



# AUTO NEWS

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## There is "A-Lot-To-Love" About the All-New 2026 Honda CR-V Hybrid AWD Trail Sport

	
<b>FEATURES</b>	
Dealer of the Decade (August 2026) .....	page 2
Ford Expedition Tremor "Test Drive" .....	page 2
Auto Nation Invests in South Florida .....	page 5
Bardahl "Protect What You Love" .....	page 9
Pat Armstrong Ford Ad .....	page 13
SHOWCASE REVIEWS .....	page 14 & 15
Rita Case Wins Cox Award .....	page 16 & 17
Rick Case Honda & VW Wins Top Award..	page 18 & 19
Auto News Foundation Info .....	page 24, 25, 26
Heartland Toyota Ad .....	back page



Tony-Thomas Rehn GM Kirkland Honda with All-New 2026 Honda CR-V Hybrid AWD Trail Sport (photo Auto News)

by Bill McCallum

It's easy to "FALL-IN-LOVE" with a new vehicle these days, as automakers add features that appeal to most of us.

In the case of the 2026 Honda CR-V Hybrid AWD TrailSport I recently tested, there is A-LOT-TO-LOVE. Let's start with the Base MSRP OF \$38,800. That's a super-value, my friends. How about 38 mpg (city) 33 mpg (highway) and 35 mpg (overall)

and it's an AWD hybrid. What's in a name? Even if your not an "off-roader" just telling your friends and neighbors ..... I own a Honda TrailSport sounds very cool." Then add lot's of space for passengers, kids, and cargo and a long list of "safety features" including: Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brake Distribution (EBD) Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA), LED Daytime Running

Lights and LATCH System for Child Seats and more.

In the technology department the Honda CRV Hybrid AWD Trail-Sport Includes Wireless Apple Car Play/Android Auto Integration.

If your in the market for a "value-based" Hybrid AWD SUV I suggest you "test drive" the Honda CR-V Hybrid AWD Trail-Sport at your local Honda dealer.

## Dr. Sam Pack Texas Mega Ford Dealer Selected as "Dealer of the Decade"

Dr. Sam Pack is a native Texan, visionary dealer, and community-minded leader whose five-decade career in the automotive industry has helped shape North Texas business and civic life. His journey began in 1956 at Tarleton State University, where his early ties to the region and a genuine passion for people laid the groundwork for a lifetime of entrepreneurial achievement and service. In 1962, he entered the automotive industry with Ford Credit in Albuquerque, New Mexico, gaining deep experience in automotive finance and learning the value of long-term relationships that would guide his future as a dealer.[1]

In February 1980, Dr. Pack took a bold leap of faith by purchasing Lee Jarmon Ford in Carrollton, Texas, laying the foundation for what would become the Sam Pack Automotive Group. Over the next 45 years, that single dealership grew into one of North

Texas' most respected automotive organizations, today comprised of six Five Star dealerships in the DFW market and co-ownership of six additional dealerships in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Through industry cycles, economic change, and technological transformation, he remained steadfast in a simple philosophy: do what is right, care for people, and deliver an exceptional five-star experience.[1]

Under his leadership, the group has become known not only for sales performance but for a culture where employees are treated like family, customers are welcomed with sincerity, and communities see the organization as a trusted partner. The company's Five-Star Core Values—Integrity, Caring, Self-Discipline, Continuous Improvement, and Fun—guide every aspect of operations, from employee development to customer care. Long-standing **continued on page 7**

## 2026 Hyundai Palisade Calligraphy Hybrid "Performs Well" on Recent Road-Trip to Monterey & Pebble Beach by Publisher Bill McCallum



2026 Hyundai Palisade Calligraphy Hybrid pictured at Laguna Seca Race Track in Monterey, CA (See story on page 2) (photo Auto News)



Dr Sam Pack pictured at Five Star Ford in Carrollton, Texas (photo Harold Allen)

**SEE 12 SHOWCASE TEST DRIVE REVIEWS ON PAGES 14 & 15**

### Legends of Auto Reunion & Dealer of the "Decade"



Bill McCallum  
publisher

I spent the last week in March 2026 in Monterey, Carmel, and Pebble Beach planning the "20 YEAR REUNION OF LEGENDS OF AUTO." What started out as an event during LA Auto Show week created by Mark Fields, CEO of Ford, Bert Boeckmann of Galpin Auto Group and myself, has become a nationwide auto industry event. (see page 26)

We have honored industry ICONS from across the U.S. and eventually moved the event to Monterey during their annual August "CAR WEEK."

This year in addition to the "20 YEAR REUNION OF LEGENDS OF AUTO" we will present 5 "DEALER OF THE DECADE" awards honoring automotive dealer group principals from 5 major market areas across the U.S. and Canada including Texas, Los Angeles, Florida, & Detroit.

We announced Greg Penske, Longo Toyota & Lexus Auto Group owner in our WINTER issue and Sam Pack, Texas Maga Ford dealer in this issue (see front page). We will announce additional "DEALER OF THE DECADE" recipients in our Summer Issue (June/July), so stay tuned !!

**"Legends of Auto Reunion" Scheduled for August 2026 During Monterey Car Week !!!**

### 2025 Ford Expedition Tremor



Chris Chung  
Digital editor

The 2025 Ford Expedition Tremor takes everything people love about Ford's full-size SUV and injects it with genuine off-road capability. If the standard Expedition is built for family road trips and towing duty, the Tremor is built for families who don't stop when the pavement ends.

#### Off-Road Muscle Meets Full-Size Comfort

Under the hood, the Expedition Tremor packs Ford's 3.5-liter EcoBoost twin-turbo V6, producing a healthy 440 horsepower and 510 lb-ft of torque. That's serious power for an SUV this size, and it shows. Acceleration is strong and confident, especially when merging or passing, and the 10-speed automatic transmission keeps things smooth and responsive.

This isn't just a cosmetic package. The Tremor gets real off-road hardware:

- Unique suspension tuning
- Increased ground clearance
- 33-inch all-terrain tires
- Trail Control (low-speed off road cruise control)
- Rock Crawl mode
- Steel skid plates protecting critical components

The front end features bold orange Tremor accents and tow hooks that make it clear this isn't your typical suburban hauler.

#### Big on Space, Bigger on Capability

Inside, the Expedition Tremor remains every bit the full-size

continued on page 27

### Capitol Reef National Park In My Hyundai Santa Fe



Sally Hanson  
editor

Most of my automotive reviews have been written after driving a vehicle for a week, studying the various models of the brand, and reporting to our readers the new features that I find great. It is my pleasure to share with you an in-depth automotive review of a vehicle I drove a year ago and then went to a local dealership the next week to purchase!

Meet "Big Red", my Hyundai Santa Fe Hybrid with the Limited premium trim. Please join us on our recent road trip to Capitol Reef National Park in south central Utah. In case you are not familiar with this park, I find it to be the most beautiful of the 35 National Parks I have visited. While Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches and Canyonlands National Parks are beautiful parks in Utah, Capitol Reef is one of the lesser known of the Southwest's national parks.

As I journeyed through parts of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Utah to get to the park, I realized this was my first major road trip in the Santa Fe.

During my around town and shorter trip ventures in the Santa Fe, I had come to appreciate the smooth drive it offers along with very comfortable seating. Dual auto temperature controls with 2nd and 3rd row air vents make a pleasurable trip for the driver and passengers.

Highway travel is also more enjoyable when stops for gaso-

continued on page 24

### Dodge Charger Scat Pack



Dave Kunz  
LA feature writer

Dodge has been a brand of performance over the years, and recently it's been an up-and-down ride. Buyers snapped up the final 2023 "Last Call" Challengers and Chargers, as the Hemi V8 was to be no more moving forward.

Model year 2024 saw an all-new Charger (as a 2-door), powered by electricity. A promise of a new kind of muscle car in the form of a pure EV. Styling was good, performance was great, and it even made fake V8 noises. What it didn't make was sales numbers; die-hard enthusiasts stayed away. A hotter version arrived with 670 horsepower, and so far, that one is still around.

For 2026, gasoline returns to Dodge's big coupe, to the delight of those who favor internal combustion. The Charger brings the high-tech corporate Hurricane twin-turbo inline 6 to the performance party, making 420 horsepower in base trim, or an impressive 550 horsepower in the Scat Pack. Push the Start button, and instead of kilowatts flowing through copper, premium unleaded flows through cylinders. Muscle car tradition, right along with a raspy exhaust note.

At full throttle from rest, the Charger Scat Pack hooks up (thanks to all-wheel drive) and pushes you back in your seat. There's even launch control for those who want to test it out at the local drag strip. And overall, this

continued on page 16

### Ram 1500 Express: A Modern Pickup That Stays Simple



Keith Turner  
SF feature writer

In today's truck market, it sometimes feels like every pickup is trying to outdo the next with luxury features — giant screens, leather everywhere, and seats that can heat, cool and possibly even massage your work weary body.

The 2026 Ram 1500 Express Crew Cab goes in the opposite direction.

The Express is Ram's entry-level full-size truck, designed for buyers who want capability and space without paying for features they may never use. It's a reminder that a pickup can still be a pickup — without pretending to be a luxury sedan with a cargo box.

Under the hood, the Ram 1500 Express is all truck. The engine is Ram's well-proven 3.6-liter Pentastar V6, producing 305 horsepower and paired with a smooth eight-speed automatic transmission.

It's not going to smoke sports cars at stoplights, but it's more than capable for daily driving, hauling supplies, towing smaller trailers and making the weekend trip to the hardware store.

The V6 delivers a solid balance between power and efficiency, and it's been around long enough to build a reputation for reliability.

As for fuel economy, the Ram 1500 is respectable for a full-size pickup with 20 mpg in city driving, 26 mpg on the highway for 23 mpg combined. For a truck this size, those numbers make it

continued on page 9

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### Jim Buys A New Kia EV6



Jim Trainor  
feature writer

It all started when my wife and I decided to leave southern California and build a home in northern Michigan shortly after ending our careers and almost 20 years in southern California. How we reached this decision is the topic for another article.

Building a new home comes with an almost endless number of decisions, everything from floors to the number of bedrooms to the design of the door handle to the closet. Oh, one more – should the garage be equipped with a 240-volt outlet that would provide Level 2 charging for an electric vehicle? We opted in.

Besides, I had just bought a new battery-powered lawn mower to go with my electric leaf blower, electric trimmer, electric chain saw and the king of them all, electric snowblower. All battery operated so cords and extension cords were a thing of the past. And, more importantly, no more gas cans, spills in the driveway, mixing oil for two-stroke engines, and messy trips

continued on page 5



### Electric Expo Continues to Expand in U.S.



Vicky Tran  
writer

This year’s Electrify Expo in Seattle was buzzing — literally and figuratively — with innovation, energy, and hands-on experiences. Held at Marymoor Park in Redmond, WA, the festival-like atmosphere brought together leading EV automakers, e-bike brands, charging tech companies, and curious consumers ready to experience the electrified future firsthand.

Standout vehicles included the new Subaru Solterra, Ford F-150 Lightning, Kia EV9, and Hyundai IONIQ 5 N, all available for test drives on-site. Brands like Lexus, Kia, Tesla, and Porsche were also present, offering both static displays and drive loops. On the micro mobility side, attendees zipped around on the latest electric scooters, skateboards, and e-bikes from companies like Onyx, Rawrr, and NIU. There even was a flying car brought by Pivotal, a Bay Area startup whose goal is to “turn the art of the possible into everyday reality.”

Charging tech demos, solar displays, and family-friendly activities rounded out the weekend. The overall vibe? Accessible, informative, and fun.

### 2025 RAM ProMaster EV



Howard Elmer  
truck writer

Ram is the latest brand to bring electrification to its utility van offerings with a new ProMaster – all electric – for 2025. I recently had a chance to drive one of these at a demonstration in Michigan. It was everything I expected. Quiet, quick, and simple. In fact, electric service and delivery vehicles are an improvement for in this segment that, in my opinion, can’t come fast enough. Because delivery vans run set routes – or work in stop/go short range urban service areas; the drawbacks of electric power are very few. These trucks will work all day and recharge over night. Their usage cases have way fewer charging variables than electric passenger vehicles. Also, from a business perspective, over time they will cost less to run, cost less to service and last longer.

Arriving late this year are two EV models. The ProMaster EV delivery model and the Cargo model. The Cargo model is available as a 12-foot box – or as an extended 13-foot box. Both versions come with a 110-kilowatt-hour (kWh) battery pack that has a targeted range of 261 kilome-

continued on page 6

### Slate Auto-Start with a Blank Slate...Add What you Want!



Jordan Williams  
millennial writer

With taglines such as “Designed for Real Life”, “It’s a Blank Slate, You Call the Shots”, and “Great cars got too pricey. We fixed that”, start-up Slate the Shots”, and “Great cars got too pricey. We fixed that”, start-up Slate auto company launched its entrance into the United States auto market, with its EV basic truck model and is currently taking orders.

Slate’s target audience is the price conscious, tech savvy younger generation, i.e. the Millennial and Generation Z market, whose own phones would in most cases replace what has become a typical interior auto screen feature.

The central idea of Slate auto is to start with an affordable “blank slate truck”, at a mid-twenties price tag, and then add -on any features one desires. A buyer can even convert the truck to an SUV with an add on option.

Currently, to begin, the company requires \$50 to place an order hold. Then, each buyer selects which battery they want and any other pre installed accessories “like wraps or an SUV Kit”. The standard battery carries a 150 mile

continued on page 8

### Slot Car racing in Europe compared to the USA



Allen Smith  
motorsports writer

In 1957 the Slot Car Racing Industry ignited when Fred Francis, owner of a miniature Model Car Company, electrified his tin plate model cars. His company was called Scalex, as while good models they were not to a specific scale.

This new line was then renamed Scalextric the “tric” because they were now motorized, with a small electric motor, and could be driven on a model race car track.

Sales took off as almost every little boy wanted to be a race car driver, and Model Car racing was born.

The by produce of that was a love and passion for Cars that was instilled in generations of children. They became enamored with racing and cars in general, and the real car Industry supported that with themed race sets for their brands.

