

DIRT DREAMS

JEEP & MOPAR CONCEPTS / MOAB 2024

Jeep® made its annual trek to the 58th Easter Jeep Safari, in Moab, Utah, in late March, with four new eye-catching concept vehicles from Jeep brand and Jeep Performance Parts (JPP) by Mopar.

The four have an array of proven, mission-capable propulsion systems: one 392 V8, one 4xe plug-in hybrid system, a 3.6-liter Pentastar V6 and a Hurricane Twin Turbo 510 inline-six.

JEEP LOW DOWN

At the 43rd annual Easter Jeep Safari 15 years ago, attendees were wowed by the radically modified Jeep Wrangler Lower 40. Riding at stock height to maintain its center of gravity, that two-door accommodated huge 40-inch mud-terrain tires and packed a 5.7-liter V8 under its hood. An instant classic, this concept still draws a crowd a decade and a half later

and remains one of the fan favorites at EJS.

The new Jeep Low Down concept pays homage to the Lower 40. This new Wrangler concept squeezes massive 42-inch BFGoodrich Krawler 42x14.5R20 mud-terrain tires on 20-inch beadlock wheels under custom high-clearance carbon fender flares. Stock Wrangler Rubicon 392 suspension remains intact, but Dana 60 axles with 5.38 gears replace the standard Dana 44 axles with 4:10 gears. Center of gravity remains low, while ground clearance, breakover, and approach and departure angles all get dramatic increases.

The Low Down's deep Poison Apple Red

body is streamlined with its rear door handles removed, a custom carbon hood with see-through power dome, and a bespoke race-style fuel filler door in the left rear quarter panel. The interior has custom black leather seats with cloth inserts, Rhino-lined floors and a custom radio-delete instrument panel, all under the warm red glow of a purpose-built, red-tinted bikini top.

Like the Lower 40, the Jeep Low Down is powered by a V8 engine—in this modern interpretation the 475-horsepower 6.4-liter 392 V8, mated to an eight-speed automatic.

JEEP WILLYS DISPATCHER

A mix of where the Jeep brand's been and where it's going, the Jeep Willys Dispatcher is a Wrangler 4xe-based concept with the rugged, utilitarian, nostalgia looks of the early post-war civilian Jeep, juxtaposed with the electrified off-road capability of modern, (cont'd)



Jeep Willys Dispatcher concept

Jeep Gladiator Rubicon High Top concept

Jeep Vacationeer concept

Jeep Low Down concept

Jeep Low Down concept



advanced-tech 4xe propulsion.

Outside, the Willys Dispatcher concept has a retro makeover from the ground up.

Super Traxion 36-inch tires are mounted on vintage-style cream-colored 16-by-7-inch alloy "steelies." A classic-style custom front bumper holds a new, classic-style 8274 Warn winch with Warn Epic Series winch hook and D rings. Like old flatfender Jeeps, WILLYS lettering is embossed into the sides of the hood. The windshield header is gloss black, the rest in a custom shade of Element 115 Green.

The Dispatcher interior has a mix of distressed saddle leather and houndstooth cloth. Headrests are removed for a low-back vintage feel. A JPP bikini top keeps passengers shielded from rain or shine. To protect from water, mud and muck, rugged JPP vinyl covers the floor, while a JPP onboard air compressor handles tire pressures on the trail.

The Willys Dispatcher is powered by the award-winning 2.0-liter plug-in hybrid 4xe system with 375 horsepower and 470 lb-ft of torque through an eight-speed automatic transfers this power through Dana 50 Advantech front and rear axles with 4.70 gears.

JEEP GLADIATOR RUBICON HIGH TOP

The Jeep Gladiator Rubicon High Top concept, in Ginger Snap metallic with retro-inspired two-tone graphics, rides high on new 40x13.5R18 BFGoodrich All-Terrain T/A KO3 tires mounted on 18-by-9-inch Satin Black KMC Grenade Crawl beadlock wheels. Concept JPP flat fender flares provide plenty of off-road clearance. A 3.6-liter Pentastar V6, mated to a TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic, delivers a broad torque band with a focus on low-end for off-roading, feeding Dana 60 axles with 5.38:1 gearing front and rear, all atop AccuAir adjustable air suspension.

An American Expedition Vehicles modified front bumper has a custom protective hoop above a Warn winch. Rock rail power steps from Rock Slide Engineering protect the undercarriage and provide easy entry and exit.

A DECKED truck bed storage system offers additional lockable cargo space through dual sliding drawers, while still allowing for storage on top in the bed area.

Seats have been retrimmed with custom quilted and perforated tan and black Alea leather, with an embossed JPP logo on the

The Jeep Low Down concept (upper left) is powered by a 475-hp 6.4L 392 V8. The Willy Dispatcher concept (left center) bears a 375-hp plug-in hybrid system with 470 lb-ft of torque.

headrests. Completing the interior are a JPP pedal kit, all-weather floor mats and door sill guards. Overhead protection is provided by a JPP sun bonnet.

JEEP VACATIONEER

From Spearminted paint to an expanded, custom-trimmed interior, the Jeep Vacationeer concept is a premium SUV combining comfort and adventure with modern capability. And with a nod to nostalgia, the JPP design team meticulously fitted the Vacationeer concept with unique bodyside woodgrain graphics that harken back to Jeep Wagoneer and Grand Wagoneer models from the late 1960s through the early 1990s.

Perfect for Moab, its 35-inch BFGoodrich mud-terrains, on 18x9 bead grip 701 Method racing wheels, add 1.5 inches of lift. Larger wheel openings and custom bodyside flare extensions add to the aggressive look.

Front and rear skid plates provide underbody protection, while a front-mounted Warn winch addresses difficult off-road situations. At the front of the white, Rhino-lined roof, are three 11-inch TYRI LED lights.

Affixed to the roof of the Vacationeer concept is a custom, carbon-fiber RedTail Overland Skyloft—a climate-controlled sleeping space for two, with enough windows to take in panoramic views.

Second- and third-row seats are removed to integrate the Skyloft, with easy access via a custom weatherproof, pass-through entry from the cabin floor. A fore/aft sliding door and a small step, which also doubles as a usable table, aid access. Rear space has a bed-lined cargo floor to handle outdoor elements or muddy gear.

Fashion designer and Wagoneer enthusiast/owner Kiel James Patrick designed front Tupelo leather seats, displaying an appreciation for authentic Americana with custom fabric inserts featuring classic Jeep vehicles within a distinctive and charming pattern inspired by his native New England.

Power in the Jeep Vacationeer concept comes from a 3.0-liter Hurricane Twin Turbo 510 inline-six, delivering 510 horsepower and 500 lb-ft of torque. The powerful Hurricane engine provides premium performance while also boasting improved fuel economy as measured against many competitors' naturally aspirated V8 or boosted six-cylinder engines. ■

The Gladiator Rubicon High Top concept (upper right) has a 3.6-liter Pentastar V6. The Vacationeer concept (right center) has the new HEMI-replacing 510-hp 3.0L Hurricane Twin Turbo 510 inline-six.

Jeep Gladiator Rubicon High Top concept



Jeep Willys Dispatcher concept



Jeep Vacationeer concept

