above it. The sparing but always very precise use of lines is another typical Audi characteristic, as is the curved arc of the roof. And the continuous line running from the front apron across the wheel arches and flanks to the tail end, then back down the other side, is significant for the brand. This "loop" naturally encompasses the air apertures, the headlights and the

rear lights.

Unmistakable face by day and night

The passion expressed through the elaborate design of the lights is another typical Audi trait. The R8 already acquires an unmistakable frontal aspect through the standard bi-xenon headlights and daytime running lights comprising twelve light-emitting diodes—day and night alike. Nor is anyone likely to overlook this Audi sports car from behind: for the very first time, LED tail lights with a three-dimensional effect have successfully been used.

But the absolute highlight will be the all-LED headlights, available for the Audi R8 as an option from the end of 2007 (not available in North America), and making their first ever appearance worldwide on a production car. With their lenses and reflectors, these innovative light sources not only look progressive; they also have an enormous functional advantage: with its color temperature of 6,000 Kelvin, LED light resembles daylight much more closely than xenon or even halogen light. Drivers will consequently suffer much less fatigue when driving at night.

The interior offers a luxurious standard of motor racing atmosphere. Its design is as sporty and exclusive as the exterior: the characteristic element here is the monoposto—an expansive arc running

around the steering wheel and instruments, connecting the driver to the car. The interior consequently picks up on the dynamism of the R8 and gives it tactile expression in a form that is accessible the moment you climb in.

Exceptionally spacious

For a sports car, the exceptional everyday suitability of the R8 is highlighted by the large amount of space, due in no small measure to the generous wheelbase of 104.3 inches. Whatever the build of the driver and passenger, they will always be able to find their perfect seated position. The view is also very good for a mid-engine vehicle. Narrow A-posts optimize the field of view to the front and sides.

The luggage compartment is an important aspect of everyday suitability: approximately 3.5 cu. ft. fit beneath the front lid, and there is room for bags with a total volume of approximately 3.2 cu. ft. behind the seats. And even passionate golfers need not forgo their sport when driving the R8: two full-size golf bags can be stowed behind the seats.

The impression of quality in the interior is striking: even in the basic specification, the surfaces of the driving area and door trims are meticulously trimmed, with

KEEP RIGHT >>

neatly finished decorative seams. And the scope for customization is as diverse as the preferences of the R8's future owners could conceivably be: piano finish, carbon fiber and a wide variety of leathers are just some of the options.

Light but highly rigid body

The body of a sports car needs to be particularly light and rigid: low weight permits superior road performance, and rigidity is the crucial starting point for an agile driving feel allied to high precision. The Audi Space Frame body, made from aluminum, provides the ideal basis for this. Audi has more expertise than any

other manufacturer worldwide in the designing and production of cars based on aluminum technology, and has channelled its accumulated know-how into the R8.

The entire bodyshell of the R8 weighs just 462 pounds (European spec), the pinnacle of achievement among sports cars in terms of lightweight design quality. It comprises extruded sections, aluminum panels and highly complex cast nodes, joined together by 325 feet of weld seams, 782 punch rivets and 382 self-tapping screws.

Superlative production precision

This structure is created largely by hand at the R8 production shop in Neckarsulm, but

with precision measuring and machining methods keeping a watchful eye over the whole business: a laser measuring system checks 220 points on each body to within one-tenth of a millimeter, and a special computer tomograph can investigate the quality of every join with micron precision. A central processing plant cuts and drills all 52 connecting points on the running gear and steering in a single pass. This assures maximum precision in the axle geometry.

The aerodynamics experts at Audi have done their work so thoroughly on the R8 that, as an added benefit of its elegant shape, the body actually produces a downforce—unlike many other sports cars.

This promotes directional stability at high speeds. It is achieved by means of the extending rear spoiler, but above all thanks to the fully clad diffuser underbody.

Enormous propulsive power

The heart of the sports car is of course the engine. As well as being exceptionally compact, the eight-cylinder power unit of the R8 runs lustily and effortlessly up to very high engine speeds, peaking at 8,250 rpm. The reward is 420 hp and an even buildup of torque that produces enormous propulsion across a wide range of engine speeds. The engine's dry sump lubrication, typical of a race engine, permits a

particularly low installed location and assures a constant oil supply in even the toughest of driving conditions—for instance on a racetrack. The FSI direct injection underpins the very good full-load performance with a highly efficient combustion process.

The road performance is correspondingly impressive: the R8 dashes from 0 to 62 mph in just 4.6 seconds, whether with manual gearbox or with R tronic sequential gearshifting. The needle hits 125 mph after only 14.9 seconds, and the engine's propulsion is only finally held in check by rolling resistance and drag at 188 mph.

However, the captivating character of

the V8 stems not just from its effortless propulsion, but equally from its ample, versatile sound characteristics. Thanks to ingenious fine-tuning measures, Audi's engineers isolated disagreeable frequencies and then orchestrated an impressive opus from the intake and exhaust sound.

Launch Control: Lightning start

The R8's transmission comes with six well-spaced ratios that can be operated either manually, in conjunction with the clutch, or automatically via the R tronic. The R tronic is an entirely new development that operates faster than even the most adept of drivers and offers racing-style thrills

KEEP RIGHT >>





with the shift paddles on the steering wheel. The R tronic accomplishes lightning-fast starts worthy of the racetrack thanks to Launch Control. The quattro permanent four-wheel drive provides that decisive extra dose of traction and driving safety. The system was adapted to the mid-engine concept, with its ideal axle load distribution of 44:56 percent, and directs between 10 and 35 percent of the engine's power to the front wheels as necessary.

Precision suspension safety boost

The precision suspension of the Audi R8 remains in control of the sporty performance, but is equally capable of assuring relaxed driving pleasure over long distances. The sports car obeys steering movements with spontaneous agility, always demonstrating exceptionally good driving safety. The suspension, with double wishbones at both the front and rear, is optimized for a neutral self-steering response and maximum ease of control.

A particularly innovative damping technology is available for the R8 as an option: Audi magnetic ride adapts the suspension characteristic to the profile of the road and the driver's style within milliseconds. A generously-dimensioned brake system supplies the necessary braking force. It applies a total of 24 pistons to the four studded brake discs.

Standard equipment (Euro spec)

The Audi R8 combines its superior performance with both a surprising measure of everyday suitability and an exclusive equipment specification. It comes ready-equipped for example with a 140 watt audio system, an alarm system, deluxe automatic air conditioning and the driver information system with integral stopwatch for taking lap times. The sports seats are trimmed in combined Alcantara/Leather and the 18-inch wheels are fitted on cast alloy wheels.

The list of optional extras nevertheless includes a couple more highlights: for example, the wide range of customization options, the Audi parking system advanced with integral rearview camera, and the superb Bang & Olufsen sound system. Surround sound from twelve high-end speakers with a 465 watt music output delivers an exceptional music experience.

The standard equipment and options lists should be fairly similar in the US. ■



ONE IN THREE IS QUATTRO

One in three Audi models is fitted with quattro four-wheel drive: in 2006 Audi recorded an all-time highest quattro installation rate of 33.1 percent. Having produced a total of 306,318 quattro vehicles in 2006 (2005: 219,288), the Ingolstadt-based car manufacturer has now risen to become the market leader for four-wheel drive in the premium segment. Approximately 72% of all Audi vehicles sold in the U.S. have quattro, making the U.S. Audi's largest seller of quattro-equipped vehicles.

According to Audi boss Rupert Stadler: "quattro means more than traction—the word represents emotion, driving safety and performance, it stands for engineering competence and a dynamic spirit. Over 2.3 million quattro models have rolled off the production line at Audi so far—a figure that speaks for itself."

The launch of the new Audi Q7 played a major role in the rise in the proportion of quattro models by six percentage points compared to the previous year. In total 72,188 of the sports utility vehicles, which are 100-percent four-wheel drive, were produced in 2006. Production of the RS 4 model family was also well up on the previous year at 7,639 units (2005: 569).

