

Monterey Magazine 2026[®]

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We Hope You Enjoy Reading The Monterey Magazine 2026[®]

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Welcome to Monterey “Car Week”

by **Bill McCallum** (Publisher/Founder Auto News)
Global Auto News & www.autonewsonline.com



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FOUNDATION

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When I started Auto News 45 years ago, I had no idea that Monterey “Car Week” would be such an important part of my life as the publisher of Auto News.

It all started when a long time friend of mine Frank Mondorano, the creator of CONCORSO ITALIANO suggested I travel to Carmel Valley and attend his event. (Frank later sold the event to different owners and the event is currently held at the Bayonet Black Horse Golf Course.

After that I created the “Legend of Auto” event in LA during LA AUTO SHOW WEEK with the help of Bert & Beau Boeckmann.

I later decided to move the event to Monterey during “car week” (see page 6 for “20 year Reunion of Legends of Auto” information.

As our relationships with auto makers (OEM’s) continued to grow with Ford, Toyota, Lexus, Hyundai and others we became more involved with events in Pebble Beach, Monterey, Carmel and Laguna Seca Race Track.

I find it hard to relate how impressed I am with Sandra Button (a Legend) and her team as they continued to grow the PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D’ ELEGANCE.

NOTE: We hope to see you on Thursday Night (6 to 8 pm) - 8/13/26 - at the: EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL in Monterey/Seaside as we “Kick-Off” CAR WEEK with the “20 year reunion of Legends of Auto” and “Dealer of the Decade Awards” (see pages 6 & 7)



Embassy Suite Hotel - Monterey/ Seaside

Travel Safe and Enjoy!

Rick Case Auto Group



Florida • Georgia



Rita Case Named Broward County Police Benevolent Association's Humanitarian of the Year

Case earned the recognition for her compassion, leadership and dedication to serving others

Rita Case, president, CEO and owner of Rick Case Automotive Group, has received the 2026 Broward County Police Benevolent Association's (BCPBA) Humanitarian of the Year Award. She is the first woman to receive this award.

An ardent supporter of education initiatives, Case also announced during the ceremony a \$28,000 donation to The HOPE Fund, which was established in 1998 to assist members and families facing hardships during times of crisis and personal tragedy. The HOPE Fund awards the Sergeant Christopher Reyka Scholarship Award annually to a child of a Broward County PBA member. Case will fund a \$1,000 scholarship moving forward.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for our law enforcement officers. They keep our roads and community safe. I tip my hat in gratitude and admiration for their bravery," said Case. "It is such an honor to be named Humanitarian of the Year by the esteemed Broward County Police Humanitarian of the Year by the esteemed Broward County Police Benevolent Association. These men and women in uniform show up when we need them, patrol our neighborhoods, protect our businesses, attend community events and provide assistance to members and their families when they need it most. They truly exemplify what it means to be a humanitarian."

The Humanitarian of the Year Award recognizes individuals whose actions embody the spirit of compassion, leadership and dedication to serving others that the BCPBA strives to uphold. Honorees have created a lasting and meaningful impact in the community. Recipients exemplify selfless service, generosity and a commitment to improving the lives of those in need while strengthening the relationship between the community and public safety professionals.

"Rita Case represents the very best of what it means to serve a community. Her compas-

sion, generosity and unwavering commitment to helping others has touched countless lives throughout South Florida," said Rod Skirvin, president of the BCPBA. "Whether supporting charitable causes, standing beside first responders or giving back to those in need, Rita has consistently led with heart and purpose. On behalf of the BCPBA, it is my honor to present Rita Case with our Humanitarian of the Year Award in recognition of a lifetime dedicated to making a difference."

Case was selected because she's made a significant and measurable difference in the lives of individuals, families and the community through charitable work, advocacy, outreach and public service. She demonstrates an ongoing dedication to helping others through volunteerism, philanthropy, mentorship and humanitarian efforts and serves as a positive role model who inspires others to give back, become involved and improve the community. Case exhibits honesty, compassion, professionalism and a genuine concern for the wellbeing of others and her valiant efforts have resulted in long-term positive change. She's established programs, strategic partnerships and initiatives that will continue to benefit the community for generations to come.

Philanthropy and community involvement are part of Rick Case Automotive Group's core values. Case is consistently named to South Florida Business Journal's list of Power Leaders in Corporate Philanthropy. Rita and Rick created, developed and led fundraising initiatives that raised more than \$125 million for organizations in South Florida, a legacy that she continues today. Her philanthropic efforts have been life-changing for residents who need a hand up.

Case's family and their dealerships support non-profit organizations including Alonzo Mourning's Overtown Youth Center, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Baptist Health, Boys & Girls Clubs, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Broward Health, Cleveland Clinic, Community Foundation of Broward, Feeding South Florida, Habitat for Humanity, Holy Cross Health, Huizenga Park, Humane Society, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Junior Achievement of South Florida, Nova Southeastern University, Panthers on the Prowl, Rick Case Bikes for Kids, Rick Case Cares, Soles4Souls' 4EveryKid, United Way, Women In Distress, college and vocational scholarship funds for deserving students, and many more worthy causes.

Case was named the 2026 Barbara Cox Woman of the Year presented by Cox Automotive. She received the 2022 Horatio Alger Award; TIME Dealer of the Year Award; National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers' Lifetime Achievement Award; AutoSuccess Women at the Wheel Award; and Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida's Emerald Lifetime Achievement Award.



Broward County PBA Secretary Elaine Seedig, Rick Case Automotive Group president, CEO and owner Rita Case; Broward County PBA President Rod Skirvin; and Broward County PBA Vice President Paul Sada

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

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

In February 1980, Dr. Pack took a bold leap of faith by purchasing Lee Jarmon Ford in Carrollton, Texas, laying the foundation for what would become the Sam Pack Automotive Group. Over the next 45 years, that single dealership grew into one of North Texas' most respected automotive organizations, today comprised of six Five Star dealerships in the DFW market and co-ownership of six additional dealerships in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Through industry cycles, economic change, and technological transforma-

tion, he remained steadfast in a simple philosophy: do what is right, care for people, and deliver an exceptional five-star experience.[1]

Under his leadership, the group has become known not only for sales performance but for a culture where employees are treated like family, customers are welcomed with sincerity, and communities see the organization as a trusted partner. The company's Five-Star Core Values—Integrity, Caring, Self-Discipline, Continuous Improvement, and Fun—guide every aspect of operations, from employee development to customer care. Long-standing partnerships with Brookhaven and Dallas Community Colleges, along with other local schools and universities, bring college courses and continuing education directly into the dealerships, reinforcing his belief in lifelong learning and professional growth.[1]

Dr. Pack's commitment to community is equally defining. Through the Sam Pack Cares charitable organization, Pack Auto Group, the Pack family, and their employees support hundreds of local nonprofit organizations each year. This spirit of giving helped the group earn a Global Marketing Award

from Ad Age and Automotive News in 2025 for its Little Wishes community program, in addition to multiple Better Business Bureau Torch Awards for Ethics and numerous "Business of the Year" and dealer-of-the-year honors at the local, state, and national level. These accolades reflect his conviction that true success is measured not only in business results but in the strength and well-being of the communities served.[1]

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

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

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



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

Honored Members of Legends of Auto

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

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

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

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

SEE - www.LegendsofAuto.com

*Departed Legends

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



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

Lyn Hiner, Artist, Honored



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

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.

Beau Boeckmann, Rita Case, Sam Pack & Greg Penske Honored As “Dealers of the Decade”

by Bill McCallum , Publisher/Founder

Why “Dealer of the Decade” awards. New car dealers are one of the largest employers in the U.S. Their tax dollars Support, Schools, Roads, and Parks we all enjoy. Their owners support local charities in their communities.

So that being said, we have picked FOUR of the largest Automotive markets in the U.S. Los Angeles, South Florida, Texas, and Detroit and have selected FOUR new car dealers from those markets to honor this year.

BEAU BOECKMANN CEO - Galpin Auto Group - Los Angeles

Beau has expanded his father Bert’s legacy by building one of the largest auto groups in Southern Calif. He has also continued his mother’s legacy for community service in LA.

RITA CASE CEO - Rick Case Auto Group - South Florida

Rita - Time Dealer of the Year in 2024 and Philanthropic Dealer of the Year for 2025 continues to grow Rick Case Auto Group in South Florida and support community charities.

SAM PACK CEO - Sam Pack Auto Group - Sam known to his friends as

“Doctor Sam” has created one the largest auto groups in Texas and is one of largest Ford dealers in the U.S. He was also selected as the Automotive News (Trade Publication) Philanthropic Dealer of the year for 2025.

Greg Penske - Greg created the largest Toyota Dealership Group in the U.S. Longo Toyota/Lexus. He is also scheduled to take over the Penske Auto Group from his dad Roger when he retires. Knowing Roger my question is will Roger ever retire?

Tickets Available @ Event: Thursday 8/13/26 - 6 pm to 8:30 pm
Individual \$50 | Couple \$75 | Group of 4 \$100 (Check or Credit Card)

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Both Jim Farley, Ford C.E.O. and Beau Boeckmann (Rgt.) Galpin Ford to be featured at Legends Event (photo Auto News)

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		*Special Acknowledgement at 2025 Legends of Auto Gala	*Special Acknowledgement at 2025 Legends of Auto Gala
		*Article about you or your Business on Auto News Website	Article about you or your Business on Auto News Website and *Print Publication
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Lindsey Jesch Joins "Team Auto News"

Lindsey Jesch is the co-creator and host of That Car Show, a weekly car talk podcast exploring car culture, the automotive industry, and the hosts' automotive adventures. A lifelong car enthusiast, she's also a writer, editor, and communications consultant who has collaborated with brands including Hagerty, GuntherWerks,

and leading automotive technology companies. She has been active in high-performance driving since 2007, with home tracks at Pacific Raceways and Willow Springs International Raceway, and is deeply engaged in the automotive media and enthusiast communities in Southern California and the Pacific Northwest.



Lindsey Jesch
feature writer

**"20th Reunion of
Legends of Auto"**
(See page 7)



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

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

AutoNation, Inc. (NYSE: AN), one of the largest automotive retailers in the United States and a long-time South Florida corporate leader, demonstrated

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

Headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, AutoNation continually strives to invest in the community it calls home. Recently, AutoNation's Chief Executive Officer, Mike Manley, joined Habitat for Humanity of Broward's CEO Build, working alongside fellow execu-

tives to support affordable workforce housing for local families.

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



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



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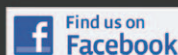
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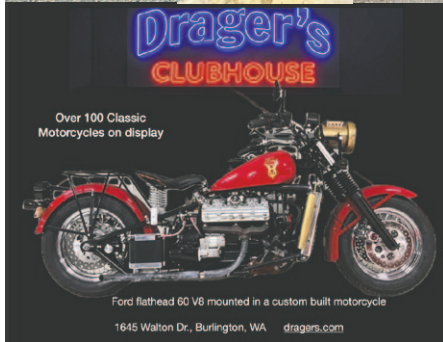
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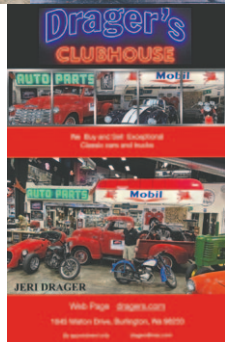
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Owning and Operating an EV in Northern Michigan



Jim Trainor
feature writer

It's been more than one year since I reported on my experience living with an electric vehicle in northern Michigan. Many wondered if it made sense at all, much less if it was a wise decision. The hue and cry for an update has been overwhelming, which I am happy to provide.

I've now been through two winters in Traverse City with my Kia EV and the experience has been overwhelmingly positive. Big time. I can report only minor issues.

One not so minor issue involved a deer, a fairly large one, that decided to jump in front of my EV6 GT Line while I was traveling at about 55 one February evening. While there were no injuries to me or my passengers, the car (and the deer) didn't fare so well. Both were deemed a total loss.

I loved the EV6 GT Line AWD, with its more than 330 range and 320 hp. I hated to see it go and I needed to replace it right away. Even though empty nesters, my wife and I often are out separately and need two vehicles and we make regular trips to Detroit, a 720-mile round trip. Having an EV for local and moderate-distance trips, and a hybrid SUV for long trips, makes perfect sense for us, especially with an in-garage charger. It's just so darn convenient and

inexpensive that I can't imagine having vehicles with gas engines. Just think, no more visits to gas stations in the middle of winter nor in spring and summer rainstorms.

To replace the EV6, we decided on a brand-new Kia EV9. While not as sporty nor fast as the EV6, it's a very cool-looking vehicle and has a range of more than 350 miles. It looks different than most cars on the road but not in a way that makes the driver look silly. (I'm looking at you, Cybertruck owners.) And, the price was super attractive -- \$489 per month for a two year lease -- with no money down. Heck, a Mustang Mach E will run you at least \$500 per month with a \$3,000 down payment and it's a lot smaller and not nearly the vehicle the EV9 is.

So, speaking of the cost of operation, the EV is brilliant. I barely notice the cost of the electricity on my monthly electric bill -- about \$14 -- 17 for a full charge. I receive a \$10 rebate every month for charging only between the hours of 11 p.m. -- 6 a.m., easily achieved by setting these charging hours in the car. That is on top of the \$500 one-time credit I receive from my local utility company for having installed a charger in my garage. One real-life example of on-road savings is this: twice a week I make a 52-mile, round-trip visit to my physical therapist as I rehab a new knee. In my hybrid SUV, this would mean two gallons of gas, or about \$10 per trip. That's \$20 per week and \$80 a month. With the EV9, the cost is only about \$4 per month. That's real savings in a blast-to-drive vehicle.

On the minus side, I did have a problem finding a charger one time on a 225-mile trip. I used more electricity than anticipated on the trip, traveling at 85 mph on the highway much of the way, and had to find a charging station on the way home. It shouldn't have been a problem, even in Michigan, as the EV9 has the NACS charging plug -- the same style Tesla's use. However, not all Tesla super chargers have converted over to allow non-Tesla vehicles to charge and I had to hunt around to find a working charger. This will change as more Tesla chargers convert over, but it was a hassle for me. Once, after a 30-inch snowstorm, I got stuck going up my hilly driveway, even in the EV9's snow mode. But a snowfall that big is rare, even in northern Michigan, so not a major concern. Heck, even the guy who plows our development got stuck in his F-250. Typically, the EV9, and the EV6 before it, operates very well in snow, thanks to snow mode and a heavy vehicle with its weight mostly centered on the vehicle.

In conclusion, an EV is an excellent choice for families like mine where a second vehicle is available for long trips. Even in northern Michigan. And, my road bike and mountain bike fit easily in the cargo space. I can't imagine living without one.



10 Years in the Making: Evergreen Ford's New Issaquah Facility Set to Open March 2027

After more than a decade of planning, development, and overcoming challenges, Evergreen Ford is finally set to open its brand-new Issaquah location in March 2027.

The project has been years in the making, with development efforts and permitting discussions dating back well over 10 years. Now, the long-awaited state-of-the-art Ford and Lincoln facility is nearing reality and promises to dramatically expand Evergreen Ford's ability to serve customers throughout the Eastside and greater Seattle region.

We recently caught up with Sean Bell, COO of Cam Clark Automotive Group and General Manager at Evergreen Ford, who shared his excitement about finally bringing the project to completion.

"We are so excited to be bringing this to completion in Issaquah with over 10 years in development," Bell said. "Big thank you to Dan Rowe, the previous owner, for all the challenges he overcame with the new location. We wouldn't have been able to do it without him."

The new facility will feature over 50 service bays, significantly expanding service capacity for Ford and Lincoln customers.

"We will finally have the facility to allow us to best take care of our guests, including the most amazing Lincoln location," Bell added.

Evergreen Ford says preparation for the move has already been underway for over a year, and the dealership is actively hiring both technicians and sales staff ahead of the opening.

"We have bays for technicians NOW — we need sales people now!"

The opening marks one of the most significant dealership developments in the Pacific Northwest in recent years and represents a major investment in the future of automotive retail and service in Issaquah.



Evergreen Ford Lincoln
6721 230th AVE SE, Issaquah



Mercedes-Benz CLA 250

EV “test drive review”



Dave Kunz
LA feature writer



Mercedes-Benz made some big headlines recently, introducing a flashy new flagship EV, the AMG GT 4-Door Coupe. But I was recently quite smitten with the other end of their electric lineup, the new CLA 250+ Electric.

You may know the name CLA as Mercedes' entry-level sedan over the years, but now it's gotten the brand's EQ treatment, the moniker all their EVs wear. Two things that immediately impressed: First, an EPA estimated battery range of 374 miles. Secondly, a starting price of just under \$50,000. If you've shopped for an electric vehicle recently, you know that those things are pretty much never found in the same model.

The new CLA is sleek, in that 4-door coupe shape. Compact in footprint, but rather cavernous inside. I found it to be a very airy place to spend time, with the standard panoramic glass roof helping in that regard. If you like large infotainment screens, the optional MBUX Superscreen spans the entire width of the dashboard and is rather stunning and crisp. The front passenger has a separate screen (not visible to the driver) where streaming services like Disney+ can provide road trip entertainment.

Speaking of road trips, Mercedes-Benz has built this new EV around a new 800-volt battery system. With the right DC quick charger, the company says you can get an amazing 202 miles of charge in about 10 minutes. Public charging is eased by twin ports: NACS (Tesla-style) and J1772/CCS located behind a single charging door. No adaptors needed, no matter where you charge.

Like the brand's other EVs, the CLA is quick and quiet. Need more performance, and all-wheel drive? You can step up to the CLA 350 4MATIC with 349 horsepower (versus 268 on the CLA 250+), though you'll be stepping up to a steeper base price by about \$2500. The 350 4MATIC also gets by with less range, 312 miles estimated.

Of course that \$50,000 base price range is just the starting point. My test CLA 250+ was piled with options like an AMG appearance package and Pinnacle trim, so it was more like a \$60,000 EV. Still, considering what else is out there in the electric space, that's right in line these days.

And if you're not ready for a full EV but want a Mercedes-Benz in this entry class, a hybrid version will be coming along. The CLA line is built on flexible architecture allowing for internal combustion assisted by a 48-volt hybrid system.



Mercedes-Benz CLA 250 EV (photo Dave Kunz)

SHOWCASE REVIEWS

2026 Lucid Air Touring



The 2026 Lucid Air Touring blends futuristic luxury, astonishing efficiency, and effortless performance into one sleek EV sedan. Its ultra-quiet cabin, a 396-mile range, advanced technology, and dual-motor AWD system make it feel like the future of premium electric motoring today.

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

Land Rover Defender 110 X-Dynamic SE



The Land Rover Defender 110 X-Dynamic SE blends iconic styling with real off-road capability and upscale luxury. Its turbocharged inline-six delivers smooth power, while the refined cabin, advanced tech, and rugged 4WD system make it equally comfortable downtown or deep into the wilderness.

BASE PRICE: \$75,200*
TYPE: Luxury Off-Road SUV
ENGINE: 3.0L Turbocharged Inline-6
HORSEPOWER: 395 hp
TRANS: 8-Speed Automatic
MPG: 18 City / 22 Highway / 20 Combined

Mazda CX-5



The Mazda CX-5 has been redesigned for 2026 and is priced right with above average MPG offering a "Value Based" