



AUTO NEWS



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Lexus RZ450e Test Drive Review



Lexus RZ450e (photo Chris Chung)

by Christopher Chung

The 2023 Lexus RZ450e marks a significant milestone in Lexus's foray into the electric vehicle market. This luxury electric SUV combines the elegance and comfort synonymous with Lexus with the efficiency and innovation of electric power.

Under the hood, the RZ450e is powered by dual electric motors, offering an all-wheel-drive experience. It boasts a manufacturer-estimated range of up to 196 miles, making it a practical choice for both daily commutes and longer journeys. The vehicle's

performance is further enhanced by its high-output electronic axle, which integrates the motor, trans-axle, and inverter into a compact unit, optimizing efficiency and range.

The design of the RZ450e is a true reflection of Lexus's commitment to luxury and innovation. The interior is adorned with high-quality materials, heated and ventilated front seats, and ambient interior lighting, ensuring a comfortable and luxurious driving experience. The exterior features Lexus's distinctive Spindle-Body design, emphasizing aerodynamic

efficiency and a modern aesthetic.

Technology is at the forefront of the RZ450e, with a 14-inch touchscreen display and Lexus Interface system for a personalized multimedia experience. Safety features like Advanced Park with Remote Park and Lane Change Assist enhance the driving experience, ensuring convenience and safety.

In conclusion, the 2023 Lexus RZ450e is an embodiment of luxury, performance, and technological advancement, setting a new standard for electric SUVs in the luxury market.

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The Auto News Foundation Presents Scholarships at 12th Annual Legends of Auto Event in November 2023

by Bill McCallum

I want to thank both Gary Fantozzi, Director of Automotive Programs at Shoreline Community College and Brian Hebert Technical Training Manager at Toyota's Portland Regional Office for finding our two scholarship winners Phaedra Warren and Rashawn Ryalls.

The scholarships were awarded at our first Northwest Legends of Auto Event in November 2023. (see photo on page 25) Over 180 Northwest automotive enthusiasts attended our November event as we honored regional auto dealers, auto museum founders, after market

providers and others.

The Legends of Auto Event was created over 12 years ago in Los Angeles with the support of the Ford Motor Company and the Boeckmann family, owners of Galpin Auto Group. The event was eventually moved to Monterey during the Concours d' Elegance week. (see page 24)

Stay tuned as we expand both our scholarship program and the support of automotive tech schools through out the West during 2024.

Please feel free to donate to the Auto News Non Profit Foundation. (see page 14, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26)

Toyota bZ4x EV Offers "Cutting Edge" Design, Extended Range, and Priced Right



Bill McCallum tests, Toyota bZ4x EV (See Story on Page 14) (photo Auto News)



Sally Hanson, Auto News Foundation presents Phaedra Warren with Scholarship (photo Auto News)

AI from the CLOUD to EARTH Equals CHAOS



Bill McCallum
publisher

With over 50 years in the auto industry. First as a teenager in Tacoma Washington working with family members in the new, used, and lease segments of the industry. And more recently with over 40 years of publishing an auto newspaper, I should know more than most about this business. But, to coin a popular phrase “..... I don’t know what I don’t know.” What I do know is the auto industry is moving closer to chaos as media, technology, and AI push us to the edge with false information as it relates to the world of global transportation.

My 1997 Webster Dictionary defines CHAOS as “the inherent unpredictability in the behavior of a natural system.”

The Nikola story is a good example of this chaos in the flow of information as it relates to the future of transportation in the U.S.

When you add conflicting data on the future use of hydrogen in the auto industry, long term power sources, driverless car technology, shortage of charging stations, the cost of manufacturing EV’s, shortage of raw materials for battery production, and politicians with limited knowledge of the auto industry you have chaos.

Stay tuned and Happy New Year and



Toyota Crown Platinum Test Drive Review



Chris Chung
International editor

I was particularly excited when I heard I’d be driving the Toyota Crown. The Crown nameplate dates back to the mid 1950’s where it began as a mid-size luxury sedan. My father told me stories growing up of how back in the 60’s when he was a child growing up in Mauritius, wealthy businessmen would have drivers that used Toyota Crowns, as the vehicle of choice. He would occasionally muster up enough change to be able to ride in one. However for myself, the Toyota’s Crown nameplate had long vanished from the U.S. (circa 1973) market by the time I was growing up, so the first time I was able to ride in one, was in Japan where many are still used as taxi’s in 2016.

But as of 2023, the Crown has made a comeback. But now not just as any sedan; but as a hybrid, designed to compete with SUVs. With a lifted stance and a sleeker body, the 2023 Toyota Crown Platinum aims to be sporty, luxurious, and practical. But does it succeed in these ambitions?

Performance and Drive

The Platinum model is the performance variant of the Crown lineup. It boasts more power, a six-speed automatic transmission, and a trim-specific adaptive suspension. All Crown models come with a hybrid all-wheel-drive system, but the Platinum stands out with its 2.4-liter turbo Hybrid Max setup, producing 104 hp more than the base powertrain. However, when compared to rivals like the

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Honda CRV A Sporty Hybrid Test Drive Review



Sally Hanson
editor

America’s best-selling Crossover Utility Vehicle (CUV) since its launch in 1997 and Honda’s best-selling vehicle since 2017, this year’s sixth generation CR-V line-up was further enhanced by the addition of the Hybrid All-Wheel-Drive Sport Touring model.

The completely redesigned CR-V offers bold styling on the exterior, increased performance, and more space and comfort inside the vehicle. Honda’s new hybrid models feature a new hybrid system for a sportier driving experience. My drive in the CR-V Hybrid AWD Sport Touring edition included a round trip from Seattle over the Cascade mountain pass to the Columbia basin in Eastern Washington. I was hoping to encounter slushy roads in the pass to feel the all-wheel-drive system work its magic, but heavy rain was all I got! My return trip to the wetlands was met by blinding rain where I was able to experience the stability of the CR-V on the road as well as the ease of operating all controls in adverse weather conditions.

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Kia Telluride Crossover SUV Test Drive Review



Dave Kunz
LA feature writer

Kia really hit pay dirt with the three-row Telluride crossover SUV. Launched in 2019 as a 2020 model, it arrived with an enticing formula of a just-right size, stylish looks, plenty of amenities, and an attractive MSRP starting at under \$40,000. It won several awards, and dealers couldn’t keep them in stock. In fact, I learned that in the Telluride’s early days, Kia’s US employees were not allowed to obtain them on a company lease. Every unit coming out of the Georgia assembly plant was earmarked for Kia’s dealer network.

It’s no longer the new kid in town, but still looks fresh thanks to some mild styling tweaks done last year. And along the way, Kia saw fit to offer the Telluride X-Pro, following the current trend by auto makers of adding rugged trim levels to their SUVs. A more off-road-focused upgrade for those who want to tackle the trails. Or let’s be honest, those who just want the more burly looks.

X-Pro is offered on other Kia

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"Best of the Bay" Event Winners ...!



Keith Turner
SF feature writer

In a somewhat surprising outcome, the gasoline-powered Acura Integra Type S overpowered a field dominated by electric vehicles to take home the Best Overall vehicle honors in the inaugural Best of the Bay awards competition hosted by the Western Automotive Journalists.

The competition, which took place in Santa Rosa Calif., featured 13 new models provided by manufacturers that were each driven in 30-minute segments over two days of spirited road testing by a group of autowriters from Northern California who then voted for their favorites in each of five categories.

The high-powered, five-door compact Acura sports sedan, which returned to the automaker’s lineup after a 16-year hiatus, features a 2.0-liter, 4-cylinder engine with six-speed manual transmission producing 320 horsepower. Judges were impressed with the sporty Integra and commented that the Type S is “playful,” “light on its feet,” and the “best overall for driver involvement.”

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Innovative Wind & Solar Tower Debuts at Detroit Auto Show



Jim Trainor
LA feature writer

Emission-Free Electricity from Both Wind and Sun Can Charge EVs and Hybrids at Almost Any Location and Time

The world's only hybrid power station "fueled" solely by a combination of wind and sun, the internationally-patented Wind & Solar Tower (WST), will be on display for the first time during this year's North American International Auto Show in Detroit. The automated 1:18 scale model will demonstrate how clean, off-grid power can charge electric vehicles in a way that is cleaner and more efficient than anything presently available. A full-sized Tower operated seamlessly and flawlessly for five years, even surviving two hurricanes.

The Tower will be a featured attraction at the Plug and Play Startup Arena at Automobili-D in conjunction with this year's show from Sept. 13 – 15.

"The Detroit Auto Show is one of the most influential annual automotive events in the world

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Connie Peters Interviews Jana Askeland



Connie Peters
feature writer

Jana Askeland, a seasoned professional in sales, marketing, and advertising, has carved a niche for herself in the competitive world of radio and digital advertising. With a focus on catering to local businesses, particularly car dealerships, Jana brings a unique perspective to her role. Growing up surrounded by the car business, thanks to her father's wholesale ventures and her brother's passion for drag racing, Jana developed an innate understanding of the industry.

After college, Jana found her stride in radio advertising and was quick to establish partnerships with local car dealers. Her background not only in marketing but also in the automotive world allows her to empathize with clients, identifying pain points and offering innovative solutions. This dual perspective, both as a professional and someone immersed in the car culture, sets Jana apart in her field.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Jana has embraced her role as a resource for fellow moms seeking advice on family-friendly vehicles. Recognizing the fervor in moms' discussions about the ideal

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Chevrolet Colorado Test Drive Review



Howard Elmer
truck writer

Every once in a long while release dates for a new class of trucks lines up. This year that class is midsize pickup trucks. For 2023 the GM Twins, Colorado and Canyon are new. Also, the new Ford Ranger is coming this late this year. From Toyota we will also see new Tacoma, though it will probably be released in '24. Of these trucks the Chevrolet Colorado is first out of the gate and I recently had a chance to drive it down in California.

Last updated in 2015, there are significant changes to this mid-sizer, starting with engine choices. There is only one – the 2.7L turbo I-4. The V6 and small diesel option is no more. The 2.7L is matched to a second-generation 8-speed automatic transmission. Despite there being only one engine, it is available in three different outputs.

Output Variant: **2.7L Turbo**
Horsepower: 237
Torque (lb.-ft.) 259
Max Trailering: 3,500 lbs.
Availability: Standard: WT & LT
Output Variant: **2.7L Turbo Plus**

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Happy Holidays, Millennials



Jordan Williams
millennial writer

Are you in the market to buy a car, but have been bummed because car costs—and interest rates—have risen, as you find overall inventory is low, i.e. dealers are not offering any great deals?!

Don't stress!

Enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and family of friends and then hit December running... as December is the best month to purchase a new car, specifically December 24th and December 31st.

According to www.marketwatch.com,

"December is the cheapest month to buy a car because that's when car dealerships are clearing their inventory to make room for next year. It's also when car salespeople are competing to meet their yearly, quarterly and monthly quotas".

Go get 'em! I hope you enjoy your new car as much as I have been enjoying mine...

And again,
Happy Holidays to my fellow Millennials, and all!

See you in the New Year!

(Story repeated from last issue)

Jacquelyne Newman Joins Auto News



Jacquelyne Newman
distribution manager

We are please to announce that Jacquelyne Newman has joined team Auto News as distribution manager in the Boise, Nampa, Meridian area of Idaho. It has been reported that Idaho is the fastest growing state in the union and a "hot-bed" for new car sales. Jacquelyne will also be calling on select new car dealers in the area and JACKSON ENERGY headquarters located in Meridian, Idaho. JACKSON is the largest chain of service stations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, Nevada, & California and part of the Auto News distribution network.

Jacquelyne recently moved to Idaho from Monterey, Ca. and helped us launch the Auto News Foundation at an event in Monterey during the Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance. We welcome Jacquelyne to team "Auto News" as we continue to expand our brand across the U.S.

**Jacquelyne
Welcome to
"Team Auto
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HASELWOOD
VOLKSWAGEN

The Balancing Act in the EV Transition



Larry Weitzman
EV specialist

One aspect of being an American is the right to choose and that right is in serious jeopardy. In other parts of the world, there is no protection from government intervention in your life which our United States Constitution affords its citizens. The writers of the Constitution intent were to limit the powers of government. No other country in the world has these protections as evidenced by recent edicts, mandates and fiat issued by the governments of China, Norway, Netherlands, Canada and most of the rest of Europe.