"Audi equips a greater proportion of its vehicles with four-wheel drive than any other manufacturer", said Ralph Weyler, Member of the Board of Management for Marketing and Sales. "That is especially true of our sedan and Avant models. We have the unique selling proposition that all of the models in our current range are available with four-wheel drive."

quattro—a success story in brief

The idea: on a car that distributes its power over all four wheels, each wheel can provide a greater lateral force than with just rear- or front-wheel drive; the car has superior traction and cornering.

In the spring of 1977 the four-wheel drive project was started which had the objective of developing a high-powered sports coupe with permanent four-wheel drive.

On 3 March 1980 the first Audi quattro took centre stage at the Geneva Motor Show; at the end of the same year the first Audi with four-wheel drive went on sale—and became an instant bestseller.

From 1982 Audi gradually added a further five vehicles with four-wheel drive to its model range—the Audi 80/90, the Audi Coupe and the Audi 100/200.

From 1990 the dynamic image Audi had acquired was further enhanced by its S models with their quattro drivetrains.

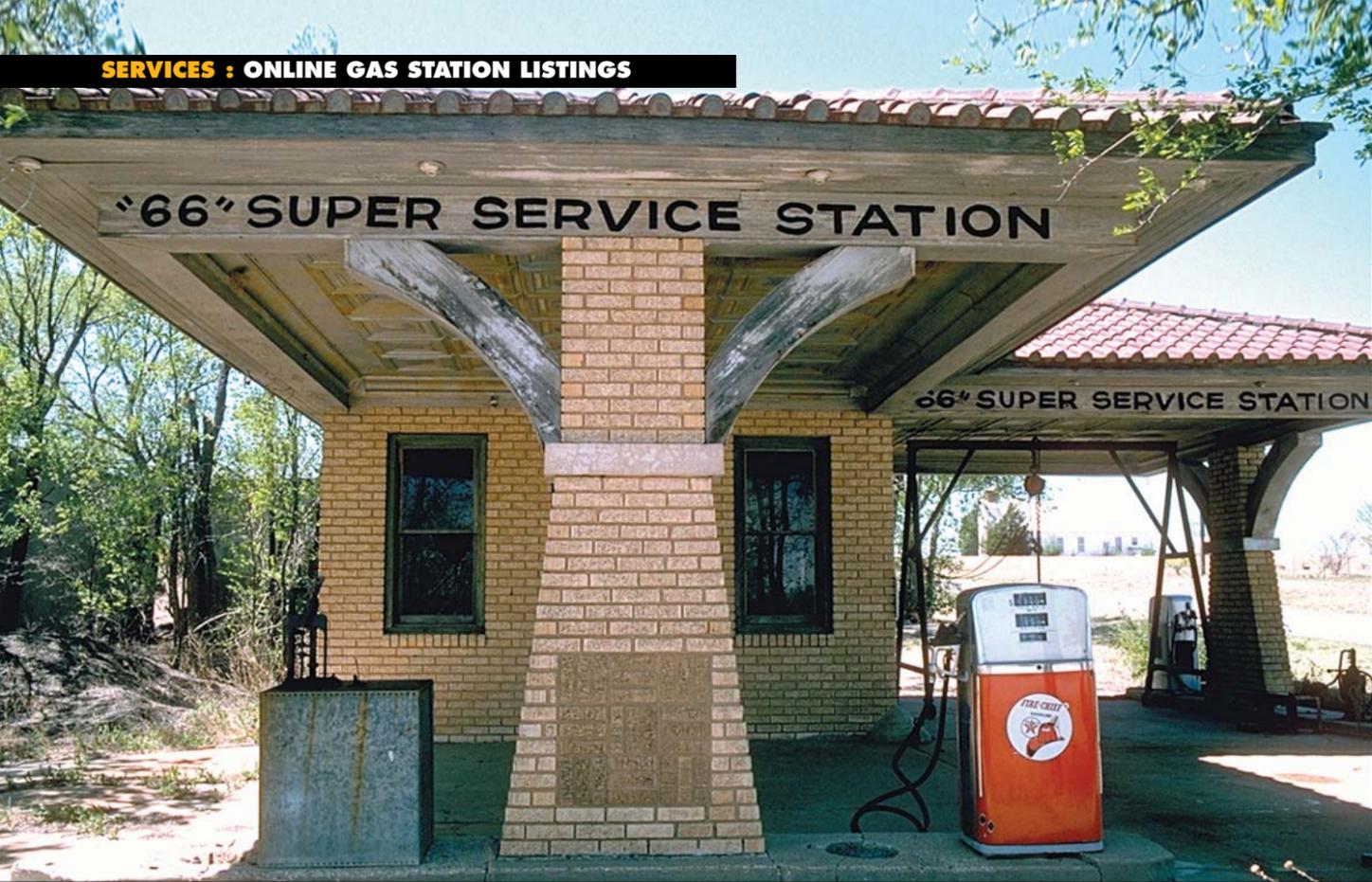
The latest generation of quattro four-wheel drive is fitted in the RS 4 and the Audi Q7. It distributes the engine torque between the front and rear axles at a 40:60 ratio. That means even more agility, with virtually no noticeable effects of power application on steering.

On the rally track the quattro won four world championship titles between 1982 and 1984.

Permanent four-wheel drive technology also scored major successes on the racing circuit: the Audi touring car drivers won the most prestigious trophies the USA and Europe had to offer.

In total Audi has built 2.3 million vehicles with quattro four-wheel drive. ■





AAA is the first online travel planner to list local gas stations

More than 2.5 million motorists will need emergency fuel delivery this year because their cars ran out of gas while traveling. Now travelers who use AAA's online mapping tool Internet TripTik®, located on AAA.com, can find the nearest gas stations and best fuel prices from their home computer or laptop. No more driving around in a nervous search as the fuel gauge drops lower.

AAA.com is the first online travel planning tool to provide the locations and fuel prices for approximately two-thirds of local US gas stations, and the number of locations will continue to increase throughout the year.

AAA recently added data for almost 100,000 US gas stations to its popular TripTik® travel planner. Utilizing data from the Oil Price Information Service (OPIS), locations are updated weekly and multiple-grade fuel prices are updated four times daily. Simply mouse over each location to see prices for multiple fuel grades.

"Driving with a near empty gas tank is a frightening experience whether you are within blocks from your home or miles away," said AAA President and CEO Robert L. Darbelnet. "Now, with the information available on AAA.com, there is one less thing a driver needs to think about on their next trip across town or across the country."

The number of Americans using online map planners is growing monthly, and AAA continues to be the leader with the

TripTik® travel planner. The fuel location and pricing information is one of several recent enhancements added in response to popular demand from the public.

AAA offers additional tools to help travelers plan and budget their fuel requirements. Using the AAA Fuel Cost Calculator at www.FuelCostCalculator.com, motorists enter the make and model of their car and the origin and destination for their trip to get an estimated cost based on current fuel prices.

In addition to providing gas station locations and other travel information from the AAA TourBook® guides, the TripTik® travel planner offers easy online hotel reservations at great AAA member rates. Travelers can also book airlines, car rentals, tours and cruises at exclusive member discounts on AAA.com.

As North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides nearly 50 million members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers.

With regularly updated prices at more than 100,000 unique gas stations throughout the country, the Oil Price Information Service (OPIS) is the leading provider of retail gasoline & diesel pricing information. OPIS retail fuel prices are relied on by top companies providing consumers with the most up-to-date information. ■



In Arizona, the average battery life expectancy is **28 months.**

Don't get stranded.

AAA Membership features Battery Service with 36 month free replacement and on site installation

One little VW with a whole lot of tricks

Affordable hardtop convertible fun

By Barbara and Bill Schaffer



The Volkswagen Eos 3.2L is available with bi-Xenon headlights and Adaptive Front Lighting that swivels the headlights horizontally at highway speeds to improve nighttime vision around curves.

According to Greek mythology, Eos, the goddess of dawn, rose from the ocean to open the gates of heaven so that her brother Helios (the sun) could ride his chariot across the sky every day.

