

# AUTO NEWS

**LARGEST CONSUMER AUTOMOTIVE NEWSPAPER IN U.S.**  
Distributed at Retail Outlets, Auto Shows & Events

## 2019 Toyota Land Cruiser was my "RIDE TO THE RIDGE" for NWAPA's Annual MUDFEST Event (See Page 9 Story)

**AUTO NEWS**

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2019 Toyota Land Cruiser (photo Auto News)

## Case & Galpin Auto Groups, Ryan Falconer, Ed Justice, Jr. & Returning Legends to be Honored at Legends Event

by Bill McCallum

As we get closer to the ten year anniversary of our Legends of Auto Gala Dinner (August 15, 2019) things are starting to take shape. Last year we moved the event to Monterey at the Embassy Suites Hotel Ballroom on Thursday night of Concours Week. Prior events were held at the Galpin Museum & Event Center during the Los Angeles Auto Show Press Week. Last year over 150 people attended our Gala Dinner as we honored new and past legends. This year we are expecting a crowd of over 200 auto enthusiasts, auto executives, media, as we honor current and previously honored Legends. As of June 1st previously honored Legends that have confirmed their attending this years event include; Corky Coker, Lyn St. James, Barry Meguiar, Dana Mecum, and Steve Saleen with others on the "maybe list." (see page 14 for more GALA information and a complete list of the Legends we have honored at previous events) We will have a complete list of present and past Legends attending our Gala Dinner

in our July Issue.

Starting this year we have created a new category to honor at our Legends of Auto Gala Dinner event. Automotive Dealer Groups. This year we will honor Rick and Rita Case of the Florida based Case Automotive Group (see story on page 6) and Bert, Jane, and Beau Boeckmann of the Los Angeles based Galpin Automotive Group. We will also be honoring racing Legends Ryan Falconer and Ed Justice Jr. Once again we will have a more complete list of Legends attending in our July Issue.

Online tickets are available. (see page 14) Your ticket includes a gourmet dinner including wine a craft beer or water or no host cocktails. You will also receive a gift bag with items from our event sponsors. And as we introduce our Legends and listen to their stories you can participate in a silent auction, try your hand at slot car racing, view automotive fine art, and have you photo taken at our "step-up" red carpet. Don't wait to buy tickets. Last year we were sold out prior to the event.



Left to Right - Barry Meguiar, Bert Boeckmann, Beau Boeckmann, Bruce Meyer, Stewart Reed and Corky Coker

by Bill McCallum

The Toyota Land Cruiser is the "big daddy" in the SUV lineup for Toyota. There are very few changes with the Land Cruiser in the 2019 model year and as they say "... if it ain't broke don't fix it." The Toyota Land Cruiser competes with the Mercedes G-Wagon at almost half the price and twice the features. Powered by a 5.7L 381-hp V8 with 4WD the Land Cruiser has a towing capacity 8,100 lbs. A little light on the MPG at 18 MPG on the

highway the Land Cruiser offers segment leading cargo space for your next road trip. (81.7 cu. ft.)

With 18 safety and convenience features including; Blind Spot Monitor with Rear Cross, Traffic Alert, Headlight Washers, Safety Connect, Front and Rear Parking Assist, and Trailer Sway Control you can feel safe on your next outdoor adventure. If off-roading is on your next scheduled adventure the Toyota Land Cruiser is a segment leader

in off-road features.

With 10 standard interior features including; Entune touch-screen audio system, Premium JBL Audio, 9" touch screen, SXM All-Access Radio with 3 month trial, Bluetooth & Siri Steering Wheel Controls, and much more.

If your looking for a luxurious, quick, quiet, comfortable, safe SUV with lots of room the 2019 Toyota Land Cruiser is for you.

## 2019 Hyundai Tucson is the "Ride" as We Kick-Off Our 2019 "Ride & Drive" feature at Willows Run, Redmond, WA (See Story on Page 13)



2019 Hyundai Tucson at Willows Run (photo Auto News)

### Best Time In Years to Buy a New Vehicle



Bill McCallum  
editor

This summer will be the best time during the last decade to buy a new car, truck, or a SUV for a number of reasons. First and foremost, new vehicle inventories at dealers across the U.S. are at an all-time high. So when the new car lots are loaded the dealers are offering large rebates, attractive financing, new lease options, and a great selection.

Also there is an intense competition by automakers in the race to be the number one truck seller in the U.S. Ford is still ahead of the group with record F-150 sales, but both FCA with the Ram brand, Chevrolet with Silverado and GMC are gaining ground on Ford. Toyota and Nissan are both gaining ground on FCA & GM. So all automakers are "wheel and dealing" on trucks. Also there are so many all-new full size, compact, and subcompact SUV's hitting the U.S. market this year and yes, Jeep brand sales are on fire. (See Mudfest story - page 9 & Show Case Reviews - page 15)

**Ten Year Anniversary of Legends of Auto Gala.....**  
Stories on Page 4, 5, 6, 10, 14, 24

### Jaguar I-Pace Test Drive



Art Gould  
feature editor

Jaguar has joined the industry with the introduction of their first electric vehicle. Electric vehicles on sale currently in 2019 include 23 individual nameplates. By 2024 it is estimated electric vehicles will reach 70 entrees. New to this segment, Jaguar product planners, marketing people and other executives have chosen an unusual name designation to identify their new entry. The digital world and electronic identification uses the designation e to classify electric products. Jaguar does things a little different. Jaguar has an e-Pace that is a gasoline powered SUV. This new all electric vehicle is named I-Pace. Will future Jaguar customers understand this thinking for identification?

This new electric SUV offering reflects luxury and distinct exterior styling for which Jaguar is known. The grille looks conventional, avoiding any unusual styling ques. The grille design is solid as no air is necessary to pass through. A vent at the upper edge of the grille directs air through a hood scoop to aid in aerodynamics. Under this hood reveals a small area for some storage, about the size of a couple loaves of bread. Battery packs use the rest of front area space below the surface.

Outside design is clean and

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### Joyce Reports on Cannes Film Festival



Joyce Chow  
entertainment editor

Once upon a time, the Cannes Film Festival was more than the red carpet lined with tuxedoed photographers. Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" was one of the most anticipated movies as the festival awaited Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt and Margot Robbie arrivals for the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual Cannes Film Festival on the French Riviera in Cannes, France.

Cannes itself during the festival transforms into a celebration of movies from around the world, which screen from 8:30 am til past midnight daily during the festival. French television broadcasts the infamous red carpet daily giving a celebrity stamp, even without an entourage, to people recognized in the streets of Cannes by paparazzi.. People dressed in gowns and tuxes hold signs hoping to receive a last minute ticket for a screening. Crowds position themselves near the Palais to catch a glimpse of who is getting out of an official car, a black Renault or see the large screens overhead watching who is arriving. Sylvester Stallone was honored with a Cannes honorary career tribute. Kendall Jenner, Gigi Hadid and Blanca Blanco were some of the most anticipated

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### Lexus RX350 Test Drive



Ed Barrett  
feature writer

#### Wild Look, Lexus Quality

The Lexus RX350 is by far the most popular luxury SUV in the U.S. Over 110,000 passed through dealer's doors in 2018. This despite the fact that the RX features very aggressive styling that is polarizing. Some have likened it to something from Star Wars, with its sharp angles, bold character lines and a scary-looking spindle-shaped grille. But the styling notwithstanding, there is a lot to like about this Lexus.

Step inside the RX, and the contrast with the exterior is striking. It exudes subtle luxury. Rich leather seats on my test car looked elegant in a dark red color. Brushed silver trim on the dash and doors added just the right amount of contrast to the dark gray finish. Seats front and rear coddle passengers. Head- and legroom are excellent. Storage capacity in the rear is more than adequate at 18.5 cubic feet.

But all is not sweetness and light. The infotainment system leaves something to be desired. It features a large enough (12.3-inch) display, but it's controlled by a troublesome mouse-like device. The mouse is overly sensitive, so that the cursor jumps around on the screen, it is easy to miss what you

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### Acura MDX Hybrid Test Drive



Scot McCallum  
"Green Car Guy"

Climate change and the New Green Deal are certainly hot news topics, and the quality and efficiency of Acura's hot new 2019 MDX hybrid were clearly evident during my test drive and are worth considering for your next Green purchase. The MDX Hybrid is Acura's upscale model that is loaded with features. To start with, the new front-end design with 20" alloy wheels and sleek side sills provide a sporty look. You will immediately notice the spacious interior that seats eight and the MDX is the quietest hybrid I've experienced. The dashboard system is both feature-rich and intuitive, and the ride is smooth with its 3.0L VTEC V6 engine, 7 speed transmission, and AWD system. Eleven safety features will provide peace-of-mind as well the 6 year/70,000 mile power train warranty. The MDX Hybrid is also available with loaded Tech and Advanced feature packages. Drive this vehicle soon, you won't be disappointed!



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The Saleen Registry covers all Saleen models manufactured from 1984-current in one unified registry. The general purpose of the registry is to help maintain the authenticity and ownership history of every Saleen for posterity. Moreover, the Saleen registry will help Saleen better understand who owns our vehicles today and where they are at. This will aid us in better communicating with and supporting Saleen owners in everything from events to replacement parts and technical assistance.

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**302 New Saleen Custom Magnets**

**2019 Kia Cadenza Test Drive**



David Schmidt  
feature writer

For those people who still want to own and drive a good-sized sedan, Kia gives plenty of comfort and capability at a reasonable price with its Cadenza.

It is a car for people who are social and carry people rather than mostly family members in their back seats.

This might be another couple who ride with them to and from social events. And the car owners may actually want them to be comfortable during that process. It is much harder to be as comfortable in a crossover ute from roughly the same price range.

That's a matter of some of the laws of physics and some of the understanding that people who buy crossovers want the second row to fold down. That limits their ability to be as comfortable as a fixed seat. Then those buyers also tend to have children sitting back there the majority of the time.

It is just possible that may influence how important it is for the manufacturers to spend extra money to make those seats com-

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**Toyota RAV 4 Review**



Sally Hanson  
travel editor

Last fall before the winter weather arrived, I decided to make a bold move and trade in my luxury sedan for a compact sport utility vehicle which could better navigate trips through snowy mountain passes and make the travel on the roadways around my new home in Eastern Washington easier.

Since I wanted a hybrid vehicle, the Toyota RAV4 was my choice because I appreciate Toyota's proven hybrid technology and the RAV4 continues to be a leader in the compact-crossover SUV segment. The fifth generation RAV4 has been introduced for model year 2019 and is now in dealer showrooms—except the hybrid version which will arrive this spring. As an impatient person, I could not wait for the redesigned model of the hybrid. When I arrived at the Toyota dealership to inquire about the 2019 model, my choice of color and style in the 2018 hybrid was just waiting for me at the dealership's front door.

You can definitely see me coming in my Electric Storm Blue RAV4 and contrary to the belief

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**All-New Jeep Gladiator Test Drive**



Howard Elmer  
truck writer

Want a Jeep and a truck? That's what the new Gladiator is – a midsize pickup built by Jeep with all the ability and attitude you expect from a Wrangler – and it's here now.

Walking up to the Gladiator it's instantly recognizable as a Jeep. The Jeep design team kept the Wrangler front-end in its entirety. Its only when you peak around the side that you see the bed. Of course from a marketing point of view the unique design of a Jeep is one of its greatest assets; so basing the truck on this iconic look is just good business.

However, the 5-foot bed on this truck is not just welded onto the standard Wrangler frame. No, the Gladiator's body-on-frame design offers the same four doors, but on a stretched frame 31 inches longer than the Wrangler. The wheelbase is also 19.4 inches longer and the rear axle and suspension setup borrows heavily from the Ram 1500. This engineering mix was necessary to hit the payload and towing numbers that the Jeep people envisioned.

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**Millennials Car Purchasing Data**



Jordan Williams  
millennial writer

Hello, Readers! Happy Spring! Did you know the automotive industry and car dealerships spend a lot of time and dollars in collecting data on Millennials? They want YOUR business!

Insurify Insights revealed and reviewed the ten most popular cars among our country's 83 million Millennials to date. You heard that correctly: Millennials are the largest living generational group, as of 2019, we will be surpassing Baby Boomers, so dealers are you listening?

... Here are the results:

The top brands and models of cars for Millennials so far have been: Hyundai Elantra, Ford F-Series pick-up, Ford Focus, Chevrolet Malibu, Chevrolet Impala, Toyota Corolla, Toyota Camry, Nissan Altima, Honda Civic...and... the number one most popular car for Millennials is the Honda Accord at 3.87% of Millennials purchasing, owning and driving this car.

Price-wise, these cars are approximately \$18,000-\$29,000, with the least expensive being

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**MAG & Silver Auction of Arizona Merge**



Chris Chung  
motorsports writer

In a game changing move, MAG Auctions of Nevada and Silver Auctions of Arizona have joined forces! Beginning this year, Silver Auctions of Arizona will do business under the MAG Auctions brand through a partnership between owners Mike Oberle and long time car dealer Emmett Rice.

**About Motorsport Auction Group (MAG Auctions):**

MAG Auctions is a Nevada auction company has been in business since 2015, specializing in classic cars, special interest vehicles, and memorabilia. Its' premier auction is the Collector Car Auction held during Hot August Nights in Reno. In total, MAG has been in business for 4 years and built itself to be a player in the auto auction industry through its dedication to its' principal values: Honesty, Integrity, and Dedication to their Clients.

At most MAG Auction events between 500 and 600 vehicles are auctioned off.

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Arv Voss  
feature writer

## 2019 Mercedes-Benz AMG 4MATIC Sedan Test Drive

The 2019 Mercedes-Benz A220 4MATIC sedan in AMG trim moves in to take the entry-level place of the Mercedes CLA, formerly the starting point for those aspiring to join the Mercedes clan. It serves up considerably more than the average entry-level luxury vehicle.

The new A220 4MATIC sedan is definitely worthy of sporting the iconic 3-pointed star emblem. In a word, it is “properly” a Mercedes-Benz through and through. It would not even be out of context to rank it as a “Baby S-Class” in terms of its technological content. It is truly and surprisingly a most proper Mercedes.

Essentially, it is a sleek and sporty mobile device, especially with the \$2,600 AMG Line package, which adds unique bodywork, a lowered suspension, a chrome-finish diamond-block grille, and perforated front brake discs. Toss in the 19-inch AMG black 14-spoke 19-inch wheels for another \$500 and the aggressive persona is completed, giving this A-Class a younger image and closing the gap between a C-Class (more particularly the CLA), in a more desirable form.

My test A220 came with 4MATIC, an exterior finished in Mountain Grey metallic and the interior done on Black and Red leather with brushed aluminum trim accents. The base sticker read \$34,500., with the as tested price totaling \$50,485.