What's at stake is your freedom of movement and personal transportation as California (with at least 15 other states to follow by legislation enacted that is triggered by California) has banned the sale of new petroleum powered vehicles by 2035, under the guise (or lie) of saving the planet from global warming. As I wrote 26 years ago, global warming isn't about saving the planet, it is about big brother government control of

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BMW i4 eDrive 40 '23 "Test Drive"



Arv Voss
feature writer

OUTLOOK:

The future of electric mobility is here now with BMW's i4 eDrive 40 Gran Coupe – a rear motor, rear-wheel drive, 5-passenger, 4-door hatchback. In actuality, it's technically a 4-door sedan in the guise of a sleekly designed coupe with a hatch rather than a conventional trunk. It's neat with no ICE here folks. And, it smokes its gas powered 430i counterpart.

There are those naysayers concerning BMW's focus on the electrification of their sedan lineup. Not to worry – even on the lower end of the spectrum with the i4 eDrive340.

DESIGN:

The i4 is in essence, an EV example of the gas powered 4-Series Gran Coupe. Both display the same longer roofline, frame less door glass and rear liftgate. Rear seat accommodations and cargo access both exceed what any 3-series sedan serves up. Plus, it's absolutely gorgeous.

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Ford's F-150 Short Bed Regular Cab



Harold Allen
Texas feature writer

Looking for a truck that is fun to drive and yet won't break the bank? Well, look at a Ford F-150 Short Bed Regular Cab. But finding a well-equipped regular cab short bed is a challenge. Most are ordered as bare-bones working class models, with lots of plastic, Naugahyde seats and little equipment. They're inevitably white in color, with little more than tires and a steering wheel. The search for mine was long, but inevitably worth it; I found this truck about 100 miles from my house.

The biggest plus is getting one with the 5.0L V-8 engine and a 10-speed transmission. This option gives you good towing ability, and adding the available tow package is a real plus. Mileage yields 20 mpg combined and 25 mpg on the highway; however, I have achieved better than both numbers in my everyday use.

The color is called Avalanche, a blend of white and gray. The interior is a cloth slate; I feel in extreme temperature conditions cloth is a better choice. The 301A

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CES 2024 Automotive Technology



Joyce Chow
entertainment editor

Imagine orchestrating music by driving. Accelerate, slow down, turn left, turn right, the music responds to your driving nuances. Your car becomes an instrument where you can make recorded music live with MBUX SOUND DRIVE, the collaboration of Mercedes-AMG with multi-Grammy winning artist and entrepreneur will.i.am. The world premiere was at CES 2024 in Las Vegas.

It is not a traditional ambassadorship, Mercedes and will.i.am collaborated and created together. They assembled teams of engineers around the world to push technological boundaries through sensors where a car can express audibly how you drive behind the wheel and where you can create live music from previously recorded music with your car as an instrument. By creating a more immersive environment, it levels up and personalizes the relationship and emotional bond between you and your car where every drive is unique.

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Lexus RX F Sport "Test Drive"



Scot McCallum
feature writer

This is a story about an amazing car and the journey it gave us to the Methow Valley, one of the jewels of Washington State. The Lexus RX F Sport was the perfect vehicle for a trip over the North Cascades Highway (State Route 20). The RX has new design improvements including suspension and this scenic highway provided countless curves to test the RX handling. The 2.4 Liter Turbo Engine with Direct4 All Wheel Drive provided plenty of power and stability up the steep climbs and curves to Rainy and Washington Pass (5476'). The views going both directions over the North Cascades Highway are unbelievable; not just the best in Washington State but one of the best views from any highway in the U.S.

Our destination was Mazama and Winthrop, WA. Winthrop has original Western architecture for every building and includes a real Saloon – Three Finger Jacks. The RX Safety Technology Assist features came in handy parking

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Lucid Air: A Formidable Contender in the Luxury EV Market

by Christopher Chung

The Lucid Air, a product of the electric vehicle startup Lucid Motors, has made a significant impact in the EV market. The 2023 model of this luxury sedan is a blend of power, style, and cutting-edge technology, making it a strong competitor against high-end EVs like the Porsche Taycan, Mercedes-Benz EQS, and Tesla Model S.

The Lucid Air's impressive performance is powered by its in-house designed battery and compact motors. The Grand Touring Performance model can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in just 2.6 seconds, and when driven conservatively, it can cover an estimated 516 miles on a single charge, according to the EPA. This range is currently unmatched by any other EV in the market. The new Sapphire model

is even quicker, boasting a 60 mph time of under 2.0 seconds. The exterior of the Lucid Air is sleek and stylish, while its spacious cabin is modern and comfortable. However, the high price tag of the car had us expecting more luxurious materials inside. The car's controls are mostly accessed through several display screens that adorn the cabin, reflecting Lucid's Silicon Valley roots.

Despite a few minor drawbacks, such as tire noise permeating the cabin and a fussy infotainment interface, the Lucid Air stands out for its swift acceleration, state-of-the-art technology, and the world's longest electric driving range. The Lucid Air is not just a car; it's a statement. It's a testament to what a startup can achieve with the right blend of innovation, design, and technology. It's a vehicle that doesn't just promise performance but delivers it while offering luxury and comfort. The Lucid Air

is indeed a breath of fresh air in the EV market, setting new standards and pushing the boundaries of what electric vehicles can do. The Lucid Air is more than just a car; it's a revolution on wheels. It's a testament to what can be achieved when innovation, design, and technology come together. It's

a vehicle that doesn't just promise performance but delivers it while offering luxury and comfort. The Lucid Air is indeed a breath of fresh air in the EV market, setting new standards and pushing the boundaries of what electric vehicles can do.



Photo from Lucid

BMW i4 eDrive 40 "Test Drive"

continued from page 4

MOTIVE FORCE:

Energy is provided by a current excited synchronous AC motor mounted aft and driving the rear wheels. The battery pack is an 81.5 kWh liquid-cooled lithium-ion unit with an 11.0kW onboard charger and the transmission is direct drive. Should one require more performance, there's also an M50 with dual motors available.

0-60 time is 4.8 seconds (quicker than a Tesla Model 3, with a governed top-speed of 115 mph. Fuel economy is rated at 100 MPGe city, 98 MPGe highway and 99 MPGe combined. Range is 282 miles. There's an 8-year/100,000-mile high voltage battery warranty.

The i4 eDrive 40 rides on strut suspension up front and multilink out back, with power-assisted four-wheel vented disc brakes

and regen braking. Rolling stock consists of Hankook Ventus S1 245/40R-1998Y in front and 100Y in the rear mounted on five machine faced "Geo-petal" loops and black painted alloy wheels.

PLEASING GREENHOUSE ENVIRONMENT:

The cabin of the i4 40 is stylish and well laid out featuring a tech-packed curved-display screen continued on page 19

Cam Clark Auto Group Acquires Evergreen Ford, Lincoln, Chevrolet

by Tony Rehn

Cam Clark Automotive Group has arrived on the scene in the Northwest with a bang.

Recent US acquisitions include Santa Monica Ford Lincoln, Clark Nissan, Clark Hyundai in California and Montana. These have joined the 11 successful stores in British Columbia and Alberta. They most recently made a big splash acquiring PNW icon stores Evergreen Ford Lincoln and Evergreen Chevrolet. With that, and formal plans to construct the newest Fouchee built, state of the art, twin silo, completely electrified Trustmark Ford and Lincoln Facility, they are clearly here to stay and will create a lasting impact on the Issaquah Valley economy.

Now with a solid base of 10 Ford Franchises, CDJR, Chevrolet, and numerous import stores, Cam Clark is looking to grow.

As we all know, its people first in this industry. We know what teamwork is all about. We are committed to your career growth first and foremost. The old saying of 'we will help you get what you want' as we know that is how we get what we want.

After 20+years with Evergreen Auto Group this is the most exciting opportunity to grow with a clear community focused team. From day one, the Cam Clark vision has been to serve the local market with transparency, honesty and integrity with every action we take, and word we speak.

When or if you are considering a career change, no matter what your current level of automotive experience, we need to meet. This is the best ground floor growth opportunity in a family orientated group on this side of North America.



The New Evergreen Ford and Lincoln ... and more to come!

AUTO NEWS® BYTES

Breaking up with Silicon Valley, VNC Automotive asks if it's time to uncouple?

There comes a time in many relationships where you question your onward compatibility. Both parties rushed in, carried away by the moment, with little regard for the future. There was a great connection after all. But a great connection by itself, as we know, is not a good predictor of long-term success. When our goals and visions for the future do not align, or are opposed, then we face the sobering decision: do we stay together or breakup? This is the decision facing automakers right now as they reflect on the once heady days of their relationship with Silicon Valley.

Automakers offer their customers a plethora of both interior and exterior options for their vehicles which allow drivers to customise them to their own exacting specifications. These customization can range from optional driver assistance aids to the colour of the leather stitching, but when it comes to the infotainment system, automakers have in recent history been wedded: Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

With Android and iOS both dominating the mobile operating systems' market share globally[1], it's understandable that the majority of OEMs want to offer their customers a similar experience and interface to that of their beloved smartphones, allowing drivers to seamlessly mirror their smartphones to the in-vehicle screen.

However, the automotive titan General Motors has recently announced its plans to step away from these two incredibly popular Silicon Valley protocols and phone mirroring in general in its future electric vehicles, instead favouring their own holistically integrated software solution.

Tom Blackie, CEO, VNC Automotive says, "I've long believed the vehicle OEMs are grudgingly deploying Android Auto and CarPlay in the absence of anything better. Or that they are at least perceived to be an easy option with negligible cost to the automaker".

"However, the OEMs are now painfully aware that they are seeding real estate to Apple and Google who are defining the user experience and policing which apps can and can't be used in the vehicle, whilst also gathering vast amounts of data from individuals and the vehicles", continues Blackie.

Android Auto and CarPlay are widely favored by consumers, with 79% of car buyers only ever considering purchasing a vehicle that's CarPlay capable[2], meaning the OEM's own operating system, applications and features are often overlooked. Their ability to control and curate the in-vehicle experience is therefore limited and they ultimately miss out on potential monetization opportunities of their own.

Not to mention their reputations are on the line if something goes wrong with these systems, as the OEM has little to no ability to fix the issue until Apple or Google release a software update. Hence, it's totally understandable that the likes of General Motors are looking to remove themselves from this situation. But is it a mistake to completely disregard phone mirroring protocols?

Blackie continues, "although not necessarily Android Auto and CarPlay, phone mirroring technology shouldn't be completely shunned, but rather the OEMs should look to implement systems that they can fully control – with the ability to tightly integrate with the vehicle systems, enabling car data to be shared with the OEMs proprietary applications, and to allow control of how that data is used and shared between the end user, vehicle and OEM."

Solutions such as VNC Automotive's Cobalt Link+ can provide OEMs with total control over how phones can be integrated into an overall vehicle system by providing instantaneous, safe and secure access to smartphone, tablet and other personal device content from the desired vehicle screen.

Due to the popularity of these Silicon Valley owned systems, Blackie advises automakers to consider a phased approach to rolling out their own infotainment solution. "Any such transition would likely need to be a gradual shift to avoid alienating their customer base, whose smartphones are central to daily life."

"By this, I mean the OEM should run their own solution in parallel with Android Auto and CarPlay. Only when users really experience the benefits offered by the automakers will they be naturally drawn to it and then, and only then, should the OEM remove Android Auto and CarPlay if they want to avoid upsetting their customers".

"In summary I'd agree with General Motors's objectives, but question total removal of phone mirroring technology. When they do head off down the path of removing Android Auto and CarPlay my strong recommendation would be to run parallel systems and only remove Android Auto and CarPlay when the end users love their alternative solution", concludes Blackie.

So, perhaps we could call this a "conscious uncoupling". Does anybody know a good mediator?

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Chevrolet Colorado Test Drive Review

continued from page 3

Horsepower: 310

Torque (lb.-ft.) 390

Max Trailering⁴: 7,700 lbs.

Availability: Standard: Z71 & Trail Boss

Available: WT & LT

Output Variant: 2.7L Turbo

High-Output

Horsepower: 310

Torque (lb.-ft.) 430

Max Trailering⁴: 7,700 lbs.

Availability: Standard: ZR2

(with a max trailering of 6,000 lbs)

This engine strategy (one engine, three outputs rather than

three separate engines) is just one example of a production streamlining I noted in the new Colorado. Another example, that was instantly obvious, was the 11.3-inch center stack screen. This single screen comes in every version of the Colorado; from WT to top-of-the line ZR2. So rather than changing up screens based on trim level – a single screen makes production easier. In fact, throughout the truck, I noted items that were common on all trims. In conversations with engineers on site I hypnotized that

the pandemic shortages and shipping issues caused them to review how and where they sourced parts from. The response was yes, to keep the lines running without interruption they had eliminated potential bottlenecks by limiting the number of build variations. Another big change is a move to a single chassis model – crew cab, short box model. Whatever you order, that's the body your truck will be built on. All these changes add up to a simpler build in the factory – which, (hopefully) also

continued on page 7



Chevrolet Colorado (photo Howard Elmer)

Western Automotive Journalists (WAJ) Present "Best of the Bay" Awards



Western Automotive Journalists (photo Keith Turner)

continued from page 2

The Integra was one of the few gas-powered models entered in the competition and the only one to win an award. Electric vehicles dominated the voting in four of the five categories, with Genesis winning two awards while Hyundai and Mercedes-Benz took home honors in one category each.

Winning "Best Sedan" was the Hyundai Ioniq 6, a sleek-looking, five-passenger all-electric sedan with more than 300 miles of EV range. Judges commented that the Ioniq 6 is a "quiet, fast EV that

feels close to a luxury sports car without the eye-watering price."

A double victory was declared for the all-electric Genesis GV70 sport utility vehicle as it garnered the most votes in two categories: "Best SUV" and "Best EV." One judge commented, "I don't understand what alchemy Genesis used to create the GV70, but it's probably the smoothest, most comfortable EV – no, vehicle – I've driven."

Winning the "Best Technology" award was the all-electric Mercedes-Benz EQEAMG which

impressed judges with its flashy, high-tech interior glass information screen that stretches across the entire width of the vehicle. Judges' comments noted the Mercedes' "amazing mix of style, performance and technology." Also, "If this is the future," one judge noted, "then the future's going to be fun."

A host of impressive models were also named as runners-up in each category, including the Hyundai Ioniq 5, Ioniq 6 and Mercedes EQE tied for runners-up in the "Best Overall" category and the all-electric Lexus RZ 450e in the "Best SUV" category. Impressive high-tech features gained praise from judges such as the Hyundai Motor Group's in-dash blind spot camera system and Lexus' "magic sunroof" that goes from clear to cloudy with the touch of a button.

Here is the complete list of winner and runners-up:

continued on page 7

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 long drives.

Experience true electrified performance.
The Taycan Turbo S.

Is It Time To Visit New Power Sources?

continued from page 3

and a showcase for emerging technologies like The Wind & Solar Tower," said the inventor of The Tower, Jim Bardia. "With its vertical axis wind turbine, "frictionless" levitation hub, and self-cleaning/self cooling solar panel, The Tower generates prodigious electrical output on a small footprint, making it a compelling addition to EV-charging choices.

Can operate independent of grid

"The Wind & Solar Tower is more than merely an EV-charging device simply linked to today's electric charging grid; it goes beyond because unlike all other charging systems, it can function independent of the grid or be supplemented by the grid.

"The U.S. electric grid needs strengthening because it is being asked to deliver far more energy than ever before," Bardia explains, "but we can't be spending billions of dollars to build additional power plants that will increase pollution by burning more fossil fuels."

Renewables are key to survival

"Using more wind, solar and hydroelectric power is the key to survival of our grid and the continuation of the comfortable lives we've come to enjoy."



PORSCHE

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the U.S.

Time to Start Traveling “Again”

TRAVEL
the WORLD

Western Automotive Journalists (WAJ) Present "Best of the Bay" Awards

continued from page 6
2023 Best of the Bay Winners
 Best Overall: Acura Integra Type S
 Best Sedan: Hyundai Ioniq 6
 Best SUV: Genesis Electrified GV70
 Best EV: Genesis Electrified GV70
 Best Technology: Mercedes-Benz AMG EQE SUV
2023 Best of the Bay Runners-Up
 Best Sedan: Acura Integra Type S
 Best SUV: Lexus RZ
 Best EV: Mercedes EQE SUV
 Best Overall: Tie between the Hyundai Ioniq 5, Hyundai Ioniq 6, and Mercedes AMG EQE SUV

Best Technology: Hyundai Motor Group's blind spot camera system, and the Lexus RZ's "magic" sunroof.
 Thank you to the manufacturers who participated in this inaugural event and thank you to the Western Automotive Journalists for putting it all together. We'll see you again next year!
 Keith Turner
 Auto Review Producer/Writer
 Global Auto News (reaching over 500,000 industry experts weekly)
 Carguy Drives on YouTube (more than 25K subscribers)
 Member: Western Automotive Journalists (WAJ).
 Phone: 530-615-8054/ E-mail: carguy@hotmail.com

The Balancing Act in the Transition to EV's.....!

continued from page 4
 the population, including controlling their movement and where people live.
 Another, similar name for global warming is "the Martians are coming." The fear created has the same purpose.
 EVs are expensive and getting more expensive as the price of battery components such as lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel and other rare earth elements continue to climb and that's with making about 5,000,000 batteries a year worldwide. Wait until there is a demand for 100,000,000 batteries annually, if that is even possible. As I have also written for the last ten years, the claimed five percent a year improvement in battery technology hasn't materialized and it never will. Without the discovery of "Unobtainium," battery technology will remain at a standstill as it was ten years ago. And battery costs have already gone up 25 percent from 2021 to 2022 and it is going to get worse.
 California has nearly two million new car sales a year and by 2026, nearly 750,000 of those sales will be required to be electric which is more than all new EV sold in the United States just last year. You think electricity is expensive now, just wait until 2026.
 In Norway, because of government fiat removing consumer choice in automobile purchases, EVs are 90 percent of the market, but Norwegians are finding out they have shot themselves in the foot. Electricity in Norway, some-

what due to other green dictates, is a dollar per kWh, meaning an EV is more than twice as expensive to drive than an internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle. In California new edicts say you can't charge your EV between 4 pm and 9 pm. The grid can't handle the demand. Just wait until 2035, when electricity becomes a scarce commodity as the grid becomes more dependent on unreliable wind and solar. Without natural gas, coal and nuclear to generate electricity, we are dooming ourselves to third world status. Can you say rationing?
 There is a small loophole in the California rule which may help some people and that is plug in hybrids with a 50-mile EV range can make up 20 percent of the new car sales mix. It is a shame that Chevy (GM) discontinued the Volt PHEV as it was a terrific vehicle with absolutely no range anxiety. It was a great answer and perhaps the least expensive of all vehicles to operate, while providing exceptional performance.
 A new EV "competitor" is now marketing the Lucid Air, an ultra-performance EV that costs anywhere from about \$100,000 to over \$200,000 depending on battery size and performance. It claims to be the longest-range EV with an EPA rated 500 miles. But real range is about 20-25 percent less and recharging time at the highest-powered supercharger is still almost an hour as the battery is a huge 118 kWh. The vehicle weighs in at nearly 5,300 pounds with the battery topping 1,200 pounds.

Kia X-Pro Telluride Crossover SUV "Test Drive" by Dave Kunz



Kia Telluride X-Pro (photo Dave Kunz)

Chevrolet Colorado Test Drive Review

by Howard Elmer
 continued from page 6
 keeps costs and wait times in check.

The 2023 Colorado lineup is re-engineered with three distinct chassis setups for everyday tasks and off-road adventures:
 Standard: WT, LT and Z71 trims
 Stance: Trail Boss
 High-Performance 3-inch Factory-Installed Lift & Wide Stance: ZR2
 All models are built on a new chassis that gives the 2023 Colorado a 3.1-inch-longer wheelbase than the current Crew Cab/short box model. A shortened front overhang contributes to a more aggressive stance and significantly improves the truck's approach angle.
 Within the trim packages there is also a shift. First, the Trail Boss version is built off the work truck trim – this makes for a much more affordable, yet distinctly competent off-roader. In fact, I expect this will be the meat of the market. The Z71, which has long been considered Chevy's mainline off-roader has migrated to a milder, luxury package. Now at the top of the ladder is the ZR2; a legit dirt brawler that will cost you - with all the expensive add-ons like a 3-inch lifted suspension and upgraded Multimatic DSSV dampers.

The interior on the Colorado has been fully updated. A common layout runs through each trim model which I found made the WT nicer than before, while the upscale Z71 adds just enough to the interior appointments to set it apart. As you'll see in the photos the sheet metal has also been bent to create an angrier look on the Colorado. It's a striking design and certainly attracts attention. In fact, this seems to be the current trend – though I'm sure why every new truck needs to look pissed off.
 New and Enhanced Electronic Technologies include Colorado's new 11.3-inch-diagonal infotainment screen is the gateway to new and innovative technologies — especially when trailering or driving off-road.

Other features:
 Customizable and configurable screens
 Segment-first available Google built-in. With Google Assistant, Google Maps and Google Play you get access to hands-free communications, live traffic updates and more.
 All-new Off-Road Performance Display: an available app that monitors real-time off-road performance with different readouts for Overlanding (altitude and GPS guidance), Terrain (pitch, roll and tire pressure) and Baja (g-force, wheel slip indicator and transfer case status) driving situations
 Up to 10 camera views accessible on the infotainment screen — including a segment-first available underbody camera on Z71 and ZR2.



Chevrolet Colorado (photo Howard Elmer)

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Bring A Trailer and Pennzoil Partner to Deliver Enhanced Content, Incentives and Exclusive Experiences

Joint initiatives will focus on enhancing the experience of the companies' respective enthusiast Communities

Automotive auction platform and enthusiast community Bring a Trailer (BaT) is partnering with leading global lubricant brand Pennzoil on several collaborative projects.

Both companies bring a shared passion for enthusiast vehicles and the indelible experiences enjoyed by their drivers. BaT, with its actively engaged community of buyers and sellers, and Pennzoil, through its Long May We Drive campaign, aim to enhance the BaT user experience as well as provide Pennzoil application expertise, brand engagement, and other opportunities for the companies' respective audiences.

Both companies will benefit from the relationship through a wide array of activation elements, including collaborative content, a dedicated page on BringATrailer.com, co-promotion of the brands, educational elements, giveaways, charity auctions for exclusive experiences, and more.

"Bring a Trailer is all about connecting enthusiasts with the cars of their dreams regardless of era or category. This creates a natural synergy with our Pennzoil Long May We Drive initiative, which celebrates cars, the inspired lives they help us lead and is our

pledge to help keep every engine protected," said Andrea Bottini, Marketing Manager for Pennzoil. "Since 1913, Pennzoil has led the way in pioneering motor oils, and we're thrilled to partner with Bring a Trailer to support their community for an unbeatable driving experience, so all drivers can ignite their passions."

"Pennzoil was built on innovation, protection and quality, all attributes valued by our community of automotive enthusiasts," said Randy Nonnenberg, Co-founder and President of Bring a Trailer. "We look forward to working with them to introduce programs that will enhance the experience of fans of both brands in the coming months."

The collaboration brings together two of the most trusted companies in their respective industries: Pennzoil, one of the leading global providers of oils and lubricants, and Bring a Trailer, which reinvented the collector and enthusiast vehicle auction industry with unmatched transparency and a highly engaged community of over one million users.

For more information, visit the Bring a Trailer Pennzoil page at: <http://bringatrailer.com/pennzoil/AboutBringATrailer>

Bring a Trailer (BaT) is a digital auction platform and enthusiast community founded in 2007 to connect buyers and sellers of

classic, collector and enthusiast vehicles. BaT curates vehicles submitted by sellers and helps them craft transparent auction listings that present the vehicles as they are — without superlatives or dubious used-car-lot language. At the end of a successful auction, BaT connects the seller and buyer so they can work together to complete the transaction. BaT's knowledgeable community of more than 1,000,000 registered users vet each listing so potential buyers can bid with confidence. BaT auctions are listed at a flat rate, starting at just \$99 with a sell-through rate of 83%. Bring a Trailer Shipping is the company's fully integrated vehicle transport service, available for both BaT auction listings and private vehicles in the contiguous 48 U.S. states. For more information, visit www.bringatrailer.com.

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For more information about the full line of Pennzoil lubricating products, motor oils and filters, please visit www.pennzoil.com.

Ford F-150 Test Drive Review by Harold Allen



Ford F-150 (photo Harold Allen)

continued from page 4

package adds an 8-way power seat, electronic AC temperature control for both driver and passenger, Sync 4™ with enhanced voice recognition and Sirius XM 360L™. The engine option costs \$2,335.00. The trailer tow package is an additional \$1,325.00, while a camera with 360-degree view adds \$765.00. The camera is a great idea for trailering, especially at the campsite.

Functional standard items are plentiful with a dash that tells you everything you will ever need to know, from tire pressure to mpg info, and includes BLIS cross traffic alert, keyless entry, post-collision braking with pre-collision assist W/AEB, rear camera view and Ford Pass Connect with 4 G™. The sound system and navigation are enhanced with a large screen, and it comes with Apple CarPlay.

Driving is a breeze and good overall performance is outstanding. And worth a mention: You are not breaking the bank. Out-the-door this truck was \$47,335.00 plus the usual dealer adds, which included heavily tinted windows, a spray-in bed liner and all-weather floor mats.

One other thing of note, especially with the approach of winter: This regular cab short bed pickup will fit in your garage. And in Texas, where next spring you can count on hail damage, it is a blessing.

Keep in mind that lots of trucks on the market are spiraling to \$100K today. Keep in mind that lots of trucks on the market are spiraling to \$100K today. This is a great truck, unless – of course – you need to haul more passengers in your everyday use. For this person – and my personal use – it is outstanding.

Harold Allen
TAWA and MPG Member

INSIDE VIETNAM AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

Automechanika Ho Chi Minh City 2023 closes to the praise of a cross-cultural sharing platform for business

Participants at Automechanika Ho Chi Minh City expressed great confidence in the Vietnamese automotive industry as many begin to lay down foundations for the upcoming technology-driven era. The trade fair took place from 23 to 25 June 2023 at the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center. Feedback from those seeking business networking, investment and training also enjoyed the added element of entertainment that marked the fifth edition. Organisers vow to continue various forms of community outreach to build momentum in the market and tap into local business culture.

Key figures from Automechanika Ho Chi Minh City 2023: • Visitors: 13,148 from 37 countries and regions • Exhibitors: 461 from 20 countries and regions • Scale: 15,740 sqm

Ms Fiona Chiew, General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, remarked: "I am delighted to see an increase in participation amongst local and overseas exhibitors and visitors. It shows that players are recognising opportunities in the automotive supply chain and are using our platform as a gateway for trade and exchange. The engagement from the local players in our fringe programme was also very encouraging; it demonstrates an eagerness to advance the local automotive industry."

Once again, the trade fair offered an ideal occasion for domestic and overseas automotive markets to come together. Buyers visited from 37 countries and regions, including Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam, to name a few.

Recognising the show's global influence and importance to the local market, Mr Nguyen Minh Vu, Service Manager, OBD Vietnam, said: "The scale of Automechanika Ho Chi Minh City has definitely grown in recent years. We decided to join again as we continue to see results each time we exhibit. This time we have met buyers from China, India, and Malaysia. Therefore, the show helps to raise our company's profile beyond Vietnam to other regions around the world."

Visiting the show from South Korea, Mr Bryan Jon, President of DACCOR from South Korea, expanded on his reasons for attending. He noted: "Many Korean companies are investing in the country to establish local production bases. For the automotive industry, we know that local car ownership has doubled in the last five years thanks to the younger generation purchasing four-wheelers. It is creating new opportunities, which is why I am here; to get a better picture of the market and find new products for my trading company." He added, "I am pleased with the connections I have made locally. The international involvement was also more than I expected, and I explored brands from Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia too."

One Malaysian exhibitor was Schmaco Auto Parts Industries SDN BHD. Managing Director, Mr Edmund Tan, reflected: "Participating allows us to keep up with local market needs and provide appropriate products in the future. For foreign companies like us, the exhibition is a gateway to the market where we can promote high-quality products. So, in addition to local companies, many players from other countries and regions were exhibiting."

Along the same lines, Mr Khach Tham Quan, a local sales representative from Cty TNHH Tan Phai Saigon, said: "The international representation of exhibitors was beneficial for my sourcing. I found the latest equipment and tools at the highest international standards from leading brands like Autel. I will follow up with them as I am in the process of upgrading my workshop to serve customers better."

This year, the Vietnam Association of Supporting Industries also brought a bigger group of players to the show. Mr Duong Danh Tai, Vice President Head of Linkage and Promotion Department of the Vietnam Association of Supporting Industries, reflected by expressing: "We believe Automechanika Ho Chi Minh City is the right platform for our members to tap into the global supply chain. Its influence can help open up opportunities for exporting car parts and foster more networks with foreign and domestic carmakers and OEMs. Going forward, we plan to invite more members so that they can continue developing a greater understanding of global industrial trends and market movements."

INSIDE CHINA AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

Auto Aftermarket Guangzhou 2023 closes, witnessing a significant jump in industry participation

The 8th edition of Auto Aftermarket Guangzhou (AAG) concluded on 13 October 2023 at the Poly World Trade Expo Center (PWTC Expo) in Guangzhou, with an increase in both exhibitor and visitor numbers. This year's fair fully embraced the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, showcasing the latest advancements in the region's automotive industry. Throughout the three-day show, the enhanced fringe programme successfully fostered connections between various sectors of the automotive industry and other related industries.

Key figures of Auto Aftermarket Guangzhou 2023:

- 1,035 exhibitors (69.7% growth)
- 50,000 sqm across four exhibition halls
- 31,329 visitors from 57 countries and regions (44.5% increase)
- 30 fringe events

Mr Xia Wendi, Chairman of China National Machinery Industry International Co Ltd remarked: "China has been the global leader in car sales for an impressive 13 years, presenting both opportunities and challenges for the country's auto aftermarket. Since its inaugural edition in 2015, AAG has become a highly influential exhibition dedicated to South China's automotive aftermarket. In recent years, the show has actively embraced the prosperity of the Greater Bay Area, serving as a comprehensive platform for product showcases, technological exchange, and information sharing. In doing so, AAG effectively promotes the advancement of China's auto industry, aligning with the national strategy of the Great Bay Area."

Mr Jason Cao, Principal Consultant of Messe Frankfurt (Shanghai) Co Ltd, expressed his delight in witnessing a significant growth in both exhibitor and visitor numbers. "The accomplishment not only signifies the creativity and vitality of China's car market, driven by supportive policies, but also represents a milestone as the exhibition leveraged the industry resources of its two organisers." Mr Cao added: "I believe that as the industry continues to evolve, AAG will continue to shoulder a responsibility of fostering the expansion of the automobile industry in South China and the Greater Bay Area. We are committed to offering a high-quality business platform, catering to the growing demand for personalised, intelligent and diversifying product needs within the auto industry."

Auto Aftermarket Guangzhou (AAG) is jointly organised by Messe Frankfurt (Shanghai) Co Ltd and China National Machinery Industry International Co Ltd. The next edition of the show is set to be held from 28 to 30 August 2024.

For more information, please contact Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd on + 852 2802 7728, visit www.aag.org.cn, or email auto@hongkong.messefrankfurt.com.

Auto News Introduces All-New QR Code





International Auto News



Danica Patrick Interviews Robert F. Kennedy Jr. at Formula 1 Race in Las Vegas as Formula 1 Expands It's Investment in the U.S. to Include a Ten Year Commitment

race was everything. The dilemma of watching trackside, with the Sphere in the background or from a rooftop won out to Drai's Nightclub. It overlooked the Las Vegas strip with a view of a long stretch of the track for passing with the Bellagio water fountains dancing in the background, huge high def screens and an immersive sound system loud enough to be in tune with the race wherever you were at Drai's.

Max Verstappen, the Belgian and Dutch racing driver for Red Bull winning was no surprise. He's been the world champion since 2021. He shocked many people with his criticism of Las Vegas as "99% show, 1% sporting event". Yes there was plenty of show, it is Vegas after all. As for the sporting event, post event Verstappen could be heard him singing Viva Las Vegas over team radio. Vegas can do that to you.



Danica Patrick and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. "Pretty Intense" podcast meet and greet (photo credit: Joshua Foster)

The race promised to be like no other race with cars racing down the iconic Las Vegas strip and a near 1/2 billion investment in the new home of Formula 1 for the United States and their 10 year commitment. Worldwide attention was focused on F1 in Las Vegas.

The frenzy started early with hotel prices gouging like a big fight in the city. An averted strike by hospitality workers, a loose drain cover, dishing of the host city by the reigning champion, and this was only the beginning.

Timing was choreographed with practice and race times in the evening to cause as little disruption as possible to the Las Vegas Strip, and making it the latest start time for F1 races. The first night of practice, a loose manhole cover struck the car of Carlos Sainz Jr. The already early morning practice session was delayed to a 2:30 am start time. It led to many disappointments as fans had to leave the grandstands and exit the Las Vegas circuit before the next session.

Political significance came to F1 when Danica Patrick, one of the most successful women in car racing, interviewed presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr for her "Pretty Intense" podcast. It was one of the highlighted meet and greets for the week with the election looming later this year. Cirque du Soleil's founder Guy Laliberté and Vatoom's Eric Pulier Froogs camp brought some jaw dropping entertainment with world class artists and a Burning Man vibe.

Where you were watching the



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Around the Track – Racing News



All-New Toyota Prius Hybrid Tours Monterey

My recent test drive of the all-new Toyota Prius during Monterey “Car Week” generated some interesting comments like: Wow, I like your car, who makes it? How long has Toyota been making the Prius? If the Prius gets 52 mpg and offers a plug-in model why would anyone buy an EV? (see PHOTO on front page) The 2023 Toyota Prius offers an all-new design, is priced at \$34,465 (as driven), and offers 7 Safety & Convenience features including Blind Spot Monitoring w/Rear Cross-Traffic Alert. The 2023 Toyota Prius deserves a “test drive”. (photo below)

A Sporty Hybrid Makes Its Debut in Honda's CR-Vs New Line-Up

by Sally Hanson, Editor
continued from page 2

The hybrid power train consists of a two-motor hybrid system with a 2.0-liter DOHC 16 valve with Intelligent Variable Valve Timing and Lift Electronic Control (iVTEC) inline 4 cylinder engine delivering 204 horsepower and is paired with a continuously variable transmission (CVT). The CR-V hybrid offered ample power on the highway as well as excellent maneuverability on city streets. The EPA fuel economy is 37 mpg average with 40 mpg in the city and 34 mpg on highways.

The sporty exterior styling of the new CR-V includes a bold gloss black honeycomb front grille and grille bar with sport stainless steel dual finishers under the grille and

in the rear around the dual exhaust. 19-inch black alloy wheels with 235/55 all season tires made the Canyon River Blue Metallic color CR-V that I drove an attractive CUV. Sport gloss black door mirrors, roof rails, and rear spoiler trim are also part of the sport package.

The wheelbase of the new CR-V is 1.6 inches longer than the previous model making the overall length of the vehicle about 4 inches longer. The width has added just a half an inch. The ground clearance in the sport touring model is 8.2 inches. These figures make the classification of the CR-V more of a Comfortable Runabout Vehicle than a Compact Recreational Vehicle.

The interior of the CR-V is quieter and more comfortable than its predecessor. It features the most cabin and cargo space in the model's history. It has 33.2 cubic feet of cargo space with the rear seats up and 69.7 cubic feet with the rear seats down.

The rear seating reclines as well as offering a fold down 60/40 split seat. Leather trimmed seats with orange stitching are an attractive addition. The nine-inch color touch screen is my favorite interior enhancement. It is simple to navigate and offers great visibility with rear view camera activation.

The Honda CR-V has an even brighter future ahead with the production of an all-new hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV) based on the all-new Honda CR-V starting in 2024 in Maryville, Ohio. The new CR-V-based FCEV will mark North America's first production vehicle to combine a plug-in feature with FCEV technology in one model, which enables the driver to charge the onboard battery to deliver EV driving around town with the flexibility of fast hydrogen refueling for longer trips.

This zero-emissions vehicle will contribute to Hondas previously announced goal to make battery-electric vehicles (BEVs) and FCEVs represent 100% of its global auto sales by mid twenty-first century.



Denise (Team Auto News) with All-New Toyota Prius Hybrid during Monterey Car Week (photo Auto News)



Honda's CR-V Hybrid All Wheel Drive Sport Touring is part of the completely redesigned sixth generation CR-V and is parked by the Mukilteo Lighthouse.