It's much like the new Volkswagen Eos that opens its hard top at the touch of a button, to allow the sun to ride across the passengers as long as Helios is doing his job.

The new Volkswagen Eos is no myth,

however; this is kind of convertible we can get excited about. We've driven the 2.0T version both in Portugal and California and were impressed with its rigid body structure, agility, quality ride and level of performance.

Despite its petite appearance, the Eos is quite roomy inside with space for four adults. Like most coupes and convertibles, though, access to the rear seat is challenging, unless the top is down.

We've also driven the just-released top-of-the-line 3.2L, which is powered by the 250-hp

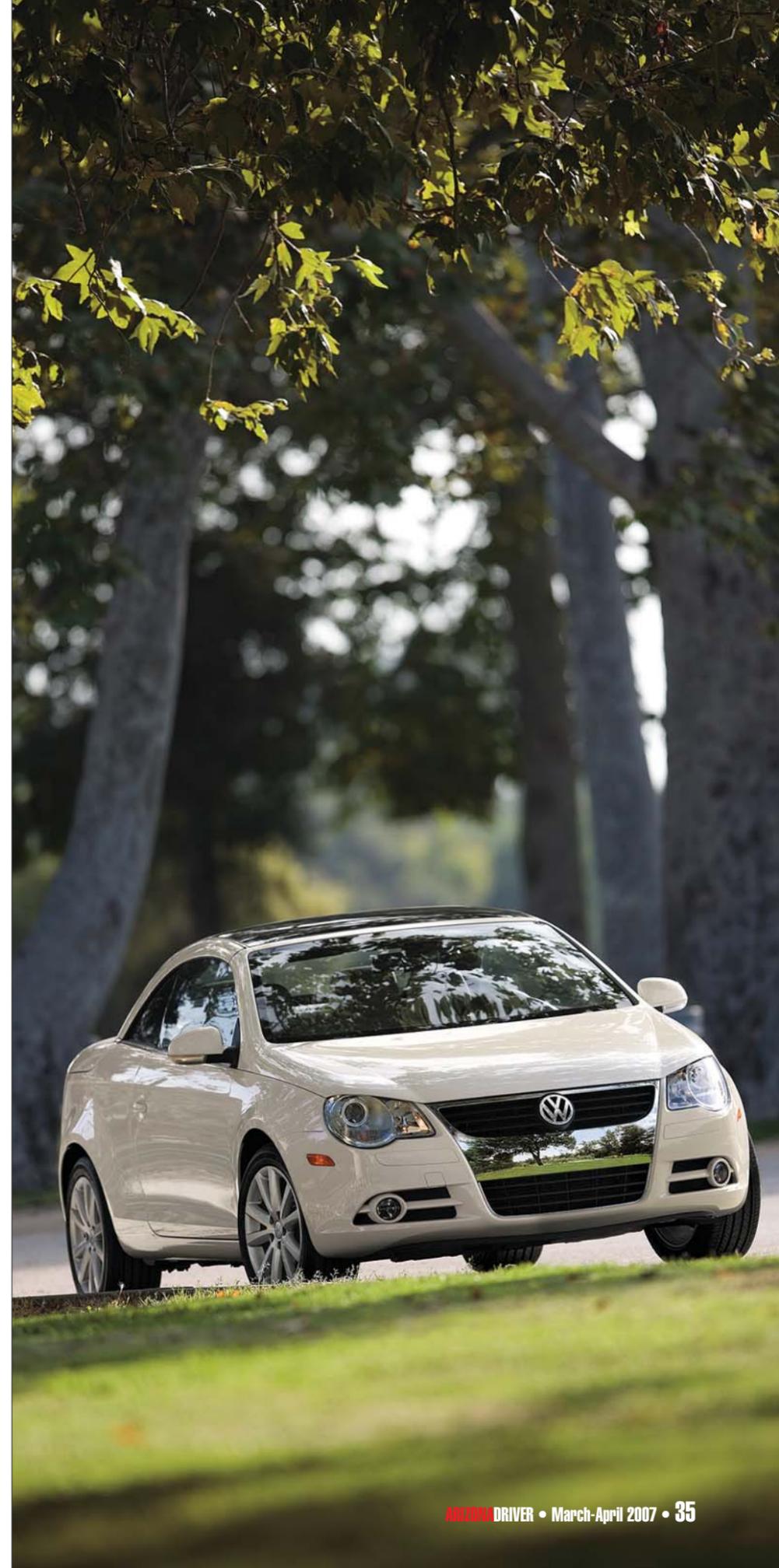
3.2-liter VR6 engine. Although we prefer driving the turbocharged four-cylinder 2.0T, the 3.2 engine adds another level of sophistication, first for the extra performance, but also for the higher equipment level that comes with the 3.2L package.

With the top up, the Eos is a solid coupe with a sliding glass sunroof that allows the driver to let in fresh air and sunshine without dropping the top. But when the mood strikes, a simple push of the button puts on a 25-second demonstration of folding roof

panels as the entire top tucks itself into the luggage area like a contortionist folding himself into a small box.

Some convertibles sacrifice nearly all their luggage space to make room for the top, but the Eos maintains space for a couple of small pieces of luggage. With the top up, the 2.0T starts with 10.5 cubic feet of cargo space and the top eats up 3.9 cu. ft., leaving a respectable 6.6 cu. ft. when the top is down. The

KEEP RIGHT >>





Volkswagen Eos 2.0T

STANDARD EQUIPMENT

Tire pressure monitoring system; Alarm system; Dual-zone climate control; Trip computer; Power windows; Heated outside mirrors; Cruise, Height adjustable and telescoping wheel; Heated front seats; Keyless entry; Auxiliary input jack; Power "easy entry" front seats; Panoramic sunroof; 12-Way power driver's seat, 16-Inch alloy wheel; Wind blocker; AM/FM audio.

Base Price: \$29,990

Options: Luxury package (Leather comfort seats, Leather multi-function steering wheel, Wood trim, Rain sensing wipers, 6-Disc armrest CD changer, Satellite radio, 12-Way power passenger's seat with lumbar support, 17-Inch alloy wheels) \$3,490; DVD navigation \$1,800; 6-Spd automatic DSG transmission \$1,075.

Total Options\$6,365

Freight.....\$630

Price as Tested.....\$36,895

DIMENSIONS

EPA SizeSubCompact

Weight.....3,505 lb.

Wheelbase101.5 in.

Length.....173.5 in.

Width.....70.5 in.

Height56.8 in.

Fuel Capacity14.5 gal.

Cargo Capacity6.6 to 10.5 cu. ft.

MECHANICAL

Engine2.0L Turbo 4-Cyl.

Horsepower200@5100

Torque207@1800

Transmission6-Spd. Auto.

DriveFront-wheel

BrakesDisc ABS

Tires235/45R17

PERFORMANCE

0 to 60 mph.....7.4sec.

Top speed.....130 mph

EPA economy rating23/31 mpg

Our actual fuel econ26.8 mpg

COMPETITORS

Audi A4 Cabriolet, Chrysler Sebring convertible, Ford Mustang convertible, Mini Cooper convertible, Mitsubishi Eclipse convertible, Pontiac G6 convertible, Saab 9-3 convertible, Toyota Camry Solara convertible, Volvo C70 convertible

3.2L starts with 9.3 cu. ft. and drops down to 5.4 cu. ft.

The Eos is available in three models: base, 2.0T and 3.2L. Prices start at \$28,620 including destination for the base model and goes as high as \$37,480 for the 3.2L. With all the available options the 3.2L tops out at just over \$42,000.

The base model is very well equipped with features like the power glass sunroof, rollover protection system, alloy wheels, wind deflector in windshield frame, alarm, keyless entry, all power, AM/FM audio with MP3 capability, CD player and rear center pass-through with lockable storage. For safety and comfort it also has height adjustable and telescoping wheel, pollen and odor filter, cruise control, electronic stabilization program and many other smaller features.