Across the pond in the USA the first experiences most had with Scale Model Car Racing, or Slot Car Racing as it is known here, was Scalextric. But the cost of an imported toy from Europe and the construction methods was not well received.

Scalextric cars were still tin plate, and their track made of rubber so expensive to ship to America.

Several toy companies here in the USA sent sample to Hong Kong

continued on page 6




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### Fun-To-Drive vs. Too Much Technology



Larry Weitzman  
EV specialist

I was a car crazy kid. I remember in the 1950s, the fall was the most exciting time, not because of the World Series, but because of the new car models for next year. Yes, I was horsepower crazy and by nine years old could tell anyone who would listen the horsepower of every car made in America and of models within makes. Like the 1953 Buicks, which was the first year for the “Nailhead” V-8. But the Special still received a 130 hp straight eight, while the Super got the 170 hp, 322 cubic inch V-8 and the Roadmaster received a 188 hp version of same.

Since about 2020, when about the only engine you could get was a turbocharged 2.0-2.5L inline four with say 250 hp, cars haven’t done much for me. All the “advances seem to have been in the spread of technology. It used to be cars were about handling and performance, the “drive”. Now cars are about being entertained during the drive. I remember the 1960 Chrysler, with the magnificent “Astrodome”

continued on page 5



### BMW M5 Touring Hybrid AWD



Arv Voss  
feature writer

There are high performance sports cars and also wagons and SUVs in both plug-in and regular hybrid form.

BMW has truly built a better mousetrap provided you are able to afford it. The Base Price is \$121,500. The Price as Tested was \$145,575.

The BMW M5 Touring AWD Hybrid is more than just simply a hybrid – it serves up the high performance of a sophisticated sports car along with the utility of a 5-passenger, 4-door wagon or SUV.

Motive force for the M5 Touring comes from a 4.4-liter DOHC 32-valve, twin turbocharged and intercooled V8 engine with 577 (bhp) horsepower / 553 lb.-ft.) f torque. Add to that an AC motor with 194 hp, 207 lb.-ft. 15-kWh lithium-ion battery pack – peak charge rate, AC: 11.0 kW

The Combined output of the two power sources is 717 hp, 738 lb.-ft torque is delivered through an 8 speed automatic transmission and variable all-wheel drive.

The BMW M5 Touring AWD displays a long, lean and extremely appealing form that complements its powerful mechanical performance attributes closely mimicking

continued on page 6

### Shelby F-250, 2026 Super Baja Announced



Harold Allen  
Texas feature writer

#### A New Line of Redesigned High Performance Shelby Trucks

The redesigned Shelby F-250 Baja Truck will feature a new design, advanced performance, new suspension, and available custom styling. The vehicle will be built at Shelby Performances new state-of-the-art facility in Bristol, Indiana.

Shelby’s team developed their version of the four-wheel drive vehicle with high quality suppliers in the industry. This version will have a Ford 6.7-liter turbo diesel with advanced technology and superior handling with best-in-class towing.

With the new King Shocks suspension system that increases the ride height, more travel and transforms how the truck will perform on and off the road. The Shelby F-250 Super Baja has two-tone 20-inch alloy wheels and BFG 37-inch tires. Also, a new functional air induction hood with painted extraction vents.

OE style fender flares with marker lights, powder coated bumpers and LED lighting enhance the truck styling. The F-250 Shelby Super Baja has full leather seat covers, digital gauges, embroidered floor mats,

continued on page 10

### “How The No Tax on Car Loan Interest Policy Could Impact Borrowers In 2026”



Julia King  
writer

The Treasury Department announced they planned to enforce The No Tax on Car Loan Interest policy in January, as part of President Donald Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) passed in July. The policy aims to help taxpayers deduct up to \$10,000 a year in car loan interest on new cars assembled in the U.S. and purchased between 2025 and 2028. Amidst widespread concerns over affordability and the upcoming tax deadline, the initiative’s gradual rollout is pertinent to American car loan borrowers.

To claim the tax deduction ahead of the April 15 deadline, individuals can file through a new form with the IRS: the Schedule 1-A, a new attachment to the Form 1040. Taxpayers are required to provide the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) to help verify they’re eligible.

While the policy has garnered attention for its potential to reduce costs associated with purchasing a new vehicle, there are key qualifications borrowers must keep in mind. The car in question must be new, and the final place of assembly must be in the U.S. This potentially excludes common models from foreign

continued on page 9

### Volkswagen ID. Buzz “test drive”



Scot McCallum  
feature writer

The 2025 Volkswagen ID. Buzz 1st Edition electric van is a return to the classic vans we remember from Volkswagen. And yet it is replete with new technology and features we all want today. The ID. Buzz has exceptional visibility and spaciousness within its spartan and comfortable interior design. While driving it around town for errands, I received many “wow” and “that’s cool” comments due to its sleek exterior design and orange/candy white color. This vehicle is aptly named by Volkswagen as you will experience a consistent parking lot buzz from other drivers.

The ID. Buzz has at least 12 safety and driver assist features we all expect in a new electric vehicle. The back row of seats folds flat or it can be removed, and there are multiple mobile device charging points throughout. The dashboard system is intuitive and includes a Harman Kardon premium audio system with 13 speakers and subwoofer. The ID. Buzz drives smoothly and quietly and corners well for a van. It is rated at 83 MPGe and a driving range of 234 miles. Drop by your local Volkswagen dealer today for a test drive!



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# EV (Electric Vehicles) News and Strategies



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## Auto Nation Invests in South Florida Through Community Leadership and Civic Engagement

*From affordable housing with Habitat for Humanity to the grand reopening of Huiyenga Park, AutoNation supports initiatives that strengthen the region it calls home*

AutoNation, Inc. (NYSE: AN), one of the largest automotive retailers in the United States and a long-time South Florida corporate leader, dem-  
**continued on page 10**



AutoNation Chief Executive Officer Mike Manley joined Habitat for Humanity of Broward's CEO Build, working alongside fellow executives to support affordable workforce housing for local families. (Courtesy of AutoNation)

## Fun-To-Drive vs. Technology

**continued from page 4**

dash and now every dash appears as a flat panel electronic screen, overloaded with information and buttons (and touch screens). Nothing anymore is standardized as were the door handles, window lift switches, heater and A/C controls. Now most everything is different from car to car.

I remember receiving a 2004 BMW 7 series. It was my introduction to the new technology. I didn't know how to start it. No starter button or key to insert and twist, starting it took a manual, phone call and more, before I could still enjoy the ride. I even challenged my next door neighbor to start the car. He couldn't.

The publisher of Global Auto News related to me that he was at a manufacturers press event, waiting his turn to sample the latest

and greatest model "Zoomie" but the guy before him still in the left seat wouldn't get out of the car. Finally, he asked the guy "was he going to get out of the car?" to which he replied, "I can't find the door handle!"

Now cars are controlled by computer handling programs and chips. In some makes driving feel is more like a video game, which have no feel. They have lane departure warning systems, automatic emergency braking systems (never mind ABS systems), blind spot detection systems and "adaptive" cruise control and more. These features do a driver a disservice as they make drivers seem to rely on these systems, allowing the driver to be less alert and less attentive to driving.

If you don't operate your turn  
**continued on page 17**

## Jay Leno Comedy Show Scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> at Legends Casino Event Center



Bill McCallum (Left) & Chris Chung meet with Jay Leno at Comedy Show in the Spring of 2025 (photo Auto News)

# Jim Trainer Buys An Electric Kia EV6

**continued from page 3**

to the gas station.  
But, was I ready for the big step to an electric vehicle?

Honestly, when we made the decision to install the 240V outlet, the thinking was that down the road we might consider an EV. But the decision happened much faster than we anticipated. Part of this was due to leases expiring on our Hyundai Sonata Hybrid and Hyundai Santa Fe. After being treated poorly by the Hyundai dealer in town, we found ourselves at the local Kia dealership. We made the relatively easy decision to replace our Santa Fe with a Sorento Hybrid, rated at 37 MPG. Nice. Fuel economy is important to me.

But, what to do about the Sonata replacement? After a few days of research (mostly YouTube) and a test drive -- not to mention a \$13,500 company

rebate -- we were the proud lessees of an EV6 GT Line AWD in Runway Red and with 327-mile range. All for a lease price of about \$44,000.

Here's the six-month review.

For many northern Michigan residents, the idea of switching to an EV comes with a mix of excitement and hesitation. Harsh winters and rural living can make EV adoption feel like a leap of faith. But for me, the transition has been nothing short of exceptional.

The EV6 has the 300+-mile range that many today consider a minimum number. Of course, that number dips substantially in the winter due to the obvious reasons (although I've been a bit surprised by how much juice is used by the HVAC fan.) To this I say: "So what?" We live about eight miles out of town and the vast majority of trips are in the 20 mile range. Often, heading to a golf course, or a winery (or two...), or a sightseeing excursion  
**continued on page 7**

## AUTO NEWS® BYTES

### Words Matter

"hoax"

"afford"

"affordability"

**"HOAX"** — "An act intended to trick or dupe." also --- "Something accepted or established by fraud."

Comments: Over past decades the word hoax was used most often to describe UFO's. While some people agreed with the UFO sightings. There was no proof or agreement on their existence i.e. a HOAX

**"AFFORD"** — vb. "To manage to bear or bear the cost of without serious harm or loss." (NOTE) My 1997 edition of The Merriam-Webster Dictionary does not include the word affordability.

**"AFFORDABILITY"**

Publishers note: In the next issue of Global Auto News (Summer 2026 - June/July) - I will define AFFORDABILITY as it relates to purchasing a new or preowned vehicle.

**WORDS MATTER AND THEY ARE THE KEY TO INTELLIGENCE**

by BILL McCALLUM, Publisher

**BMW M5 Touring**  
continued from page 4

BMW's M5 super sedan. My test vehicle wore a beautiful exterior finish of Smyrna Green metallic.

The onboard battery pack is capable of providing 25 miles of electric range per charge without burning any fuel reserves. With the pedal to the metal, the M5 Touring's 717 horses rips from 0-60 mph in a mere 3.5 seconds. The EPA MPGe rating is 54 while gas mileage will be roughly 11 mpg city and 17 mpg highway or 13 mpg combined. The M5 controls allow adjusting ride quality, steering and braking sensitivity, and motive forces may be tailored to 2WD, 4WD (F & R), 4WD Sport or 2WD rear. The M5

Touring rolls on Michelin Pilot Sport S5 staggered rubber – 20" front /21" - rear mounted on multi-spoke alloy wheels. Brakes are four wheel vented, cross-drilled carbon ceramic discs.

The cabin of the Touring model delivers the same high tech features and luxury as the M5 sedan while providing room for cargo, with the rear seats backs folded into the flat position. The basic upholstery was plush Marino leather with an available Executive Package and there are a host of digital displays to keep occupants informed and connected. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are included a 14.9-inch infotainment touchscreen with BMW's iDrive 8.5 interface. **continued on page 7**



BMW M5 Touring AWD Hybrid (photo by Arv Voss)

**2025 RAM ProMaster EV "Test Drive"**

continued from page 3

ters in city driving. Most owners will be using a Level 2 wall charger (which delivers up to 11 kw), however the ProMaster will also accept a Level 3 DC fast charger that delivers up to 50 kw. The charge port illuminates while the vehicle is charging and has an audible sound alert to confirm the connection.

This ProMaster architecture, has been designed specifically for electrification, featuring a unibody design that incorporates the battery pack. The battery is positioned under the floor in the centre of the vehicle, maintaining a flat floor while cargo volume is unchanged from the gas-powered vehicles. The battery pack drives a 200-kilowatt (kW) electric drive module (EDM) which delivers 268 hp and 302 lb.-ft. of torque using the standard front-wheel-drive capability.

All versions have a 159-in.



2025 ProMaster EV delivery van. Photos are all factory.

wheelbase, and an extended super-high-roof. Other new driver features include an available heated steering wheel and heated windshield. New available safety and security features include Park Sense with stop, white noise backup alarm and "normal" backup alarm.

Another new feature on this ProMaster is a rear roll-up door. Built of anodized aluminum its light weight yet durable. A passenger-side sliding pocket door is also now standard on the Ram ProMaster EV delivery vehicle. This will ease ingress and egress while making deliveries.

The handling of cargo is the number one consideration for van buyers.

**Auto News Foundation Introduces TAP Tuition Assistance Program**

by Bill McCallum, Publisher/ Founder

For TWO years we have been developing our TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) for students attending Automotive Tech Schools. Our goal was three fold.

1- To develop a workable program delivering more potential employee's for auto dealers and OEM's across the U.S.

2- Using Global Auto News to highlight each students path to graduation over a two year period.

3- Passing on 70 % of the funds raised by the Auto News Foundation a 501 (3)(c)NON-PROFIT for TAP scholarships starting in 2026. RESULTS TO DATE: 10 TAP scholarships to students attending:

- Shoreline Community College - Seattle, WA
- Yakima Valley College - Yakima, WA (see page 18)
- Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, CA
- University of Washington (Business School) Seattle, WA

**Slot Car Racing Europe vs. U. S.**

continued from page 3

to be analyzed. They produced a cheaper version with plastic track and cars and Slot Car Racing started to boom in the USA.

So much so that car Manufacturers commissioned Slot Car Sets to be given out to new buyers of cars so their children could play at car racing. This endorsed branding too where children as they grew became owners of real cars from the brands they played with in their childhood.

Americas fascination with Slot Car Racing saw an explosion in sales and from that a new Industry grew, and that was Commercial Slot Car Tracks. Across America somewhere between 3000 to 10,000 raceways appeared and the Slot Car crazed took off.

With this and the need for speed the industry of hopped-up cars grew rapidly with new motors, gear, tires and bodies arriving every Month or so. The speeds at these Commercial Raceways were more than a plastic car could withstand, so the bodies changed to less detail butyrate bodies and finally Lexan.

The cars got faster, and lower and less scale appearing, the branding was gone, no longer were they Fords and Ferrari cars, these were Asp, Manta Ray etc. and the scale cars were gone. Personally, I believe this was part of the end in America of the boom of Model Car (Slot) Car Racing.