2024 Toyota Crown "Test Drive"

continued from page 2

Volkswagen Arteon SEL Premium AWD, the Crown Platinum lags in speed tests. Yet, for everyday driving, the Crown offers a robust performance, especially in its Sport+ mode, which provides a confident and neutral driving experience.

Design and Comfort

The Crown Platinum's design is unique, combining the aesthetics of a sedan with the feel of an SUV. Inside, the car offers ample space, with more headroom and legroom than some of its competitors. The interior materials are of high quality, with the Platinum trim featuring standard leather. The 12.3-inch digital gauge cluster and central touchscreen are appropriately sized for the interior, and the vertical phone charger in the center console is a thoughtful touch.

Fuel Efficiency and Practicality

One of the main selling points

of the Crown is its fuel efficiency. While the Platinum model isn't the most efficient in the Crown lineup, it still leads its class in fuel economy. The car's spacious design, combined with features like a heated steering wheel, rear seats, and an 11-speaker JBL premium sound system, make it a comfortable and practical choice for daily use.

Conclusion

The 2023 Toyota Crown Platinum is a unique offering in the market, blending the characteristics of a sedan with the advantages of an SUV. While it might not be the sportiest or the most luxurious car in its price range, it offers a distinctive look, impressive fuel efficiency, and a comfortable ride. The real question remains: Will sedan enthusiasts and potential SUV buyers be drawn to the Crown's unique proposition?

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All-New Toyota Crown (photo Auto News)



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From Around the U.S.



Formula 1 Turns Las Vegas Strip Into A Race Track as they Expand Plans for U.S.



View of Formula 1 in Las Vegas from Drai's (photo credit: Joyce Chow)

Mercedes-Benz Group AG Introduces New Technology at the 2024 CES Show in Las Vegas



Markus Schäfer, Chief Technology Officer, Member of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG and entrepreneur will.i.am during CES 2024 in Las Vegas (photo courtesy Mercedes-Benz AG)

Lexus RX F Sport Test Drive Report



Bart Northcott (Left) Managing Partner of Bear Creek Golf Course with Scot McCallum (right) and Lexus RX F-Sport (photo Auto News)

continued from page 4
 in Winthrop's shopping district which has outstanding stores, restaurants and lodging. There are many attractions in Winthrop and Mazama which is about 14 miles from Winthrop. In Mazama you must stop into the Mazama Store which sits at the base of Goat Peak and Goat Wall, a popular rock climbing destination. And drop into the Public House, the new Pub in Mazama, for some great food and beverages. A must see just outside of Winthrop is driving up to Sun Mountain Lodge. The Lexus RX sound system with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility had country music playing as we drove around Patterson Lake and up to the Lodge. The view from the bar deck at Sun Mountain Lodge while you sip your favorite beverage and enjoy five-star food is something you must experience.

Next we drove over to Bear Creek Golf Course in Winthrop which AAA has called "a hidden gem." For avid golfers, you might

be familiar with Desert Canyon and Gamble Sands—two amazing golf experiences in eastern Washington. On your next golf outing, you must stop and play Bear Creek golf course which has spectacular mountain views from multiple tee boxes. It is a par 72 full size course with three challenging par four holes. Ash and Linda Court have owned the course for many years and the course was built by Ash's father, Herman Court. The picture you see in this article was on the course which is in the finest shape I've seen in my 40 years of playing it. This is due to the new Course Management team led by Bart & Rick Northcott. The course has amazing staff including Angie Andrew, Deb Hardy, Dorothy Mitchell, Laurie Myers, Regina Wallenberg and the Ground keepers. This is course that will challenge accomplished golfers, and is also super fun for the average golfer who wants to play in the sun and see amazing views.

We drove the RX on many back roads with incredible vistas with

very little vibration or noise due to the solid Lexus design. There are countless activities in and around Winthrop in addition to golf including excellent fishing (stop in at the Outdoorsman for gear and advice), hiking, camping, swimming and rafting in lakes/rivers, waterskiing, jet ski, shopping, horse-back riding, ATV options, rock climbing and in the winter this area is one of the top cross-country ski and snowmobile destinations in the entire U.S. I always enjoy having breakfast at the Rocking Horse Bakery in Winthrop and reading the Methow Valley News, one of the top-rated newspapers in our entire state.

My suggestion is stop into a Lexus dealership and buy the Lexus RX F Sport SUV. Then contact the Winthrop Visitors Information Center at 509-996-2125 and ask about all the fantastic dining, shopping and recreation options available including many hotel, motel and B&B accommodations to fit your budget. Enjoy your trip!

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Ford Mach-E Test Drive Review

by Chris Chung

In 2019, for the first time ever, the Mustang had an SUV trim. That SUV, was the Mustang Mach-E. Being an all-electric vehicle, the Mach-E features stellar performance numbers and thus its name was created as a nod to the iconic Mustang Mach 1, a high performance variant of the Mustang that was first introduced in 1969. I recently had the opportunity to test drive a 2023 Mach-E GT on loan from Bill Pierre Ford in Lake City, and I must say the performance this vehicle had absolutely blew me away.

Under the hood, the Mach-E GT features a dual-motor setup that produces a combined 459 horsepower and 612 lb-ft of torque, allowing for a 0-60 mph time of around 3.5 seconds. This impressive acceleration is complemented by a top speed of 114 mph, making the Mach-E GT a true performance vehicle that will blow the doors off of most IC cars.

The Mach-E GT also boasts a range of up to 270 miles on a single charge, making it practical for everyday use and longer trips. It supports fast charging, allowing for up to 61 miles of range in just 10 minutes of charging time. I thoroughly enjoyed the fuel savings during my week with the Mach-E.

Inside, the Mach-E GT is spacious and comfortable, with a modern and high-tech cabin featuring a large touchscreen display and a variety of driver-assist and safety features. The Mach-E GT also comes with a host of standard features, including a B&O sound system, wireless charging, and heated front seats.

Overall, the 2023 Ford Mustang Mach-E GT is a compelling electric SUV that offers impressive performance, practicality, and cutting-edge technology. If you're in the market for an electric SUV that delivers a thrilling driving experience, the Mach-E GT is definitely worth considering.



12th Anniversary Legends Of Auto Event Announced In 2024



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
Tom duPont
Vic Edelbrock*
Ryan Falconer

Mark Fields
Henry Ford Family
Galpin Group Family
Ken Gross
Dan Gurney*
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Barry Meguiar
Bruce McCaw
Dana Mecum

Bruce Meyer
Peter Mullin
Roger Penske
Pierre Ford Family
Stewart Reed
Steve Saleen
Carroll Shelby*
Danny Sullivan
**Departed Legends*

SEE - www.LegendsofAuto.com

Legends of Auto Celebrates 10 Yr. Anniversary in 2022



(Left to Right) Bill McCallum, Auto News Publisher/Founder, Dan Brigatino, Scholarship Winner, Luk Blackwell (Pierre Ford), Steve Saleen, Jason Anucinski (Pierre Ford), Beau Boeckmann, Pat Bondurant, Barry McGuire, Lyn St. James, John Kraman (Mecum Family) and Rita Case

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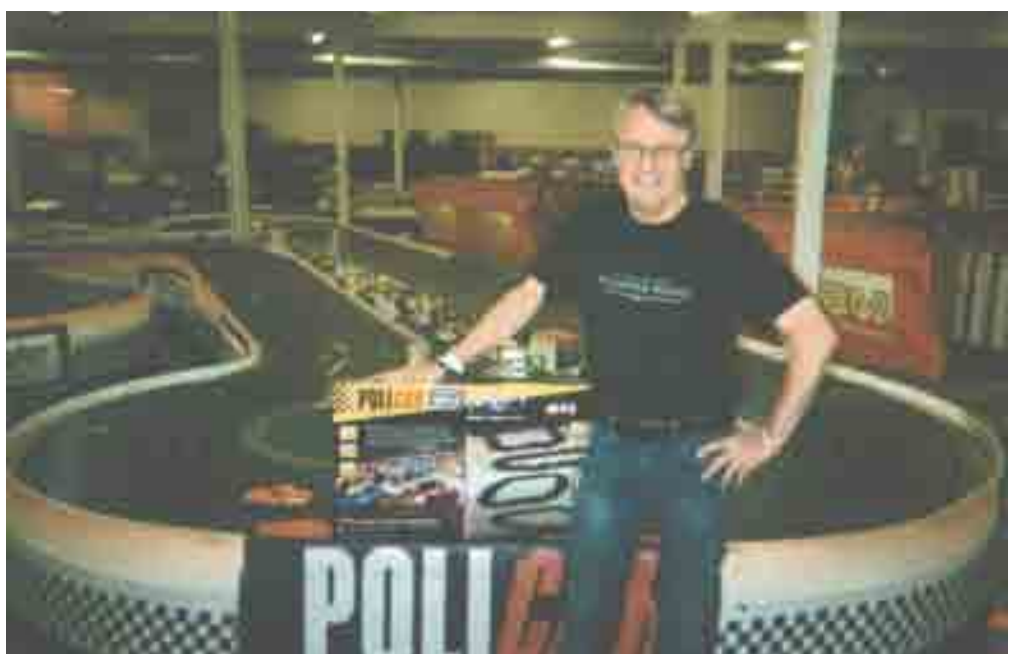
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Alan Smith, Scale Racing Center Owner, Demonstrates PoliCar Slot Car Starter Kit at his Center in Tacoma

The All-New Toyota bZ4x EV Offers Cutting Edge Design and is Priced Right

(See Photo on page 1)

by Bill McCallum

As I have said before, “I have never met an EV I didn’t like.” (during a test drive) The Toyota bZ4x more than qualifies with that statement. The bZ4x is one of the best designed EV’s on the market. It has the “thumbs-up” look that you are looking for when buying a new EV. And when it comes to the purchase price, How about \$46,700, as tested.

Powered with 201 Total System Horsepower and a single Electric Motor (150 KW) producing 114 MPGe. A level 1 Charging Cord (120V) is included and the bZ4x is DC Charging Compatible. The Toyota Safety Sense 3.0 System with Pre-Collision and Pedestrian Detection is also included. If there is an EV in your future be sure and test drive the Toyota bZ4x EV.

CES 2024 in Las Vegas Features New Technology

continued from page 4

“I believe in a world of music. This is going to one of those things that alters how artists create. Fans of the music ... will have a better engagement and experience and relationship with the song,” shared will.i.am in a roundtable with Markus Schäfer, Chief Technology Officer, Member of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG.

It’s “beyond a dream come true” for will.i.am who dreamed about getting out of the ghetto and having a Mercedes one day. In his vision, it’s all part of a renaissance of creativity with a community of music makers that changes how we make music and listen to music. As an artist, will.i.am outgrew dreaming of just music to how he could transform lives especially in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics).

Being a little skeptical, I was wondering how much was concept vs. reality and was able to experience a test drive in a Mercedes-AMG EQE sedan. “I Gotta Feeling” by The Black Eyed Peas was one of the 16 different MBUX SOUND DRIVE tracks available with a quick swipe on the dashboard. I could literally hear how I was driving through the pulse, tone, and volume with beats and whooshes of sound. It was so immersive it became a visual painting of an audio journey created by my driving. Exhilarated from the drive, my appreciation of the driving experience will never be the same. Getting behind the wheel of an AMG with MBUX SOUND DRIVE for more than a test drive can’t come soon enough, but mid-2024 is quickly approaching.

SHOWCASE REVIEWS

Mazda CX-5



The Mazda CX-5 is considered to be one of the best small SUV’s on the market and a top seller for Mazda. the CX-5 is priced right at \$40,600 *

BASE PRICE: \$40,600 *
TYPE: 4 door SUV
ENGINE: SKYACTIVE 2.5 Liter Turbo
HORSEPOWER: 227 hp
TRANS: 6 SPS Sport Mode AT
MPG: 27 highway

Mazda CX-50



The Mazda CX-50 is bigger than the CX-5 with more features including 12 Safety and security features with 24 hour roadside assistance.

BASE PRICE: \$43,300 *
TYPE: 4-door SUV
ENGINE: 2SKYACTIVE 2.5 Liter
HORSEPOWER: 227 hp
TRANS: SKYACTIVE 6SPD AT
MPG: 29 highway

Hyundai Kona Limited



The Kona has been re-styled and is also available as an EV. The new Kona is bigger and the EV offers faster charging time. It’s also priced right.

BASE PRICE: \$33,195 *
TYPE: 4 door SUV
ENGINE: 1.6L Turbocharged I4
HORSEPOWER: 190 hp
TRANS: 8 speed AT
MPG: 32 highway

Lexus LX 600 F-Sport



This is the “big-daddy” in the Lexus line up It’s worth the investment if you have the “bucks.” Packed with power and extras.

BASE PRICE: \$110,360 *
TYPE: 4-door SUV
ENGINE: 3.4 L Twin Turbo V-6
HORSEPOWER: 409 hp
TRANS: 10 speed AT
MPG: 22 highway

Toyota Prius Prime XSE



The Toyota Prius has gone through a number of design changes recently. And is still the all-time “best seller” in the growing hybrid segment.

BASE PRICE: \$39,170 *
TYPE: Hybrid
ENGINE: 2.0L DOHC 16 V 4 cyl.
HORSEPOWER: 220 hp
TRANS: CVT
MPG: 48 mpg Gasoline Only

Toyota RAV4 TRD Off-Road



The Toyota RAV4 has been an all-time best seller for Toyota with over 10 trim lines: Adventure, Hybrid, LE, LTD, SE, TRD, Woodland, XLE, XLE Premium, XSE

BASE PRICE: \$41,725 *
TYPE: 4 door SUV
ENGINE: 2.5 liter 4-cylinder
HORSEPOWER: 203 hp
TRANS: 8 Speed AT
MPG: 32 highway

* All information listed “AS TESTED”



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Cobra

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Gullwing

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2004 Ferrari Enzo

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1958 Ferrari 250 GT 'Tour de

France' Alloy Berlinetta

Chassis No. 0899GT, Overall Winner of the 1958 Coppa Sant'Ambroeus at Monza and the 1959 Castell'Arquato Vernasca Hill Climb

1970 Plymouth Hemi Cuda

Convertible

1 of 14 Hemi Cuda Convertibles Produced for the 1970 Model Year

1948 Tucker 48

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The paint is beautiful, and the interior is brand new

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This has to be the best Corvette I've ever owned.
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 Toyota of Marysville – Ladies at Work
 Dana White – Chief Comm. Officer - Hyundai N. America
 Rita Case – Rick Case Auto Group
 Connie Peters – Automotive Writer



Connie Peters
writer

Connie Peters Interviews Jana Askeland

continued from page 3

SUVs for various family needs, she decided to turn her knowledge into a hobby. Starting with short social media videos, Jana has expanded her reach to longer YouTube content and a dedicated website. Her genuine approach, including showcasing the ups and downs in her videos, resonates with her growing audience.

Married to a chiropractor from Iowa, Jana and her family, including two elementary school-aged boys live in North Carolina. Her daily driver, a 2023 Hyundai Palisade, reflects her practical and aesthetic considerations when it comes to vehicles.

Despite her success, Jana remains down-to-earth, acknowledging the challenges of juggling her content creation with a full-time job and family responsibilities. She embraces the authenticity of her reviews, opting for a more aesthetic and functional evaluation rather than delving into intricate details. Jana's journey, marked by passion and authenticity, reflects not just a career but a genuine commitment to helping others find their perfect match in a new vehicle.

Find Jana online at realmomcartours.com



Jana Askeland (photo Connie Peters)

2023 Ford Bronco Everglades Test Drive Review by Chris Chung

The 2023 Ford Bronco Everglades is a testament to Ford's commitment to delivering rugged, off-road ready vehicles, encapsulating the perfect blend of vintage style and modern performance. With the iconic Bronco name resurrected, the Everglades trim stands out for its robust off-road capabilities right out of the box.

Featuring an air snorkel, the Everglades trim breathes efficiently even when the air thickens with dust, snow, or water, ensuring the engine's optimal performance. This feature becomes a game-changer in off-road conditions,

reinforcing the Bronco's go-anywhere attitude. The snorkel, combined with raised air vent plumbing for the axles, transfer case, and transmission, increases the safe wading depth from 33.5 inches to 36.4 inches. This enhancement allows the Bronco to traverse deeper waters without risking damage to vital components, thus inviting enthusiasts to conquer challenging terrains and minor floods with confidence.

In addition to these, the Everglades trim includes a heavy-duty modular Ford Performance bumper, equipped with a Zeon

10-S Warn winch and protective safari bar. Whether it's recovering from a difficult spot or helping another vehicle out, the winch is a valuable tool in the off-road toolbox. The interior isn't left behind either, with marine-grade vinyl seats designed for easy cleanups after adventurous days of mudding or dusty trail rides.

On the road, the Bronco Everglades offers a fun, albeit bumpy ride. It's no silent cruiser, but it's not meant to be. It's a joy to drive, even when the trails get rough. The vehicle's G.O.A.T (Goes Over Any Type of Terrain) modes, including Normal, Eco, Sport, Slippery, Sand, Mud/Ruts, Rock Crawl, and Baja, make it adaptable to a variety of terrains. The Bronco Everglades is a vehicle that demands respect, both on and off-road, and its performance doesn't disappoint!

With a multitude of off-road-ready features, the 2023 Ford Bronco Everglades is not just another SUV. It is a capable, fun-to-drive off-roader that stays true to the Bronco heritage while pushing the boundaries of what is possible in an off-road vehicle. With the Bronco Everglades, Ford has not only resurrected an icon but has also redefined off-road adventure.



2023 Ford Bronco Everglades Off-Road (photo Chris Chung)

Kia Telluride Test Drive Review by Dave Kunz

continued from page 2

SUVs as well, and on the Telluride consists of a slight increase in ground clearance, 18" wheels with all-terrain tires, a 110-volt power inverter, and subtle X-Pro logos inside and out to drive the outdoorsy point home. X-Pro is offered only on SX and SX-Prestige trim levels.

Mechanically, it's the same as the other Telluride trims. One engine gets the job done for all of them: a 3.8 liter V6 producing 291 horsepower and 262 lb-ft of torque, working through an 8-speed automatic transmission. The X-Pro package does increase

the Telluride's maximum towing capacity, from 5,000 lbs to 5,500 lbs.

And let's face it: even for enthusiasts who may take their Telluride X-Pro off road, the majority of miles will be done on pavement. Here, the Telluride in general really shines. A dizzying array of safety technology – either standard or available – and plenty of room for a growing family inside. Even the third-row seat is spacious by mid-size crossover SUV standards.

When the pavement does end, the electronically - controlled AWD system can send up to 50% of power to the rear wheels, and a setting called AWD Lock keeps it there. There's also Downhill Brake Control for sure-footedness when descending steep trails.



Kia Telluride SUV (photo Dave Kunz)



Book Reviews

Family Time Reading Fun by Linda Clinard

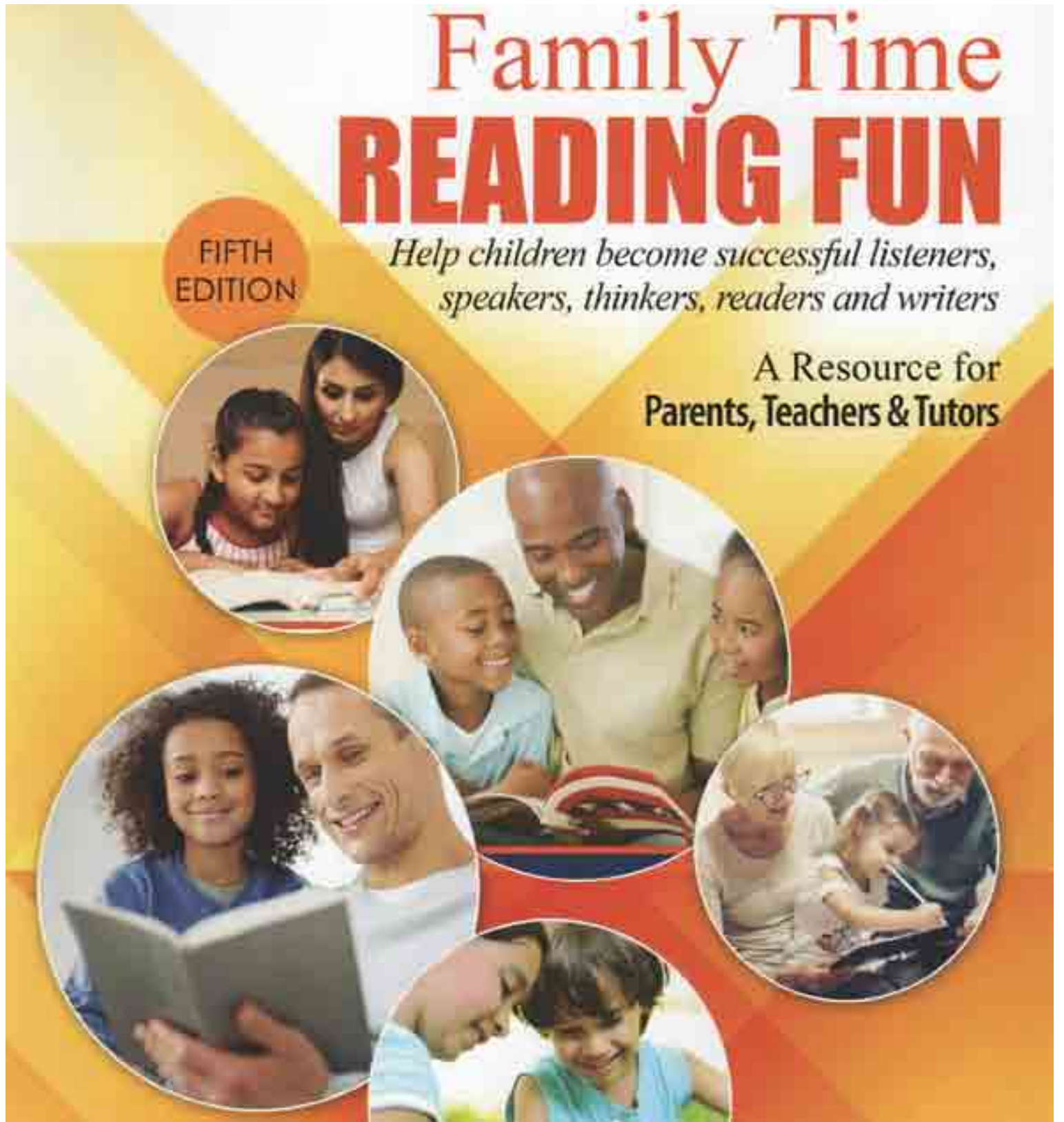
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Overview

All activities are linked, as applicable, to the national K-5 Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, which makes this a perfect book for developing and supporting partnerships between home and school.

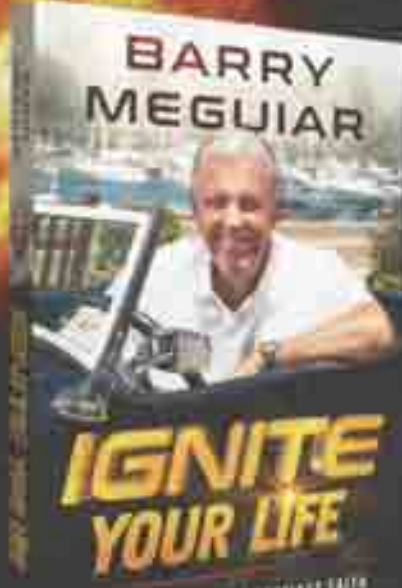
Linda's Bio

Dr. Linda McCorkel Clinard has served as a classroom teacher and reading specialist in California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, and overseas for the Department of Defense Schools in Germany and Okinawa. Linda taught reading/literacy education courses for Michigan State University, The University of Michigan and the University of California-Irvine.



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BMW i4 eDrive 40 "Test Drive" Review by Arv Voss

continued from page 5

with touch-screen functionality. Controls and switchgear are user friendly with learned familiarity adding to comfort and convenience. Connectivity and Infotainment

AS TESTED:

My test Bimmer i4 40 wore a Tanzanite Blue exterior finish and sported a Canberra Beige and Grey interior. The base price was set at \$55,400. While optional extras elevated the total to \$68,270. Options included: the Dynamic Handling Package, Driver's Assistance Pro Package, Shadowline Package, M Sport Package, Parking Assistance Package, Premium Package, and Acoustic Protection.

PERFORMANCE:

Driving the i4 eDrive 40 is both exhilarating and pleasurable based on one's mood. It is fast, smooth and the handling may be adjusted to satisfy various scenarios in terms of ride quality and steering

response. Yes it costs more than the 430i, but it certainly seems worth it

THE FINAL ANALYSIS:

If you're in the market for an ideal electric vehicle, try on the "Ultimate Driving Machine" – (hold the ICE) and give the BMW i4 eDrive 40 Gran Sport Coupe a go on the road or track. You won't be disappointed.

SPECIFICATIONS:

BMW i4 eDrive 40
Base Price: \$55,400.
Price as Tested: \$68,270.
Motor Type and Size: Current excited Synchronous AC with liquid-cooled lithium-ion battery pack 81.5kWh and 11.0kW onboard charger.
Horsepower (bhp): 335 @ 8,000-17,000 rpm
Torque (ft./ lbs.): 317 @ 0-5,000 rpm
Transmission: Direct Drive
Drive Train: Rear Motor – Rear Wheel Drive

Suspension: Front - Struts
Rear - Multilink
Brakes: Power-assisted four wheel vented discs
Tires: Hankook VentusS1 evo3 – 245-40R-19 98Y front (100Y Rear)

BMW i4
Wheelbase: 112.4 inches
Length Overall: 185.5 inches
Width: 72.9 inches
Height: 57.0 inches
Curb Weight: 4,699 lbs.

Fuel Capacity: 0- electric
EPA Mileage Estimates: 100 MPGe mpg city - 98 MPGe highway / 100 MPGe combined - Range
0 - 60 mph: 4.8 seconds



BMW i4 eDrive 40 (photo Arv Voss)

Shelby American Introduces Its Latest Generation Shelby Raptor, Its Most Polished Off Road Super Truck Ever

Shelby American, a wholly owned subsidiary of Carroll Shelby International Inc. (CSBI:PK), has announced the latest generation Shelby Ford F-150 Raptor, the most polished off-road truck ever offered by the company. The 525-horsepower truck is now available in limited quantities through official dealers nationwide.

"Shelby American and Ford Motor Company have a tremendous history of working diligently together on high performance cars and trucks for enthusiasts worldwide," said Joe Conway, CEO of Shelby American. "We're excited to continue that important legacy. The future is bright as our companies continue evolving the product line, so the public has even more choices for world-class Shelby vehicles

through Ford dealer showrooms."

The latest vehicle in the lineup builds upon Shelby American's rich legacy.

"Carroll Shelby established Shelby American in 1962 and immediately pulled ahead of every automaker, just as he did on the track while a race car driver," said Gary Patterson, president of Shelby American. "An important part of his legacy was the idea of a high-performance street legal truck, which his team pioneered in the 1980s. When Ford introduced the first F-150 Raptor in 2010, Shelby began building super trucks based on that incredible vehicle. Our latest generation achieves handling, ride and power levels no one could envision when Shelby American started on this trail."

In 2021, Ford introduced a fully redesigned F-150 Raptor that boosted its off-road capability with all-new five-link rear suspension featuring improved wheel travel and electronically controlled shocks along with upsized wheels and tires. The re-engineered running gear features extra-long trailing arms to better maintain axle position on rough terrain, a Panhard rod and 24-inch coil springs. Next-generation FOX™ Live Valve™ internal bypass shocks with state-of-the-art electronic control technology offer position-sensitive damping adjust ability.

The high output 3.5-liter EcoBoost® V6 engine delivers strong low-end torque for maximum towing and increased payload capability. The suspension design

combined with more sophisticated engine management software means the truck can put more torque to the rear wheels for quicker starts off the line, faster acceleration and better throttle responsiveness while still delivering comfort, stability, handling, control and traction at speed.

The interior was completely redesigned to elevate the owner experience with style, comfort and utility. The truck features enhanced materials, new color choices and more storage. The new Ford Shelby Raptor has standard over-the-air updates and a new connected experience that can deliver potential features like shareable digital trail maps. There is also SYNC® 4 with cloud-connected navigation and voice search and the FordPass mobile app to check on the truck remotely and more.

"The Ford F-150 Raptor and Shelby version of the truck have improved every generation," said Vince LaViolette, Shelby American Vice President of Operations and Chief Designer. "The latest Shelby Raptor boasts its best suspension system ever, giant 37-inch off-road tires on aluminum forged wheels, functional off road bumpers and LED lighting for any occasion. It makes impressive power, can stay cool in the most severe environments and look handsome while doing it."

The all-new 2021-2022 Shelby Ford F-150 Raptor delivers the rugged capabilities needed for outdoor adventure. The heavy-duty suspension and underbody were built to withstand the toughest conditions with its race-proven FOX Live Valve system. The suspension provides a smooth and comfortable feeling on pavement with aggressive control and stability at high speeds off-road.

Shelby American worked closely with partners like Fox, Ford Performance and Whipple to create its vision of the truck. Leveraging the new capabilities of the Ford Raptor, it has more power, refinement, technology and handling capabilities.

For 2021, the Shelby Raptor

features new and better handling underpinning, 75 more horsepower, an additional cooling package and an exterior with rugged all-American styling. The Shelby Raptor strikes an imposing stance with its robust bumper system, bed chase rack system carrying a pair of spare alloy 18-inch wheels wrapped in 37-inch high-performance tires, functional fresh air hood, Shelby stripes and badges. Inside, the Shelby American theme continues across the leather seats, dashboard and floor mats.

"The Shelby Raptor has every creature comfort the new F-Series truck provides," said Patterson. "And it has the capabilities to back up its bold looks. From skimming sand dunes to maneuvering the asphalt jungle, it's by far our most polished off-road truck to date."

The Shelby Ford F-150 Raptor, including the truck, starts at \$124,820 MSRP. The truck is available through select Tuscan and Ford dealers in North America. Each vehicle from Shelby American has a Shelby serial number that will be documented in the official Shelby Registry. The cars come with a 3 year/36,000-mile warranty including powertrain. Individuals interested in Shelby vehicle can visit their local dealer or go to (<https://www.shelby.com>).

*Horsepower ratings based on use of 93-octane fuel

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Auto News Foundation Honored Ten NW Legends in November



Sun Valley Road Trip in a 2024 Lexus RX 450h+

by Bill McCallum

When I started thinking about my annual road trip from Seattle to Sun Valley and back between Christmas and New Year my first thought was, request a Lexus AWD SUV.

Why? Because Lexus is the "official vehicle" of the Sun Valley Lodge. Second, AWD is important when traveling through "The Blue's" outside of Pendleton, OR during the winter and Third a Lexus SUV has been a favorite of mine for room, ride, and range.

My Matador Red Mica 2024 Lexus RX 450h+ Luxury SUV was the best pick ever for my annual road-trip.

We averaged over 35 MPG on the trip and there was more than enough room for my son Scot's and my ski gear. We didn't need the AWD because of the lack of snow but we were able to get a day of skiing at Warm Springs in Sun Valley on "man-made" snow. Wow! AI invades the ski slopes!

If you follow some of my other vehicle reviews (see page 14) you will notice I stress the safety features in vehicles. Not because I am worried about my driving, but defending myself from the growing number of other bad drivers on U.S. highways.

That being said my 2024 Lexus RX 450h+ offered over 15 standard safety features including: Lane Tracing Assist, Curve speed management, Blind spot management, Rear Cross Traffic Alert and more.

The 2024 Lexus RX 450h + Luxury AWD deserves a "test drive" at your nearest Lexus Dealership.



Irena, Team Auto News presents John Biddle of Brooks Biddle with an Award



Irena, Team Auto News presents Bob Campbell of Karmart with an Award



Irena, Team Auto News presents Jerry Hudson, Auto Trim Design with an Award



Irena, Team Auto News presents David Madeira, America's Automotive Trust with an Award



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LOT S195.3

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LOT S131

KISSIMMEE 2024

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Pirelli PZero Trofeo RS Is Born: The Most Sporting Tire In The Road Car Range Yet

Designed As Original Equipment For Supercars To Offer Performance On The Track And Safety On The Road

Pirelli presents the PZero Trofeo RS: the latest version of the semi-slick tire designed for carmakers aiming to highlight the performance of their most sporting models. Pagani Automobili was the first to request a specific version of the new tire for the Utopia: its latest hypercar.

The new tire was born as the technical evolution of the P Zero Trofeo R and distinguishes itself by its position in the marketplace. The P Zero Trofeo R was originally designed as an aftermarket tire to improve on-track performance, while the P Zero Trofeo RS is primarily intended as original equipment, giving manufacturers the chance to

supply cars that are already primed for a sports driving experience.

This new generation of semi-slick Pirelli tires offers even more performance in dry conditions, as well as extra consistency. When the tire is being used most intensively, performance is maintained longer to allow for more speed and safety over several different track sessions: a result obtained thanks to Pirelli's extensive experience in the top categories of motorsport. The materials, especially in the tread pattern compound, make full use of this know-how, adapting it to both road and amateur track use. As this tire is original equipment for hypercars and supercars

homologated for the road, Pirelli's engineers also focused on safety in wet asphalt conditions.

Pirelli's research and development department applied a series of innovative technologies to the P Zero Trofeo RS, developed thanks also to the company's engagement in top-level motorsport. These are available from an on-demand portfolio, to reach the targets defined by manufacturers for each specific model. Examples include **Multi-compound Tread**: a technology that allows tires to be personalized to complement the individual characteristics of each car by matching them to different tread pattern compounds from Pirelli's Prestige

catalogue. For the Pagani Utopia, P Zero Trofeo RS tires are capable of elevating performance in extreme sports driving compared to the P Zero Corsa, without compromising the balance of the car or the feeling experienced by the driver. This mission was accomplished thanks especially to the selected compounds. For the rear tires in particular, the most performance-focused compounds were chosen to deliver speed and safety on the track as well as ease and predictability on the road.

Another innovation that Pirelli's engineers had at their disposal was **Virtual Geometry Development**, which allowed them to assess a huge number of different profiles and footprints through virtual modelling, in order to define the reaction of the tire to driver inputs with maximum precision. This virtual development process was used extensively for the Pagani Utopia, before the first physical prototypes were driven on track. Work was done on the contact patch in particular, to offer the ultimate in grip and control.

The new Pirelli P Zero Trofeo RS is already available for the cars using it as original equipment, and will be available in the future for a wide range of aftermarket tires. The P Zero Trofeo R will remain available in a specific selection of sizes.

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Automotive Legacy: The Tom Scott Collection of Mercedes, Benz, and Mercedes-Benz

Destined for the Goodwood Festival of Speed sale this July with a chance to preview the headline motor car in Paris

Debuting in Paris this February, Bonhams|Cars is delighted to announce an impressive collection of Mercedes, Benz and Mercedes-Benz motor cars.

The Tom Scott Collection comprises nine motor cars held for over three decades in the same family and preserved to the highest standards. The focus of the collection is almost exclusively Mercedes, Benz, and Mercedes-Benz, showcasing Tom Scott's interest in this historic marque. The collection is expected to realise in excess of £4,500,000.

The collection will be offered at Bonhams|Cars' renowned Goodwood Festival of Speed sale in the UK on Friday 12 July, 2024.

Highlighting this remarkable selection is the

1928 Mercedes-Benz 26/120/180 S-Type Tourer.

Enthusiasts and potential buyers will have the unique opportunity to preview this gem in Paris this February. The S-Type will first be showcased at Bonhams|Cars 'Grandes Marques du Monde à Paris' Sale in the Grand Palais Éphémère from 31 January – 1 February, then at Rétromobile, Paris' annual classic car show, at Bonhams|Cars' stand (located @ 1J051) from 1 - 4 February.

A highlight of the Tom Scott Collection, this car also formed part of the legendary C. W. P. 'Peter' Hampton Collection for

many years. Very much the definitive supercar of its day, the low-slung 6.8-litre straight-six S-Type, with its screaming 'Kompressor' (supercharger) engaged, is of the type that would propel the likes of factory team driver Rudolf Caracciola to many victories for Mercedes-Benz against the might of Alfa Romeo, Bentley, and Bugatti.

This example, chassis no. 35985, was delivered new to a Cecil Harcourt-Smith, via British Mercedes-Benz Ltd., in December 1928. It was subsequently raced by the Duke of Grafton and ultimately acquired in 1960 by noted collector Peter Hampton.

The collection was assembled and curated by Tom Scott Senior who, along with his brother Tim, built a hugely successful business in the construction industry. Upon the sale of the business in the 1980s, Tom Snr. would pursue his twin passions of horology and collector motor cars – specifically those of the Mercedes-Benz marque. Upon Scott Snr's death in 2012, the collection remained in the family and came under the management of Tom Jnr. who continued to ensure the motor cars were maintained in the purpose-built climate-controlled motor house.