The base 2.0-liter 200-hp turbocharged four-cylinder engine in the Eos is one of our favorite engines. It produces very good acceleration sprinting from 0 to 60 mph in 7.4 seconds and with a top speed of 130 mph. The manufacturer lists 0 to 60 mph times for the 3.2-liter VR6 at 6.9 seconds with the same top speed.

Fuel economy is listed by the EPA at 23 mpg for city driving and 31 mpg on the highway. We averaged 26.8 mpg.

The base model is only available with a six-speed manual transmission, but the DSG™ six-speed automatic with Tiptronic® is available on the 2.0T for \$1,075 and standard equipment on the 3.2L.

This double clutch DSG transmission is one of the best transmissions on the market today. It shifts faster than you can shift a manual transmission and without the fear of doing damage. We also like the fact that the shift indicator always shows which gear the car is in, no matter what shift mode is being used.

The Eos has a broad spectrum of standard safety equipment including curtain and side

airbags for front seat passenger, rear head restraints and rollover protection system which literally explodes a roll bar from behind the rear seats in 0.25 seconds, should the system detect a possible roll. It also has tire pressure monitoring, seatbelt tensioners in addition to stability control, antilock brakes, traction control and electronic differential locking.

In spite of its 3,500-pound weight, the front-wheel-drive Eos rewards the driver with agile handling, impressive performance with either engine, plus the handling is on a par with many sports coupes. The Eos rides on a four-wheel independent suspension with standard 16-inch wheels and tires. Both 17-inch and 18-inch wheels are available.

Visibility has always been one of our pet peeves with convertibles. The wide rear top pillar normally makes backing out of a parking space like playing the automotive version of blind man's bluff. Of course, when the top is down, it's much easier. Fortunately, the Eos has a small rear pillar that makes rear visibility better than many sedans.

The Volkswagen Eos is a little pricey, but if you consider you are getting both a coupe and convertible, it's a bargain with a very enjoyable ride. We think the Volkswagen Eos is great. It's a nice size, comfortable and fun to drive. We give it two thumbs up. ■

Arizona

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

PARKS AND OUTDOORS

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

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

TOURISM - LODGING - EVENTS

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

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

Nevada

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

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

California

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

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

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

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

New Mexico

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

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

Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1928 • Santa Fe NM 87504
8380 Cerrillos Rd. Suite 302 • Santa Fe NM 87507
505-983-7317 • www.santafechamber.com

RESORTS AND LODGING

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

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

Utah

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

PARKS AND OUTDOORS

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

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

RESORTS AND LODGING

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

Colorado

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

Mexico

RESORTS AND LODGING

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

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

Baja California State Tourism Office
Blvd. Diaz Ordaz s/n
Edificio Plaza Patria Nivel 3
CP 22400 Tijuana BC • (66) 81-9492

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

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

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

Of national interest

AUTOMOTIVE

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

Imperial Palace Auto Collections (see Nev.)

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

National Automobile Museum (see Nev.)

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

Petersen Automotive Museum (see Calif.)

Shelby American Collection (see Colorado)



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

In-flight perfection demands ground service excellence.



Scottsdale Air Center: a full service ground support general aviation facility.

FBO amenities include:

- 25,000 sq.ft. terminal comfort
- 72,000 sq.ft. hangar accommodations
- 300,000 sq.ft. flight line concrete
- ExxonMobil premier care Aviat flight line service
- State-of-the-art weather & pilot services
- Professional management services
- Top shelf concierge services at a moment's notice
- New & used aircraft sales & marketing services
- Charter accommodations
- Aircraft maintenance
- Avionics installation & repair

One block west of Hayden between Raintree and Costco • Scottsdale Air Center • 15290 N. 78th Way • Scottsdale AZ 85260 • 480-951-2525

FORD GIVES ITSELF AN EDGE AND A FIGHTING CHANCE

By Barbara & Bill Schaffer



With Ford Motor Company hanging on the edge of a major crisis of finance and management (and in some cases product)—or at least that's the way much of the business news reads—the new Ford Edge comes galloping into the marketplace as a potential company savior. As the auto industry overall retreats from the SUV craze, the industry drumbeat pounds out C-R-O-S-S-O-V-E-R as the next big thing, but with no real definition of the word. Or too many definitions. Early leaders in the category have styles morphing the classic SUV boxy architecture into elegant wagons that look as if they have been props in futuristic movies.

If our first impressions are any indication, the Edge is exactly the right new vehicle at the right time. With wagon-like styling and a new interpretation of Ford's bold new family face, developed initially on the Fusion, the Edge is something of a head turner. Horizontal bodylines are topped with a sweeping roofline, which ends with a high-mounted rear spoiler, creating a strong muscular stance.

The steering wheel and instrument panel were borrowed from the Fusion, but the center console stack is larger and finished in contrasting color. The entire dash area is lowered to give a more spacious interior feeling. We were surprised

that the textured aluminum panel surrounding the LED screen, climate and audio controls appeared to really be aluminum and not plastic. The console holds a couple of drink holders, an auxiliary jack to hook up your MP3 player and a reconfigurable storage space with room enough for a purse or laptop computer.

Sun lovers will want to order the optional Vista Roof™, which includes a large glass moonroof in the front that opens or tilts, and another fixed glass rear panel. Twin power-operated cloth shades can cut the glare when needed.

With seating for five, the Edge lacks the seven-passenger advantage some manufacturers think is important, but we think those shoppers will opt for a larger SUV or minivan. This vehicle should be popular with empty nesters, small active families and active younger buyers who will appreciate the 32.1 cubic feet of cargo area. With the rear seats folded, the cargo area grows to nearly 70 cubic feet.

All three Edge models—SE, SEL and SEL Plus—are powered by Ford's all-new aluminum 3.5-liter V-6 engine and six-speed automatic transmission. The engine is rated at 265 horsepower and 250-lb.ft. of torque. The standard drivetrain is front-wheel, with all-wheel drive available for \$1,650 more.

Zero to 60 mph acceleration times are

in the 7.5 to 8.0 second range. Fuel economy is listed at 17 mpg for city driving and 24 mpg on the highway for the AWD, with the front-wheel-drive model rated one mpg better in both categories.

Driving over the winding roads in the Marin Headlands, north of the Golden Gate Bridge, we were impressed with the handling of the Edge. Despite its 4,283-pound weight and higher stance, the Edge felt agile and responsive, dancing through the corners more like a sport sedan than an SUV. The ride was comfortable but very controlled, so the driver still had a good feel of the road conditions.

Equally impressive was the smooth, quick-shifting transmission, though it lacked the extra control allowed by a manual shifting mechanism. The only forward transmission settings are "D" and "S," and when we tried to downshift to the "S" mode, we were never quite sure which gear it would give us. This made it difficult to shift down for engine braking on corners or for better control on the hills.

The Edge was available in Ford dealerships starting in December with prices ranging from \$25,995 (with destination charge) for the front drive SE to \$31,395 for the SEL Plus with AWD. Fully loaded the most expensive Edge is priced just shy of \$37,000. ■

AD COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT YOUTH RECKLESS DRIVING

“UR THE SPOKESPERSON” CAMPAIGN EMPOWERS TEENS TO “SPEAK UP”

Car crashes are the number one killer of teens in the U.S. and The Advertising Council wants to put the brakes on this alarming situation. In partnership with a coalition of state Attorneys General and consumer protection agencies, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and AAA (American Automobile Association), the organization launched the UR the Spokesperson campaign today to save lives by reducing youth reckless driving.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data show that, on average, more than 300,000 teens are injured in car crashes each year, nearly 8,000 are involved in fatal crashes and more than 3,500 are killed. NHTSA research also shows that teen drivers are involved in more than five times as many fatal crashes as adults. Young drivers are more likely to speed, run red lights, make illegal turns, and die in an SUV rollover.

