



Texas Motor Press Association (TxMPA) Off-Road Invitational category winners—as well as an overall Off-Road Truck of the Year and Off-Road SUV of the Year—are as follows:

TRUCK OF THE YEAR

FULL-SIZE PICKUP:

RAM 1500 Limited

MIDSIZE PICKUP:

Nissan Frontier PRO-4X

OVERALL

TxMPA OFF-ROAD TRUCK OF THE YEAR:

★ Toyota Tundra TRD Pro



SUV OF THE YEAR

FULL-SIZE.....Nissan Pathfinder Rock Creek Ed

MIDSIZE.....Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 4xe

COMPACT.....Mazda CX-50 AWD

OVERALL

TxMPA OFF-ROAD SUV OF THE YEAR:

★ Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 4xe

UTV / MOTORCYCLE / E-ATV

OFF-ROAD UTV.....Polaris RZR R4

OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLE.....Zero FX

DUAL SPORT MOTORCYCLE...Zero DSR/X

OFF-ROAD E-ATV...Rungu Dualie XR Rubicon Trail Ed



Texas trucks second sampler

By Joe Sage
Photos: Lucas Kepner @LucasKPhoto

Texas, which shares so much with Arizona when it comes to trucks—whether for work, recreation, show or daily glory—has spawned a second automotive press association over the past few years. The newer Texas Motor Press Association (TxMPA) has its own event for this niche, the Texas Off-Road Invitational, held at a new location this year, Brazos Valley Off-Road Ranch, a 300-acre off-road event space near Bryan in East Texas.

Pandemic lockdowns and their aftermath made the past couple of years a challenge for launching this new endeavor, from travel and event restrictions to manufacturers' own home-office-based logistical limitations. Yet the event did come to life.

This year's event combined a growing number of pickup and SUV entries with a sampling of off-road UTVs, E-ATVs and motorcycles.

The event opened with a campfire reception in downtown Bryan, followed by one full day plus another half-day of driving on a variety of challenging courses, with lunches on site and, at the end of the first drive day, gourmet pizza and a movie at the historic Queen Theater in Bryan.

Voting was performed on-site at the end of driving, based on overall performance and value, with awards announced midafternoon. Overall participation did not represent the entire industry, with some categories fairly small, so final results may or may not influence your buying decisions. The winners, individually, were all strong.

"Being able to expand this year's entries meant our members had a chance to experience many vehicles for the first time ever, including off-road EVs, plug-in hybrids, and Baja ready UTVs," said TxMPA President Michael Satterfield. "All of our members appreciate the opportunity to test these vehicles in unique off-road conditions, allowing us to make better recommendations." ■

The Texas Motor Press Association was founded with the goal of bringing together automotive and powersports professionals in Texas and surrounding states to provide educational, professional and networking opportunities within the industry. Members include a range of media and content creators, vetted by the board of directors.