

This is one of our big don't-miss comparo events of this and every year—except for when we do miss it. This year, the TAWA (Texas AutoWriters' Association) Texas Auto Roundup fell on the exact same dates as NWAPA Mudfest (see our prior issue), which was announced earlier and we had already scheduled. Nonetheless, we do get to participate in the awards announcements, since this group has taken to presenting this at a later date, anyway.

These events typically have a couple of dozen vehicles entered—a volume that allows for about the same number of journalist judges to devote solid time to each. This is (usually) a track-based event, though not a race event—this is simply efficient, and local roads are also available. As in the

marketplace at large, vehicle categories have multiplied, by size and format, with subcategories for price, powertrains and other attributes. Some events keep the category count down, to have more contenders in each. Others sort entries into a wider range of categories, to compartmentalize each entry by its own most specific possible definition.

This one takes the latter approach, with 28 vehicles entered into 13 categories, meaning winners emerge from an average of just about two vehicles per category (some have more; some have just one). As is sometimes the case regardless of which way these are organized, we do not know the deep data on whether wins were huge or tight.

VEHICLE CATEGORY AWARDS

These are calculated from judges' ratings for a variety of attributes of each vehicle as low in class, class average, above class or best in class. Some vehicles were calculated in multiple categories, e.g. both SUV and EV, or by both size and luxury or size and performance.

Midsize Sedan

2024 Hyundai Sonata\$27,500-38,560
(Also entered: Toyota Camry.)

Performance Sedan

2024 Genesis G70.....\$49,950-56,250
(Also entered: Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio.)

Performance Coupe

2024 Toyota GR Supra\$63,375-65,470
(Also entered: Nissan Z.)

Performance Hatchback

2024 Toyota GR Corolla\$39,920-42,132
(Also entered: Acura Integra Type S.)

Luxury Vehicle \$50,000-\$75,000

2024 Genesis G70.....\$49,950-56,250

Luxury Vehicle \$75,000+

2024 Mercedes-Benz E 350 4MATIC±\$62-82k

Compact Crossover

2024 Mazda CX-50\$40,800-43,860
(Also entered: Nissan Rogue, Toyota RAV4.)

Midsize Crossover-SUV

2024 Kia EV9 (GT-Line)\$54,900-73,900
(Also entered: Honda Ridgeline, Lexus TX 550h+, Mazda CX-90, Toyota Grand Highlander.)

Luxury Crossover-SUV

2024 Lexus TX 550h.....\$71,300-78,660
(Also entered: Lexus RX 450h+.)

Performance SUV

2024 Kia EV9 (GT-Line)\$54,900-73,900
(Also entered: Dodge Durango, Dodge Hornet.)

Electric Vehicle

2024 Kia EV9 (GT-Line)\$54,900-73,900
(Also entered: Hyundai IONIQ 6.)

Green Vehicle

2024 Toyota Prius Prime\$39,370-43,089

Minivan

2024 Chrysler Pacifica\$39,400-61,090

CALCULATED OVERALL AWARDS

These are judgments made in the course of Category Awards scoring, where every vehicle entered has been rated below, average, above or best in class.

Best Overall Interior.....2024 Genesis G70

Best Overall Exterior.....2024 Genesis G70

Best Overall Performance.....2024 Toyota Prius Prime

Best Overall Value.....2024 Genesis G70

Best Personal Appeal.....2024 Genesis G70

SPECIFIC FEATURE RECOGNITION

These are from individual vehicles specifically seeking a vote for these attributes. No info on any competitors.

Best New Feature

.....2024 Lexus TX 550h plug-in hybrid powertrain

Best New Interior.....2024 M-Benz E 350 4MATIC

Best Value.....2024 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid

TITLE AWARDS

This ultimate vote is separate from Category Awards data. Rather than a recalculation among all of those, these results are derived from a freestanding choice by each judge for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place vehicle.

Performance Vehicle

.....2024 Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio

SUV-Crossover (tie).....2024 Mazda CX-50

.....2024 Toyota Grand Highlander Hybrid MAX

Electric Vehicle.....2024 Kia EV9

Vehicle of the Year.....2024 Genesis G70

Who says the sedan is dead? Genesis G70 took top title and cleaned up throughout, while many others also prevailed. ■



PERFORMANCE VEHICLE OF THE YEAR: ALFA ROMEO GIULIA QUADRIFOGLIO



SUV-CUV OF THE YEAR (TIE): TOYOTA GRAND HIGHLANDER / MAZDA CX-50



ELECTRIC VEHICLE OF THE YEAR: KIA EV9



VEHICLE OF THE YEAR: GENESIS G70

A WINNING SAMPLING

Photos by Kevin McCauley of Capturing the Machine