With the message “Speak Up,” the UR the Spokesperson campaign targets young adults between the ages of 15 and 21 and encourages them to be the spokesperson against reckless driving by empowering them to speak up when they are in the car with friends and don’t feel safe. The campaign also seeks to increase awareness about the dangers of reckless driving

and educate teens on how to be safe drivers by focusing on safe speeds, avoiding distractions, wearing seat belts, and the differences associated with driving SUVs. AAA will be assisting the Ad Council in these efforts nationwide through its clubs and SADD will be helping to spread the message by reaching out to its 350,000 student members.

“This is a vital campaign that will empower teens to speak up when they feel their safety is threatened,” said General Thurbert Baker, Attorney General of Georgia. “Too often teens are worried about their reputation and that they won’t be ‘cool’ if they speak up. But they need to because it could be a matter of life and death.”

Research shows that teen drivers may be more likely to listen to their friends than to adults, which is why the UR the Spokesperson campaign is using a peer-to-peer approach. When it is a friend who speaks up, a young driver will listen because they don’t want to damage the friendship or be labeled a bad driver.

“We want it to become not only socially acceptable, but socially expected for teens to speak up when they are riding with a friend and don’t feel safe,” said Peggy Conlon, President and CEO of the Ad Council. “We also want to educate

them about the dangers and consequences of reckless driving by reminding them to drive safely, wear their seat belts and limit distractions.”

The UR the Spokesperson campaign includes a series of public service advertisements (PSAs), a new Web site and a soon-to-be launched contest. Created pro bono by North Castle, a Stamford-based advertising agency that specializes in reaching teens, the PSAs feature a stereotypical, smarmy, over-the-top spokesperson who appears in the car to deliver safe driving tips. The ads conclude with the message “There is no spokesperson to prevent reckless driving. There’s only you. Speak up.” For more information and to see the ads, visit www.URtheSpokesperson.com

The Advertising Council The Ad Council (www.adcouncil.org) is a private, non-profit organization with a rich history of marshalling volunteer talent from the advertising and media industries to deliver critical messages to the American public. Having produced literally thousands of PSA campaigns addressing the most pressing social issues of the day, the Ad Council has effected, and continues to affect, tremendous positive change by raising awareness, inspiring action and saving lives. ■



Delivering the driver's edge to teen drivers.

Traditional driver's education has focused on the skills needed to pass a driving test, with classroom lectures and some behind-the-wheel “on-the-job training.” The DrivingMBA™ program goes beyond this, bringing high-tech simulators to everyday drivers.



The DrivingMBA™ Comprehensive Driving Tutoring Program

These components are available as a discounted package or individually:

- **Rules of the Road® DVD** : Award-winning interactive DVD tutorial for home use.
- **Pre-Permit Driving Simulation Course** : 5 hours total computer simulated driving experience gives teens a solid foundation in fundamentals before they get behind the wheel.
- **Safe Young Drivers** : A book to supplement your own in-vehicle training.
- **Advanced Decision Skill Building** : The same high-end simulator used by police and other professionals to improve behind-the-wheel decision-making skills.
- **Profiler™** : Assesses your skills against a pro database (included with Advanced Decision Skill Building).
- **DUI** : Students in both simulator courses experience the negative impact upon vehicle control of driving while impaired.



A PROGRAM OF ACCELERATED SKILL BUILDERS

www.drivingmba.com

9181 E. BELL ROAD, SUITE 103 • SCOTTSDALE AZ 85260 • 480-948-1648



Ahead of its time

From curvy shapes to CVT, the world is catching up with the Murano

By Barbara and Bill Schaffer



Some new concepts look good for a year or two then fade quickly looking old and dated. We think the Nissan Murano is just the opposite – the more we see this midsize crossover, the more we like it. In short, it's still a head-turner.

We must not be the only ones that feel that way about the Murano because as it enters its fifth year of production it continues to show average sales increases of 15 percent. Last year 81,362 Muranos were sold and that makes it one of the best selling crossovers on the market. It was also one of the first crossovers on. That kind of staying power is impressive for any vehicle.

During its four-year run the Murano has received top honors in the Midsize Multi-Activity Vehicle segment of J.D. Power and Associates' 2006 Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout (APEAL) study. It also gets good quality marks from Consumer Reports magazine.

For 2007, the innovative Murano gets a couple of minor enhancements after getting several significant upgrades in 2006. This year there is an available Tire

Pressure Monitoring System and driver and passenger seat belt warning lamps for Murano's safety notification system.

The Murano is available in front- or all-wheel drive and in three trim levels. All Murano models are powered by a 245-hp version of Nissan's award-winning 3.5-liter DOHC V-6 driving through an impressive Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT). Unlike conventional stepped gear automatics, the Xtronic CVT operates essentially as "one gear" through use of a belt and two pulleys that continuously change diameter to maintain optimal torque ratios and prevent the excess engine RPM right before shifting that wastes fuel.

The Murano rewards drivers with a combination of characteristics combining the desirable features of an SUV, like higher seating position and universal carrying capabilities, with performance and handling capabilities more like a sport sedan. The Murano accelerates smoothly and quietly from 0 to 60 mph in 7.5 seconds. In addition to the smooth shiftless motion of the CVT transmission, it allows the drivers, who prefer to

maintain control, the ability to push the shift level to the right to shift manually through six preset levels. Fuel economy is listed by the EPA at 19 mpg for city driving and 24 mpg on the highway. We averaged 22.3 mpg in combined driving.

The Murano rides on a four-wheel independent sport suspension to maintain better road feel and ride control. Standard equipment includes four-wheel vented disc brakes with anti lock along with electronic brake force distribution and brake assist. Also available is a Dynamic Control Package which adds anti skid control, traction control and tire pressure monitoring system.

Pricing ranges from \$28,400, including destination charge, for the base S model with front wheel drive up to \$32,500 for the SE all-wheel drive. The SE AWD we drove was loaded with options including the DVD mobile entertainment system, SE Touring package, Dynamic Control Package, DVD-based navigation and chrome wheels stretching the total to \$42,445.

It's easy to see why the Nissan Murano has been so popular. ■



Auto Clubs

AAA of Arizona

Air • Car • Hotel • Cruise • Vacation Booking
Road Service • Internet TripTik • Directions
Car Buying • Repair and Advice • AAA News
Extended Warranties • Mexico Insurance • more!
aaaaz.com • Membership 602-274-1116x 4814

Performance Tires & Wheels

Discount Tire

Locations statewide
www.discounttire.com

Group A, Inc.

251 E. Chilton Drive • Chandler AZ 85225
480-813-4776 • 1-866-764-8729
www.groupawheels.com

Tirexchange, Inc.

Tires • Wheels • Chrome Plating
15485 N. 84th Street • Scottsdale AZ 85260
480-596-9655 • 1-800-766-2588
www.tirexchange.com

Driver Tutoring

DrivingMBA™

Comprehensive simulator tutoring for teens
A program of Accelerated Skill Builders
9089 E. Bahia Drive • Suite 102 • Scottsdale AZ
480-948-1648 • www.drivingmba.com

Media and Entertainment

Arizona Republic: Bob Golfen's Blog

Go to www.azdrivermag.com
for a quick link to Bob's blog

izoom.com

The Online Automobile, Racing
and Classic Car Community
www.izoom.com

Two For The Road

Radio Magazine
www.twofortheroadusa.com

Custom Garage Interiors

Premier Garage

Coatings • Cabinets • Organizers
Locations statewide
www.premiergarage.com

Mobile Detailing Service

Waxwerks Detailing

Detailing - Valley Wide Mobile Service
Classic, Muscle & Luxury Autos
Ken Dickson • 602-788-9680
www.waxwerksdetailing.com

Vehicle Diagnostics

AutoXray

OBD diagnostic scanners
1-800-595-9729 • www.autoxray.com

Classic Cars Online

ClassicCars.com

For sale • Dealers • Community
Collector Car Network, Inc.
480-285-1600 • www.classiccars.com

Auto Dealers

Jim Click Automotive Team

Ford • Dodge • Lincoln-Mercury • Nissan
Mazda • Hyundai • Chrysler-Jeep
Commercial Trucks
Tucson and Sahuarita AZ
www.jimclick.com