It took a while but eventually the **continued on page 19**

**Soul, electrified.**

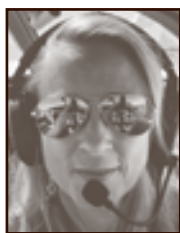
The soul has many aspects. It is variable and constantly changing. When viewing the Porsche Taycan, it reveals itself by a smile that expresses total delight. The Taycan is uncompromising and perfect for the everyday. Striking proportions, timeless and instantly recognizable design. With a spacious interior and two luggage compartments, providing comfort and convenience for all.

Experience true electrified performance.  
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PORSCHE

# How Close Are We To Seeing Flying Cars In The Skies ?



Heather Chirtea  
Flying Cars

Flying Cars Hit the Skies: The Soar Tour Brings the Future to Life

The future of transportation has arrived — not in the pages of science fiction, but in the skies over America. A small group of pioneers is piloting the nation's first coast-to-coast flying car tour, giving the public a rare chance to witness history in motion.

At the heart of the tour is the BlackFly, an all-electric, vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft designed for everyday people. Unlike traditional planes, the BlackFly doesn't require a pilot's license to fly. If you can drive a car and handle a video game joystick, you have the basic skills necessary to tackle the 2-week training program and learn to fly.

John and Heather Chirtea, are a father/daughter flying duo, and one of the first five civilian owners of the BlackFly in the United States. Their story adds a deeply personal note to this technological leap.

"My dad dragged me to the Oshkosh Air Show year after year to watch the flying car in development," Heather recalled with a laugh. "It wasn't even flying yet. But we kept coming back. We made hats, cheered from the sidelines, and became obsessed with the flying car. When the day came that they started selling them, we were first in line."

That persistence turned them into the nation's first father-daughter flying car team. John, now the oldest flying car pilot in the country, and Heather, the first female consumer to fly one, embody the passing of the torch between dreamers and doers.

The BlackFly itself is deceptively simple: just 18 moving parts, a vertical liftoff that takes about ten seconds, and a glide into forward flight that resembles a small biplane in motion. Flights last about 20 minutes on a charge, and recharging takes only 40 minutes. With no airports required, pilots can take off from driveways, fields, or open spaces.

"Really, the computer does the flying," explained tour pilot Tim Lum, a former Air Force pararescueman and smokejumper. "You tell it where to go with the joystick, and the computer won't let me push outside safe limits. It feels like freedom, without the danger."

For Lum, who has spent his life in high-risk environments, the BlackFly is something different: thrilling but accessible. "I've jumped out of planes, fought wildfires, taken risks most people wouldn't dream of. But this? This feels like a new chapter. It's exhilarating, and the margin of safety is somewhere between motorcycle and automobile."

The Soar Tour is crisscrossing the nation, giving thousands their first up-close encounter with a flying car. Attendees can sit in the cockpit, grip the joystick, and imagine themselves lifting off.

For Heather, it's about more than technology. "This is about wonder," she said. "It's about giving people that spark—that feeling of, wow, the future really is here. For us, it's the Jetsons come to life."



Heather Chirtea is the Nation's First Female Consumer Flying Car Pilot.

For more information visit: [www.thesoartour.com](http://www.thesoartour.com)

# BMW M5 Touring AWD

continued from page 6

The M5 Touring delivers a host of expected basic features enhancing one's driving experience as well as more advanced optional features as part of the Professional Package.

The BMW M5 Touring AWD is a phenomenal machine that's not only sleekly gorgeous but delivers on all fronts, pumping out more than enough power for most while offering a level of utility

and practicality at the same time. There's an impressive warranty along with a limited complimentary scheduled maintenance program. Vehicle Type: Front engine, mid-motor, rear all-wheel drive, 5-passenger, 4-door wagon  
Wheelbase: 111.83 inches  
Overall Length: 200.6 inches  
Width: 77.6 inches  
Height: 59.7 inches  
Curb Weight: 5,481 lbs.  
Fuel Capacity: 15.9 gallons

# Jim Trainor Reports On Buying An All-New Kia EV6 . . . . .!

## "Call me Electric Jim . . . ."

continued from page 5

sion means might travel 50 to 100 miles or more. All super attainable.

Further, I've been pleasantly surprised at how capable the EV6 is in the snow. "Snow Mode" gets us up our steep driveway and through 10-inches of snow without issue. The heated seats and steering wheel got warmer quickly and hotter than in any

other ICE vehicle I've owned. Winter hasn't been an issue at all, including days with below zero temperatures and with snow almost every day.

I cut a deal with our local electric utility for a \$10 monthly rebate if I charge the EV6 from between 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. so that's what I do. It's easy to set a timer of simply plug in the car. We've gone weeks without having to charge while using the car every day. It's surprising how far 250 miles is when tooling around town. Even better, a full charge runs me about \$17 and I figure I'm saving about \$100 per month not having to buy gas. Plus, one gets great pleasure seeing folks at the gas pumps on 2-degree

days fishing for their credit cards and filling up their gas cans for the snowblower. Plugging in at home feels like second nature now.

For anyone on the fence about EV ownership in places like northern Michigan and other cold parts of the country, I can confidently say it's worth it. The one "must have," though, is an EV charger at home. To attempt to do this while only being able to charge remotely would be foolhardy. But with at-home charging capability, and a second vehicle for lengthy road trips, it seems silly and old-fashioned not to.

Oh, did I tell you that my EV6 looks cool?

# Doctor Sam Pack, Texas Mega Ford Dealer Selected to be Honored as "Dealer-of-the-Decade" at Monterey Event During August "Car Week"

continued from page 1

partnerships with Brookhaven and Dallas Community Colleges, along with other local schools and universities, bring college courses and continuing education directly into the dealerships, reinforcing his belief in lifelong learning and professional growth.[1]

Dr. Pack's commitment to community is equally defining. Through the Sam Pack Cares charitable organization, Pack Auto Group, the Pack family, and their employees support hundreds of local nonprofit organizations each year. This spirit of giving helped the group earn a Global Marketing Award from Ad Age and Automotive News in 2025 for its Little Wishes community program, in addition to multiple Better Business Bureau Torch Awards for Ethics and numerous "Business of the Year" and dealer-of-the-year honors at the local, state, and national level. These accolades reflect his conviction that true success is measured not only in business results but in the strength and well-being of the communities served.[1]

His leadership and character have been widely recognized. Tarleton State University awarded

him an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in 2023 and, in 2024, named its College of Business the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business. Brookhaven College honored him with its inaugural "Pillar of the Community" award, and Stephenville High School recognized him as a Distinguished Alumnus. Ford Motor Company has presented him with its Salute to Dealers Award for community involvement, inducted him into the Top Volume Dealers Hall of Fame, and in 2025 selected him as the first recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award. Fairlane, home of the Clara and Henry Ford Estate, has also named its Welcome Center in his honor.[1]

Beyond industry recognition, Dr. Pack has received the Texas Automobile Dealers Association "Legend" Award, TIME Magazine's National Quality Dealer of the Year, and numerous local honors including Citizen of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year from the City of Carrollton, as well as the United States Congressional Patriot Award. A lifelong student of the automotive industry and its history, he remains actively involved in daily business and community leadership

and continues to serve on many industry and civic committees. Surrounded by his wife, Carol, and their family—Todd, Tony, Louisa, Carly, and Macy—Dr. Pack is most proud of the relationships formed, the careers built, and the communities strengthened through the dealerships that bear his name. Today, as the organization moves confidently into the future with more than 1,000 employees and a strong next generation of leadership, his legacy of faith, family, integrity, and service continues to inspire.[1]



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# Most Americans Think They're Good Drivers, but Some Have Risky Habits

Written by Jamie Cattanach

Edited by Becca Stanek

**Most of us think we're good drivers — an anecdotal observation that's backed up by a LendingTree survey of 2,015 U.S. consumers.**

But while more than half of drivers (54%) describe their skills as above-average, and almost three-quarters of Americans (74%) rate their driving as 7 or higher out of 10, more than half of drivers (54%) admit to having caused an accident.

Meanwhile, drivers' confidence behind the wheel doesn't extend to others on the road, with 50% of drivers describing the skills of other drivers in their area as average, and 21% describing them as poor. Below, see our full findings.

## Key findings

- **Most Americans see themselves as good drivers.** On a scale of 1 to 10, 74% rate their driving a 7 or higher. Of this group, having experience (76%), following traffic laws (68%) and avoiding accidents (59%) are cited as the top reasons for driving confidence. Additionally, 54% of drivers describe themselves as above-average compared to others on the road.

- **On the road, confidence is high — just not in the other driver.** 50% of drivers would describe other drivers in their area as average, while 21% would describe them as poor. Additionally, 34% of drivers believe that others on the road make unsafe or illegal maneuvers near them often, and 48% believe that driving in their area has gotten less safe over the past few years.

- **Many drivers have risky**

**habits.** 29% of drivers admit to checking their phone at least sometimes while driving, with 48% of Gen Z drivers reporting this behavior. Other common risky actions while driving include eating or drinking (40%), searching for music or podcasts (28%), taking calls (26%) and adjusting the GPS (23%).

The people brave enough to say this to respondents varied, with family members leading the way (50%). Partners were next-likeliest to let surveyed drivers know they weren't great at driving (40%), followed by friends (38%) and acquaintances (11%).

However, drivers are likely to claim that they've become more careful in their driving over the past five years, with 65% of respondents saying as much. Another 29% say their driving hasn't changed at all over the last half-decade, while only 6% admit they've become less careful.

**54% of drivers have been in an accident they caused**

One bit of good news: 46% — or nearly half — of surveyed drivers say they've never been in a car accident they've caused. Another 30% say they have, but not in the past five years, while about 25% have caused a more recent accident.

Still, that means the majority of respondents, or 54%, have been at fault in a car accident.

**9% of drivers say the last time they were involved in a car accident that they caused as a driver was within the past 12 months.**

On the whole, drivers say that if they were to be at fault in an

accident, they'd be likely to admit so: 56% say they'd very likely admit their fault, while 32% say it's somewhat likely they'd do so. (A bold 5% of respondents say they'd never admit fault.)

Drivers often hear that speed kills, yet most drivers we surveyed admit to speeding. Less than half (45%) say they go more than 10 mph above the speed limit on the highway at least sometimes, with men and younger generations more likely to speed often in comparison to women or older generations.

Speeding rates drop for local driving, however: Only 38% of drivers say they sometimes or often exceed the speed limit by more than 10 miles per hour on smaller local roads. Again, men and younger respondents are more likely than their counterparts to say they sometimes or often do so.

**Being a good driver (and not just calling yourself one): Top tips**

Thinking you're a good driver is one thing, but walking (or driving) the talk is another. Here are our top tips for drivers looking to increase their skills and stay safe on the road:

- **Stay sober.** It might sound obvious, but almost a third of traffic crash fatalities in the U.S. (30%) involve drunken drivers, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In 2023, more than 12,000 people died unnecessarily in such crashes, which are entirely preventable. If you're going to a party or a bar, take an Uber or a cab, or elect a designated driver. Along with the potentially fatal results, if you're caught driving

under the influence, a DUI can cause your insurance rate to skyrocket. That means there's a financial reason to avoid the scenario, along with a safety one.

- **Put the phone down.** It's hard to ignore how prevalent mobile technology has become in our lives, and with features like GPS and streaming music, it seems natural to bring phones into our cars, too. But phones can also be incredibly distracting, and distracted driving is one of the primary causes of traffic-crash-related deaths. Along with injuring or killing yourself or others in motor vehicles, distracted driving also has devastating consequences for pedestrians and cyclists — according to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), more than 600 were killed in car crashes that were the result of distracted driving in 2023 alone.

- **Use insurance discounts as motivation.** These days, driving better can save you money. “Many car insurance companies have safe driving programs, also called usage-based or telematics programs, that offer discounts if you have good driving habits,” explains Lindsay Bishop, LendingTree auto insurance expert and former auto insurance agent. “The companies outline the behaviors that they track, which gives a clear picture of what insurance companies believe makes a good driver. Most companies consider things like speeding, hard braking, cornering and driving late at night,” she explains. “Some also penalize you for using your phone

while driving, even if it's in hands-free mode” — yet another reason to leave it out of your driving experience entirely.

## Methodology

LendingTree commissioned QuestionPro to conduct an online survey of 2,015 U.S. consumers ages 18 to 79 from Nov. 5 to 10, 2025. The survey was administered using a nonprobability-based sample, and quotas were used to ensure the sample base represented the overall population. Researchers reviewed all responses for quality control.

We defined generations as the following ages in 2025:

Generation Z: 18 to 28

Millennial: 29 to 44

Generation X: 45 to 60

Baby boomer: 61 to 79

## Car Insurance Help

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## Key findings

Many Americans consider themselves good drivers. Drivers aren't confident in others on the road.

Drivers have risky habits. 54% of drivers have been in an accident they caused.

**Being a good driver (and not just calling yourself one): Pay attention to the road and other drivers . . . . . !**

**Slate Auto – Start with a Blank Slate... Then Add What You Want**

by Jordan Williams  
continued from page 3

range. An additional battery can be purchased to boost the car to a 250 mile range.

The company states at any time, even after you own the vehicle, you can add and “swap” accessories using its Slate Maker feature.

The car maker so far offers one color, “slate”. You can paint -or wrap- the car any color you would like, Jeff Jablansky, company representative added in a November 2025 interview with Rich DeMuro @ktla Los Angeles.

Slate trucks are made in the USA and the company is hiring with most jobs based in Michigan and Indiana.

In conclusion, Slate believes buyers should call the shots/pick what they want to make the utilitarian Slate truck theirs, without paying for features they do not want or need. Jablansky stated that there have already been 10,000,000 configurations within the Slate Maker creative process.

Do you like their concept? Have you placed an order? I would love to hear from you.

Slate has close to 200,000 followers on Instagram and states it has received over 100,000 reservations/orders. Deliveries are planned for late 2026. For those interested, you can check them out on IG.