Despite the reduction in length, the four-door, five-passenger sedan’s headroom and legroom are substantially better in both rows and the rear seat becomes not only usable but also genuinely comfortable for two adults.

The new A220 comes with but one powertrain – a front mounted 2.0-liter, DOHC, 16-valve inline turbocharged four cylinder engine with Gasoline Direct Injection that churns out 188 horsepower in a range from 5,500-6,100 rpm along with 221 lb.-ft. of torque from 1,600 to 4,000 rpm. Motive force is geared to either the rear wheels or optionally to Mercedes’ 4MATIC, all-wheel drive system via a 7G DCT seven-speed dual clutch automatic transmission with a manual shifting mode and paddle shifters.

Convenience features and comfort through advanced state-of-the-art technology are where the new A220 shine. The A-Class cabin is one of the most pleasant places to spend your time offered in a recent production vehicle. The design of the dashboard and the large greenhouse provide an airier feeling. Switch gear would feel right at home in a more upscale Benz, with standard dual displays positioned atop the center console - twin 7-inch screens – one for the driver’s instrumentation and one

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Michelle Hale  
asia correspondent

## Chinese Auto-makers Coming to U.S.

Do you know a Baojun from a BYD? Or a Cherry from Great Wall? You may start to see these Chinese brands on the road in American in the next five years.

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Harold Allen  
feature writer

## Cadillac XTS Test Drive

Cadillac is now the new Town Car as Lincoln has changed its direction. Both Lincoln and Cadillac have been the choice of limo converters for years and so

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Lisa Delaney  
special projects editor

## Automakers Are Pet Friendly

If you’re Subaru, you know what it takes to sell vehicles, and it might not be what you think. Unmatched reliability, high resale value? No, it’s pets.

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Gary Williams  
feature editor

## Legends Gala Scheduled for August 15, 2019

- \* See Page 1 Story
- \* See Page 5 Story
- \* See Page 10 Story
- \* See Page 14 Ad

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Politics and the Environment



AUTO NEWS

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California Report Shows that Robot Cars Aren't Ready for Public Roads

New reports required by the California Department of Motor Vehicles from companies testing robot cars on the state's public roads show the technology is not ready to operate without a human who can take control of the car, Consumer Watchdog said today. The disengagement reports reveal how many times a human driver had to take control of the robot car during testing on public roads. Companies such as Uber needed human intervention at least once per every mile driven, but Waymo and Cruise were able to drive thousands of miles before intervention was needed.

“Despite all of the hype and promises, these reports show that robot cars aren't safe without human drivers ready to take over” said Adam Scow, Senior Advocate for Consumer Watchdog. “While some companies are gradually

improving, others are crawling out of the gates. Much more testing and improvement is needed before regulators can consider approving driverless cars for our roads.”

In 2018 robot cars were driven and tested for over 2 million miles on California public roads, a big increase from the 500,000 miles driven in 2017. Waymo, formerly Google's autonomous vehicle unit, logged the majority of those miles with approximately 1.25 million miles. It reported a test driver took control 76 times, or once every 16,447 miles. The failure rate is significantly better than the 2017 period when Waymo's robot cars drove 352,544 miles on California's roads and reported 63 disengagements, or one every 5,596 miles. Last October Waymo became the only company to receive a permit to test without a human driver in the vehicle.

In 2018 General Motors' Cruise division, which previously claimed it would put robot cars on the road in 2019, drove 447,621 miles in San Francisco and had 86 human interventions or one every 5205 miles. **continued on page 20**

10 Year Anniversary of Legends of Auto August 15, 2019 During Concours Week

What a show! Since 1950, the United States west coast Concours d'Elegance has set off to duplicate the amazing Concours d'Elegance first established in Europe pre-World War II and which was a showcase of beautiful cars, style and fashion.

Each year Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance attendees are wowed by the passionate setting in beautiful California, where the warm, sunny, breezy feeling of the Monterey peninsula meets the Pacific Ocean and where meticulous renovations of approximately 200 cars are entered in the show-the Car Show of the year. Each compete for the coveted Best of Show title and award where judges weigh meticulous renovation, engineering and style and select their annual winner.

Attendees this year saw special car groups and classics, Cadillac, Mercedes, Pierce Arrows, Rolls Royce, etc. along with other exotics. The Best in show was awarded to an Alfa Romeo: a 1937 Alfa Romeo 8C 2900B Touring Berlinetta, owned by David and Ginny Sydorick of Beverly Hills, California.

The Concours d'Elegance is the highlight culmination the end cap to a week of special and exciting automotive events, like the McCall Motorworks Revival party, which traditionally kicks off the Concours d'Elegance car week and showcases beautiful automobiles and aircraft, the annual Legends of Auto Gala, which honors those whom have made significant contributions to the auto industry and advanced the excitement and passion therein, and the Concorso Italiano, which features more than 800 vehicles of Italian origin, as well as elements of Italian style such as fashion, food, art and music on the gorgeous grounds of Black Horse Golf Club.

The list of this special week's events really does go on and on and as an interested spectator, you can pick and choose those shows and events which you would like to attend.

So even though Pebble Beach, CA inspires golf and those passionate in golf, once each year, Pebble Beach is host to what many call the Greatest Car Show in the World, the Concours d'Elegance, as well as many other fun and exciting events related to the Automotive industry and world. If you have ever considered attending all or part of this special week, and you are a classic or exotic car lover or buff, make 2019 your year and join us next August. You won't be disappointed.

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California Fuel Cell Partnership Celebrates 20 Years of Collaboration

Stakeholders representing automakers, government and private industry launched the California Fuel Cell Partnership, with the goal of furthering development of fuel cell electric vehicle technology and hydrogen fueling infrastructure.

Twenty years later, our collaboration has grown to include local, state and federal government agencies, automakers, fuel cell manufacturers, hydrogen station developers and opera-

tors, hydrogen producers, transit agencies, universities and others. We work together to further the commercialization of fuel cell cars, buses and trucks, expand the hydrogen fueling network and increase the production of zero-carbon hydrogen.

We put together a short video that captures a few of the milestones in the history of the Partnership and California's efforts to bring zero-emission vehicles to the road.



AUTO NEWS® BYTES

MULLEN TECHNOLOGIES TO PRODUCE QIANTU K50 IN WASHINGTON STATE

Fresh off a successful showing at the 2019 New York International Auto Show, Mullen Technologies, a new American electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer, has chosen the Spokane region of Washington state to produce the Qiantu K50 – the company's flagship sports coupe. Mullen and the West Plains Airport Area Public Development Authority (PDA) have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) for the construction of 1.3 million square feet of assembly, manufacturing, and research and development facilities in the Spokane region of Washington state.

“We are thrilled to be finalizing this critical first step in bringing the Qiantu K50 by Mullen to North America,” says David Michery, Mullen Founder & CEO. “The response to the vehicle at the New York Auto Show was incredible and we can't wait to get positive feedback once people actually drive this beautiful EV.”

Mullen Technologies is working with the PDA to develop and produce its Qiantu K50 pure electric sports car in Spokane County with approximately 55 jobs at startup, increasing to 863 jobs by 2026. The company, through Mullen Energy, has a further interest in bringing its battery research and development of lithium batteries for its autos and other uses which would increase the job count to nearly 3,000. Over the next two years, Mullen will be developing an air handling system to optimize the battery cell life.

“We are very excited about the LOI with Mullen,” said Larry Krauter, Chair of the PDA and CEO of Spokane International Airport. “This is exactly why we created the Public Development Authority, to attract innovative companies to the region who create well-paying jobs so we can make up the income disparity with the rest of Washington. This is the role our community leaders envisioned for the PDA and the LOI is another example of our efforts to deliver on that vision.”

The PDA would construct the facilities including site improvements, rail access and up to 1.3 million square feet and lease the facilities to Mullen. The PDA is currently working with Mullen to secure an interim facility of approximately 100,000 square feet for their immediate use on the battery research and development, production and initial assembly of the sports car.

The Qiantu K50 by Mullen will hit North American roads in the second half of 2020. The pure electric high-performance sports car is capable of 0-60 mph in 4.2 seconds, 125 mph maximum speed (electronically limited) and a range of approximately 200 miles. With the innovation Mullen Energy has underway the lithium batteries powering the sports car would be 30% lighter and would significantly increase the overall range of the vehicle. The stunning design paired with two motors generating 430-horsepower forms a truly unique vehicle primed for the exciting electrified future of the automobile.

For more information, please visit: [www.mullenusa.com](http://www.mullenusa.com)

About Mullen Technologies:

Mullen Technologies is a Southern California based licensed electric vehicle manufacturer with international distribution which owns several synergistic businesses including: Mullen Auto Sales, a fast-growing series of automobile dealerships through California, CarHub, a new and unique digital platform that leverages AI and offers a complete, fun to use solution for buying, selling and owning a car. In addition, Mullen is currently working with several global OEM partners to provide exciting EV options that will fit perfectly into the American consumer's lives.

## All-New Jeep Gladiator “First Drive” by Howard Elmer

**Additional  
Jeep Gladiator  
Stories on: 9 & 21**

**continued from page 3**

Payload is a hefty 1,600 lb and the tow rating is a class-leading 7,650 lb. These numbers should appeal to any recreational hauler as well as the Jeep enthusiast. This is a real truck, with all the right capacities.

My first drive in the Gladiator came in Northern California; which didn't seem like much of a workout – at least that's what I thought when I was first invited. However, once there, three days of steady, cold rain turned the off-road site that Jeep had prepared into a nasty mud-pit.

Once on site the first thing I noted was the clearance. The Gladiator has 11.1-inches of ground clearance complemented with an under mounted spare tire that is tucked up above the rear axle. This is the reason for the rather shallow truck-bed. On the other hand this design makes it possible to reach the cargo bed anywhere along its length.

Because the Gladiator is available with the same trim packages as the Wrangler (Sport S, Overland and Rubicon) it is progressively more aggressive in the off-road arena as you move up to the Rubicon outfit. These were the units we churned the mud with in California. These Gladiator/Rubicon trucks came with a Rock-Trac 4x4 system with a “4LO” ratio of 4:1; Dana 44 axles; Tru-Lock electric front and rear-axle lockers, Trac-Lok limited-slip differential and sway-bar disconnect. The truck has standard front and rear tow hooks, skid plates and steel bumpers that are winch-ready from the factory. The Rubicon version comes with 33-inch off-road tires giving it up to 30-inches of water fording ability.

As rain bore down steadily, the ruts on the off-road deepened till driving was more like running on train tracks. Once in the ruts the Gladiator steered itself – I just keep the accelerator down negotiating the hills and rocks. Though it dragged its belly it never got stuck despite the ever worsening conditions. On the steep slopes I also got to use a new safety feature – a TrailCam that projects images from the nose of the truck – it let me peak over the lip of hills on-screen; while out the windshield all I could see was hood and sky.

Powering this truck is the long serving Pentastar 3.6L V6. Matched to a six-speed manual an upgrade to an automatic transmission gets you an eight-speed.  
**continued on page 19**

## Rick and Rita Case of the Case Automotive Group to be Honored at the 2019 Legends Event on August 15<sup>th</sup>

Rita and Rick Case have been partners in business, life and their humanitarian efforts since 1980. Rick started his automotive career selling cars from his parent's front yard in high school and he opened his first dealership in 1962. Rita grew up in the automotive business with her parents being dealers. Rick from Akron, Ohio and Rita from Northern California, they met at a Honda Automobile convention in 1977 and so their story begins.

Together they worked to build an automotive dealership group, which would provide a customer and community friendly experience. All the 16 dealerships, located in Cleveland, Atlanta and South Florida, participate in the philosophy of giving back to the community and helping their customers do the same.

They are equally as passionate about supporting and improving their community by developing and leading fund raising events that have raised over \$50 million since they have come to South Florida in 1986. Rita & Rick Case have founded many longtime events for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County including the Rendezvous on Fisher Island (32 years), the Boca Raton Concours d'Elegance (14 years) and the Fort Lauderdale Int'l Auto Show (38 years).

The Rick Case Automotive Group is celebrating its 57th year in business and produces over \$1 Billion in annual sales and

employs over 1,000 associates. With 16 dealerships in Florida, Georgia and Ohio, the Rick Case Automotive Group offers Maserati, Acura, Audi, Hyundai, Volkswagen, Kia, Mazda, FIAT, Alfa Romeo and Honda Automobiles & Motorcycles, including the World's Largest Honda, Hyundai, Kia and Volkswagen dealerships located in Broward County, Florida.

Known for raising over \$50 million for non-profit groups in Broward County, Rita and Rick have supported numerous originations such as the following: Boys & Girls Clubs, Nova Southeastern University, Cleveland Clinic, the American Heart Association's Broward and Miami Heart Walks, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Broward Community Foundation, Local Municipalities, Broward Partnership for the Homeless, American Cancer Society, Humane Society of Broward County, Museum of Discovery & Science, Broward County Economic Advisors Workshop, Broward Sheriff's Advisory Board, Broward Sheriff's Office Car Seat Safety Program, Area Chambers of Commerce, Neighbors 4 Neighbors, E.A.S.E. – Emergency Assistance Service Effort, B'nai Aviv and their own charity, “Rick Case Bikes for Kids” which started 35 years ago that has donated over 100,000 bicycles to needy children during the holiday season.



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## 2019 Lexus RX350 Test Drive by Ed Barrett

**continued from page 2**

want to select. Furthermore, there is no Apple CarPlay or Android Auto. Operating an app, like Pandora, can be a hassle. Fortunately, redesigned Lexus cars now have these electronic upgrades, as well as a more user-friendly touchpad controller. You might want to wait.

Under the hood, Lexus offers a choice of two different powerplants, a 3.5-liter V-6 (the RX350), or the same engine paired with an electric motor in the RX450h. The gas engine generates 295 hp., and the gas/electric pumps out 308. Both are teamed with an 8-speed automatic transmission. The RX450h also gets standard all-wheel drive. My test car was a RX350, and it accelerated briskly, and the engine never sounded strained.

Both the RX350 and the hybrid RX450h come in standard trim and with the F-Sport package. (There is also a longer, seven-seat version, the RX450hL, which will be reviewed separately.) The base RX models are equipped with the expected niceties, like a power tailgate, navigation and rain-sensing windshield wipers. But more importantly, they come with the Lexus Safety System, which includes frontal-collision warning

and braking, adaptive cruise control and a lane departure monitor.

The F-Sport versions increase the macho factor with 20-inch wheels, lower body cladding and aluminum pedals for the driver. Furthermore, there are luxury upgrades, such as distinctive leather upholstery, a heated steering wheel and an adaptive suspension.