Bob Sellers Toyota

New and Toyota Certified Used Vehicles
3773 East Kaspar Drive
Flagstaff AZ 86004
1-800-635-0446 • www.bobsellerstoyota.com

UAG Arizona Group Scottsdale

Acura • Aston Martin • Audi • BMW
Bentley • Ferrari • Honda • Jaguar
Land Rover • Lexus • Maserati
Mercedes-Benz • MINI • Porsche
Rolls-Royce • Volkswagen • Volvo
N Scottsdale Road and E Chauncey Lane
just south of Scottsdale Road and Loop 101
480-538-4000 • www.uagwest.com

Power Ford of North Scottsdale

8555 E. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd.
Scottsdale AZ 85260
1-877-867-5845 • www.fordofnorthscottsdale.com

Sanderson Ford Lincoln Mercury

6400 N. 51st Avenue • Glendale AZ 85301
1-800-729-2593 • www.sandersonford.com

Showcase Honda

1500 East Camelback Road • Phoenix 85014
1-866-495-1286 • www.showcasehonda.com

Scottsdale Lamborghini

8053 E Raintree at Hayden - Scottsdale 85260
480-483-9300 • motorsportsofscottsdale.com

Airpark Chrysler Jeep

15656 N Hayden Road - Scottsdale AZ 85260
1-866-389-4968 • www.airparkchryslerjeep.com

Auto Dealers - Specialty

Exotic Auto Sales and Leasing

2040 N. Scottsdale Road • Scottsdale AZ 85257
480-429 - 8414 • www.exoticsofscottsdale.com

Motorsports of Scottsdale

Finest Collection of Pre-Owned Luxury Autos
8053 E Raintree at Hayden - Scottsdale 85260
480-483-9300 • motorsportsofscottsdale.com

Service and Repair

Airpark Auto Service

8115 E. Raintree • Scottsdale • 480-998-1605

Greulich's Auto Repair

8180 E. Raintree • Scottsdale • 480-483-8186

High Performance Schools

Bob Bondurant School

of High Performance Driving
Driving and Racing School • Ultimate vacation
1-800-842-RACE • www.bondurant.com

Motorsports Events

Firebird International Raceway

602-268-0200 • www.firebirdraceway.com

Phoenix International Raceway

602-252-2227 • www.phoenixraceway.com

Aftermarket Enhancements

Faxon Auto Literature

Books and manuals
1-800-458-2734 • www.faxonautolit.com

Garden of Speedin'

Parts • Accessories • Audio • Gifts • Clothing
1-800-MOTORHEAD
www.gardenofspeedin.com

Gorilla Motorsports

Vehicle enhancements and upgrades
1425 S. Clark Drive • Tempe AZ 85281
408-507-0999 • 1-866-4-GORILLA (446-7455)
www.gorillamotorsports.com

Automotive Fine Art

Automotive Fine Art by Don Evenson

Private commissioned paintings in oil or acrylic
11259 E. Via Linda • Suite 100-185
Scottsdale AZ 85259 • 480-661-8410

Auto Spa - Convenience - Fuel

Cobblestone Auto Spa & Market

Wash Service • Quick Lube • Detail and Tint
Coupons • Gift Cards • Rewards Club
SCOTTSDALE: 15816 N. Pima at FLW and Hayden
SCOTTSDALE: 15111 N. Hayden north of Raintree
PHOENIX: 3739 E. Bell Rd. at 51 Piestewa Frwy
CHANDLER: 2021 S. Alma School Rd. at Germann
SURPRISE: 13811 W. Bell Rd. west of Grand Ave.
PHOENIX: 9215 N. 7th Street
PHOENIX: 3202 E. Greenway Road
www.cobblestoneautospa.com

Motorcycle Dealers

Euro Motorsports Scottsdale

Triumph • BMW • Ducati • MV Agusta
14880 N Northsight Blvd • 101 Raintree exit
480-483-0100 • www.euromotorsportslc.com

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

Get to
the
fun...

FASTER!

Buy
tickets
in advance
at AAA
offices
and save.



Walt Disney World.

Disneyland
RESORT
IN CALIFORNIA

Six Flags
Great Escape

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
ISLAND OF DRAGONS

SAN DIEGO
ZOO

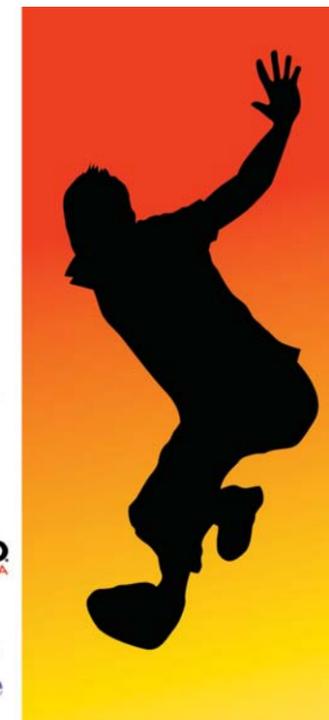
WILDLIFE
ANIMAL PARK

SeaWorld
ADVENTURE PARK
San Diego

LEGOLAND
CALIFORNIA

AMC
THEATRES

Harkins
Theatres!
means more



MEMBERSHIP • FINANCIAL SERVICES
TRAVEL • INSURANCE • AUTOMOTIVE

visit
AAA offices

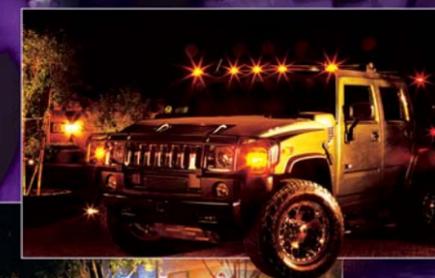
click
AAA.com

call
877-248-6962



I WANT TO DRIVE

Rest assured, once you drive one,
you will be addicted.



Gorilla Motorsports offers a select line of domestic
and foreign vehicles restyled by the finest performance
team in the industry, directed by automotive specialist,
Dick Hedman.

From complete custom-tailored vehicles to restyling
enhancements for existing automobiles, Gorilla Motorsports
designs vehicles for people who WANT TO DRIVE!

- Performance Packages
- Superchargers
- Audio | Visual Design
- Custom Interiors
- Wheels | Tires
- Suspension Packages



GORILLA
MOTORSPORTS

www.gorillamotorsports.net

1425 South Clark Drive Tempe, Arizona 85281
480.507.0999 1.866.4.GORILLA Fax:480.892.0887





Bright Lights. Big Party. NASCAR at Night!



NASCAR action heats up when the lights come on for the SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ Weekend at PIR, April 19-21, 2007. The party kicks off under the lights for Thursday's AlphaTrade.com 150 NASCAR Grand National Division West Series race. Friday night's fiesta is the Bashas' Supermarkets 200 NASCAR Busch Series race. Then, the action reaches its pinnacle when the cars and stars of the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series take the track for the SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™, the first night race of the 2007 NEXTEL Cup Season. Tickets are now on sale for the SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ weekend at PIR and can be purchased online at www.racetickets.com or by calling 1-866-408-7223. For additional information on the SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ Weekend, visit www.phoenixraceway.com or call 623-463-5600.



AlphaTrade.com to Present NASCAR West Series Race at PIR Thursday, April 19, 2007

AlphaTrade.com has signed a letter of intent to sponsor the AlphaTrade.com 150 NASCAR Grand National Division West Series race on Thursday, April 19 at Phoenix International Raceway. AlphaTrade.com joins PIR as the final piece to what promises to be a shining weekend under the lights on the one-mile oval. The AlphaTrade.com 150 is scheduled to be the first of three races during the SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ event weekend, with the green flag dropping under PIR's bright lights at 8:15 pm on April 19.

"We are thrilled to partner with AlphaTrade.com for the NASCAR West Series race at PIR," said PIR President Bryan R. Sperber. "The AlphaTrade.com 150 will set the stage for an exciting weekend of NASCAR action under the lights."