## INSIDE MALAYSIA AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

**Automechanika Kuala Lumpur 2025 advocates for green and innovative developments in automotive mobility for Malaysian and ASEAN markets**

Automechanika Kuala Lumpur Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia, 15 – 17 May 2025

Malaysian government policies and a shifting market landscape towards AI, digitalisation, electrification, energy efficiency, and sustainability have resulted in the country becoming an attractive investment destination, driven by demand for sustainable products and solutions in the automotive industry. This year, Automechanika Kuala Lumpur 2025, taking place on 15 to 17 May, features an expanded showcase across six halls at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. The exhibition will showcase the evolution of the Malaysian market through new zones, the return of specialised areas that spotlight new mobility solutions, the vibrant automotive culture at autoFEST@KL, and green development throughout Southeast Asia, all around the fairground.

Under its Green Investment Strategy (GIS), Malaysia is targeting seven key areas of investment potential: bioenergy, carbon capture, circular economy, energy efficiency, green hydrogen, green mobility, and renewable energy. Nearly all of these areas intersect with the automotive sector, and green mobility, in particular, is gaining prominence in Malaysia. The drive for sustainable development has prompted leading automotive brands to enter the Malaysian market, further enhancing its appeal for auto investors and stakeholders.

Of late, Malaysia has attracted substantial investment and co-operation from global industry leaders. For instance, the Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) plans to invest USD 479 million in Malaysia over the next five years. As part of this initiative, around 30 percent of the company's vehicles that are manufactured in Malaysia will be exported to other countries in Southeast Asia[1], adding to the development of the industry and Malaysia's status as an automotive manufacturing hub for the region.

Building on this momentum, domestic leader Proton has also made significant strides by launching its first electric vehicle. With much of its stake held by Chinese manufacturer, Zhejiang Geely Holding Group, Malaysian firms such as Proton are presented with opportunities for growth and innovation as expertise is transferred through this collaboration.

Ms Fiona Chiew, General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, commented: “Malaysia is gaining significant traction from foreign investments and government policies aimed at sustainable technologies. Together with Malaysia's ASEAN chairmanship for 2025, this positions the country to strengthen its leadership in the Southeast Asian automotive industry. However, the development spurred by these changes is rapidly reshaping the market, and local players must prioritise workforce training, skill development, and modern technologies to adapt effectively. The innovations at the 2025 edition of Automechanika Kuala Lumpur are vital for Malaysia and the global automotive industry in meeting the rising demand for charging technologies, electric parts and solutions, and automotive talent, fuelled by the energy transition.”

### Answering the needs of the industry throughout the fairground

To address the new ideas, technologies, and innovations in the market, the Automotive Mobility Solutions Zone makes a return in 2025. The area will explore innovative solutions based on the latest advancements in green mobility as a response to the heightened focus on new energy efficiency, new materials, advanced technologies, and more. Exhibitors will cover topics such as AI and autonomous driving, automotive manufacturing and automation, connectivity, electrification and digitalisation, energy, logistics, and warehousing and supply chain.

## INSIDE CHINA AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

**Automechanika Shanghai's 2025 fringe programme spotlights sustainability, fosters collaboration, and drives transformation**

In its largest edition yet, Automechanika Shanghai's fringe programme featured over 90 concurrent events, including forums, conferences, training sessions, and interactive experiences to foster collaboration, technical advancements, and global exchange. The rapidly evolving automotive industry faces several challenges, including stricter emission requirements and safety standards, but this also represents opportunities for innovative solutions. In response, events will focus on technological breakthroughs, talent development, and business matching, while also bringing together domestic and international leaders for discussions on the trade climate and strategies to enhance competitiveness through cross-border and interdisciplinary cooperation. The exhibition featured over 7,000 exhibitors from 44 countries and regions across all 15 halls of the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) from 26 to 29 November 2025.

### Collaborative innovation creating mutually beneficial solutions

One key event is the International Automotive Industry Conference 2025 Presented by Automechanika Shanghai – CEO Summit was on 25 November, convening senior decision makers from the world's leading enterprises. Topics cover the automotive landscape, emerging opportunities, global expansion and local innovation, sustainable tech-service integration, and supply chain resilience. Notably, Mr Ron Zheng, Senior Partner and Asia Head of Automotive Practice from Roland Berger, will discuss value reform and strategic decisions in the new normal of the global automotive industry. Other speakers include insights from Mr Henry Ying, Vice President of Shanghai Electric Drive; Mr Hank Yang, Vice President and General Manager of Fuel Systems Asia Pacific for PHINIA; and, Mr Imelda Labbé, President of the Association of International Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (VDIK). Cooperative activities continue through supply-demand matchmaking sessions that connect enterprises in intelligent connectivity and new energy vehicles, fostering collaboration between carmakers and component suppliers.

The Intelligent Connected New Energy Vehicles Supply Chain Trends Forum and Matchmaking Conference, Intelligent Connected New Energy Vehicles In-depth Matchmaking Conference, Automotive-Grade Chip Supply Chain Ecosystem Forum, and Global Automotive Supply Chain Integration and Innovation Conference are among the highlights.

The Automotive Aftermarket Summit, returned on 27 November, explored global aftermarket changes, focusing on technological innovation and strategies for growth. Speakers include Ms Lang Xuehong, Deputy Secretary General of China Automobile Dealers Association, discussing government policy impacts on China's aftermarket; Mr Sun Xiaohong, Chief Expert of CCCME Automotive Internationalization Professional Committee, offered insights on overseas business development; and Mr Paulo Mutuc, Associate Director at Frost & Sullivan, sharing future industry and aftermarket perspectives.

Additionally, the new Global Collective event focused on investment and expansion tools for emerging markets in Latin America and the ASEAN region.

### Facilitating innovation

Emphasising technological advancements, the debuted Technical Seminar Series featured seven conferences on thermal management for new energy vehicles, advanced driver assistance systems, intelligent chassis technology, and more.



## International Auto News



# Keith Turner's "Test Drive" of the 2026 Ram 1500 Express Crew Cab Truck

continued from page 2

a practical daily driver rather than a bank-busting nightmare.

One of the Express's most practical features is something that's becoming rare in modern trucks: a front bench seat. That means the crew cab configuration offers seating for six passengers, which is perfect for work crews, families, or anyone who occasionally needs to haul a full carload of people.

Inside, the cabin reflects the truck's straightforward mission. Materials are durable and easy to clean, controls are simple with buttons and knobs and there are very few frills or extra features.

You won't find ambient lighting with 37 color options that pulsate with music, but you also won't panic if you spill coffee or track mud inside. For many truck owners, that's a trade worth making.

The Express keeps its styling clean and understated. Blacked-out trim replaces flashy chrome, giving the truck a purposeful look that says it's ready to the dirty work

that truck owners require.

It's the kind of truck that actually looks better once it's picked up a little dirt along the way.

One of the biggest appeals of the Ram 1500 Express is its value. The Base MSRP is a reasonable \$43,775, with a destination charge of about \$2,000, bringing the total outlay to under \$50,000. Even with a few extras added, the Express remains one of the more affordable ways to get into a full-size crew cab truck.

The 2026 Ram 1500 Express Crew Cab isn't trying to impress you with luxury gimmicks. Instead, it focuses on what trucks are supposed to do: carry people, haul stuff and handle everyday work without fuss.

With 305 horsepower, six-passenger seating, respectable fuel economy and a starting price under \$44,000, the Express proves that sometimes less really is more.

In a truck market filled with luxury land yachts, that kind of simplicity is surprisingly appealing.



2026 RAM 1500 Express Crew Cab (photo Keith Turner)

## "How The No Tax on Car Loan Interest Policy Could Impact Borrowers In 2026"

continued from page 4

manufactures, such as Hyundai and Toyota. Cars weighing less than 14,000 pounds qualify, while ATVs, trailers, campers, and similar models exceed the weight limit. Additionally, the deduction is capped at \$10,000 per year, and phases out for individuals earning more than \$100,000, or couples earning more than \$200,000.

So how beneficial will borrow-

ers find this policy? For many, this initiative will likely only save them hundreds of dollars in tax savings instead of thousands, according to research firm Cox Automotive. In the same analysis, they estimated a 72-month new-car loan with an interest rate of 9.5% on a \$48,000 vehicle and a 12.5% down payment would generate roughly \$3,800 in interest in the first year, and would

lower each following year. These findings infer that only a significantly large loan would ultimately produce near \$10,000 in tax savings.

Amidst ongoing research around the OBBBA, the full impact of the newly-enforced tax policy has yet to be seen. Borrowers across the nation are sure to encounter the full breadth of its impact as the season unfolds.



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## Around the Track – Racing News



### Auto Nation Invests in South Florida Through Community Leadership and Civic Engagement

**"SEE MIKE MANLEY CEO Photo on page 5"**

continued from page 5

onstrated its ongoing commitment to the community through a week of hands-on engagement supporting affordable housing and investing in shared public spaces in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, AutoNation continually strives to invest in the community it calls home. Recently, AutoNation's Chief Executive Officer, Mike Manley, joined Habitat for Humanity of Broward's CEO Build, working alongside fellow executives to support affordable workforce housing for local families.

AutoNation has partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Broward for more than 25 years, sponsoring six home builds and volunteering on many more. In the past year alone, AutoNation associates contributed more than 450 volunteer hours to help future homeowners and families transition from housing insecurity to homeownership.

"Being part of this community extends beyond business. We dedicate our time and resources to help improve the lives of our neighbors,"

said Mike Manley, chief executive officer at AutoNation. "Whether we're helping families build a place to call home, investing in shared public spaces or supporting those in the community who suffer from cancer, our goal is to make a lasting, positive difference in the communities where our associates live and work."

AutoNation's presence during the Huizenga Park grand reopening reflected the company's continued investment in downtown Fort Lauderdale. New River Landing, a gift from AutoNation, is one of the park's iconic outdoor rooms, offering elevated views of the New River and serving as a gathering space that connects the Riverwalk to the heart of the park.

The reimaged 3.6-acre Huizenga Park, unveiled through a public-private-philanthropic partnership led by the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority and the Huizenga Park Foundation, now features expanded green space, new amenities, public art and year-round programming designed to foster connection, wellness and culture in the city's urban core.

AutoNation joined a group of organizations founded or led by Wayne Huizenga, including the Florida Panthers, Miami Dolphins, Miami Marlins and Waste Management, in supporting the park that bears his name. The investment honors Huizenga's

legacy of entrepreneurship, civic leadership and mentorship within South Florida's business community.

Both AutoNation's support of affordable housing initiatives and its investment in shared public spaces highlight the company's commitment to corporate citizenship, which not only strengthens neighborhoods and supports individuals and families, but also contributes to the long-term vitality of downtown Fort Lauderdale.

**About AutoNation, Inc.**

AutoNation, one of the largest automotive retailers in the United States, offers innovative products and exceptional services as part of a portfolio of comprehensive solutions for our customers and their automotive needs. With a nationwide network of dealerships strengthened by a recognized brand, we offer a wide variety of new and used vehicles, customer financing, parts, and expert maintenance and repair services. Through DRV PNK, we have raised over \$45 million for cancer-related causes, demonstrating our commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of our Associates, Customers, and the communities we serve.

Please visit [www.autonation.com](http://www.autonation.com), [investors.autonation.com](http://investors.autonation.com), and [www.x.com/autonation](http://www.x.com/autonation), where AutoNation discloses additional information about the Company, its business, and its results of operations.

### Shelby 2026 F-250 Super Baja To Be Introduced At B/J Auction

continued from page 4 and billet racing pedals.

This exciting new truck has an MSRP of \$159,795, included is a fully loaded Lariat Ultimate 4x4, F-250 Super Crew chassis with a 6.7L Hi Output Power Stroke® engine, which has an estimated MSRP of \$97,000. The truck comes with a three-year, 36,000-mile warranty. The powertrain warranty from Ford Motor Company remains intact.

Manufacturing starting this month with distribution through-

out North America; the public debut will take place at the Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction in Palm Beach, April 16-18 at the South Florida Fairgrounds.

There will be only 250 of this limited production offered through select Shelby Performance dealers across the United States. Each truck will be documented in the official Shelby Registry and owners will become members of Team Shelby, the official enthusiast club.



Shelby Lariat F-250 Super Crew Baja to be introduced at Barrett-Jackson

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From Around the U.S.



# "One More Look Back to 2025 Pebble Beach Automotive Week"

## An Unmatched Tradition of Automotive Excellence

The year 2025 is coming to a close, and even as we build toward our 75th celebration next August, we want to take the time to recall the many great cars, special gatherings, and magical moments that made the 2025 Pebble Beach Concours so memorable.

Great Cars, Special Gatherings & Magic Car Moments  
 THE PEBBLE BEACH TOUR d'ELEGANCE CELEBRATED 27 YEARS THIS AUGUST

On Thursday morning of Pebble Beach Automotive Week, the vast majority of Pebble Beach Concours entrants rose before the sun to queue up for the 27th annual

Pebble Beach Tour d'Elegance presented by Rolex.  
 SHELBY COBRAS SHINE AT THE PEBBLE BEACH CONOURS d'ELEGANCE

To mark the 60th anniversary of one of the most intimidating cars of its era, the Shelby Cobra 427, the 2025 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance featured a historic class  
 continued on page 25

# "20 Year Reunion of Legends of Auto" Returns to Embassy Suites Hotel in Seaside/Monterey on 8/13/26

by Bill McCallum

We are happy to announce we will be returning to the Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton (Seaside/Monterey) for our "20 year Reunion of Legends of Auto" and "Dealer-of-the-Decade" event.

The event is on Thursday night August 13, 2026 during Monterey Car Week from 6 pm to 8 pm. SAVE THE DATE and ticketing information to be announced in our Summer Issue (June/July) See page 26 for additional information.



Embassy Suite Hotel - Monterey/ Seaside

## TAP Award Recipient Dan Brigantino has been Appointed Distribution - Monterey



Dan Brigantino First TAP Award recipient receives Second TAP Award during "Car Week" (photo Auto News)

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# From Around the U.S.