Behind the wheel, my F-Sport test car handled predictably in everyday driving. The adaptive suspension stiffened moderately when cornering. And when the “S-Sport” feature was engaged, the steering tightened, the throttle response quickened and shift points adjusted. However, the steering did not convey much feel of the road, and the RX ran wide when pressed hard into turns. This is not an SUV you buy for its sportiness. Its strong suits are its plush ride and its quiet cabin. You can drive the RX long distances and not feel tired.

Pricing for RX350 starts at \$44,595. The RX450h starts at \$51,745. The F-Sport adds \$5,650 to the bottom line of the RX350 model, and \$5,360 to the hybrid version.



Lexus RX350 (photo Ed Barrett)



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## 2019 Mercedes-Benz A220 Test Drive Report by Arv Voss

continued from page 4

for the infotainment and HVAC, with twin 10.25-inch upgrades provided as part of a \$2,100 Premium Package. A 64-color ambient lighting system is available adding a nice warm, inviting touch.

The A-Class is the first to bring Mercedes' new MBUX infotainment system to market, with the biggest change being the "Hey Mercedes" smart assistant – a sort of an automotive Alexa. Navigation instructions may be accessed in several ways, and like Alexa, one can ask general knowledge questions. "Hey Mercedes" ties into the car's HVAC and other systems as well, able to adjust the temperature by voice.

A screen accessible Multimode selector provides a choice of four modes: Individual for manual shifting; Sport; Comfort; and Eco – the latter three alter throttle response, shift points and steering effort.

The driving experience delivered by the 2019 Mercedes-Benz A220 4MATIC AMG equipped sedan is far greater than one would expect from any entry-level vehicle from any manufacturer.

Turbo lag is virtually nonexistent, with outstanding throttle response and the DCT transmission moves up and down through the gears smoothly in both auto and manual modes.

The ride quality is smooth and compliant, yet exhibits superb on road stability, and the steering provides a spot on feel with instant responsiveness.

Seats are both supportive and comfortable in this exceedingly attractive sedan.

The 2019 Mercedes-Benz A220

4MATIC AMG equipped sedan is likely the best entry-level luxury sport vehicle available in its class. With its elitist good looks and good driving feel, it's definitely a winner. Load it up with all the available options and it tops the \$50,000 price point.

### SPECIFICATIONS:

2019 Mercedes-Benz A220 4MATIC Sedan

Base Price: \$34,500.

Price as Tested: \$50,485.

Engine Type and Size: 2.0-liter, DOHC, 16-valve inline turbo-charged four cylinder with Direct Injection

Horsepower (bhp): 188 @ 5,500-

6,100 rpm

Torque (ft./ lbs.): 221 @ 1,600-

4,000 rpm

Transmission: 7G DCT seven-

speed dual clutch automatic with

manual shifting mode.

Drive Train: Longitudinally

mounted front engine / 4MATIC

all-wheel drive.

Suspension: Four-wheel inde-

pendent

Front - MacPherson strut/wishbone

Rear - Multilink

Brakes: Power-assisted four-wheel

discs (vented front) with ABS, ESC,

and Active Brake Assist.

Tires: Pirelli P-Zero 225/40 R19

93W mounted on 14-spoke AMG

black painted alloy wheels

Wheelbase: 107.4 inches

Length Overall: 179.1 inches

Width: 78.4 inches

Height: 56.9 inches

Curb Weight: 3,395 lbs.

Turning Circle: 36.1 ft.

Fuel Capacity: 13.5 gallons

EPA Mileage Estimates: Not yet

certified

## McClaren Announces Record Global Sales for 2019

• Global sales of 4,806 cars in 2018, up 43.9% compared to 2017

• North America continues to be largest market plus 49.2% year-on-year UK 'home' market growth

• Bespoke division, MSO, triples order book in one year

Global sales for McLaren Automotive, the British creator of luxury sports cars and supercars, rose to 4,806 cars in 2018 with sales up 43.9 percent over the previous year. This is another

record for the company which has increased sales every year since its formation in 2010.

North America, which represents McLaren's biggest single market and over a third of global sales, surpassed the 5,000 cars sold mark since sales started in 2011 and achieved another year of record growth.

European sales rose 44.2 percent but the biggest leap was seen in China at 122.5 percent growth following the introduction of the

570S Spider and 720S. China now accounts for almost 7 percent of total global sales.

McLaren's UK domestic market remained strong, achieving a 49.2 percent year-on-year growth.

The company celebrated building its 15,000th car in the summer at the McLaren Production Centre (MPC) in Woking, Surrey, where all its cars are hand-assembled, and consistently achieved over 20 cars a day with production exported to over 30 markets.

## Kia Cadenza Test Drive Report by David Schmidt

continued from page 3

parable to those found in sedans. It seems somehow philosophically satisfying that a car that is made to look somewhat like a truck also rides somewhat like a truck.

But riding is more than just how the seat feels. With the Cadenza the first thing you notice is that the cabin is very nice, perhaps up to the quality of many of the entry-level Japanese and German sedans.

As stated before, the seats are very comfortable, also very adjustable. They are seats that appeal to the people who buy sedans for their comfort and the confident driving they inspire.

While you are in there, you want the features to be both numerous and of good quality. The sound system qualifies, as the sound filling the car is well balanced. Unless the interior needs "sound" tuning I almost always play an audio system with the filters set to the middle (called "flat" by audiophiles). This plays the various frequencies at their maximum.

That's because using a "bass" filter, for example, actually works by reducing the mid-range and treble output. So, if you, for instance, set all three filters on

maximum or minimum, the only difference would be the volume. The filters are to allow people to tailor the sound to their room, or in this case, cabin.

I particularly like that the sound system is easy to figure out and doesn't take studying to be able to make it work. You use knobs to tune it and control the volume. This is a nice, perhaps essential, design feature for those who will be buying sedans such as these.

Also, the car's connectivity is quick and accurate, and the features broad-based. This is true for the Bluetooth as it finds and connects to your smartphone. Then you can use that connectivity to use a number of Internet-based apps. For example, a phone app that will control many features of the car from afar.

I don't feel quite the same way about the navigation. For one thing, it keeps asking me where I want to go when I start the car. I also don't like the "lawyer statement" every time you turn it on.

I am familiar with and comfortable with the navigation system, which is shared by Kia and Hyundai. That doesn't mean I am completely happy with it. To me the map display seems a bit cartoonish. It is functional, and not some-

thing, I would guess, most owners will spend a lot of time worrying about.

The Cadenza's powertrain is quite good. The output of this 3.3-liter V-6 is 290 hp. and 253 lb.-ft. of peak torque. This power goes through the eight-speed automatic transmission to the front wheels. In doing so it earns an EPA efficiency rating of 20 mpg in the city and 28 mpg on the highway.

You have the option of two powertrain setups in addition to the normal settings. They are Eco and Sport. The later makes the transmission hold in gear longer when accelerating and pay more attention to what you are doing with the accelerator. While it isn't a big difference, it's an addition to the driver's control of the power, which is always a good thing. On the highway there is a noticeable difference when you are in Eco mode. On a long trip, you will actually get better gas mileage.

Another mechanical advantage the Cadenza offers is recognition of its quality. In first full year on sale in 2017, Cadenza topped the quality charts, earning a J.D. Power Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout award and J.D. Power's 2017 Initial Quality **continued on page 8**



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## Jaguar I-Pace Test Drive by Art Gould

continued from page 2

stylish. The rear design look is clean and clutter free with rear lighting wrapping around the power tailgate. A small rear window is the result of the top design that drops off as it reaches the rear of the vehicle. A huge glass roof covers the entire interior space. A sliding curtain covering is not included to protect from extreme sun exposure.

Jaguar interior never disappoints. Plush and luxurious is the signature of excellent Jaguar execution. Technology is used in display screens located in the center of the dash panel. The ability to change functions takes some study and practice as unfortunately found in more luxury vehicles today. Slow execution of features takes patience to respond to inputs.

Study is needed to set radio stations. Younger computer geeks have been hard at work to use every possible pixel just because it's there. With the emphasis toward fewer distractions while driving, auto manufacturers need to cooperate with simplicity rather than confusing technology to operate frequently used features. Distractions abide while messages remind about using phones, texts and other dangerous functions while trying to operate ever more completed built

in distractions.

Included in Jaguar's first pure-electric model are two identical electric motors. One for each axle giving the I-Pace all-wheel drive. Smooth speed that comes from 394 horsepower and 512 lb-ft of torque are the performance features that electric vehicles are known. Driving range is estimated at 240 miles. The resulting ride is firm and responsive. Steering is predictable adding to a luxurious ride and handling as Jaguar has been known for throughout its one hundred plus years of production.

At light loads below 30 mph, the I-Pace drives only its rear-axle motor. At higher speeds both electric motors drive all four wheels with the thrill of acceleration and driving fun. Ride height adjust-

ments help off-road needs as well as a lower mode to help ingress and egress.

No rear wiper is available to help clear the small rear window. Maybe not as necessary with the rear roof overhang. An unusual sequence of driving controls are located vertically on the dash panel. It will take a little getting used to have P for park located at the bottom of the stack. This situates D drive at the top and reverses all other PRNDL positions upside down.

This latest EV in the industry is certainly one to add to your list of entrants in the Electric Vehicles wars. Plenty of choices, will there be enough buyers? Pricing will range from \$70,000 to \$86,000. Remember you'll never have to buy gas again.



Jaguar I-Pace (photo Art Gould)

## 2019 Kia Cadenza Test Drive Report

continued from page 7

Study accolade in the Large Car category.

One of the better things about this car is what it looks like. It is attractive, and it also looks sophisticated. It frankly looks a step higher up the automotive food chain than you pay for it. With plenty of features, the Cadenza Premium begins life at \$33,190, the mid-range Cadenza Technology has an MSRP of \$39,290 and the top-of-the-line Limited is tagged at \$44,690.

In the case of this Kia, it means that it's a value-oriented vehicle. Kia originally had a reputation for being the cheapest kid on the block. That was not an altogether positive view. But that's not true anymore.

Perhaps it would be fair to say now that it's the "best value for money" on the block.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas, please send them to [comment@AutoWritersInk.com](mailto:comment@AutoWritersInk.com). SEE AD ON PAGE 3

## XXX Drive-In in Issaquah, WA Celebrates It's 20 Year Anniversary This Year...!

*The XXX Root beer Drive-in in Issaquah, WA is the last historic XXX Root beer Drive-in in the USA. (98 N.E. Gilman Blvd, Issaquah)*

Jose and his team specialize in "OLD SCHOOL COOKING" serving messy juicy burgers, large milk shakes, and greasy fries.

With 30 weekend car shows starring in February the "Triple XXX" is operational central for car collectors and enthusiasts. The "Triple X" restaurant is packed with automobile memorabilia and they are the presenting sponsor of the Washington State Hot Rod Hall of Fame and have been featured in many national publications and most local media outlets. SEE SCHEDULE BELOW

**June 2** - Convertibles Only 206-282-5603

**June 9** - Fenders and Fins 206-349-3467

**June 16** - Fenders on Front St 425-391-1112

**June 23** - Cadillac-LaSalle Show 206-799-6585

**June 30** - Hot Rod Hall of Fame Show 206-948-2063

**July 7** - Rat Bastards Car Show 253-632-7515

**July 14** - Camaro Club Show 206-948-2063

**July 21** - Mopar Car Show 253-273-6037

**July 28** - Corvette Car Show 206-478-2346

**August 4** - Old Rides Show 206-214-8318

**August 11** - GTO legends Show 206-243-3390

**August 18** - 55-56-57 Chevy Show 206-601-1762

**August 25** - Classic Swagger Show 206-949-0476

**September 1** - Buick Olds Pontiac Show 253-576-1128

**September 8** - Univera Feed the Children Show 253-377-2625

**September 15** - Electric Car Show 310-926-9070

**September 22** - VW Fall Fling 253-841-2037

**October 13** - Magnums, Etc. 253-221-0719

**December 1** - Jingle Bell Cruise 425-766-3514

## INSIDE INDIA AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

### VR MOTION NAMES TATA ELXSI AS EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR IN INDIA FOR VR DRIVER TRAINING

VR Motion Corp, Hillsboro, OR, has reached agreement with Tata Elxsi, Bangalore, India, that names Tata Elxsi as distributor and promoter of VR Motion's exclusive VR driver training software throughout India. This agreement will continue to promote the VR revolution in fleet driver training, using the total immersion of Virtual Reality.

VR Motion has defined the Virtual Reality Driving Simulator with a new level of realism. This will allow Tata and other OEM manufacturers, dealers and other fleet users of all types to practice, learn, and operate multiple specific vehicles, particularly delivery vehicles and other high-risk driving environments. Using a multi-axis motion platform and the latest VR hardware, the unique VRMC software immerses both novice and more experienced drivers into specific locations, unique vehicles, distracted driving and accident avoidance. India has a traffic accident fatality rate that is over twice as high as the USA, and the Indian government is taking active measure to reduce accidents and fatalities.

Keith Maher, VR Motion Co-founder and CEO, said "Our purpose at VR Motion is to provide tools that will create better drivers globally and reduce casualties. Tata Elxsi has shown amazing leadership in helping to bring this cutting-edge technology to the drivers of India and we are thrilled to partner with them to support this worthy mission".

"The collaboration between Tata Elxsi and VR Motion is aimed at addressing the real challenges that vehicle and fleet owners & operators face today. Partnering with VR Motion Corp and promoting the VRMC software with the VR Hardware will help promote a safe driving awareness and reduce fatalities" said Sunil Punjabi, Vice President and Head of Systems Integration Services at Tata Elxsi. "We look forward to working with VR Motion Corp on a long-term collaborative partnership."

## INSIDE EUROPE AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

### BEAT THE WAITING LIST - Arkonik D110 available for immediate delivery

Arkonik are pleased to offer up the opportunity to beat the 18-month waiting list and secure one of their restored Defenders today. This is a physical truck in New Jersey which has cleared customs and is ready to be delivered straight to your door. You'll need to act quickly though, as their last stock vehicle sold within days!



This high-spec Bonatti Grey Station Wagon has been restored and reimagined to make an impact both on and off-road. Equipped for the adventurous with award-winning BFGoodrich® tires, Front Runner® roof rack and plenty of pulling power thanks to a Warn® Zeon winch.

Interior comfort is courtesy of ultra supportive Recaro® heated seats up front and a practical eight-seat configuration. You and your passengers can enjoy the crisp sounds of your favourite tunes via an Alpine® six-speaker infotainment system complete with Apple® CarPlay® and reversing camera display.