Bonhams motoring department has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the Scott family, stretching back to the days before Brooks merged with Bonhams James Knight, consultant to Bonhams|Cars, remembers meeting Tom Snr. at the 1991 Lord's Cricket Ground auction sale in London, whereupon he acquired the ex-Peter Hampton S-Type – now the star of the collection on offer. "It gives me great pleasure and much pride to represent the Scott family interests and support them with the dispersal of this impressive collection.

We anticipate much interest in these 'fresh to market' motor cars that will no doubt attract global participation".

The Tom Scott Collection represents some of the finest road cars built, from the S-Type to a trio of '300s' – a

- 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing, a
- 1962 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Roadster, and a
- 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SC Cabriolet.

Other highlights include the first supercharged Mercedes model, a 1924 Mercedes 10/40/65 Sport Tourer 10/40/65 Sport, that once formed part of the Rolf Meyer collection and a 1968 Mercedes-Benz 280 SL Pagoda that was delivered new to the Channel Islands and, as such, has covered less than 13,500 miles from new.

The Tom Scott Collection includes:

- 1886 Benz Patent Motorwagen, Three Wheeler Replica, high quality edition produced by John Bentley.
- Ex-Rolf Meyer Collection, 1924 Mercedes 10/40/65 Sport.
- Ex-Robert Arbuthnot, Edward Mayer, CWP Hampton, 1928 Mercedes-Benz 26/120/180 S-Type Sports Tourer.
- Ex-Warner Brothers President John Calley, 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SC Cabriolet.
- 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing, original Rudge wheel example.
- 1962 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Roadster, late series, disc brake example.
- 1968 Mercedes-Benz 280 SL Roadster with Hard Top, Channel Islands since new and just 13,215 miles recorded.
- 1971 Mercedes-Benz 280 SE 3.5 Cabriolet, rare right-hand drive example.
- 1937 Morgan 4/4 Roadster.

See: CES Story on page 4 and 14 and Additional Photos on page 12



Artist will.i.am with influencers McKenzi Brooke and Nick Bencivengo at CES 2024 in Las Vegas (photo credit: Sylvia Hernandez)

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(See Story on Page 25)



Auto News Foundation



Auto News Foundation Honored Ten NW Legends in November



Jeri Drager Event Host (See page 15 Ad) Receives Award from Irena, Team Auto News (photo Auto News)



Kevin Iden (right) accepts Legend Award from Irena, Auto News (Story on page 25) (photo Auto News)

Auto News Foundation Board Member Sally Hanson's Experience

by Sally Hanson

It's been 20 years since the Northwest Automotive Press Association (NWAPA) began a scholarship program that offered scholarships to college students majoring in Communications with a possibility of becoming automotive journalists. NWAPA has awarded \$76,000 to 52 students at five Oregon and Washington universities since 2003.

NWAPA is a group of writers and broadcast journalists most of whom live and work in the Northwest and many have national venues. Several of the Auto News writers are members of the organization. For over 25 years NWAPA has sponsored and organized a contest to choose the Family Sport Utility Vehicle of the year. The winning vehicle is one that best reflects all the necessary components that makes it especially compatible with our climate and topography. About 15 years ago, NWAPA began another annual event called Run to the Sun. This event features roadsters and sports cars that members drive on a two-day road trip through winding roads in Oregon and Washington. A few years later we began the Drive Revolution which gives journalists a behind the wheel survey of advanced technology "green" vehicles and it gives automakers the opportunity to detail the technology around these products. NWAPA members have the opportunity to drive vehicles that provide "0" tailpipe emissions — including all electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids, and fuel cell models.

These events have provided the funding that make our scholarships possible. Through the scholarship program, NWAPA recognizes the importance of encouraging, promoting, and supporting the profession of journalism and communication to future generations whose career goals might lead to promoting public awareness of the automotive industry.

The first scholarship was awarded in 2003 at the University of Washington's Department of Communications. I was selected to head-up the scholarship program under the leadership of Bill McCallum, who was president of NWAPA at that time. It was the organization's goal to expand the program to include two universities in both Washington and Oregon. In 2005 we included Washington State University's Edward R. Murrow School of Communication—which has since become the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication. A couple years later we offered a scholarship at the University of Oregon and then we added Portland State University to our program. An Oregon member of NWAPA joined me to manage the scholarship distribution in Oregon and the organization decided to include Pacific University's Department of Communications instead of the University of Oregon.

Establishing a good working relationship with the Development Coordinator in each of the University's Department or College Communications is essential. This is important because we have submitted guidelines for our

continued on page 25

Foundation QR Code



Foundation QR Code



About the Auto News Foundation: "Time To Donate"

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.



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Auto News Foundation



Auto News Foundation Presents Scholarships and Honors Northwest Legends at Drager's Club House on November 18, 2023 in Burlington, WA



Legends of Auto Award Winners (Left to Right) Jose Enciso, XXX Drive-In; Mitch Silver, Silver Auctions; Bob Campbell, KarMart Auto Group; Tony Rehn, Evergreen Auto Group; Lance Lambert, Vintage Vehicles; John Biddle, Brooks Biddle; Kevin Iden, Iden Dealer Services; Jim Roes, O'Brien Auto Group; Jerry Hudson, Auto Trim Design; David Madeira, LeMay Museum (photo Auto News)

Inside Toyota's T-TEN Program: Shaping the Future of Automotive Technicians



Ben Melcher, a Toyota Instructor from Regional Office at Shoreline Community College (photo Auto News)

by Christopher Chung

Toyota's commitment to excellence extends beyond its renowned lineup of vehicles and into the realm of education. A shining example of this commitment is the Toyota Technician Training & Education Network (T-TEN), a comprehensive training program designed to develop factory-certified technicians for over 1,400 Toyota and Lexus dealerships across the United States.

We recently had an opportunity to connect with Ben Melcher, a Service Training Specialist with Toyota, and fellow T-TEN program graduate himself at Shoreline Community College.

"The T-TEN program offers a blend of academic instruction and hands-on dealership experience, equipping students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. It's a testament to Toyota's future-centric mind set as well as a great retention tool for dealerships." Said Melcher, and he was right. While other automotive brands are seemingly not focused on training the next generation of technicians at all; Toyota is laying the groundwork to have a steady stream of quality talent who know their vehicles front to back. The curriculum covers a broad range of topics, including Toyota's hybrid systems, advanced safety technologies, and customer service principles. As a result, graduates are prepared to diagnose and repair Toyota and Lexus vehicles, as well as provide top-notch customer service.

One of the program's unique features is its integration of paid dealership experience. This allows students to apply what they've learned in a real-world environment, gain valuable experience, and build a strong foundation for their future careers.

Under Melcher's guidance, students in the Shoreline Community College T-TEN program are well-positioned to succeed in the rapidly evolving automotive industry. His wealth of experience and deep understanding of the industry inform his teaching, ensuring the program remains relevant and effective.

The success of the T-TEN program is evident in the caliber of its graduates, who are highly sought after by Toyota and Lexus dealerships nationwide. These technicians are well-prepared to meet the challenges of the automotive industry, thanks to the robust training they received through the T-TEN program.

In summary, Toyota's T-TEN program is a testament to the automaker's commitment to nurturing the next generation of automotive technicians. By investing in high-quality education and hands-on training, Toyota is not only upholding its own standards of excellence but also contributing to the overall growth and development of the automotive industry.

Sally Hanson's Scholarship Experience

continued from page 24

scholarship to be awarded on a set of criteria such as academic merit, financial need, and a candidate who might pursue a career in the communications field with an emphasis on automotive, consumer products and/or mechanical or technical products. Unfortunately, there has been a high turnover rate in the Development Coordinator field at universities, so I have found it necessary to re-explain the scholarship, its guidelines, and arrange the funding differently sometimes annually. Funding an endowment would eliminate the need to arrange to send off the scholarship money annually, but my suggestion to create endowments fell to deaf ears with our organization.

Seeking a recipient of our scholarship who specifically has the goal of becoming an automotive journalist is like searching for a needle in a haystack! When we asked the membership of NWAPA, we found the large majority of the members did not major in communications in college (like I did) and no one planned to become an automotive journalist (including me). While we have awarded 52 scholarships, I have only seen a byline of one.

Another organization that I belong to has just funded an endowment at Washington State University's School of Nursing to be awarded to someone in that program who plans to become a geriatric nurse in the state of Washington. Who knows how that will turn out — the recipient may decide they don't like old people, want to move out of state and become a hermit!

I have discovered that working to award scholarships is more than finding the perfect recipient — it is tremendously fulfilling to encourage and support someone who has found a passion they can work at, enjoy and make a living.

"The Glendale Community College Automotive Program is preparing the next generation of automotive technicians and will have the support of the AUTO NEWS FOUNDATION."

Glendale Community College-Glendale Arizona: Of all the community colleges we have visited in the last three months Glendale Community College has the best automotive curriculum. Lyle Clark, program director, working with Susan Campbell Dean of Career & Technical Education have created the "poster child" of programs that all schools should follow. (see photo)

They offer three of the best automotive OEM programs in the U.S. The Automotive Service Education Program (ASEP) sponsored by General Motors and Chevrolet, GMC, Buick, & Cadillac dealerships. The Automotive Student Service Education Training program (ASSET) sponsored by Ford Motor Company and Ford and Lincoln dealerships. The Mopar College Automotive Program (MCAP) sponsored by Chrysler, Jeep, Ram, and Dodge dealerships.

With over 70 new vehicles on the ground donated by automaker OEM's as working models, a 2 person parts department with over 500 catalog pages of parts, and the equipment to work on every vehicle including EV's the Glendale Community College Automotive Program is preparing the next generation of automotive technicians and will have the support of the AUTO NEWS FOUNDATION.

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McCormick's Palm Springs Auction Feb. 23-25

Rare DeSoto Airflow takes center stage at Palm Springs Car Show and Auction

A 1934 DeSoto Airflow Brougham -- one of only four known to exist today-- is the star of the upcoming show at McCormick's Palm Springs Collector Car auction, set for Feb. 23-25.

In more than 37 years in the auction business, Keith McCormick said, "This is the first two-door Airflow I have ever seen."

Of the 13,940 DeSoto Airflows sold in 1934, only 522 were two-door Broughams. Part of the Chrysler Corporation's family of cars, the Airflow Brougham was considered a "streamlined" town car with no rear trunk, which allowed space for a full-size rear seat with plenty of head room for three people. The design, considered ahead of its time, featured a "waterfall" grille in front and a gradual sloping roofline

in the rear.

Free and open to the public on opening day, the event will be held at the Palm Springs Convention Center during the Feb. 23-25 weekend. The three-day event is free and open to the public on Friday. The auction continues Saturday and Sunday with \$15 for a one-day pass or \$25 for two days.

The Airflow Brougham (Lot #262) has been completely restored inside and out. The paint is a two-tone medium brown, the bumpers re-chromed and the engine rebuilt. The upholstery was tailored in a color-coordinated tan. "A very striking and collectable car," McCormick said.

More than 400 collectable cars, trucks and motorcycles will be passing through the auction tent. Along with the Airflow Brougham, the auction features two Ferraris. The newest is a 2011 Ferrari California convertible (Lot #328) with a 453 horsepower V8 engine. A 1953 Ferrari 340mm Barchetta (#276) recreation was built about 10 years ago by MC Auto Creations in Texas. It has a V12 engine from a 1977

Ferrari 400GT with six Webber carbs and a five-speed manual transmission.

Other collectable cars range from muscle cars like a 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle SS (#297) to a 1966 VW Bus (#231) and a custom 2000 BMW M Coupe (#518). More cars are entering the sales event daily. To review all vehicles for sale, or for more information go to [www. Classic-CarAuction.com](http://www.Classic-CarAuction.com) or call 760

320-3290 to enter your car for sale.

For more information: McCormick's Palm Springs Collector Car Auction February 23, 24 and 25 Palm Springs Convention Center 277 N. Avenida Caballeros Friday, noon to 6 p.m., free Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. One day pass, \$15; two days \$25 www.classic-carauction.com



1934 DeSoto Air Flow Brougham

Auto News Celebrates 40th Anniversary in 2024 With All New Digital Platform

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) 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.

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