## Pat Armstrong Ford – Serving the Greater Wenatchee Valley

For decades, Pat Armstrong Ford has been a trusted name for drivers throughout the Wenatchee Valley and across Eastern Washington. Built on a reputation of straightforward pricing, customer care, and community commitment, the dealership continues to serve generations of families who return year after year.

Founder Pat Armstrong believed that a dealership should operate with the same values that define the Wenatchee community itself—hard work, integrity, and treating people fairly. That philosophy still guides the store today. Customers know when they visit Pat Armstrong Ford they will find a team focused on making the buying and ownership experience simple and transparent.

Located in the heart of the Greater Wenatchee Valley, the dealership proudly offers one of the region’s strongest selections of new Ford trucks, SUVs, and adventure vehicles, including the legendary Ford F-150 and the iconic Ford Bronco lineup. Whether customers need a capable truck for work, an SUV for family travel, or a vehicle ready for Northwest adventure, Pat Armstrong Ford delivers.

One of the dealership’s most unique advantages is its Lifetime Limited Warranty, offered on qualifying vehicles. From big repairs to small ones, customers enjoy added peace of mind long after they drive off the lot.

Pat Armstrong Ford also proudly reminds buyers that they beat Westside prices every day, giving Eastern Washington values to customers through out the northwest.

# A Report On Bad Drivers by the Car Brand

[LendingTree Report]

*Tesla drivers are involved in more accidents than drivers of any other brand for the 2nd year in a row.*

**Top 5 Worst Drivers by Car Brand (Driving incidents per 1,000 drivers)**

1. Tesla (37)
2. Ram (34)
3. Subaru (33)
4. Audi (32)
5. Mazda (32)

*LendingTree's auto insurance expert and licensed insurance agent, Rob Bhatt, had this to say:*

*"It often costs more to insure a car with high crash rates. Regardless of your car's reputation, you will pay more for insurance if you have moving violations or accidents on your driving record. It's important to stay alert and responsible behind the wheel, regardless of the vehicle you drive.*

*No car makes you invincible. Not even a Tesla can protect you from getting into an accident or getting a ticket. Nor can a Subaru or Ram truck."*

Tesla, Ram and Subaru have the worst drivers in the nation, according to a LendingTree analysis of 30 car brands. For the second year in a row, we found that **Tesla drivers are involved in more accidents than drivers of any other brand.**

Researchers calculated the number of driving incidents per 1,000 drivers for every brand to determine the best and worst drivers by car brand. The rankings include; accidents, DUIs, speeding-related incidents, and citations. Here is what we found:

• **Tesla, Ram and Subaru have the worst drivers.** Nationally, Tesla continued on page 15

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## SHOWCASE REVIEWS

### 2025 Alfa Romeo Stelvio Intensa



The Alfa Romeo Stelvio Intensa stands out in a sea of "look-a-like" crossovers. It's fun to drive, practical, and capable of turning heads everywhere you go. All at a price point of \$55k

BASE PRICE: \$55,395 \*  
TYPE: Compact Luxury SUV  
ENGINE: 2.0L Turbo I4  
HORSEPOWER: 280 hp  
TRANS: 8-Speed Auto AWD  
MPG: 22 City/28 Highway/24 Combined

### GMC Sierra EV AT4 Max Range



The GMC Sierra EV AT4 Max Range is a rugged yet refined electric truck with impressive real-world range, strong acceleration, and surprising maneuverability. Luxury-level comfort meets real truck utility, making it one of the most well-rounded EV pickups available.

BASE PRICE: \$89,600 \*  
TYPE: Electric Full-Size Pickup  
ENGINE: Dual Motor AWD  
HORSEPOWER: 725 hp  
TRANS: Single-Speed EV  
RANGE: Up to 478 miles

### Mazda CX-90



Mazda has been gaining market share in the Northwest with Trim Lines like the 2026 CX-90 PHEV Premium Plus.

BASE PRICE: \$ 58,625 \*  
TYPE: PHEV  
ENGINE: E-SKYACTIVE  
HORSEPOWER: 323 hp  
TRANS: 8- speed  
MPG: 56 overall

### Toyota Crown Signia XLE



The Crown Signia has been a popular addition to the Toyota line-up of Mid-Sized SUV's

BASE PRICE: \$44,390 \*  
TYPE: Mid-Size SUV  
ENGINE: 2.5L 4-cyl  
HORSEPOWER: 240 hp  
TRANS: eCVT  
MPG : 38 combined

### Subaru Outback Touring XT



For the 2026 model year, Subaru has completely redesigned their fan favorite Subaru Outback, and we thought it was an amazing upgrade! This bold redesign brings SUV-like styling.

BASE PRICE: \$47,995 \*  
TYPE: AWD Midsize SUV  
ENGINE: 2.4L Turbo BOXER  
HORSEPOWER: 260 hp  
TRANS: CVT  
MPG: 21 City/29 Highway/ 24 Combined

### VW Atlas SEL Premium R-Line



The 2026 Volkswagen Atlas mid-size SUV is a "top-seller" for VW and offers the features buyers are looking for.

BASE PRICE: \$54,630 \*  
TYPE: Mid-Size SUV  
ENGINE: 2.0 L DOHC - 4 ltr.  
HORSEPOWER: 269 hp  
TRANS: 4-MOTION  
MPH : 25 highway

\* All information listed "AS TESTED"

**SHOWCASE REVIEWS**

**Hyundai Palisade Hybrid**



The Hyundai Palisade Calligraphy offers an All-New design packed with extra features and more space for cargo.

BASE PRICE: \$58,780 \*  
 TYPE: Mid-Size SUV  
 ENGINE: 2.5L Turbo Charged  
 HORSEPOWER: 329 hp  
 TRANS: 6-Speed AT  
 MPH: 30 highway

**2026 Mazda CX-30**



Mazda continues to grow market share with "value based" models like the 2026 CX-30

BASE PRICE: \$29,850 \*  
 TYPE: Sedan  
 ENGINE: SKYACTIVE - G 2.5L  
 HORSEPOWER: 180 hp  
 TRANS: SKYACTIVE DRIVE  
 MPG: 31 highway

**Toyota 4Runner LTD AWD**



The Toyota 4Runner is an all-time "best seller" for Toyota and preferred by most "out-door" ENTHUSIASTS

BASE PRICE: \$57,400 \*  
 TYPE: SUV  
 ENGINE: I-Force 2.4L 4cyl  
 HORSEPOWER: Turbocharged  
 TRANS: 8 sp AT  
 MPG: 24 highway

**Toyota Sienna XLE AWD**



As the van market shrinks Toyota still remains a leader with their Sienna XLE AWD Van

BASE PRICE: \$50,900 \*  
 TYPE: Van  
 ENGINE: 2.5 liter 4 cyl.  
 HORSEPOWER: 245 hp  
 TRANS: Electronic EVCT  
 MPG: 36 highway

**VW Atlas SEL Premium R-Line**



The Volkswagen Atlas keeps VW in the SUV market with a lower price vehicle and lots of new features.

BASE PRICE : \$ 53,205 \*  
 TYPE: 4-door SUV  
 ENGINE: 2.0L -DOHC-TURBO - 4 CYL  
 HORSEPOWER : 269 hp  
 TRANS: 8 speed AT  
 MPG: 25 highway

**Volkswagen ID. Buzz**



The VW ID BUZZ van gets the Auto News "thumbs-up-award" for 2025 during an "test drive" SEE STORY ON PAGE 4

BASE PRICE: \$ 65,495  
 TYPE: Minivan  
 ENGINE: Electric  
 HORSEPOWER: 282 /335 hp  
 TRANS: 1-speed direct  
 MPG: 83 MPGe

**Top 5 Bad Drivers by Car Brand.....!**

continued from page 14

drivers had 37 incidents per 1,000 drivers — up significantly from 31 in last year's analysis. Ram and Subaru driver are involved in 34 and 33 incidents, respectively. Tesla drivers are the worst in nine states.

• **Mercury, Pontiac and Cadillac have the best drivers.** Mercury drivers had 19 incidents per 1,000 drivers nationally — about half the rate among Tesla drivers — making it the best brand two years in a row.

• **Pontiac overtakes BMW as the brand with the highest DUI rate.** Pontiac drivers had a DUI rate of 3 per 1,000 drivers — a massive jump from 1 in last year's analysis.

• **Ram has the worst drivers in 16 states.** That means Ram drivers had the highest incident rates among the 30 brands analyzed in nearly a third of states.

LendingTree's auto insurance expert and licensed insurance agent, Rob Bhatt, had this to say:

"The data shows that those who drive practical vehicles like Subaru and RAMs are involved in incidents nearly as frequently as those in zippier models like Teslas. This is a good reminder of how important it is to drive responsibly, regardless of the vehicle you drive."

**Tesla has worst drivers**

Going fully electric may not mean as much if you're a menace on the streets.

In fact, from Jan. 1, 2024, through Dec. 31, 2024, Tesla had the worst drivers, at 36.94 incidents (accidents, DUIs, speeding and citations) per 1,000 drivers. When we conducted this study in late 2023, Tesla ranked second-worst with 31.13 incidents from Nov. 14, 2022, through Nov. 14, 2023.

The car brands with the most driving incidents per 1,000 drivers are Tesla, Ram and Subaru.

Speed can play a role here. The cheapest Tesla — a standard Model 3 with rear-wheel drive — can accelerate from zero to 60 mph in 5.8 seconds. Other packages of the Model 3 can accelerate from zero to 60 in 4.2 and 3.1 seconds.

Ram — which became a stand-alone brand in 2009 — follows at 33.92. That's an improvement from our last version's worst ranking, though it had a similar incident rate of 32.90. Subaru (32.85) remains third-worst, though it saw an uptick from an incident rate of 30.09.

**What does that mean for drivers of these cars? According to LendingTree auto insurance expert and licensed insurance agent Rob Bhatt, it could affect insurance rates in a few different ways.**

*"The immediate impact is on the individual," he says. "Most of these incidents are going to make your rates go up. The insurance rates for specific models are more impacted by accidents than some of these other incidents. If Tesla drivers get into accidents at a higher rate than other drivers, insurance companies will probably spend more to insure them than other vehicles. This, in turn, may prompt insurance companies to charge higher rates to insure a Tesla."*

\* All information listed "AS TESTED"

WOMEN in the  
AUTO WORLD

## Women in the Auto World

WOMEN in the  
AUTO WORLD

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 Amber Geissler – Reaction Motorsports

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 Rita Case – Rick Case Auto Group  
 Connie Peters – Automotive Writer

## Cox Automotive Presents Rita Case with 2026 Barbara Cox Woman of the Year Award

Rita Case, president, CEO and owner of Rick Case Automotive Group, has been honored as the 2026 Barbara Cox Woman of the Year.

Case is recognized for her leadership in the automotive industry, community impact and notable philanthropic efforts.

The Barbara Cox Woman of the Year Award includes a \$10,000 donation to a charity of the winner's choice and a \$10,000 Barbara Cox Memorial Scholarship for a Northwood University student.

Cox Automotive announces Rita Case, president and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group, as the 2026 Barbara Cox Woman of the Year. The award recognizes women who have made outstanding contributions to the automotive industry, championed community advocacy

and demonstrated leadership.

Case is widely recognized for her leadership in the automotive retail space, operating the nation's largest auto group owned and led by a woman. Her 12 dealerships across South Florida and Atlanta generate more than \$2 billion in annual sales and are consistently recognized for setting national sales-volume records.

The Barbara Cox Woman of the Year Award includes a \$10,000 donation to a charity of the honoree's choice and a \$10,000 Barbara Cox Memorial Scholarship awarded to a Northwood University student.

Case has designated the \$10,000 to benefit the Rita and Rick Case Vocational Scholarship Fund at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County.

This year's scholarship recipient

is Breanne Pratley, a rising senior in the nation's leading Automotive Marketing and Management program at Northwood University. Pratley is a student ambassador, softball athlete and leader in the university's annual International Auto Show. The scholarship helps support her continued academic and professional growth.

"The Barbara Cox Woman of the Year Award celebrates extraordinary female pioneers who embody transformative leadership and unwavering philanthropic vision within our industry," said Steve Rowley, president of Cox Automotive. "We are honored to recognize Rita Case, president and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group, whose remarkable achievements and enduring commitment have made an indelible mark on the automotive industry."

The honor was presented by Rowley during the Northwood University Dealer Education Awards on Feb. 5, 2026, at the NADA Show in Las Vegas.

"I am so honored to receive the Barbara Cox Woman of the Year Award," said Case. "I am also thrilled for Breanne, who will be part of the next generation of women leaders in the automotive industry. And thank you to Cox

Automotive for the donation to our scholarship fund at the Boys & Girls Club, an organization near and dear to Rick's and my heart. It is so important that as business leaders we support our local communities. Our loyal customers allow us to give back, and we are very proud to do so."

**A Lifelong Automotive Leader**

Case's parents opened the first Honda car dealership in the U.S. in 1968, where she worked throughout grade school. After earning a

bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Davis, she returned to the family business, determined to prove that a woman could thrive as a dealer. While managing the dealership, she met Rick at a Honda car meeting in 1977; the two married in 1980 and went on to build Rick Case Automotive Group.

**Rick Case Automotive Group and its Community Impact**

Beyond its business accomplishments

continued on page 17



2026 Barbara Cox Woman of the Year Rita Case, president and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group, with Steve Rowley, President of Cox Automotive. Photo courtesy: Cox Automotive

## Rita Case Hands Keys to New Homeowners at Habitat for Humanity of Broward County Community in North Lauderdale

Eight families in North Lauderdale have a new home, thanks to Habitat for Humanity of Broward County. What makes it even more special is that they fulfilled their dream of home ownership and took part in building their home with their own hands.

Ten months ago, the land was vacant. But many business owners, including Rita Case of Rick Case Automotive Group, came together to transform the plot of land into a neighborhood of homes.

"Just a year ago, this was just vacant land, and now today we're celebrating eight duplexes. It's

going to be amazing for this community of eight families to really have their own home," Case said. "Homeownership is even getting more increasingly difficult. That's why I am so excited about this Habitat community and others like it. We are making a difference every single year."

Case, along with new homeowner Portia McKay and her sons, Alfredo and Jayden, and North Lauderdale Mayor Samson Borgelin celebrated the new home Case sponsored.

Habitat for Humanity of Broward County and generous local business partners, like Rita Case and Rick Case Automotive Group, make homeownership a reality and providing that home sweet home.

The City of North Lauderdale also played a major role in making homeownership possible for these families, donating the land and nearly \$400,000 for this project.



Rita Case, CEO and president of Rick Case Automotive Group; new homeowner Portia McKay and sons, Alfredo and Jayden; and North Lauderdale Mayor Samson Borgelin

## Dodge Charger Scat Pack "Test Drive Review"

continued from page 2

is a pretty nice big coupe, with a rear hatch, making it a practical daily driver in a pleasing shape. For a base price of \$54,995 the Charger Scat Pack is not cheap, but it's not crazy-expensive either.

More practicality is on the way in the form of a 4-door Charger, which likely means a return to the law enforcement market in sedan form. Charger is now a sub-brand

of its own, in a matter of speaking. Two body styles (three if you count the way the front of the electric Daytona differs from that of the gasoline powered one), three powertrain options, and knowing Dodge, special packages are probably in the works.

But what about that thing die-hard American muscle car enthusiasts are really crying out for: a Hemi V8? Company officials

have been coy about that, even amid persistent speculation that engineers are working to shoehorn the Hemi into this new platform. As I write this, no confirmation, just rampant rumors on social media.

For now, Dodge is back in the old-school muscle car game. You just have to be okay with the sound of six cylinders, instead of eight.



Dodge Charger Scat Pack (photo Dave Kunz)



# Car Collections



## Rita Case Wins Cox Automotive "Woman of the Year Award"

continued from page 16

ments, Rick Case Automotive Group is deeply rooted in community impact – having helped raise more than \$125 million for South Florida organizations through philanthropic initiatives supporting youth, education, housing and health related non profits. Signature programs include the long-running Rick Case Bikes for Kids, which has collected more than 122,000 gently used bicycles donated by the community to gift to under served children each holiday season since 1982.

Learn more about the Barbara Cox Woman of the Year Award: <https://www.coxautoinc.com/about-us/diversity/barbara-cox->

woman-year-award/  
*About Cox Automotive*

Cox Automotive is the world's largest automotive services and technology provider. Fueled by the largest breadth of first-party data fed by 2.3 billion online interactions a year, Cox Automotive tailors leading solutions for car shoppers, auto manufacturers, dealers, lenders and fleets. The company has 29,000+ employees on five continents and a portfolio of industry-leading brands that include Autotrader®, Kelley Blue Book®, Manheim®, vAuto®, Dealertrack®, NextGear Capital™, CentralDispatch® and Cox Fleet®. Cox Automotive is a subsidiary of Cox Enterprises

Inc., a privately-owned, Atlanta-based company with \$23 billion in annual revenue. Cox Automotive has been included on Glassdoor's Best Companies in Tech & AI 2026 and Best Place to Work in 2026 lists. Visit [coxautoinc.com](http://coxautoinc.com) or connect via @CoxAutomotive on X, CoxAutoInc on Facebook or Cox-Automotive-Inc on LinkedIn. *About The Rick Case Automotive Group*

Founded in 1962, the Rick Case Automotive Group has been honored by Automotive News as the National All-Star Dealer and President and CEO Rita Case was named the 2024 TIME Dealer of the Year. Rick Case Automotive Group is the nation's largest

female owned and operated automotive dealer group in America, offering Honda, Hyundai, Genesis, Ioniq, Volkswagen, Kia, Acura, Audi, Mazda, Maserati, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Honda Motorcycles and E-Z-Go golf carts. Celebrating more than 60 years in business, the Rick Case Automotive Group has 12 dealerships in South Florida and Georgia. The South Florida dealerships are known for holding national sales records, consistently ranking among the top performers in markets they serve. Rick Case Automotive Group is headquartered at 14500 W. Sunrise Blvd. in Sunrise, Florida. For more information, visit [www.RickCase.com](http://www.RickCase.com).

## McCormick's Spring Auctions Records 166 Cars Sold!

Our February auction was a strong success, bringing together collectors, enthusiasts, and bidders from across the region for an exciting weekend in Palm Springs. A total of 297 vehicles crossed the auction block, with 166 cars sold, generating \$3,936,151 in total sales. The event featured a diverse lineup of classic cars, exotics, and unique consignments, highlighted by stand-out sales including a beautifully restored 1960 Porsche 356 Super 90 Convertible. With great weather and solid attendance throughout the weekend, the energy remained high from start to finish, reinforcing the continued strength and appeal of our live auction experience.

## Is There Too Much Technology In Vehicles Today...?

continued from page 5

signal, the lane departure screams at you when changing lanes, even if there is no vehicle within a quarter mile. The adaptive cruise control brakes your car if you get "too close" to the car in front. These systems are made for the lowest common denominator of driver, not the attentive driver who drives "a half mile ahead" and is watching for every contingency.

Now cars have connectivity and FSD (full self driving). Perhaps the leading cause of accidents and deaths today (aside from drunk driving) is inattention. And the more distractions a driver has, the more likely an accident. I don't claim to be the perfect automobile driver, but the worst thing I do when driving is listen to the radio. No cell phone, no texting, no having three course meals (I eat takeout at home) and I don't talk much if there is a passenger. If it's my wife, she does all the talking anyway. I am watching cross traffic, anticipating what other drivers might do, watch the signals, two lights down. I don't drive fast (my rule of thumb is 5 mph over), but by driving ahead, I coast more, using up more of my energy, less braking. I make it a game to see what kind of fuel economy I can achieve. I am engaged in my driving and the only way to do that is to pay attention to driving.

New cars take away the fun of driving. They nudge your steering wheel, they put your brakes on if your cruise control says you are too close, they even tell you to put your hands on the steering wheel if you remove them just to play with the lane keep assist. Will I ever buy a new car? I doubt it, as my last new car buy was over 20 years ago when cars were more fun. Yes I did buy another car about a year ago, a 2017 MBZ GLE400. It goes like stink, handles like a sports sedan, has informative analog gauges and has a surround camera so you can park without fear of banging your car. It has everything I like and need without the intrusion. And it starts with a big silver push button.



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# Rick Case Honda & Rick Case Volkswagen Celebrate Being the World's Largest Volume Dealers

Rick Case Automotive Group kicked off 2026 with celebrations recognizing the achievements in 2025 of both the Honda and Volkswagen dealerships.

Rick Case Honda was the largest volume dealer in the world for the second year in a row and the most awarded volume dealer in American Honda's 56-year history, receiving the prestigious 2025 President's Award Elite, Honda's highest award for operational excellence, for an unprecedented 18th consecutive year.

American Honda Motor Company top executives recently visited the dealership to celebrate with CEO and President Rita Case and more than 400 associates to present the award. The President's Award Elite is based on the overall dealership performance including volume, operational excellence,

customer satisfaction and facility. The honor is awarded to approximately 15% of Honda dealerships annually.

"The President's Award Elite is the highest award Honda gives to a dealer," said Case, who began selling Hondas while in high school when her parents became the first Honda auto dealer in America. "Our entire team at Rick Case Honda participated in earning this award. It's more than just about sales; it's about operational excellence across all departments that allows us to reach the stringent benchmarks required to receive the President's Award Elite. Our teams continue to break records because of their commitment to customer service, to each other and to being number one."

In 2002 when Rick Case Honda opened, not one South Florida

Honda dealer was a top volume dealer in the United States. But when Rick and Rita got the franchise here, they knew the quality of Honda because they had dealerships in Cleveland, and knew they had to put Honda on the shopping list in South Florida. Today, three of the top five volume Honda dealers in the United States are here, and Honda recognizes South Florida as its number one volume market for new and certified pre-owned vehicles.

Rick Case Honda remains the world record holder for the most new Hondas sold in one month with 1,222 sold and is the only Honda dealer that has ever averaged 7,300 Honda cars every year since they've opened their doors.

"Winning the President's Award is not about selling the most cars.

**continued on page 19**



(L to R) Lance Woelfer, Honda Vice President of Auto Sales; Rick Case Automotive Group CEO and President Rita Case; Noriyuki Takakura, Honda Executive Vice President, Sales

## Over 4,000 New & Pre-Owned Choices EVERY DAY!

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VW of Kirkland

The O'Brien Auto Group serves the N.W. with 12 Dealerships and we take in a bunch of quality trade-ins every day. Our customers are constantly trading up to a new vehicle leaving us with a tremendous selection of well-maintained, one-owner pre-owned vehicles—many still with factory warranties including Certified Pre-Owned. Stop by one of our stores or shop us online. From commuters to luxury, we've got what you're looking for!



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JAGUAR  
JAGUAR TACOMA



Land Rover Tacoma



VOLVO OF TACOMA



## From Around the U.S.



# Rick Case Honda & Volkswagen Celebrate Being the World's Largest Volume Dealers

continued from page 18

Although Rita's team did that and did so in amazing fashion, it's about selling them in a way that consumers really appreciate and bond with the dealership and generate that relationship that makes them keep coming back because they want that experience over and over again," said Lance Woelfer, Honda Vice President of Auto Sales. "That's why they've won the President's Award Elite for so long and why they are number one in the country in volume, which is an amazing feat. We are fortunate and proud to be associated with Rick Case Automotive Group, and very appreciative of all that

the team does to help us succeed. They are Honda to our customers, and we thank them for representing us so well."

Rick Case Volkswagen was also celebrated as the #1 Volkswagen dealer in the world. CEO and President of VW Group of America, Kjell Gruner, was among the Volkswagen leadership team that visited the dealership to present the 2025 Wolfsburg Crest Club Award.

"Thank you for your energy and for how you show up every day," said Gruner when addressing the Rick Case Volkswagen team. "I am proud to be part of this team. The difference is this team."

The Wolfsburg Crest Club

Award recognizes dealerships that maintain the highest levels of excellence in service, operations, sales and customer satisfaction all while consistently going above and beyond. In the 12 years since opening, Rick Case Volkswagen has been awarded the Wolfsburg Crest every year and has been #1 in volume sales for nine years.

"We are so proud to once again to accept this prestigious award from Volkswagen," Case said. "Our team is dedicated to upholding the highest standards from Volkswagen, and they truly go above and beyond throughout the dealership each and every day."

About The Rick Case Autom-

otive Group

Founded in 1962, the Rick Case Automotive Group has been honored by Automotive News as the National All-Star Dealer and President and CEO Rita Case was named the 2024 TIME Dealer of the Year. Rick Case Automotive Group is the nation's largest female owned and operated automotive dealer group in America, offering Honda, Hyundai, Genesis, Ioniq, Volkswagen, Kia, Acura, Audi, Mazda, Maserati, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Honda Motorcycles and E-Z-Go golf carts. Celebrating more than 60 years in business, the Rick Case Automotive Group has 12 dealerships in South Florida

and Georgia. The South Florida dealerships are known for holding national sales records, consistently ranking among the top performers in markets they serve. Rick Case Automotive Group is headquartered at 14500 W. Sunrise Blvd. in Sunrise, Florida. For more information, visit [www.RickCase.com](http://www.RickCase.com).



## Slot Car Racing Europe vs. U.S.

continued from page 6

love of cars, and the excitement of racing a Ferrari, or Ford etc. at least for now was gone.

Back in Europe, speeds stayed more scale appearing, the cars stayed models of real cars, and the hobby continued and still is going on to this day.

Model Car racing inspires children of all ages, the thrill of racing, the excitement with almost no chance of injury, except maybe to your ego.

There are tournaments where 100's will attend, races are staged some even as long as 24 hours. Where racers young and old can pit their skills against each other and the clock.

The Hobby of Model Car racing has grown again in North America, first from Scalextric, and then other brands being reintroduced here.

This hobby has created many famous real race drivers and Team owners, but that is another story.

Hopefully we will see you at the Races!!

# BRM Slot Cars & SCALE RACING Celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Event "24 Hours of Tacoma" with International Teams from Europe



Alan Smith (center) Kicks Off BRMS "24 Hours of Tacoma"



Alan Smith Scale Racing Center's wife Audra (left) & daughter Julia at Event

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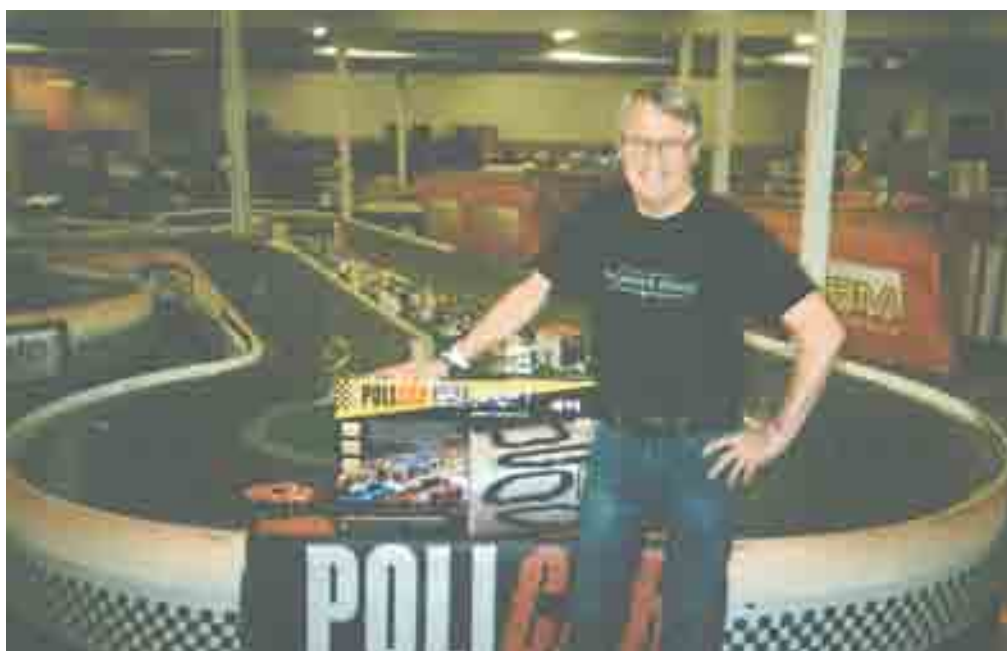
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Alan Smith, Scale Racing Center Owner, Demonstrates PoliCar Slot Car Starter Kit at his Center in Tacoma



## Book Reviews



# Attention Corvette Owners.....! You Need This Book in Your Collection!

Rome wasn't built in a day, and, similarly, the dream world class American sports car took some work. Harley Earl and Ed Cole gave Corvette a push start, and Zora Arkus-Duntov took the Plastic Fantastic into orbit, fueled by the combination of excellent design and hardware,

and the racing achievements that followed.

Once established, the Corvette became a Chevrolet icon, utilized by Bow Tie and GM marketing to benefit the automaker. However, Corvette was no loss leader: it earned its keep and the respect of industry commentators. The

Corvette managed to maintain its qualities throughout an era of increased insurance costs, governmental legislation and fuel crises, surviving into the '80s with fresh design that took on all sports car competitors.

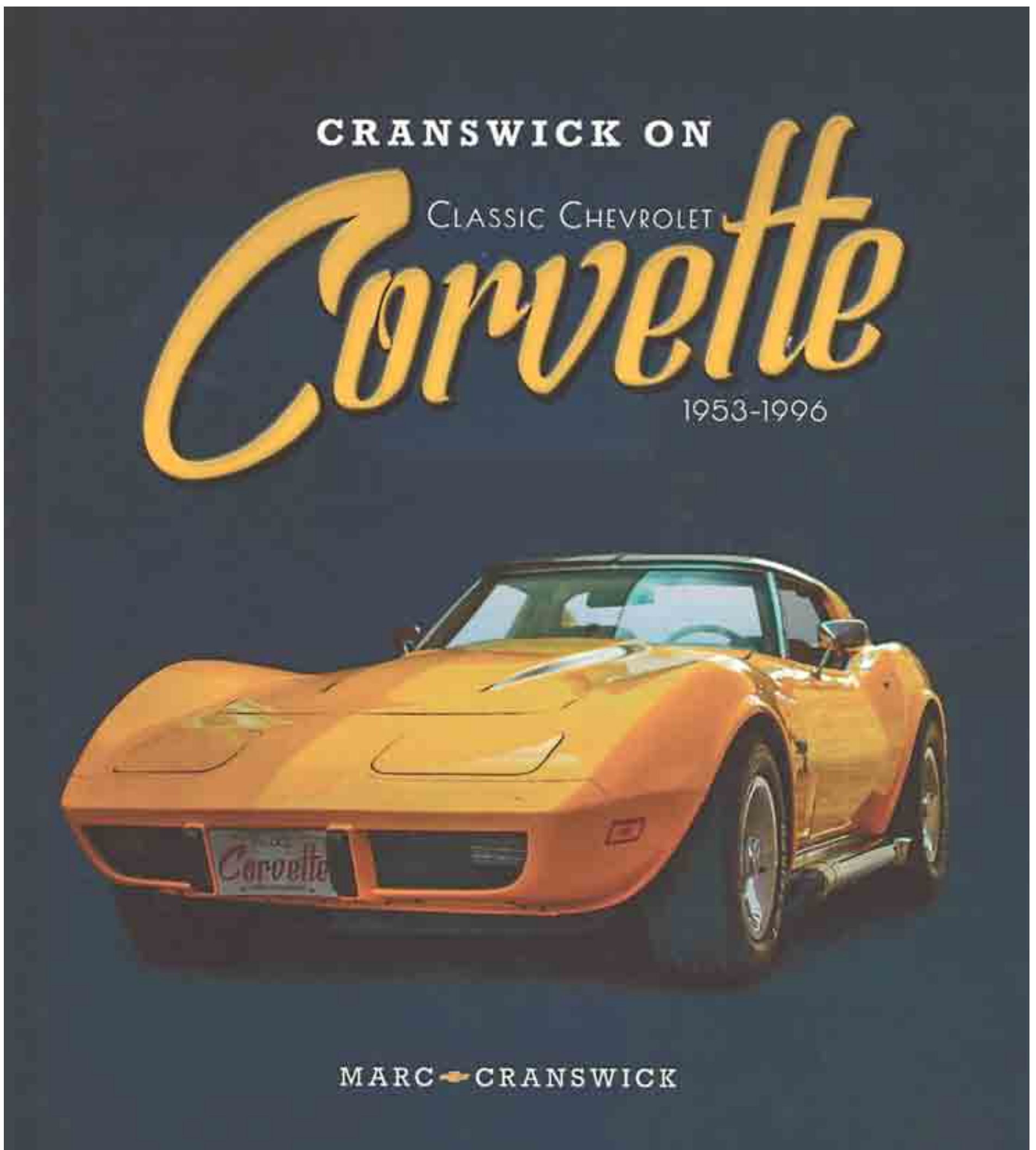
Archive images, independent testing, and the viewpoints of

Chevrolet and auto industry personalities illustrate the rise and rise of America's only sports car, including a substantial mid-engine genesis.

Marc Cranwick's original commentary pays homage to the Corvette as an enduring glamor icon and the ultimate dream machine!

[www.veloce.co.uk](http://www.veloce.co.uk)

US \$90 - UK £60





## Auto News Foundation



### First Look: The 2026 Cadillac Vistiq Premium Luxury – A Tech-Laden, All Electric People Mover

The all-new 2026 Cadillac Vistiq arrives with bold ambition, offering a refined blend of luxury, technology, and family-friendly practicality. Positioned between the compact Lyriq and the flagship Escalade IQ, the Vistiq is Cadillac's answer to growing demand for three-row electric SUVs — and it hits the mark.

**Power & Performance**

The Vistiq comes equipped with a dual-motor all-wheel-drive powertrain producing approximately 615 horsepower and 650 lb-ft of torque, making it one of the most powerful vehicles in its class. With the available Velocity Max mode, Cadillac estimates a 0–60 mph sprint in just 3.7 seconds — remarkable for a full-size SUV weighing 7,540

lbs. It's quick, smooth, and confidently composed, whether merging on highways or navigating city traffic.

The Vistiq uses a 102 kWh usable battery, offering an estimated 300–305 miles of driving range. DC fast-charging adds up to 80% battery in about 30 minutes, keeping the vehicle road-trip ready.

## Auto News Introduces 501 (3) (c) Non-Profit Foundation

(see page 24 & 25)

### More Than One Lap Record Per Year For Pirelli At The Nürburgring Nordschleife

*The Most Recent Records Set This Year With The Audi RS 3 And Audi RS Q8 Performance*

From 2019 up to now, Pirelli has set more than one lap record per year on average at the legendary Nürburgring Nordschleife in Germany. These records have been established with all sorts of vehicles, ranging from electric supercars to SUVs to compact hatchbacks, yet Pirelli has been a constant when it comes to lowering the Nordschleife lap times across every category of car.

All the tires in the P Zero range but the novelties introduced recently can boast a lap record around the Ring in the last five years: P Zero Trofeo R on the Audi RS 3 and P Zero on the Audi RS Q8 performance in 2024; P Zero Trofeo RS on the Porsche Taycan Turbo GT in 2023; P Zero Corsa on the Porsche Taycan Turbo S in 2022; P Zero Corsa on the Porsche Cayenne Turbo GT and P Zero Trofeo R on the Audi RS 3 in 2021; and finally P Zero on the Audi RS Q8 in 2019.

The most recent records have come this year with the Audi RS 3, set on the P Zero Trofeo R – a semi-slick tire specialised in circuit use – and Audi RS Q8 performance equipped with the P Zero: the Ultra High Performance tire most frequently chosen by manufacturers to equip their top models. The Audi RS 3 record of 7m33.123s lowered the benchmark for compact cars by more than five seconds, while the RS Q8 performance became the fastest production SUV ever to lap the Ring, in a time of 7m36.698s that broke the existing record by more than two seconds. The same models had previously established the class records in 2021 and 2019 respectively, again on P Zero Trofeo R and P Zero tires.

The Nürburgring Nordschleife, one of the most challenging circuits in the world, serves as a key testing ground for Pirelli, where the company rigorously evaluates its tires and latest developments on high-performance vehicles, particularly in partnership with German carmakers. A standout example is the P Zero Trofeo RS for the Porsche Taycan Turbo GT: the most sporting tire in the P Zero range, designed for track use but fully approved for the road.



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## Rick Case Parking Garage Unveiled at Baptist Health Medical Center in Plantation

*The naming follows a one-million-dollar gift from Rita Case that benefits microsurgery research and technology at Baptist Health Orthopedic Care*

Rita Case, president and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group, has generously gifted one million dollars to Baptist Health Foundation to benefit microsurgery research and technology at Baptist Health Orthopedic Care. The gift was recently recognized with the naming of the Rick Case Parking Garage at the Baptist Health Medical Center.

“Research and technology are paramount to the future of healthcare,” said Case. “One of our most important philanthropic pillars is healthcare, and Baptist Health provides us with extraordinary care, life-saving technology and high-quality services throughout South Florida. We join Baptist Health in continuing to build a healthier community.”

The gift will support best-in-class technology, staff, equipment, education, research and other infrastructure related to microsurgery and biomechanics for orthopedic and nerve treatment, helping Baptist Health orthopedic surgeons and researchers restore mobility, function and quality of life for patients with hand injuries and disabilities.

“Rick loved to be surrounded by cars and now he will be with his name on a 1,000-space parking garage,” Case added. “It’s fitting that we are here in Plantation. It was 40 years ago that we opened the

first Acura and Hyundai dealerships in the U.S. in Plantation.”

“We thank Rita for her vision, generosity and trust as we pursue our mission to deliver compassionate, world class care,” said Alex

Villoch, CEO of Baptist Health Foundation. “Baptist Health is extraordinary because it is powered by remarkable individuals like her, whose leadership and heart make transformative care possible.”



Jean Putnam, Chief Nurse Executive, Baptist Health; Glenn Waters, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Baptist Health; Ed C. Garabedian, Assistant Vice President, Baptist Health Orthopedic Care; Ryan Case; Marc Riley; Rita Case; Nancy Batista-Rodriguez, Chief Executive Officer, Baptist Outpatient Services; Ana Lopez-Blazquez, Executive Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer, Baptist Health and Chief Executive Officer, Baptist Health Enterprises; Alex Villoch, CEO, Baptist Health Foundation; and Joe Natoli, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, Baptist Health

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Curious about the season? Larry says “Winter 2025–26 kicks off with a neutral-to-weak La Niña pattern — good news for Northwest skiers and snowboarders.”

“Before social media allowed anyone to post their thoughts about snow (or anything else), Larry was giving the heads-up

about powder days,” said Joel Gratz, founder of OpenSnow.

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Larry’s Dedication: Sending out a Powder Alert is a process that can take hours as Schick tracks changing weather patterns before finalizing a forecast.

“Weather has a rhythm to it,” Larry said. “People take powder seriously, and I take the weather seriously. I always pick the most confident forecast.”

The Powder Alert team includes forecaster Michael Fagin and marketing led by Andrea Hamilton, with sponsor support keeping it free for readers.

Subscribe free at [www.powder-poobah.com](http://www.powder-poobah.com)

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(See Story on Page 25)



## Auto News Foundation



### High School Students Are Trained at Local Automotive Tech School



Twisp, WA. Automotive Tech School students with Matt Kennedy, Instructor (second from right in Blue Shirt)

### A Double Pleasure: Capitol Reef National Park In My Hyundai Santa Fe

continued from page 2

soline are minimal. With the Santa Fe hybrid’s powertrain a 1.6-liter turbocharged Gasoline Direct Injection(GDI) 4-cylinder engine coupled with a six-speed automatic transmission, the combined city/highway fuel economy is estimated at 34mpg. With an 18 gallon gas tank, this puts the driving range at over 550 miles.

The 12.3-inch high resolution touch screen is easy to see without a glare on the screen on sunny days. Maps and other navigation information are easy to access

and read. A fully digital instrument cluster shows your speed, the speed limit, your driving mode, blind spot detection, gas gauge and other information to make your drive safe. One of my favorites on the interior design is an open area in front of the center console that is a perfect spot to stash a purse out of view.

After the 850-mile trip from the Columbia Basin in Washington to Torrey, Utah near the entrance to the park, we visited the park’s visitor center to learn that a Park Ranger-led stargazing program was happening that evening. As the daylight dimmed, the stars shined over the desert landscape while planets appeared in all their glory. The Milky Way shone through the very dark skies. A dual pane sunroof in the Hyundai Santa Fe is perfect for stargazing by front and backseat occupants

Panorama Point at sunset offers an amazing view of changing colors as the play of light against the cliffs sets to end another day at Capitol Reef National Park. “Capitol” came from the resemblance of the high, white sandstone dome in the park referred to as Capitol Dome because it reminded travelers of the US Capitol building. The Waterpocket Fold, a 100-mile-long fold in the earth’s crust exposes a high ridge running north-south through the narrow park. The word “Reef” was used by early pioneers to describe the high ridge as a barrier to travel — much like a barrier reef in an ocean.

The park has rich history of American Indians, pioneers and outlaw cowboys. The Fruita Rural Historic District contains a blacksmith shop, a one-room schoolhouse and the Gifford homestead. A thriving orchard of over 2,000 fruit trees is protected and cultivated by park staff. A 10-mile scenic drive runs south from the visitor center where spectacular sandstone formations and white domes line the length of the road. Over a dozen trails varying from easy to strenuous feature dramatic canyon views, hidden canyons and mountain top panoramas.

A local resident in Torrey suggested that we take a drive on Utah’s Scenic Byway 12 which is considered one of America’s most scenic roads. We drove from Torrey to Boulder stopping at three amazing overlooks that displayed the rugged cliffs of Capitol Reef National Park from the highway that climbed to 9,600 feet on the east slope of Boulder Mountain. Vegetation along the highway was beginning the beautiful autumn transformation to golden and red hues. Another hint that fall was arriving was the sound of elk bugling as we stopped at one viewpoint. The drive in “Big Red” made the trip almost as incredible as the surrounding scenery.

After owning the Hyundai Santa Fe Limited Hybrid for just over a year, I continue to be happy with the buying experience at Speck Hyundai, the follow up by the sales staff to cheerfully help me (the low technology customer) figure out how to navigate some of the features, and the service department employees who have been efficiently doing their job.



### FOUNDATION

501(c)(3) NON PROFIT

### “Finding Tomorrows Technicians for New Car Dealers”

#### About the Auto News Foundation

The Auto News Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit foundation that was created with the intention of empowering the next generation of automotive technicians while supporting community colleges and tech school automotive programs.

#### Donation Tiers

All donations are tax deductible. 100% of donations shall go towards starting the Auto News Foundation Scholarship Fund to help aspiring youth join the automotive industry.

“Biggs Rover” Tier Up to \$1,000	“Drager” Tier Up to \$2,500	“Doug Ikegami” Tier Up to \$5,000	“Rita Case” Tier Up to \$10,000
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**\*Denotes Added Benefits**

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## Auto News Foundation



~2026~

### NW Car Events Calendar

Listing events in:  
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Alberta, British Columbia and special events  
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**Auctions • Museums • Tours • Cars & Coffee  
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### Top 4 States With Automotive Tech Programs

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1. Michigan</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baker College of Owosso</li> <li>2. Delta College</li> <li>3. Ferris State University</li> <li>4. Kalamazoo Valley Community College</li> <li>5. Lansing Community College</li> <li>6. Macomb Community College</li> <li>7. Monroe County Community College</li> <li>8. Northwest University</li> <li>9. Oakland Community College</li> <li>10. Schoolcraft College</li> <li>11. University of Northwestern Ohio</li> <li>12. Washtenaw Community College</li> <li>13. Wayne County Community College District</li> <li>14. Western Michigan University</li> <li>15. WyoTech</li> </ol> <p><b>2. California</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cerritos College</li> <li>2. Chaffey College</li> <li>3. Citrus V</li> <li>4. College of Alameda</li> <li>5. College of San Mateo</li> <li>6. Cypress College</li> <li>7. Diablo Valley College</li> <li>8. Los Angeles Trade Technical College</li> <li>9. Miramar College</li> <li>10. Palomar College</li> <li>11. San Diego Miramar College</li> <li>12. Santa Barbara City College</li> </ol> | <p><b>2. California</b> continued</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Skyline College</li> <li>14. Universal Technical Institute (UTI)</li> <li>15. WyoTech</li> </ol> <p><b>3. Ohio</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cincinnati State Technical Community College</li> <li>2. Clark State Community College</li> <li>3. Columbus State Community College</li> <li>4. Cuyahoga Community College</li> <li>5. Lorain County Community College</li> <li>6. Northwest State Community College</li> <li>7. Ohio Technical College</li> <li>8. Owens Community College</li> <li>9. Sinclair Community College</li> <li>10. University of Northwestern Ohio</li> </ol> <p><b>4. Illinois</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Black Hawk College</li> <li>2. College of DuPage</li> <li>3. College of Lake County</li> <li>4. Danville Area Community College</li> <li>5. Lincoln Land Community College</li> <li>6. Lincoln Technical Institute</li> <li>7. Moraine Valley Community College</li> <li>8. Parkland College</li> <li>9. Prairie State College</li> <li>10. Universal Technical Institute (UTI)</li> </ol> |
|--|---|



## Auto News Foundation Introduces "TAP" (Tuition Assistance Program) in 2025...!

by Bill McCallum, Publisher/Founder

For TWO years we have been developing our TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) for students attending Automotive Tech Schools. Our goal was three fold.

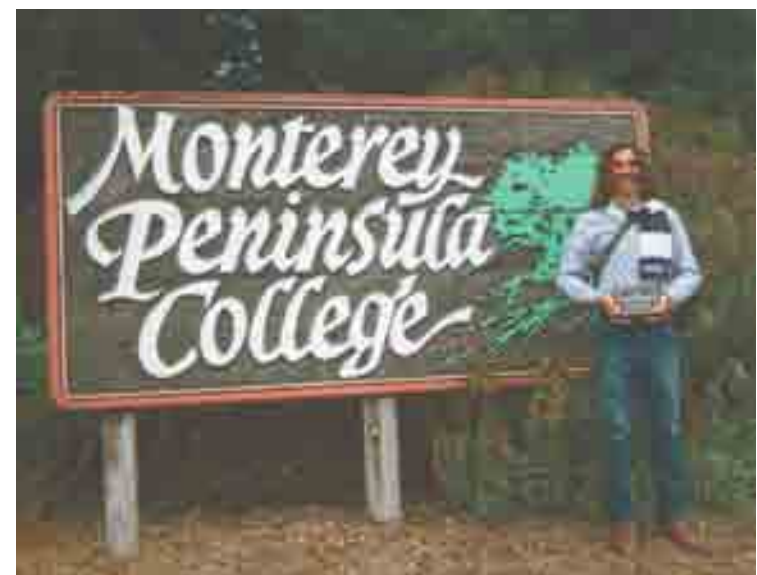
- 1- To develop a workable program delivering more potential employee's for auto dealers and OEM's across the U.S.
- 2- Using Global Auto News to highlight each students path to graduation over a two year period.
- 3- Passing on 70 % of the funds

raised by the Auto News Foundation a 501 (3) (c) NON-PROFIT for TAP scholarships starting in 2026. RESULTS TO DATE: 10 TAP scholarships to students attending:

- Shoreline Community College - Seattle, WA
- Yakima Valley College - Yakima, WA (see page 18)
- Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, CA
- University of Washington (Business School) Seattle, WA



Cade Farrington Phi Kappa Psi Member and Univ. of Wash Graduate accepts TAP Award (photo Auto News)



Dan Brigantino First TAP Award recipient receives Second TAP Award during "Car Week" (photo Auto News)



## "One More Look Back to 2025 Pebble Beach Automotive Week"

continued from page 12

of Shelby Cobras, showcasing the car's lineage from the First Production Cobra to the Last 427.

THE 74th PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE FEATURED LAND ROVER SPECIAL EXPEDITION CARS

The colorful details, unique configuration, and varied equipment on each car heightened the curiosity of anyone who took an up-close look. They captured the attention of people and left them wanting to know more about each car's story.

100 YEARS OF MORETTI CELEBRATED AT THE PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE

This class was created in celebration of Moretti's centennial anniversary. Of the seven cars, two traveled from out of the country while the other five came from different areas within the United States.

On Concours Sunday, all cars were judged apart from one exhibited car.

THE BMW ART CAR MARKS ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of its iconic series of Art Cars, now 20 in number, BMW brought two stellar examples to the 2025 Pebble Beach Concours show field: the latest BMW Art Car No. 20 by Julie Mehretu was paired with the BMW Art Car No. 4 by Andy Warhol.

EIGHT ICONIC ROLLS-ROYCE PHANTOMS GATHER AT PEBBLE BEACH

Rolls-Royce marked the centennial of the Phantom this year. All eight iterations of the Phantom, from I to VIII, were present on the lawn of The Lodge at Pebble Beach for Pebble Beach Automotive Week, and the gathering was preserved for posterity in both photos and videos.

**Purchase Tickets to the 2026 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance**

Join us on August 16, 2026 for the 75th Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance at The Lodge at Pebble Beach in California. Watch style icons, innovative prototypes, and racing greats compete for the top prize in the collector car world, while you enjoy the camaraderie of auto enthusiasts from around the globe.



# Auto News Foundation



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by Bill McCallum

When you start on a journey sometimes you have no idea when or where it will end. That's where I was 40 years ago when the idea of an auto newspaper was born. I was publishing 2 weekly newspapers at the time "Uptown News" in Bellevue WA and the Coal Creek Newcastle News to the South. Both papers had a small auto section and were growing. I wasn't a car guy but I grew up in the business with family members involved with new car dealerships. I discussed the idea of an auto newspaper with Jim Hammond, the founder of the Puget Sound Auto Dealers Association and the original organizer of the Seattle Auto Show. He said "go for it" and you can count on my support. Thus Puget Sound Auto News was born. A few years later we expanded to Eastern WA, and Oregon and changed the name of the paper to Northwest Auto News.

With California being the largest new car market in the U.S. that was the next big step in our expansion and another name change to Auto News of America.

Enter Jay Leno. I first saw Jay at a comedy club on Sunset Blvd. shortly after we started circulating our paper in LA. Jay was the "car guy" that inspired me to expand our reach to include car collectors and collector car auctions. (see back page ad) I watched Jay's first TONIGHT show and attended his last TONIGHT show in person.

Next chapter. From our launch in Calif. we build a network of over 1,000 retail automotive distribution locations in four more states. (Ariz, Nv. Id, & Mt) and changed the name of our paper to GLOBAL AUTO NEWS and launched our online program. ([www.autonewsonline.com](http://www.autonewsonline.com)) Currently we have added a digital platform sending out e-mail "fast blasts" reaching over 500K auto enthusiasts, media & PR firms, OEM's and car collectors.



## Auto News Foundation Presented Awards at Monterey "Car Week" August 2025



Legends of Auto Gala Event attendees at dinner during presentations at previous event.

### Honored Members of Legends of Auto

George Barris\*  
Beau Boeckmann  
Bert Boeckmann  
Bob Bondurant\*  
Sandra Button  
Rita & Rick Case\*  
Corky Coker  
Frank Corrente  
Tom duPont  
Vic Edelbrock\*

Ryan Falconer  
Jim Farley  
Mark Fields  
Henry Ford Family  
Galpin Group Family  
Ken Gross  
Dan Gurney\*  
Lee Iacocca\*  
Craig Jackson  
Lyn Hiner

Lyn St. James  
Parnelli Jones  
Ed Justice Jr.  
Jay Leno  
Ken Lingenfelter  
Keith Martin  
Barry Meguiar  
Bruce McCaw  
Dana Mecum

SEE - [www.LegendsofAuto.com](http://www.LegendsofAuto.com)

Tim McGrane  
Bruce Meyer  
Peter Mullin\*  
Roger Penske  
Pierre Ford Family  
Stewart Reed  
Steve Saleen  
Carroll Shelby\*  
Danny Sullivan

\*Departed Legends

### Rita Case, C.E.O. of Rick Case Auto Group was recently honored as the Philanthropic "Dealer of the Year for 2025"



Rita Case with Legends of Auto Award at Rick Case Auto Group Headquarters honored in Monterey

### Lyn Hiner, Artist, Honored



Lyn Hiner, with Legend of Auto Award in Monterey during 2025 "Car Week", has studios in San Clemente, CA and Yokohama City, Japan SEE: [www.lynhiner.com](http://www.lynhiner.com)

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**Mission Statement** To recognize and award individual accomplishments, that have significantly advanced the auto industry around the world and to help develop the next generation of auto industry leaders.

# "The 2025 Ford Expedition Tremor is for Buyers Who Need Full-Size SUV Practicality, but Want Real Off-Road Credibility...!"



2025 Ford Expedition Tremor (photo Chris Chung)

## AutoNation & Orange Bowl Committee Unveil New \$600,000 STEAM Center in Miami Gardens

AutoNation, in partnership with the Orange Bowl Committee, Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami Gardens, recently celebrated the grand opening of the new Orange Bowl STEAM Center presented by AutoNation at Bunche Park West Recreation in Miami Gardens, Florida.

"Through our partnership with the Orange Bowl Committee, AutoNation is giving back to the community, ensuring that local educators and students have a true 21st-century learning environment," said Marilité Vazquez-Gonzalez, Senior Director, Sponsorships and Co-op, AutoNation and member of the Orange Bowl 2026 Host Committee. "This state-of-the-art STEAM Center is a powerful example of what's possible when public and private partners come together to invest in the future of the community."

The Orange Bowl STEAM Center presented by AutoNation is a \$600,000 investment featuring a dedicated workspace equipped with robotics, engineering kits, maker materials, and a

high-tech multimedia room with green-screen capabilities, audio-visual tools, and editing stations. These legacy gifts are possible because of the Orange Bowl Committee and its leadership of the 2026 Miami Host Committee, which will host the 2026 College Football Playoff National Championship on January 19, 2026, at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens. For over 90 years, the Orange Bowl has served as a primary civic engine for South Florida, using premier sporting events to fund year-round community engagement, education, and youth sports programs.

"We're proud to play a key role in the Host Committee's Legacy Program and help bring the 2026 College Football Playoff National Championship to Miami. As one of South Florida's largest employers, we know that hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact and a national spotlight can yield tremendous opportunities for the region, and we're excited to help our South Florida community maximize those benefits in the most impactful ways," said Vazquez-Gonzalez.

## 2025 Ford Expedition Tremor "Test Drive" by Chris Chang

continued from page 2

SUV. There's generous seating for up to eight passengers, with ample legroom in all three rows. Cargo space is massive — perfect for road trips, camping gear, or hauling sports equipment.

Technology is modern and intuitive, highlighted by a large center touchscreen with Ford's SYNC system, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and a fully digital gauge cluster. It feels high-tech without being overwhelming.

Towing remains a major strength, with capacity that can exceed 9,000 pounds when properly equipped. Boats, trailers, or toy haulers are well within its comfort zone.

### How It Drives

Despite its size, the Expedition Tremor drives with surprising composure. Steering is light enough for daily use, yet stable at highway speeds. On rough terrain, the suspension soaks up bumps impressively well for such a large SUV.

It's big — there's no hiding that — but Ford has done an excellent job making it manageable.

### Final Thoughts

The 2025 Ford Expedition Tremor is for buyers who need full-size SUV practicality but want real off-road credibility. It blends power, technology, towing strength, and trail capability into one commanding package.

If you want an SUV that can haul your family in comfort during the week and tackle mountain trails on the weekend, the Expedition Tremor is hard to ignore.

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