## Distracted Driving Reaches All Time High According to Research of University Missouri

A distracted driver — such as answering a phone call, a text message, or being distracted by a passenger — is 29 TIMES MORE LIKELY to wreck in a work zone, says Praveen Edara and a team of researchers.

“Unfortunately, crash reports do not include detailed information about driver behavior prior to a crash,” Edara said. “What’s unique about our research project is that we used naturalistic driving study data that provides information about how driver, vehicle, roadway and environmental factors contribute to a crash. In other words, we reconstructed a driver’s actions and the surrounding environment prior to the crash from a firsthand account.”

The study’s results could provide recommendations on “behavioral countermeasures” to state transportation agencies and the Federal Highway Administration, which are implementing countermeasures to decrease injuries and fatalities in a highway work zone. Of the seven current Federal Highway Administration funded projects using this data, only MU is using the data to specifically look at highway work zones.

## Cadillac XTS Test Drive Report

continued from page 4

many are still in use in big cities like New York and Los Angeles.

The XTS is most comfortable on long trips and gets a respectful MPG of 19-28 miles per gallon. The field of sedans on the market is mind-boggling. The amount of technology goes from minimal to overwhelming. Dealers now offer courses in learning how to use the technology. This also helps improve customer evaluations of the dealership.

I do like the fact the phone works well with most and this is great to help keep your eyes on the road. This is especially important if you have a teen driving the car. Pairing the phone is simple for most systems.

Seating really is for four, not five passengers. The middle of the

back seat is great for a youngster but that’s all. The 3.6l 304 HP V-6 engine has good acceleration and the six-speed transmission is seamless. Pricing starts at \$46,395 and jumps to \$65,695 there is also a V model for more performance. AWD starts at \$52,395 for folks living in cold and icy areas.

The XTS supports Apple Carplay and Android Auto. The XTS is a good value if you are looking for a Cadillac sedan. The XTS is available in a base model, Luxury, Premium and Platinum V-Sport. I understand Cadillac is planning for two new sedans in the future and is not abandoning the sedan market.

The Cadillac SUV market hit a home run with the Escalade and now its time for the sedans to do the same.



Cadillac XTS (photo Harold Allen)

## NWAPA (Northwest Automotive Press Assoc.) Announces “Mudfest” Event Winners

The Northwest Automotive Press Association named the 2020 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon 4x4 as the top vehicle at its annual Northwest Outdoor Activity Vehicle of the Year competition. The all-new 2020 Gladiator came out on top with its excellent on-road drivability, off-road prowess, and its impressive utility. This new pickup truck demonstrated an unbeatable combination of performance, features, capability, and technology during the NWAPA’s 25th annual Mudfest competition.

NWAPA automotive media professionals spent two days driving 22 vehicles through a mix of on-road handling and off-road courses at The Ridge Motorsports Park in Shelton, Wash. Day one’s activities included on-road handling testing while the second day took journalists through a custom-made off-road course built at The Ridge to evaluate the capabilities of the sport utility vehicles, crossovers, and pickups.

Entrants in Mudfest competed in six categories: Subcompact and Compact Family Utility Vehicles, Mid-and Full-Size Family Utility Vehicles, Compact and Midsize Luxury Utility Vehicles, Full-Size Luxury Utility Vehicles, Pickup Trucks and Extreme Capability Vehicles. NWAPA members also selected an overall winner: The Northwest Outdoor Activity Vehicle of the Year.

While the competition was fierce, and the voting was close, there can be only one winner from each category. These vehicles earned the praise of the 25 NWAPA media professionals who evaluated the vehicles:

- Subcompact and Compact Family – **2019 Subaru Forester Sport**
- Runner up – **2019 Jeep Renegade Trailhawk**
- Mid-and Full-Size Family – **2020 Kia Telluride SX V6 AWD**
- Runner up – **2019 Toyota 4Runner TRD PRO**
- Compact and Midsize Luxury – **2020 Mercedes-Benz GLE450 4MATIC**
- Runner up – **2019 Acura RDX SH-AWD A-SPEC**
- Full-Size Luxury – **2019 BMW X7 xDrive50i**
- Runner up – **2019 Mercedes-Benz G550**
- Pickup Trucks – **2020 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon**
- Runner up – **2019 Ram 2500 Power Wagon Crew Cab 4X4**
- Extreme Capability – **2020 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon**
- Runner up – **2019 Mercedes-Benz G550**
- NW Outdoor Activity Vehicle of the Year – **2020 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon**
- Runner up – **2020 Kia Telluride SX V6 AWD**

## INSIDE CHINA AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

### VOK DAMS Worldwide sees a strong increase in Chinese company meetings in Europe and USA

The trend towards meetings abroad - so-called outbound events - has increased considerably in recent years, according to VOK DAMS Worldwide, one of the leading agencies for events and live marketing globally, with a strong presence in China.

With offices in USA, France, UK, Spain, Czechia, Brazil, UAE and Germany, VOK DAMS Worldwide is perfectly suited to meet the Chinese requirements with intimate know-how of the target destinations and a strong local network.

In the past five years, VOK DAMS China has successfully produced several events for Chinese customers in France, Germany, Spain and Great Britain.

More and more Chinese companies prefer a full-service experiential agency over a travel agency for their outbound events, to enhance the wholesome experience of their guests.

VOK DAMS China executed the annual MINI China dealer conference in Great Britain. With several action-packed days in Oxford and London, the Chinese guests experienced the MINI brand at the source, discovering the history behind the iconic and quintessential British heritage brand and celebrating their sales achievements of the previous year in a unique and immersive evening event.

Another example is the Bentley China Dealers Conference in Las Vegas. Close cooperation between VOK DAMS China and VOK DAMS North America resulted in a top-class experience for all guests involved.

When asked for the reason for the strong increase of outbound projects of Chinese VOK DAMS clients, Katja Sassi-Bucsit, General Manager VOK DAMS China, stated: “We are pleased that we have an increasing number of Chinese customers, who implement their events abroad with us. Our global VOK DAMS network is made for these kind of border crossing projects and our on the ground experience in 88 countries around the world is a true advantage to our Chinese clients”.

**VOK DAMS Worldwide** - based in Wuppertal, Germany - is a leading international communications agency for events and live-marketing with offices in Munich, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Berlin as well as branches in the US, France, UK, Iberia (Madrid), China (Beijing and Shanghai), Czechia, Brazil and the UAE.

VOK DAMS specializes in experiential marketing with proprietary concepts of Hybrid Events, Live Campaigns and Digital Live Experiences (DLX).



Bentley China Dealers Convergence in Las Vegas



### Law Offices of Martin J.H. Duenhoelter

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Legends (left to right) Bob Bondurant, Lyn St. James, Bill McCallum, Founder, Tom duPont, Steve Saleen, Barry Meguiar, Keith Martin, Ken Lingenfelter and Dana Mecum (photo Auto News)



Gary Williams (right) with the All-New Saleen S1 Sports Car at Entrance to Legends of Auto Gala Dinner (photo Auto News)

**Please Join Us for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Legends of Auto Gala - August 15, 2019**



Sponsors

*Legends of Auto Gala Dinner*

Please join us on August 15th at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Monterey Bay (Seaside) for the 10th Annual Event

Date: August 15, 2019

Place: Embassy Suites Hotel on Monterey Bay (Seaside)

Time: 7 pm to 10:30 pm

Attire: Business Casual

Tickets: \$250 each

Tables: (10) - \$2,000

**Ticketing: <https://my360tix.com/events/legends-gala>**

**SPACE WILL BE LIMITED - Questions - [bill@autonewsonline.com](mailto:bill@autonewsonline.com)**

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

**About Legends of Auto**

The "Legends of Auto" is a prestigious event in which we take time to honor key contributors of the automotive industry. Below are some pictures of our recent events.

**Honored Members of Legends of Auto**

George Barris\*  
Bert Boeckmann  
Bob Bondurant  
Sandra Button  
Corky Coker  
Tom duPont

Vic Edelbrock\*  
Ken Gross  
Dan Gurney\*  
Lee Iacocca  
Craig Jackson  
Lyn St. James

\*Departed Legends

Parnelli Jones  
Jay Leno  
Ken Lingenfelter  
Keith Martin  
Barry Meguiar  
Bruce McCaw

Dana Mecum  
Bruce Meyer  
Peter Mullin  
Roger Penske  
Stewart Reed  
Steve Saleen  
Carroll Shelby\*



Legends (left to right) Bob Bondurant, Lyn St. James, Bill McCallum, Founder, Tom duPont, Steve Saleen, Barry Meguiar, Keith Martin, Ken Lingenfelter and Dana Mecum (photo Auto News)



Legends of Auto Gala Event attendees at dinner during presentations (photo Auto News)



Steve Saleen (left), John Clinnard, Ford (ctr) and Keith Martin at Legends Gala (photo Auto News)



George Barris, a Legend who has departed, with Gary Williams at Pebble Beach Concours (photo Auto News)

**Legends of Auto Gala Dinner Brings guests from Across the U.S.**

by Bill McCallum

Our "Legends of Auto Gala Dinner" in Monterey during Classic Car Week was an outstanding success.

I want to publicly thank our Sponsor (Mecum), Legends (see above photo), our guests, our partners, (see page 24), our team from Los Angeles (Gary, Joyce, Lisa.) and our team from Seattle (Barb, Chris, Mike, Zach). Thanks to all and see you next year on August 15th. Same time same place. (See page 10)

This year we celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the founding of "Legends of Auto" and on August 15, 2019 we will celebrate the actual 10th annual Legends of Auto Event in Monterey during Classic Car Week. If your an auto enthusiast Classic Car Week and our Legends Event should be on your "bucket list". Make your reservations today. (see Gary Williams story on page 4 and 9)

Legends honored this year included; Tom duPont, founder duPont Registry Magazine, Ken Lingenfelter CEO Lingenfelter Company, Keith Martin, founder Sports Car Market Magazine, Barry Meguiar, President Meguiar Car Care Products Company, Steve Saleen, CEO Saleen Motor Company. Bob Bondurant, Bondurant Performance Driving School, Dana Mecum, Founder Mecum Auctions, Lyn St. James, and others.

**HONORED LEGENDS**

- George Barris \*
- Bert Boeckmann - Galpin Ford
- Sandra Button - Concours Chair
- Corky Coker - Tire Co. Exec.
- Vic Edelbrock \*
- Ken Gross - Concours Judge
- Dan Gurney \*
- Lee Iacocca - Retired Auto Exec.
- Craig Jackson - Auction CEO
- Parnelli Jones - Racing
- Jay Leno - TV entertainer
- Bruce McCaw - Car Collector
- Bruce Meyer - Petersen Museum
- Peter Mullin - Petersen Museum
- Roger Penske - Auto Executive
- Stewart Reed - Design Exec.
- Carol Shelby \*
- \* Departed Legends



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# CARS, STARS AND FILMS



Rie Arai (Whipped Clouds), Clinton H. Wallace (Founder of Côte d'Azur Webfest) and Eugenia Kuzmina (Envy) at Nintendo's "Garden of Eden" by Yusuke Akamatsu at La Journée in Cannes, France (photo Joyce Chow)

## Joyce Chow (photo Below) Covers the Cannes Film Festival in Monaco....!

continued from page 2  
 red carpet arrivals for pushing the boundaries in fashion.  
 My producing partner Gloria Kisel and I screened our latest

Mini Movies at the debut of the Côte d'Azur Webfest at the Gray D'Albion, one of the official Festival de Cannes screening theatres. "Envy" was inspired during

last year's Cannes Film Festival while watching fireworks over the French Riviera synced with the Star Wars theme during the "Solo: A Star Wars Story" after party. Our other Mini Movies, show a culture snapshot in time and take a satirical look at society in today's social media age of Hollywood, were on the topics of "Alternate Life"; "Dead or Alive" and "In the Mirror Reflection". Next, we'll be having our world premiere at the Brentwood and Pacific Palisades International Film Festival in West Los Angeles on June 10, 2019.



Joyce Chow and Chris Tucker (Rush Hour) beside a Renaissance Electric car at the 3.14 Casino in Cannes, France (photo Joyce Chow)

Passing like a whirlwind, Cannes brings treasured memories of adventures of beachside sunsets from the Cinemoi Gala, a diplomatic gala hosted by Prince Albert II for the Monaco Better World Forum with the Aquatica Foundation, the ultra exclusive Michaelangelo Mamo restaurant and nightcaps at the Hotel Du Cap, and private tours of the 3.14 Casino in Cannes. Only an hour away is Monaco and the Grand Prix. If only there was more time.

Until next year, au revoir.

# Curing Kids Cancer – The Board Challenge

*Our Board is ready to make a major impact this year.*

This month our Board met up for our annual planning meeting. It was a great time at Board Member Michelle "Buttercup" Davis' home. Our board members jumped in, ready to work to make sure 2019 is a success. One of the most exciting things to come out of the meeting is our Board Challenge. They will raise money for innovative research like Dr. Todd Cooper's at Seattle

Children's. His team is developing comprehensive genomic analysis, which is essential for all children with high risk leukemia. This therapy costs \$3,500 per child.

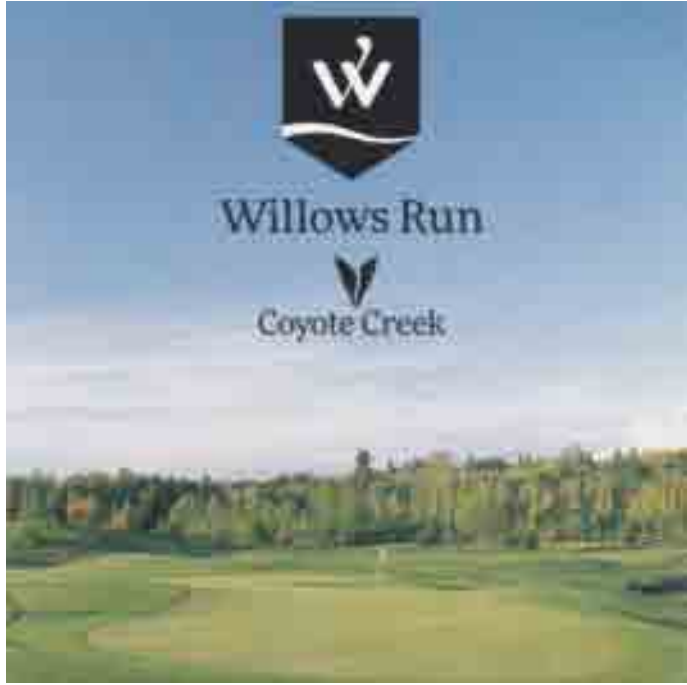
*"Wow! Thank you so much Curing Kids Cancer Board for saying YES to helping children with leukemia get life-saving treatments and rallying the community to join you in this effort," statement from Seattle Children's.*

The goal of the Board Challenge is to raise \$50,000, which would provide 14 children with the opportunity to receive life-saving treatments for their leukemia by having this analysis performed on their DNA. We hope you will join our Board Members in their effort this year to make the difference for children battling cancer today!