Founded in 1999 and headquartered in Vancouver, AlphaTrade (AT) is the world's leading independent developer and producer of financial software. "AlphaTrade has

exploded into the sports arenas and has partnered with dynamic companies such as the New York Mets, Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Professional Bull Riders, Kenny Bernstein, and now NASCAR," said Gordon Muir, CTO of AlphaTrade. "AlphaTrade's philosophy is simple—everyone needs to learn how to manage their money, so let's take the mystery out of it and make it fun. Sporting events are the perfect venue for our company"

The NASCAR Grand National Division West Series has featured a number of the best and brightest current stars of the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series in its illustrious past. 2007 Daytona 500 winner Kevin Harvick is a former West Series champion as a driver, and 2007 Daytona 500 pole-sitter David Gilliland is a past West Series championship crew chief. The series has experienced a long history at Phoenix International Raceway and it is within PIR's mountainous setting that many stars of the future have begun their climb toward racing stardom.

Tickets for the AlphaTrade.com 150 include an exciting day of on-track action with NASCAR West, Busch and NEXTEL Cup Series practices, West Series qualifying, and NEXTEL Cup Bud Pole Qualifying for the SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™. Tickets for the AlphaTrade.com 150, which includes all of Thursday's on track action, are available online at www.racetickets.com or by calling 1-866-408-RACE (7223).



Super Bowl Champion Bill Romanowski Named Honorary Pace Car Driver for Bashas' Supermarkets 200 Friday, April 20, 2007

Four-time Super Bowl Champion Bill Romanowski will serve as the Honorary Pace Car Driver for the Bashas' Supermarkets 200 NASCAR Busch Series race on Friday, April 20. Under the lights on Phoenix's one-mile oval, Romanowski will help lead the field of 43 Busch Series cars toward the green flag.

"We are thrilled that Bill will pilot one of the Chevrolet Monte Carlos that will lead the field in the Bashas' Supermarkets 200," said Sperber. "Bill's style on the football field was to run wide open and we believe that will translate well to the racetrack."

The Bashas' Supermarkets 200 is set to take the green flag at 6:30 p.m. and will feature nearly 20 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series drivers including Kevin Harvick, Matt Kenseth, Carl Edwards and Juan Pablo Montoya. Under the lights at PIR, Kevin Harvick cruised to Gatorade Victory Lane last April in the Bashas' Supermarkets 200 en route to his second NASCAR Busch Series Championship.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the Honorary Pace Car Driver and I am truly looking forward to the event. What I really enjoy about NASCAR is how important the team concept is. The drivers are only as good as the team that supported them," said Romanowski. "Whether it be winning a NASCAR race or a Super Bowl, the whole team has to be performing at their best to take home a victory."

Away from NASCAR, Romanowski is busy launching his new nutrition company, Nutrition 53, Inc, and his new ask website, AskRomo.com (<http://www.Askromo.com>). Nutrition 53 (<http://www.Nutrition53.com>) is dedicated to providing premium nutritional products that can dramatically enhance one's quality of life and performance.



Mark Martin to Enter SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500 at PIR Saturday, April 21, 2007

NASCAR veteran Mark Martin will enter the SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series race at Phoenix International Raceway on April 21, Ginn Racing officials announced recently. Martin, entering his 24th season of competition at the NEXTEL Cup level, has made a start in each of 21 Cup events at PIR and is just one of three drivers (with Dale Jarrett and Ken Schrader) to have taken the green flag in every Cup event in PIR's history.

Martin recently ended his 19-year association with Roush Racing, the team for which he had most recently driven the No. 6 AAA Ford. Martin had qualified for the Chase for the NEXTEL Cup in each of its three years, with a high finish of fourth in both 2004 and 2005. After 20 seasons as a full-time driver, the 48-year old native of Batesville, Arkansas is taking a step back in 2007. His part-time role with Ginn Racing will allow a clean balance of time both at the track and at home with his family.

Martin will pilot the No. 01 US Army Chevrolet for 20 points races and two exhibitions in 2007, sharing the ride with rookie Regan Smith. An April win in the desert would return Martin to Victory Lane at PIR for the first time since October 31, 1993.

"Phoenix is a great track and we've had a lot of success there in the past," Martin said. "We've won there before and heck, we

looked like we were going to run away with the thing there in the spring last year and we turned around and had a top 10 there in the fall, so it's a good track to go to for me."

Though Smith is scheduled to take the helm for the No. 01's first two Car of Tomorrow races, at Bristol and Martinsville, Martin will drive the new vehicle at Phoenix, making the SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500 Martin's first COT start. "It will be my first chance to drive a Car of Tomorrow and I'm excited about that as well," he said. "In fact, that was one of the main reasons that we picked that race for the schedule. The Car of Tomorrow is an all-new thing, so it's hard to say how that will play into any particular track, but I know that I'm excited to get there and find out."

Park 'N Ride Program Returns for SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™

Phoenix International Raceway will again encourage race fans in 2007 to bypass race traffic and "Park 'N Ride" to the SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series race on Saturday, April 21. After much success in 2006, the "Park 'N Ride" program returns to Cricket Pavilion, located just two blocks north of I-10 on 83rd Avenue. All NASCAR fans heading to PIR are welcome to park on Pavilion grounds, from where shuttle services will be provided to the track. Parking and shuttle services to PIR will total just \$7 per car. With the green flag dropping on the SUBWAY Fresh Fit 500™ at 5:30 p.m., "Park 'N Ride" services will be available for 12 hours—from noon on Saturday until midnight—giving all fans an easy way both to and from the track, before and after the race. Guests with PIR-issued parking passes can "Park 'N Ride" at no charge. Shuttle buses will escort guests to PIR via preferential traffic routes, offering guests an earlier arrival to the facility. ■



<http://www.phoenixinternationalraceway.com/tickets/>

AVENGE THIS. THREE MODELS: SE, SXT, R/T. THREE STANDARD TIRES. TWO OPTIONAL FITMENTS.

The all-new 2008 Dodge Avenger is rolling into US showrooms this year fitted exclusively with tires from Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC.

The Dodge Avenger SE will be supplied with Firestone-brand FR690™ tires in size P215/65R16 96T. The Dodge Avenger SXT will ride on Bridgestone-brand Turanza™ EL40002™ tires in size P215/60R17 95T and the Dodge Avenger R/T will be shod with Bridgestone-brand Potenza™ RE92A™ tires in size P215/55R18 94H.

Bridgestone's Turanza EL40002 in size P215/60R17 95T will also be optional equipment on the Dodge Avenger SE. The Bridgestone Turanza EL40002 in size P215/55R18 94T will be optional equipment on the Dodge Avenger SXT.

The Firestone FR690 is an all-season original equipment tire. The Bridgestone Turanza EL40002 is a luxury, all-season original equipment tire and the Bridgestone Potenza RE92A is an all-season, performance original equipment tire.

The 2008 Avenger is an all-new mid-size sedan that combines bold, aggressive Dodge styling with innovative interior features, high-levels of safety and reliability and exhilarating performance, according to Dodge. It will be the first Dodge mid-size car to offer all-wheel-drive capability combined with a sport-tuned suspension, performance steering and Electronic Stability Program (ESP) with Traction Control.

For markets outside North America, Dodge Avenger vehicles with 17-inch wheels will ride on Bridgestone-brand Turanza ER300™ tires in size 215/60R17 96H. The Bridgestone Turanza ER300 is a luxury, touring original equipment summer tire and is the standard tire for Dodge Avenger vehicles designated for export.

These Firestone and Bridgestone tires are available in Arizona at:

TIREXCHANGE, INC.

Performance Tires and Wheels

15485 N. 84th Street - Scottsdale AZ 85260

1-800-766-2588 - 480-596-9655 ■



THE INSIDE TRACK: BRIEFS & RUMORS

■ The **Saturn** Aura will also be offered in a Green Line hybrid version in 2007. Production starts in March and it will have a MSRP of less than \$23,000 making it the lowest priced mid-size hybrid on the market and the first for General Motors. GM will also offer both a Yukon and Tahoe Hybrid by the fourth quarter of 2007 making them the first full-size GM SUVs to have the two-mode hybrid system.

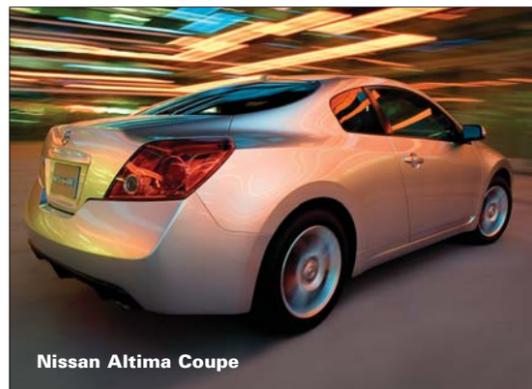


Saturn Aura

■ **Mercedes-Benz** showed a four-door convertible concept, called the Ocean Drive, at the Detroit auto show in January. The big open top MB is powered by a V-12 engine and has features like LED headlights and a neck-level heating system that has vents in all four headrests to allow top-down driving in colder weather. The upscale features of the Ocean Drive have industry prognosticators thinking cars like this may foretell the demise of the ultra luxury Maybach brand owned by Mercedes.

■ **Honda** could also get a clean V-6 diesel in addition to the 2.2-liter four-cylinder clean diesel announced earlier this year. Honda CEO Takeo Fukui said ideal candidates for the engine would be the Honda Ridgeline, Pilot and Odyssey along with the Acura MDX.

■ **Nissan** will offer, for the first time, a coupe version of its new Altima. It is built on a shorter wheelbase, with shorter overall length and lower height than the sedan. The coupe will be offered with a choice of 175-hp 2.5-liter four-cylinder or 270-hp 3.5-liter V-6 engine. The transmission choices include a six-speed manual or the sophisticated Xtronic CVT™ (Continuously Variable Transmission). The Altima coupe should debut in the summer of 2007 as a 2008 model.



Nissan Altima Coupe

■ **Audi** board members have confirmed they are working on a diesel powered V-12 version of the upcoming R8 sports car. The engine would produce 500 hp and 738 lb.ft. of torque.

■ **BMW** will sell diesel-powered vehicles in all 50 states starting in 2008 to boost the company's fuel efficiency says BMW spokesperson, Andreas Klugescheid. It's not known which vehicle will get the diesel engines nor was it revealed if BMW-owned Mini would also get diesel power.

■ **Cadillac** is offering a stretched version of the STS in China called the SLS, but there are no plans to offer the larger sedan in other markets at this time.

■ **Volkswagen** is cutting prices on three of its highest volume cars in an effort to attract buyers looking for cars under the \$18,000 ceiling. The 2007 Rabbit, formerly called the Golf, will start at \$15,620, down from \$16,660 in 2006. The Jetta drops to \$17,120, from the \$18,530 price in 2006. New Beetle shoppers can expect to pay a base price of \$17,120 rather than the \$17,810 starting price last year.

■ **Ferrari** is rumored to be developing a unique all-wheel drive for some of its cars. The system is based on a traditional rear-drive system that adds an "insertable" transmission to connect the second pair of wheels. It functions more like traction control with the all-wheel drive operating only when the rear wheels lose traction and only when the driver turns it on.

■ **Ford** announced it will build a seven-passenger crossover with a Lincoln nameplate. The yet to be named Lincoln is expected to go on sale in 2008 as a 2009 model. It shares the platform with the upcoming Ford Fairlane crossover. Ford's North American design chief, Peter Horbury, said the styling will be a major



Mercedes-Benz Ocean Drive concept

departure from the Fairlane and will have the same sleekness of a Gulfstream jet.

■ **General Motors** is working on a business case for bringing the Australian Holden Commodore SS to the United States as a Pontiac G8 sedan. The Commodore SS is a rear wheel drive sedan powered by a 6.0-liter V-8 engine. According to the Melbourne Herald Sun, it will be priced around \$25,000.

■ The **Pontiac** Solstice has unseated the



Pontiac Solstice

Mazda Miata for the first time since the Mazda two-seater first debuted in 1989. New in 2006, the Solstice line will expand for 2007 with the addition of a turbocharged high-performance GXP model, while Mazda will offer a folding metal roof. Another new General Motors budget sports car, the Saturn Sky, could change the dynamics further for 2007.

■ **Chevy's** 'got-to-have' concept of the 2007 auto show season is the Camaro convertible. Like the coupe that was introduced last year, the open top version has a strong retro look. It will probably have a cloth top rather than the hide-away hard top that seems to be the new standard for convertibles.



Camaro convertible concept

■ Following in the hybrid steps of the Ford Escape and Mercury Mariner from which it was cloned; **Mazda** will add a hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) version of the Tribute compact SUV for 2008. This will be Mazda's first entry into the environmentally friendly hybrid category.

■ **Volvo** is showing a sleek XC60 crossover that they plan to build for introduction in early 2009. It's developed from the same European platform that was used for the new Volvo S80 sedan and the Land Rover LR2. The latest new safety feature is a system called "city safety" which helps the car avoid low-speed collisions on crowded streets. The Volvo XC60 is expected to compete with the BMW X3, Acura RDX and other smaller crossovers.



Volvo XC60

■ The replacement for the **Jaguar** S-Type, the C-XF, drew rave reviews and best in show awards from the army of automotive journalists attending the North American International Auto Show in Detroit this January. The sexy four-door sedan sets a new tone for the Ford owned luxury brand with its dynamic modern design and features. The C-XF concept is powered by a 4.2-liter supercharged V-8 engine.



Jaguar C-XF

■ **Cadillac** is expected to expand its smallest offering, the CTS, to include a coupe and wagon in addition to the original sedan. Insiders say the family of

■ The next generation **Porsche** Cayenne SUV will get evolutionary styling enhance-

ments for 2008 with narrower headlights, new air intakes, an egg-crate grille and fenders that are more pronounced. The base model will have a new 290-hp V-6 engine, while the S gets a new 4.8-liter V-8 with Variocam Plus rated at 385 horsepower. The twin turbo produces 500 hp. Zero to 60 mph times are 8.1- 6.6- and 5.1-seconds respectively and top speeds are 141 mph, 157 mph and 171 mph. Prices will run \$43,400, \$57,900 and \$93,700.

■ **Ford** went through extraordinary testing on the new Super Duty pickups logging 10 million miles in the process. According to chief engineer Pete Reyes, 6 million test miles were racked up on dynamos and another 4 million on the roads in hundreds of trucks to make sure the new engine and trucks were flawless. The new Powerstroke diesel engine is a 6.4-liter V-8 producing 350 horsepower and 650-lb.ft. of torque using twin turbochargers, piezo electric fuel injectors and three valves per cylinder. ■

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

UPCOMING FEATURES

New York International Auto Show



Even on the heels of Detroit (and LA and Geneva), we anticipate something pretty cool to come out of this one. Stay tuned as we prepare to present a favorite or three.

Acura MDX



One of the most stylish and competent midsize SUVs in the market has been reinvented for 2007. We'll test drive it and see what it has to offer in terms of power, comfort and features.

Saturn Sky Red Line



With both the Pontiac Solstice and its cousin the Saturn Sky (both relatives of Opel in Europe) in the marketplace, GM has entered the sports car market for real.



BOB BONDURANT™
SCHOOL OF HIGH PERFORMANCE DRIVING

1.800.842.RACE
www.bondurant.com

Phoenix, Arizona



EUROPEAN SPORTS, AMERICAN MUSCLE, HOT RODS AND CUSTOMS

2007

RUSSO AND STEELE

Monterey

AUGUST 17-18

CONSIGNMENTS NOW INVITED FOR 150
PREMIUM LOTS ON TWO EVENINGS

RESERVE ENTRIES WELCOME

602.252.2697 ■ WWW.RUSSOANDSTEELE.COM