From left Stephanie Ellenberg, Grainne Owen (president and founder), Michelle "Buttercup" Davis, Perley McBride, Tim Huban, Caleb Tucker, Brian McCue, Clayton Owen (co-founder) and Art Volpe.

# Ride & Drive: 2019 Hyundai Tucson at Willows Run Golf Course



**THE DRIVE** - Willows Run Golf Complex is centrally located East of Seattle in Redmond, WA. The complete includes two 18 hole courses, a par three 18 hole course and a putting course for family fun. All with plenty of FREE parking. The complete also includes a driving range, pro shop, bar, and a restaurant. Coyote Creek is our favorite track. While some consider Coyote Creek the easier of the two 18 hole courses it requires an in the fairway drive if you want to score well. The par 72 Coyote Creek course is 5399 yards from the gold tees, 5796 yards from then white tees and 6344 yards

from the black tees. For more info call (425) 883-1200 or visit [www.willowsrun.com](http://www.willowsrun.com)

**THE RIDE** - The 2019 Hyundai Tucson got a major refresh for 2019 and is great value ride for any golfer. With a starting MSRP of \$ 23,500 and 24 MPG for your trip to the golf course the Tucson is easy on the pocket book. For 2019 the Tucson is powered by a 2.4 liter I-4 mated with a 7sp twin-clutch transmission. Safety features include; forward collision warning, automatic emergency warning, lane keeping assist and are standard. If your looking for a new SUV take a look.

# Toyota RAV4 "Test Drive Review"

**continued from page 3**  
of some hybrid skeptics, I do not hold up traffic due to lack of power. The 2.5L 4-cylinder engine delivers 194 net horsepower with CVT offers outstanding acceleration. My Limited model also features electronic on-demand all-wheel drive with intelligence (AWD-i) which includes an electric motor that delivers instant torque to the rear wheels when you need more traction. The hybrid gauge cluster is easy to help you track when the system is charging and providing power to the drive wheels. To help increase the efficiency of your drive, you can also view the hybrid energy monitor on the 7" touch screen display to determine the operation of the gas engine, electric motor generator and hybrid battery. This offers real-time information showing how the power is being

routed to the drive wheels or how the battery is being charged.

My decision to purchase a hybrid was based mostly on the advantage of increased fuel economy. The environmental issue is nice, but I want to save a few bucks! I have been calculating my mileage and to my surprise and delight, I am exceeding the EPA's estimated miles per gallon of 34 mpg in the city and 30 mpg on the highway.

As winter approached, I equipped my RAV4 with a new set of wheels and snow tires. I selected black alloy rims which hardly show the winter road grime as opposed to the standard chrome wheels that will change up the vehicle's look when warmer weather returns. Preparation for winter driving was enough to insure that snow or ice would not come to our area this winter! However, trips over the mountain

passes made me appreciate the RAV4's comfortable and effortless drive on the treacherous trip.

The only other additions to my RAV4 in the near future will be window tinting for the front windows and windshield and a roof rack to attach to the provided roof rails for our kayaks. After living on the "dark side" of the state, I never complain about the sunlight—but the front windows and windshield of the RAV4 offer no protection from glare on a beautiful sunny day.

The transition from a luxury sedan to a recreational activity vehicle was a stretch for this old person and I admit it was not easy—but after driving and riding in the RAV4 for four months, I can totally understand why sedan sales are declining and the SUV market is soaring.



Toyota RAV4 (photo Sally Hanson)

# Marysville Toyota Sponsors Annual Strawberry Festival "Kidfest" Event



The Marysville, WA. Strawberry Festival has been a community tradition since 1932. (See - [www.maryfest.org](http://www.maryfest.org)) The goal of the festival is to act as an ambassador for Marysville and the surrounding communities to promote Marysville and encourage tourism in the area.

Marysville Toyota has partnered with the event as the sponsor of "Kids Fest" As part of June's "NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH" Marysville Toyota will promote Child Car Seat Safety information at the "Kids Fest" event.. They will also have information and displays for Toyota's "Buckle Up For Life" and "Safety Sense" programs. Toyota using the theme "Safe Cars Save Lives" as introduced an online service helping vehicle owners determine if there vehicle is on a national recall list. Information on all of these programs is also available at Marysville Toyota. (See ad on this page)

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## Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Vancouver Honored with 'Inspiring Greatness' Award

Dealer recognized for bringing the Rolls-Royce Brand to life in its Showroom debut and Cullinan introduction

- American premiere of Cullinan at the grand opening of Rolls-Royce Vancouver

- Festivities brought the world's leading luxury brand to life including a real-life Spirit of Ecstasy performance artist

- Showroom was the first stand-alone Rolls-Royce building in the Americas

- The event featured the American revel of Cullinan, the brand's first-ever SUV

- Nearly 200 guests including top media experienced the world class luxury event

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Vancouver has been recognized

for its prowess in bringing the world most venerable brand to life with the marque's coveted 'Inspiring Greatness Award' for 2018. Reserved for the most engaging and outstanding dealer client activity that embodies the brand promise and attitude of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, the Vancouver team received the award for the festivities surrounding the opening of its new showroom that included the Americas-wide debut of the all-new Rolls-Royce Cullinan.

"It's an honor to be singled out for the way we do business," said Christian Chia, Principal of Rolls-Royce Motor Vancouver. "Our goal is not to be the biggest, rather, we strive to share the beauty and inspiration of the

Rolls-Royce brand with every one of clients and potential clients." He added, "We had the distinct honor of introducing the new Cullinan to all of the Americas during the opening of our magnificent new showroom. It was a perfect intersection of events for the brand."

In creating this truly inspirational event for Vancouver, Canada and the entire Americas, Chia commented, "Cullinan was our muse, an unparalleled catalyst to inspire greatness through creativity and results." The event reflected two facets of Cullinan, offering a Diamond Room and an Adventure Room. The world had never before seen a vehicle showcased on an onyx diamond LED platform imported from Brazil.

The celebration also included a custom Rolls-Royce infinity mirror room of 88 candles endlessly illuminating a Spirit of

Ecstasy living sculpture. Snow fell from the gobo-inspired sky while a 3D deer looked on from a cinematic mountain range inside



Christian Chia, Principal & Aly Jiwani, General Manager of Rolls-Royce Motor Vancouver celebrate the launch of Cullinan in their new Rolls-Royce Showroom (photo Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Vancouver)

# ATTENTION: AUTO ENTHUSIASTS

JOIN FORMER and CURRENT LEGENDS for the  
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY of LEGENDS OF AUTO



2018 Legends and Honored Guests (Left to Right) Bob Bondurant, Lyn St. James, Bill McCallum, Tom duPont, Steve Saleen, Barry Meguiar, Keith Martin, Ken Lingenfelter and Dana Mecum

### Honored Members of Legends of Auto

George Barris\*  
Bert Boeckmann  
Bob Bondurant  
Sandra Button  
Corky Coker  
Tom duPont

Vic Edelbrock\*  
Ken Gross  
Dan Gurney\*  
Lee Iacocca  
Craig Jackson  
Lyn St. James

\*Departed Legends

Parnelli Jones  
Jay Leno  
Ken Lingenfelter  
Keith Martin  
Barry Meguiar  
Bruce McCaw

Dana Mecum  
Bruce Meyer  
Peter Mullin  
Roger Penske  
Stewart Reed  
Steve Saleen  
Carroll Shelby\*

## Legends of Auto Gala Dinner

2019 Legends to be announced Spring 2019

**Date: August 15, 2019**

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

Time: 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Place: Embassy Suites Hotel on Monterey Bay

Reception: 7:00 pm • Dinner: 8:00 pm • Presentations 9:00 pm

**ORDER TICKETS ONLINE:** <https://my360tix.com/events/legends-gala>

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the forested Adventure Room. All the while, guests sipped a flaming pine-infused mezcal while dining on lobster claw charcoal sliders, A5 wagyu sushi and salmon lollipops with silver leaf cotton candy.

"Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Vancouver inspired not only its clients, but also the entire Rolls-Royce family with this program," said Martin Fritsches, President and CEO of Rolls-Royce Motor Americas. He added, "We are a brand that each of our clients aspire to in their own way. We build cars that inspire people who do great things. And it's only fitting when we recognize that inspiration excellence among our family of dealers."

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars new facility in Vancouver remains a showcase for the brand. Inside the Bespoke lounge, clients personalize their new vehicle from more than 44,000 available exterior colors and a wide variety of textiles and interior materials ranging from the highest quality leather to high-tech carbon fiber. Working together with a team of expert colour, material and design consultants in Goodwood, Home of Rolls-Royce, the Bespoke process is what makes these cars exclusive and unique. In 2018, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars delivered significant bespoke activity in North America in more than 80% of all vehicles commissioned.

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Vancouver is one of 44 Rolls-Royce Motor Car retail partners in the Americas, including 37 in the United States, 4 in Canada, 2 in South America and one in Mexico. Last year the company delivered 4107 units for a record year of growth. The Americas remains the largest global region for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars where about one-third of all commissions are delivered. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars develops and delivers the world's ultimate luxury vehicles. Each Rolls-Royce Motor car is hand crafted at the company's state-of-the-art assembly facility in Goodwood England.



## Bob Bondurant School of High Performance Driving Purchased by Private Investment Group

The Bob Bondurant School of High Performance Driving, of entrepreneurs who are also graduates of the Bondurant school, racing enthusiasts and automobile collectors.

One member of the investor group, Bruce Belser, will serve as CEO of Bondurant, effective upon the close of the transaction, which is expected in the coming weeks. Belser is a successful entrepreneur, having founded several businesses, and has served as a corporate pilot, Delta Airlines commercial pilot, fighter pilot and U.S. commander in the U.S. Air Force. Belser has attended Bondurant school twice as a student.

The new owners plan to ensure current and incoming students at the school have an excellent experience without interruption; the company is currently operating and school is in session. They will immediately stabilize the financial foundation of the organization and plan to infuse significant capital into the business to enhance the guest experience for individuals and groups, and provide excellent return on investment for sponsorship partners and a best-in-class work environment for employees.

“We plan to establish the next generation of race car learning and entertainment as popularity in car racing and interest in consumer destination experiences continues to grow,” said Belser.

He adds that the new owners will retain and enhance the reputation of the solid instruction the school is known for; head instructor Mike McGovern, who has been with the company for 36 years, and assistant instructor Danny Bullock, a 22-year employee, will continue to lead guest experience and teaching with all current instructors. The team of instructors at the school are world renown for their deep knowledge and experience, and have taught some of the winningest drivers in the world as well as celebrities, star athletes and corporate executives.

## Millennials Car Buying Data

by Jordan Williams

continued from page 3

the Hyundai Elantra and the most expensive in the group the Ford F-Series pick-up. The most popular Honda Accord retails at approximately \$23,570.

There seems to be a mix of made-in-America brand (Chevy and Ford, or is it Ford and Chevy?!) loyal customers and Toyota and Honda import fans. So which are you? Chevy, Ford, Toyota, or Honda brand loyal?

I would love to know your thoughts! Also, do you own a car other than these ten listed? Please reach out to me and tell me which car you own/drive and why you like it so much.

Thank you-See you next issue, Readers! – Onward to everything spring and summer 2019 in millennial car buying – fun times ahead.

# SHOWCASE REVIEWS

## CHEVROLET TRAVERSE AWD



The Traverse was redesigned last year and added a new infotainment system this year including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

**BASE PRICE:** \$30,925  
**TYPE:** SUV  
**ENGINE:** 3.6L V6  
**TRANS:** 9-speed AT  
**HORSEPOWER:** 310 hp  
**MPG:** 17 city / 25 hiway

## HONDA INSIGHT 4DR TOURING



The Honda Insight is a “styling” hybrid based on the Civic and it delivers 55 mpg in the city and 45 mph on the hiway with a \$ 28,090 MSRP as tested.

**BASE PRICE:** \$23,725  
**TYPE:** Compact Sedan  
**ENGINE:** 1.5 Liter I-VTEC 4 cyl.  
**TRANS:** eCVT  
**HORSEPOWER:** 151 hp  
**MPG:** 55 city / 45 hiway

## KIA 900



The KIA 900 is the flagship for KIA. With a twin-turbo V-6 the 900 has the power to compete with other luxury sedans at a value price.

**BASE PRICE:** \$55,000  
**TYPE:** Luxury Sedan  
**ENGINE:** 3.3L Twin-Turbo V-6  
**TRANS:** 8 Speed AT  
**HORSEPOWER:** 365 hp  
**MPG:** 18 city / 25 hiway

## LEXUS LX 570



The Lexus LX 570 is the “Big Daddy” in the Lexus SUV lineup. Loaded with extras, lots of room for gear and a good off-roader

**BASE PRICE:** \$87,000  
**TYPE:** Luxury SUV  
**ENGINE:** 5.7L V8  
**TRANS:** 8-Speed SSAT  
**HORSEPOWER:** 383 hp  
**MPG:** 15 city / 18 hiway

## TOYOTA TACOMA TRD



The Tacoma keeps Toyota in the Great Truck Race for U.S. sales. Preferred by many off-roaders the Pro model is value priced.

**BASE PRICE:** \$26,500  
**TYPE:** Pickup  
**ENGINE:** 3.5L V-6  
**HORSEPOWER:** 278 hp  
**MPG:** 17 city / 24 hiway

## VOLVO S60 T6 R-Design



The Volvo S60 T6 is a premium offering from Volvo loaded with new safety features, above average MPG and an elegant interior.

**BASE PRICE:** \$38,000  
**TYPE:** Luxury Sedan  
**ENGINE:** 2.0L Turbo I-4  
**TRANS:** 8A  
**HORSEPOWER:** 316 hp  
**MPG:** 26 city / 36 hiway

\*\*\* all information on vehicles as tested

[autonewsonline.com/showcase-reviews](http://autonewsonline.com/showcase-reviews)

# Ford Explorer is The All-Time Best Selling SUV in America

When you're the leader of the pack, the view only continues to get better. Such is the case with the new 2020 Ford Explorer which has been the perennial leader for almost three decades. With some 8 million sales since its introduction, the Ford Explorer has been the all-time best-selling SUV in America. This sixth-generation model is the most advanced version to date. The newest example has its sights set on continuing to dominate and hold the title as the leading SUV in the industry.

For 2020 the Explorer returns to rear wheel drive. This enables the Explorer to capture the most capable towing capability in this highly competitive SUV class. Vehicles equipped with a 3.0-liter V6 EcoBoost and the towing package can haul up to 5,600 pounds, while those outfitted with a 2.3-liter EcoBoost with the towing package can tow up to 5,300 pounds.

Equipped with the standard 10-speed automatic transmission and available Terrain Management System with seven drive modes, the Explorer can take occupants anywhere they want to go, in comfort and style. The drive mode system, controlled by a rotary dial on the center console, lets drivers shift easily between Normal, Slippery, Trail, Deep Snow/Sand, Sport, Tow/Haul and Eco modes.

Comfort and space is designed with the passenger in mind. Sliding second-row seats make it easy to customize the inside to fit your crew. Reports state that now even

a child can easily operate the previously challenging second row operation. With best-in-class first and second row hip room and best second row headroom, the interior has answered requests from customers to better accommodate interior room including unsurpassed third row headroom.

PowerFold third-row seats make it easy to create a flat-floor cargo area that bests the competition. Power lift gate continues the list of surprise and delight features. Dual-Zone Electronic Automatic Temperature Control add to conveniences to complete the 'inside story'.

40/20/40 second-row seats, with split fold flat and reclining outboard seats reminds occupants of all the comforts of home. FordPass Connect 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot, SiriusXM satellite radio, SYNC 3, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility assure the latest and best technology conveniences.

The latest in safety was not overlooked with Ford Co-Pilot360 driver-assist system. It includes automatic emergency braking with rear view camera, blind spot information with cross traffic alert and lane keeping system technology. Ford's new Active Park Assist 2.0 enables the driver to hold a button on the dashboard while the Explorer takes control of the steering wheel, gas pedal, brake pedal and gear shifter to fit the vehicle neatly into a parallel or perpendicular parking space.

Ford Co-Pilot360 is standard across every Explorer model. Post-collision braking is also

standard on all models offering advanced features such as Reverse Brake Assist and Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control with Speed Sign Recognition.

The all-new Explorer offers two new models to round out the popular Explorer line. The Explorer ST and the Explorer Hybrid. All-new for Explorer is the ST, the newest SUV from Ford Performance. This is the most fun to drive and the most powerful Explorer ever with a specially tuned 3.0-liter EcoBoost engine projected to

make 400 horsepower and 415 lb.-ft. of torque. Targeted top track speed is 143 mph. Strictly a performance machine and a real standout in the SUV world.

All-new for the Explorer line is the Hybrid. This SUV is designed to offer performance and capability in a fuel-efficient package with a 3.3-liter hybrid powertrain producing 318 combined system horsepower and is projected to return an EPA-estimated range of more than 500 miles between gas station fill-ups in the rear-wheel

-drive model.

The new Explorer family goes on sale this summer. As America's favorite SUV Explorer sets the pace for the rest of the Ford's utility lineup, which will grow this year with an all-new Escape and add to the recently introduced Expedition.

Look out for the Explorer lineup that includes the base model, XLT, Limited and Platinum models. Ford continues the lead in the hottest segment of the auto industry, SUVs and crossovers.



All-New 2019 Ford Explorer (photo Ford Motor Co.)

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**WOMEN in the AUTO WORLD**

# WOMEN IN THE AUTO WORLD

**WOMEN in the AUTO WORLD**

## Brandy Falconer Grows Up at Race Tracks Across U.S.

Brandy Falconer grew up at the racetrack, from roller skating as a kid through the Newman Racing Building at Laguna Seca to working at a driving school years later located in the same building.

Most important thing she learned from a lifelong love of racing is teamwork, whether it be doing your best no matter the job, to working well with others, to persevering no matter whatever obstacle inevitably comes up. Her favorite example of teamwork was watching teams in the late '70s and early '80s swap parts or tools to help a crew get a damaged car back on track in time for the competition.

Her favorite memories are traveling with her family to the races, remembering each track by the food that made it famous, from the Bratwurst at Elkhart Lake to the Cinnamon Rolls at Del Mar and

of course the Dryer's Ice Cream guy at Laguna Seca.

First job after college was working in the Sales Office of Jim Russell Racing at Laguna Seca. Loved watching new, young up-and-coming drivers come through and start their careers.

Most memorable racing moment was seeing the Zenardi pass in the corkscrew, she was cheering for Bryan Herta that day!

Recently she was the Director of Sales at Dream Racing at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, selling and managing corporate events from 10-person exclusive VIP events to 8,000+ guest client appreciation events for clients such as Lindt, American Airlines, Oracle Data Cloud and Microsoft.

Best experience was getting to be at the Indy 500 in 2016 for the 100th running and the 50th anni-

versary of her dad building Graham Hill's engine that won the race in 1966. Walking down pit road with her father with him recounting the events of that day was priceless.

The women in Motorsports who influenced Brandy the most are driver Lyn St. James, Vicki O'Conner who ran the Atlantic open wheel series, and of course her Mother Peggy, who, with her father built Ryan Falconer Racing Engines and grew it to a successful enterprise. Her says of her mother, "she was, and still is the example of grace and class, and how she kept my brother and I in order on all those long days at the track is nothing short of magic! She was and is still my dad's biggest fan and supporter, and still takes lambda readings for him on dyno days at the shop!"



Brandy Falconer "At the Track"

## Previously Featured: "WOMEN IN THE AUTO WORLD" TOYOTA

- Marysville Toyota Employees
- Chanterria McGilbra - Prancing Ponies Foundation
- Lyn St. James - Indy Race Driver
- Felicia Fields - Ford HR VP
- Mary Barra - GM CEO
- Michelle Christensen - Acura Design
- Lisa Copeland - FCA Dealer
- Monika Kalenski - MEK Magnet

- Elena Cortesi - Ford Comm. Mgr.
- Muffy Bennett - Car Collector
- Jennifer Biggs - Repair Shop Owner
- Joyce Chow - Social Media Mogul
- Sarah Deccio - Distribution Mgr.
- Valerie Thompson - Motorcycle Racer
- Ashley, Courtney & Brittany Force - Drag Racing Champions

### XXX 2019 CAR SHOW SCHEDULE

MONTH	DATE	TIME	SHOW
Feb	10th	9 am	Swedish Car Show
Mar	10th	9 am	VW Family Cruise Car Meet
Mar	31st	9 am	All Jeep Show
Apr	7th	9 am	Military Vintage Vehicles Show
Apr	14th	9 am	All Italian Car & Italian Bike Show
Apr	21st	10 am	All Porsche Car Show
Apr	28th	9 am	Northwest CIOs Classic & All Truck Show
May	5th	9 am	Issaquah Spring Electric Vehicles
May	12th	8 am	Sunset Hwy Cruisers Spring Opener
May	19th	9 am	Pre-1970 Vintage Travel Trailers
May	26th	10 pm	BMW's & Burgers Car Show
Jun	2nd	8 am	Convertibles Only Car Show
Jun	9th	9 am	Fenders & Fins Car Show
Jun	16th	8 am	Fenders On Front Street
Jun	23rd	9 am	Cadillac-LaSalle & Lincoln Show
Jun	30th	9 am	NW Hotrod Hall of Fame Show
July	7th	8 am	Rat Bastards Car Show
July	14th	8 am	Camaro Club Show
July	18th	6 pm	All Ford Meeting
July	21st	9 am	All Mopar Meet & Greet
July	28th	8 am	Corvette Marquee Club Car Show
Aug	4th	8 am	Old Rides Roger Jackson Show
Aug	6th	6 pm	Miata Club Meeting
Aug	11th	8 am	33rd Annual NW Muscle Car Meet
Aug	18th	8 am	Tri-5-6-7 Chevy Show
Aug	25th	8 am	Classic Swagger Show
Aug	26th	6 pm	VCC Meeting
Sept	1st	8 am	Buick Olds Pontiac Show
Sept	8th	8 am	Univera Feed the Children Car Show
Sept	15th	9 am	National Drive Electric Week Show
Sept	22nd	10 am	VW Fall Fling
Oct	13th	10 am	All MOPAR Show
Oct	26th	10 am	PT Cruisers Pumpkin Bash
Dec	1st	10 am	Jingle Bell Kids Toy Drive Cruise

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- Isaacson Living
- National Road Trip
- Super Chevy Mag.
- Hot Rods NY
- Womans Automobile
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**Messy Juicy Burgers**



A 1965 Shelby GT500 Mustang was a Top Seller at last years Auction (photo MAG Auctions)



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## Two Power House Auto Auctions - Motorsport Auction Group and Silver Auctions of Arizona Join Forces

continued from page 3

### About Silver Auctions of Arizona:

For the past 20 years, Silver Auctions of Arizona has been a mainstay of the collector car scene in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area. Originally founded by Mitch Silver, it was later sold to Emmett Rice, a long-time car dealer, auto enthusiast, and owner of Vintage Autohaus & Imports in Amarillo, Texas.

Silver Auctions of Arizona holds three large auctions every year with the largest being in January during Arizona Auction Week.

Over the past 20 years, Silver Auctions of Arizona has thrived with their highest priorities being honesty, integrity, and providing a comfortable auction setting where everyone is welcome.

### How this Impacts the Future:

With strong company values so closely aligned, it seems like a great fit that these two companies would combine forces. I had the pleasure of speaking with both Mike Oberle and Emmett Rice and the passion that they brought when speaking about the auto auction industry, auto enthusiasts, and the future of these two companies left no doubt in my mind that they're on the verge of something great. "We have a shared vision and are focusing on building the brand and taking care of customers" stated Oberle.

With Silver and MAG doing business together under one name, Rice and Oberle will be able to achieve greater economies of scale with their business. "It was time to combine our efforts" stated Rice when speaking on the partnership. Both are dedicated to maintaining the customer centric values that has made them successful over the years - delivering three quality auctions in the 2019 calendar year.

When asked if there was a fourth on the horizon, Rice stated that the two were going to "let one thing lead to another" and focus on making the three confirmed auctions great ones. From everything I've heard, it seems that's exactly the direction they're headed. With some great ideas to create a superior auction experience for sellers and buyers alike, checking out one of the MAG Auctions in 2019 would be a great move if you're looking for that next collector car, specialty vehicle, or simply an exciting time!

### Auction Schedule:

Based on previous auction schedules, and the currently announced Collector Car Auction, below are what we anticipate will be the auction schedule for end of 2019 through the beginning of 2020.

**August 8th-10th, 2019** - Collector Car Auction at Hot August Nights | Reno, NV  
**TBA November, 2019** - Fall Auction | Phoenix, AZ  
**TBA January, 2020** - Winter Auction | Phoenix, AZ  
**TBA April, 2020** - Spring Auction | Phoenix, AZ



# OEM & AFTERMARKET PARTS



## Arnott® Introduces New Rear Air Springs for Range Rovers® & Range Rover Sport

- Arnott's new air springs feature a high-impact resin top mount and bottom piston
- The Arnott air springs are assembled with an OE-quality air sleeve
- Arnott replacement air springs are designed, assembled and tested in the U.S.

Arnott, the industry leader in aftermarket air suspension products, has introduced new aftermarket replacement air springs for the 2013-2018 Range Rover and 2014-2018 Range Rover Sport.

Arnott's new rear air springs A-3025 for the 2013-2018 Range Rover L405 chassis and A-3027 for the 2014-2018 Range Rover Sport L494 chassis feature an OE quality air sleeve, heavy-duty crimping rings and high-impact plastic resin top and bottom pistons. The Arnott replacement air springs are designed, assembled and tested in the U.S.

Arnott's new universal Range Rover air springs fit either the left or right side of the vehicle and are backed by Arnott's industry leading warranty.

For more information on the company's extensive line of affordable, high-quality air suspension products for more than 150 automotive and motorcycle applications, visit [www.arnottindustries.com](http://www.arnottindustries.com).

## MB Metris "A Handyman's Dream"

With the approval of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, commercial vehicle tax deductions are more favorable than ever. If you're in the market for a new commercial vehicle and you work in an industry where you need to haul tools and materials through small alleyways and city streets while getting 22 mpg, look no further than the Mercedes-Benz Metris.

### What is The Metris?

For my review this issue, Mercedes-Benz of Lynnwood was kind enough to loan me a 2018 Metris Cargo van. After driving it for a few days, I can say I'm impressed!

Since its release in 2015, the Metris has been positioned as a mid-size commercial van. It's smaller than its Sprinter brother, but bigger than vehicles like the Nissan NV200 and Ford Transit Connect. Because of this, the Metris is able to boast an 186 cubic-foot cargo space, 5000 lb towing capacity, qualify for the 100% depreciation tax benefit with its 6,750 lb GVWR weight, and still astoundingly get 22 mpg. It really is an all-in-one package if you need a mid-size commercial vehicle. Imagine the impact 22 mpg could have on your bottom-line instead of the 10-14 mpg older full-size vans and trucks get!

### Driving Dynamics and Review:

The Metris is powered by a 2.0 liter inline 4 turbo engine. This little power plant pumps out 208 hp and 258 ft-lbs of torque to the rear wheels. Mated with a 7 speed automatic, the Metris got up to speed plenty fast enough for

a work truck. The steering in the Metris was very responsive and I feels like you're driving a C300 instead of a cargo van. I was able to make u-turns, maneuver through traffic, and cut through tight alley ways with ease. Parallel parking was also simple with the standard equipped back-up camera.

One thing I did desire was larger side mirrors. A small factor, but one that was noticeable as I had the model with no side or rear windows. Another concern that many people have brought up is the required use of premium gas. Mercedes has mitigated this issue with the 2018 model, as the Metris is now capable of taking any type of gasoline you use. Since the fuel tank is only 18.5 gallons, I was able to fill up the Metris with just \$50.

Being a work van, the interior of the Metris is nothing extraordinary. The dashboard is made of standard plastic material, and the seats, while comfortable, are simply seats. If you live in a cold climate, heated-seats are an option that is available and the steering wheel is made of high quality material that is nice to grip. The standard stereo has good acoustics, and does have bluetooth capability which is a nice touch for calls between job sites. At the end of the day though, the main focus of the Metris design is functionality, and that is something it does well.

With regards to price, the Metris starts at just \$26,570. A price-tag that I was shocked to discover was that low. Make sure to stop by Mercedes-Benz of Lynnwood to check-out the 2018 model!

## All-New Jeep Gladiator Test Drive

### continued from page 6

This automatic was what I drove and it works flawlessly whether on the freeway or handling 5,000 rpm in low-range off-road. This V6 makes 285hp and 260-lb-ft of torque – it also comes standard with an engine stop/start fuel saving feature.

You know, the last time Jeep offered a pickup was 28 years ago. With an absence from the truck

market that long my expectations were high – and Jeep's need to deliver was even higher. They did it.

As the day wore on, I couldn't find a fault with this new mid-size truck on-road or off. Though I didn't have a chance to tow with it (I will get to that this summer) the overall performance and interior livability of this Jeep is simply put – very good.



All-New Jeep Gladiator (photo Howard Elmer)

## Toyota Tundra TRD Limited Review

While the base MSRP of the Toyota Tundra is \$ 31,500 the MSRP of our Tundra 4 X 4 Limited Crew Cab as driven was \$ 44,195 with the TRD package optional equipment extra. The Toyota Tundra offers an industry leading value for the segment.

I was impressed with the driver's visibility, comfortable seating, and spacious crew cab.

Safety features include; Rear back-up Camera, Manual Headlamp Level Control, Trailer Brake & Trailer Sway Control, Star Safety System incl. ABS and VSC., 3-point Seat belts for all positions, 8 total Airbags and tire Pressure Monitoring.

If you are considering a new truck I suggest a Toyota Tundra Test Drive.

# New Research shows how little Road Safety Gear most Drivers Carry

• 62% of drivers feel they'd be prepared in the event of a breakdown - yet on average people have just four of the eight minimum recommended items on hand

• Almost half (45%) of drivers have broken down at least once in the last five years

More than six in ten Americans (62%) believe that they'd be prepared if their car were to break down on the road, but new research

from Siegfried & Jensen suggests that on average, drivers carry just four of the eight emergency items recommended by DMV.org "as a minimum".\*

This is in spite of the fact that almost half of all drivers in the U.S. (45%) have broken down at least once in the last five years — a figure that rises to 51% among millennial drivers aged 16-34.

Although three quarters of driv-

ers (73%) keep a spare tire and/or tire inflator sealer in the car, just half (51%) have a flashlight, 45% have a first aid kit and just 12% have flares — important not only to mark your car's location in the case of an accident, but also to start fires in an emergency.



Below is a breakdown of the proportion of drivers who keep each of the eight minimum recommended items in their car:

Item	% of all
Spare tire and/or tire inflator sealer. . . .	73%
Tire changing tools. . . .	68%
Jump leads/cables . . . .	58%
Torch/flashlight . . . .	51%
First aid kit . . . . .	45%
Water bottle . . . . .	42%
Tool kit . . . . .	39%
Flares. . . . .	12%

The most common items in drivers' cars are as follows:

Item	% of all
Registration and insurance certificate . . .	84%
Car manual . . . . .	82%
Pen/pencil . . . . .	79%
Spare tire and/or tire inflator sealer. . . .	73%
Tire changing tools. . . .	68%
Tissues . . . . .	67%
USB charger . . . . .	67%
Windshield ice scraper . .	61%

Siegfried & Jensen found that less than a quarter of Americans keep paper maps in the car — and only 11% have a sat nav, suggesting drivers are relying on cell phones for directions. But as signal can drop in remote areas and phone batteries can die after several hours, this system can prove to be both unreliable and unsafe.

Just 6% of drivers keep an empty gas can in their car, while 9% have a small shovel. Other uncommon

but useful items most drivers are choosing not to carry are a fire extinguisher (5%), tow rope (6%) and high-vis bib (1%).

"This research goes to show how gravely under prepared drivers are for accidents on the road," says Ned Siegfried, President of Siegfried & Jensen. "Some 62% of respondents believed they would be prepared in the event of a breakdown, but this misplaced confidence suggests there isn't enough being done to educate drivers about how to get their vehicles ready.

"It's important to anticipate potential accidents, particularly amidst the holiday season. Temperatures and weather conditions will be dropping across much of the country, a significant number of drivers will be embarking on long journeys, and waits for breakdown services will likely be longer than usual.

"Although getting lost without access to a map or being stuck on the side of the road for a couple of hours can be a minor annoyance, it's crucial to prepare for more serious accidents for the safety of all road users."



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 TECHNOLOGY

## California Report Says Robot Cars Not Ready for Public Highways

continued from page 5

Reports from Uber and Mercedes-Benz showed much higher rates of intervention. Uber reported a whopping 70,165 interventions for only 26,899 autonomous miles tested, or 2.6 human interventions per mile driven. Mercedes reported 1194 interventions for only 1749 miles tested or one intervention for every 1.46 miles driven.

Details about the interventions include precaution, location, software and perception problems arising from a variety of scenarios.

In addition to human intervention, State reports showed an increase in the amount of crashes involving the robot cars, which were reported to the DMV and posted on its website. Companies reported 75 collisions in 2018, compared to 29 reports in 2017. Cruise reported 22 crashes in 2017 and 36 in 2018.

While 62 companies are licensed to test autonomous vehicles in California, only those compa-

nies that tested on public roads reported disengagement numbers for 2018. Tesla claimed it tests on public roads around the world, but did not report any tests in California.

Consumer Watchdog praised the Department of Motor Vehicles for requiring and posting the disengagement reports and the crash reports. Other states where testing is being done, including Arizona, Washington, Michigan and Pennsylvania, have no such disclosure requirement.

"Besides the occasional tragedy, the public is in the dark about what's happening in other states. It's only because of California's rules that the public can find out what's happening when companies use public roads as their private laboratories," said Scow. "The next step is to require that companies testing robot cars that are involved in a crash should be required to make public video and technical data about the incident."

## Engineers Develop Concept for Hybrid Heavy-duty Trucks

*Long-haul trucks with electric motors combined with gas-alcohol engines could slash pollution levels and greenhouse gases.*

Heavy-duty trucks, such as the 18-wheelers that transport many of the world's goods from farm or factory to market, are virtually all powered by diesel engines. They account for a significant portion of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions, but little has been done so far to curb their climate-change-inducing exhaust.

Now, researchers at MIT have devised a new way of powering these trucks that could drastically curb pollution, increase efficiency, and reduce or even eliminate their net greenhouse gas emissions.

The concept involves using a plug-in hybrid engine system, in which the truck would be primarily powered by batteries, but with a spark ignition engine (instead of a diesel engine). That engine, which would allow the trucks to conveniently travel the same distances as today's conventional diesel trucks, would be a flex-fuel model that could run on pure gasoline, pure alcohol, or blends of these fuels.

While the ultimate goal would be to power trucks entirely with batteries, the researchers say, this flex-fuel hybrid option could provide a way for such trucks to gain early entry into the marketplace by overcoming concerns about limited range, cost, or the need for excessive battery weight to achieve longer range.

The new concept was developed by MIT Energy Initiative and Plasma Fusion and Science Center research scientist Daniel Cohn and principal research engineer Leslie Bromberg, who are presented it at the annual SAE International conference.

"We've been working for a number of years on ways to make engines for cars and trucks cleaner and more efficient, and we've been particularly interested in what you can do with spark ignition [as opposed to the compression ignition used in diesels], because it's intrinsically much cleaner," Cohn says. Compared to a diesel engine vehicle, a gasoline-powered vehicle produces only a tenth as much nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution, a major component of air pollution.

In addition, by using a flex-fuel

configuration that allows it to run on gasoline, ethanol, methanol, or blends of these, such engines have the potential to emit far less greenhouse gas than pure gasoline engines do, and the incremental cost for the fuel flexibility is very small, Cohn and Bromberg say. If run on pure methanol or ethanol derived from renewable sources such as agricultural waste or municipal trash, the net greenhouse gas emissions could even be zero. "It's a way of making use of a low-greenhouse-gas fuel" when it's available, "but always having the option of running it with gasoline" to ensure maximum flexibility, Cohn says.

While Tesla Motors has announced it will be producing an all-electric heavy-duty truck, Cohn says, "we think that's going to be very challenging, because of the cost and weight of the batteries" needed to provide sufficient range. To meet the expected driving range of conventional diesel trucks, Cohn and Bromberg estimate, would require somewhere between 10 and 15 tons of batteries "That's a significant fraction of the payload" such a truck could otherwise carry, Cohn says.

## Chinese Automakers planning to export vehicles to U.S.

continued from page 4

For the last decade, Chinese automakers have been expanding in emerging markets in South East Asia, India and Africa. Even though you don't see Chinese name brands in the U.S. and Western Europe. They have more presence than you think.

In a recent column, long-time China hand Michael Dunne, CEO ZoZo Go, wrote that there are now more than 60 Chinese automotive suppliers in the U.S., making tires, glass, airbags, suspensions systems, batteries, drive trains and steering systems. While mostly concentrated in Michigan, they

are in Ohio, Indiana, Georgia and South Carolina.

According to Dunne, 11 Chinese automakers have set up advanced R&D centers in California and Michigan to prepare future products for global markets, including Geely, Great Wall, Guangzhou Automotive, NIO,

Byron and Berkshire-Hathaway-backed BYD

With every new model year, the quality of Chinese vehicles improves and the design gets sexier, as Chinese auto makers are tapping in to global resources like Italian design house Pininfarina and quality experts like JD power.

According to Dunne, Chinese firms are hiring top global talent to develop stunning electric, autonomous and connected vehicles. One example: Swedish designer Pontus Fontaeus appeared in Detroit to introduce us to Guangzhou Automotive's Entranz concept car.

The US trade war with China is of course in the background of any discussion about the rise of Chinese vehicles in the U.S. As the tariffs have increased on both sides, an unintended consequence is that U.S. plants that export SUVs to China (Mercedes in Alabama, BMW in Spartanburg, Volvo in South Carolina) will be forced to reconsider from where they provide vehicles to China. More than one international automaker has increased local production (jobs, investment, etc) in China as a result, potentially taking away longer term investment in the U.S.

Additionally, last year China said that in five years it would end the JV rule which dictates that in order to build vehicles in China, one must have a JV partner. The new announcement indicates that a pure EV company could go alone (a la Tesla in Shanghai). After decades of JV combined research and development, combined manufacturing and combined distribution it's going to be hard to unwind those operations. Automotive executives have commented that this will test the relationships of international automakers and their Chinese partners.

So when will Chinese brand cars be sold in the U.S.?

The answer is, they already are. "Karma automotive, owned by Wanxiang, is selling high-end plug-in hybrids, built in a small factory in California. BYD has a few dozen vehicles operating in cab fleets and many more buses and other commercial vehicles operating in the U.S. as well. And Volvo - well - Volvo is owned by Geely. So the answer is that the Chinese have a foothold here already, but most people don't notice it because it is veiled in non-Chinese brands," said Mike Ramsey, automotive analyst, Gartner, Inc.

"There have been a number of promises about Chinese companies bringing their brands to the U.S., and that could happen at some point, but this market is already over-saturated with brands. Selling here would be more out of vanity than anything else. I think that's why a lot of Chinese companies have looked at following Tesla and trying to offer advanced EVs, which they may be able to convince buyers are equal to or better than domestic or German models.

Dunne went on to say that, "Chinese auto investments into the U.S. are creating enormous opportunities for a range of American companies. The Chinese definitely need local expertise from dealers, banks, tech firms, engineering firms, insurance companies, legal advisers, network planners and car maintenance and service centers."

Ultimately, as in all business, competition will be mean more choices for consumers. It may be several years until one can see a Great Wall dealership in American suburbs, but the Chinese are already here in the form of R&D, suppliers and brands like Volvo and Karma.

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# TIRES

## Nexen Tire America and Purple Heart Foundation Team Up to Give Away 2020 Jeep Gladiator

**Nexen Tire America, Purple Heart Foundation Team Up for Second Time To Honor Combat-Wounded Veteran with 2020 Jeep Gladiator Giveaway**

• Following Nexen Tire's successful "American Muscle for American Heroes" program in 2018, the "Nexen Hero" program provides a deserving Purple Heart Medal recipient a custom 2020 Jeep Gladiator Sport S equipped with 35-inch Nexen Roadian MTX Extreme Off-Road Mud Terrain Tires

• Program designed to honor combat-wounded service members' sacrifice to nation and bring awareness to Purple Heart Medal recipients

• The Nexen Hero program runs May 15 to July 24 and winning recipient to be named August 7, National Purple Heart Day

In the wake of last year's highly-successful 'American Muscle for American Heroes' program, Nexen Tire America, Inc. has partnered with The Purple Heart Foundation for a second time to honor a combat-wounded veteran and Purple Heart recipient by giving away a custom 2020 Jeep Gladiator Sport S. The "Nexen

Hero" Campaign is designed to honor a well-deserving veteran who was wounded in combat and awarded the Purple Heart Medal by giving away a new Jeep Gladiator equipped with 35-inch Nexen Roadian MTX Extreme Off-Road Mud Terrain tires and several Mopar aftermarket parts. The campaign begins on May 15 and the winning recipient, who will be selected by the Purple Heart Foundation, will be announced on National Purple Heart Day, Aug. 7.

Last year, Nexen Tire showed its gratitude for the safety and security provided by U.S. service members through the "American Muscle for American Heroes" program by providing a deserving Purple Heart recipient with a custom 2018 Dodge Challenger R/T 392 Scat Pack equipped with Nexen Roadian HP Street Sport All-Season radial tires. Purple Heart recipient and retired Marine Cpl. Steven Diaz was selected to receive the custom Nexen Tire Purple Heart Dodge Challenger. He was selected by representatives from The Purple Heart Foundation from thousands of nominations across the country.

Diaz was severely wounded by

an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) explosion while conducting combat operations in Iraq in 2005. The incident left him with the permanent effects of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) and a seizure disorder. Since medically retiring from the military, Diaz has dedicated himself to helping other veterans suffering from similar injuries by co-founding Hidden Wounds, an organization that helps "Heroes battle the invisible war at home" where he currently serves as its chief operating officer and program manager.

This year's campaign continues Nexen Tire's commitment to show its appreciation to America's combat-wounded heroes for their incredible sacrifices while defending the nation's safety, while also maintaining a commitment to keep drivers safe on the road by manufacturing some of the industry's most reliable and highest-quality tires. The program is also designed to help bring awareness to the Purple Heart Medal and its recipients to ensure their devotion to the nation does not go unnoticed.

The Jeep Gladiator, which is being customized by legendary

car builder Kenny Pfizer of Zero to 60 Designs in Corona, CA, will feature several Mopar aftermarket parts and other customizations, in addition to one-of-a-kind Nexen Tire and Purple Heart graphics. Pfizer and his team at Zero to 60 Designs were the customizers behind the 2018 Dodge Challenger R/T 392 Scat Pack for the "American Muscle for American Heroes" program.

"Last year, Nexen Tire dedicated itself to bringing awareness to America's combat wounded veterans, and after the amazing success of the 'American Muscle for American Heroes' campaign, we are thrilled to continue our relationship with the Purple Heart Foundation and kick off an all new program to give a Jeep Gladiator to a very deserving combat-wounded veteran," said John Hagan, executive vice president of sales for Nexen Tire America Inc. "Our heroes' dedication to providing safety and security to the nation naturally aligns with Nexen Tire's commitment to creating the safest and most reliable tires on the road, so was very important for us to continue this program and work to bring even more awareness to the sacrifice of these combat-wounded American heroes."

"It is an absolute pleasure to be once again teamed up with Nexen Tire USA to select a very deserving combat-wounded veteran. Our organization is dedicated to serving these brave individuals who sacrificed so much for our nation's safety, and it's refreshing to be tied to an organization that shares that same vision," said Stephen Ruckman, chief executive officer for The Purple Heart Foundation. "Our motto has always been to

honor their sacrifice with our service, and we will continue to support the Nexen Tire's Nexen Hero campaign in any way we can."

The nomination period runs May 15 to July 24 and the recipient will be announced August 7, National Purple Heart Day. Nominees must be a member of Military Order of The Purple Heart and the Jeep Gladiator recipient will be selected by members of the Purple Heart Foundation based on a variety of factors including heroism, sacrifice and an ongoing commitment to their community.

For more information on the Purple Heart Foundation, visit <https://purpleheartfoundation.org>.

Please visit <http://www.nexentireusa.com/nexenhero> to nominate a Purple Heart recipient and for official giveaway rules.

For all media inquiries, please contact [nexen@godriven360.com](mailto:nexen@godriven360.com).

**About Purple Heart Foundation:**

The Purple Heart Foundation is a 501(c)3 Veteran Service Organization that fundraises for programs, services and resources that benefit veterans and their families. Over the past 60 years, the Purple Heart Foundation has funded academic scholarships, the MOPH National Service Officer program, research efforts and resources regarding veteran issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury, grants for service dogs, and much more. The Purple Heart Foundation's Mission is to holistically enhance the quality of life of all veterans and their families, providing them with direct service and fostering an environment of camaraderie and goodwill among combat wounded veterans.

**About Nexen Tire:**

Inspired by Nexen's global family of drivers to engineer superior performing tires – from championship-winning Formula DRIFT drivers, rock-climbing off-road enthusiasts to everyday commuters – Nexen Tire utilizes proprietary technology and the highest quality standards in the industry to guarantee world-class products backed by unrivaled customer support for the life of each tire. As a worldwide leader in high-performance, passenger, SUV/light truck and winter offerings, the company is second-to-none in research, development and state-of-the-art manufacturing. And as part of a select group of tire manufacturers worldwide that are specified as standard fitment on original equipment vehicles, Nexen delivers premium products at a sensible price.



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**MONTEREY TOURING VEHICLES (MTV)**

Carmel Valley residents, Rob and Heather Gardner have turned a classic car collecting hobby into business. The business, Monterey Touring Vehicles (MTV) uses the Gardner's 30 classic cars as a rental fleet for tourists and local residents to tour Carmel, Monterey, Big Sur and the world famous Pebble Beach 18 mile drive. The Gardner's said ".....we thought these cars need to be driven and why not let our clients have fun driving them."

The Monterey Touring Vehicle (MTV) fleet includes; a 1965 Ford Shelby Cobra, 1988 Chevy Camaro, 1955 Ford Thun-

derbird, 1970 Chevy Corvette, 1985 Nissan 300 ZX, 1988 Mercedes 560SL, 2008 Tesla Roadster, 1965 Ford Mustang GT, 1961 Volkswagen 22-window van, 1970 Pontiac Firebird, 1955 Porsche 550 Spyder, 1957 Chevy Bel Air, 1971 Cadillac Eldorado, 1978 Volkswagen Bug Convertible, 1949 Willy's Overland, 1978 Citroen 2CV, and a 1981 Delorean to name a few. You can rent a classic car for 1/2 a day (4 hrs.) or a full day (8 to 24 hrs.) Prices range from \$200 (1/2 day) to \$800 (full day). For more information or reservations, visit [www.montereytouringvehicles.com](http://www.montereytouringvehicles.com)



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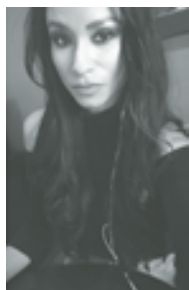
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**Subaru Leads Industry In Promoting Pet Friendly Features**

**continued from page 4**

Subaru loves pets and they want you to know it.

As I stroll through the Los Angeles Auto Show past the expansive displays of the latest vehicles, the newest technology and all the ways the automotive industry is constantly changing, something more alive calls out the me... "Ruff!". No, it's not another vehicle debut or keynote speaker talking about autonomous driving or the electrification of cars, but a cuddly, utterly adorable pup at the Subaru display. "Ruff". I instantly put down my journalist notebook and show schedule to start playing with the pups.

As I sat down with Subaru Manager of Product Communications, Jessica Tullman, she enlightens me to all of the things Subaru does to spread the love of pets, and I must admit that its quite impressive.

Evidence of Subaru's dedication to pets is everywhere including their support of the ASPCA for the past 11 years. Subaru is spearheading a number of ongoing national and local pet initiatives and partnerships across the United States. Subaru also collaborates with the National Ski Patrol with avalanche rescue

dog demonstrations. If consumers visit the Subaru display at auto shows across the country, they are likely to be greeted with loving, yet sloppy kisses at the "kissing booth" from prospective canine adoptees at the live adoption events. The booth features a live-feed 'puppy cam', so prospective adoptive parents can watch the hilarity unfold in action. In addition to being able to take these canine friends' home from the auto show, attendees will be given the chance to



Subaru Display at LA Auto Show (photo Lisa Delaney)

make rope toys as a donation to the shelter, as well as be able to create custom pet tags using the Subaru Loves Pets engraver.

Even their advertising for the all-new Subaru Ascent is pet-centric. "Meet the Barkley's" commercial series is both creative, funny and geared to tie consumers' emotions to their vehicle purchase decision making process and fall in love with Subaru as a company. I highly recommend watching them online- the videos will put a smile on your face.

For details on how Subaru supports pets please visit [Subaru.com/pets](http://Subaru.com/pets)

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Bruce Titus Tacoma Subaru uses Outdoor Billboards to Promote his Pet Friendly Subaru Dealership (photo Auto News)

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# Nellie was part of Brent Smith's Kenmore, WA Family

by Brent Smith

Yep, Nellie was part of the family for over a quarter century! She drove off this week and took a piece of me with her. She was much more than a gross weight sticker with a steely 8-foot bead, she was Patsy Cline on an AM station with a stuck window and no AC. She had a worn bench seat that was perfect for a golden retriever snuggled onto my right thigh or with a snout snorting out the window. No ABS brakes here so there was a reason you could expect a football field distance between me and the driver in front - or else that golden retriever would become a mount on the dashboard.

Nellie travelled throughout the PNW and often wore a green canopy cap topped with a canoe.

The canoe travelled well - floated miles of rivers, lakes and performed well for fishing and camping/paddling in the San Juan Islands. Early on I improved her wardrobe with a third seat belt for Carlie and her toddler car seat. Nellie was used to carry that freshly-cut family Christmas tree and that heavy load of pine firewood at the cabin. She served as the podium for the Kenmore Little League rally that brought awareness to the shortage of community ball fields. She helped many move sofas, dressers and appliances.

Cooper had the joy of bringing Nellie to Inglemoor HS. They were close companions for a few years and bonded well. She hauled gear, she hauled debris and she brought immense value

to my annual AAA membership fee. She became fast friends with David and Spenser at Kenmore Automotive. Expectations of reliability were very low and Nellie never disappointed. Brenda drove her and loved Nellie as much as the rest of us - she was never threatened by the close relationship that Nellie and I had developed.

Nellie was not perfect. Her blemishes and her squeaks, her rusting body and her sputters were just part of her joyful personality and her beauty. You could not be a perfectionist and have a relationship with a wild one such as Nellie. Time spent with Nellie was time cherished at her pace, not yours. She simplified life and broke it down (literally) to a humble and primal level.

Nellie moved on this week to another home. She will be forever loved by the Smiths but will now get the attention that she deserves.

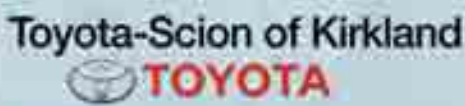
She will be well cared for. I know whenever I hear a Patsy Cline song I'll think of my big green Nellie.



Nellie (photo Brent Smith)

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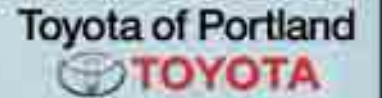
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# Dana Mecum's Original Spring Classic Indy Auction Tops \$70 Million in Sales

Dana Mecum's 32nd Original Spring Classic auction was another pronounced success with overall sales totals reaching an all-time Indy-auction high at more than \$70.4 million. With a consignment list steeped in headline-worthy cars, the auction saw a total of 1,189 vehicles hammer sold at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. Sales were topped by two Shelby Cobra Roadsters from the Steven Juliano Estate Collection that sold for \$2.86 million and \$2.42 million, respectively, with the top-six-selling vehicles at the auction all exceeding the million-dollar mark and five of the top 10 cars boasting ties to the Juliano legacy.

The celebrated collection of the late Steven Juliano undeniably dominated the Indianapolis auction with both his car and his Road Art collections highlighting the six-day event. His 1967 Shelby 427 S/C Cobra Roadster (Lot F128) took top sales honors followed closely by his 1966 Shelby 427 Cobra Roadster (Lot F136), and the 1964 Shelby 289 Cobra Roadster (Lot F132), 1971 Plymouth Cuda Convertible (Lot F142) and 1970 Dodge Hemi Challenger R/T Sunroof (Lot F143) in the top 10 were all previously owned by Juliano as well. The selection of Rapid Transit Caravan vehicles in the Juliano collection proved extremely desirable with the 1971 Plymouth Road Runner (Lot F130) bringing \$236,500, the 1970 Plymouth Duster (Lot F141) selling for \$264,000 and the '70 Hemi Road Runner (Lot F134) demanding a total of \$341,000. A unique 1969 Plymouth Barracuda "Mod Top" (Lot F133) was another from the Juliano estate that sold well,

bringing a whopping \$440,000. Even Juliano's display engines sold for hearty sums with prices for the two Hemi engines and the 440 6 BBL engine ranging from \$159,300 to \$218,500. In total, the more than 1,000 vehicles that sold in Indianapolis reached \$66.7 million overall.

Similar to his cars, Juliano's more than 2,500 lots of Road Art seemed to take over the Indy event in scope while inducing an almost tangible wave of excitement among collectors. Featuring mainly '60s- and '70s-era Mopar promotional materials as well as Shelby and Ford collectibles, the massive assemblage was offered both live at the Indianapolis auction and online via Mecum's all-new timed web-based auction platform, Mecum On Time. A 1950s Ford Dealer Crest (Lot K99) that hung at the historic Floyd Rice Ford Dealership located in downtown Detroit before joining Juliano's private collection sold for an impressive \$55,460, and a full-size outdoor billboard (Lot K77) featuring the 1970 Dodge Challenger brought an amazing \$44,840. Between live-auction Road Art offerings and Mecum On Time sales, Indianapolis Road Art totals reached \$3.73 million overall.

The complete top 10 collector-car sales at the Mecum Indy 2019 auction include:

- 1967 Shelby 427 S/C Cobra Roadster (Lot F128) at \$2,860,000
- 1966 Shelby 427 Cobra Roadster (Lot F136) at \$2,420,000
- 2015 Porsche 918 Spyder Weissach (Lot S155) at \$1,980,000
- 1970 Plymouth Hemi Cuda Convertible (Lot F120) at \$1,980,000
- 1964 Shelby 289 Cobra Roadster (Lot F132) at \$1,760,000

- 1971 Plymouth Cuda Convertible (Lot F142) at \$1,155,000
- 1970 Dodge Hemi Challenger R/T Sunroof (Lot F143) at \$660,000
- 1969 Dodge Hemi Daytona (Lot F177) at \$577,500
- 1940 Crocker 'Big Tank' Big

- Twin (Lot S124.1) at \$550,000
  - 2016 Norwood 330 P4 Replica (Lot S252) at \$467,500
- For access to complete auction results, sign up for the free InfoNet service offered at Mecum.com. Mecum's next auction will be Portland 2019 this June 21-22

with an estimated 600 classic and collector cars slated to cross the auction block at the Portland Expo Center in Oregon. For more details on upcoming auctions, to consign a vehicle or to register as a bidder, visit Mecum.com, or call (262) 275-5050 for more information.



1967 Shelby 427 S/C Cobra Roadster (Lot F128). Sells at \$2,860,000



1966 Shelby 427 Cobra Roadster (Lot F136). Sells at \$2,420,000

## The Auto Shows Continue at West Coast New Car Dealers with large selections and great values

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<p><b>ASTON MARTIN</b> Galpin Aston Martin – <a href="http://www.galpin.com">www.galpin.com</a> Park Place Aston Martin</p>	<p><b>FORD</b> Sunset Auburn – <a href="http://www.sunsetautofamily.com">www.sunsetautofamily.com</a> Galpin Ford – <a href="http://www.galpin.com">www.galpin.com</a> Gillis Auto Center – <a href="http://www.gillisautocenter.com">www.gillisautocenter.com</a> West Hills Ford – <a href="http://www.westhillsautoplex.com">www.westhillsautoplex.com</a></p>	<p><b>LINCOLN</b> Galpin Lincoln – <a href="http://www.galpin.com">www.galpin.com</a></p>
<p><b>AUDI</b> Audi of Newport Beach – <a href="http://www.newportautocenter.com">www.newportautocenter.com</a></p>	<p><b>GMC</b> GMC of Puyallup – <a href="http://www.harnishautofamily.com">www.harnishautofamily.com</a> Haselwood GMC – <a href="http://www.westhillsautoplex.com">www.westhillsautoplex.com</a></p>	<p><b>MAZDA</b> Doug's Mazda of Lynnwood – <a href="http://www.dougsmazda.com">www.dougsmazda.com</a> West Hills Mazda – <a href="http://www.westhillsautoplex.com">www.westhillsautoplex.com</a></p>
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<p><b>DODGE / RAM</b> Gillis Auto Center – <a href="http://www.gillisautocenter.com">www.gillisautocenter.com</a> West Hills Dodge – <a href="http://www.westhillsautoplex.com">www.westhillsautoplex.com</a></p>	<p><b>LAND ROVER</b> Land Rover Tacoma – <a href="http://www.obrienautogroup.com">www.obrienautogroup.com</a></p>	<p><b>VOLVO</b> Volvo of Tacoma – <a href="http://www.obrienautogroup.com">www.obrienautogroup.com</a> Galpin Volvo – <a href="http://www.galpin.com">www.galpin.com</a></p>

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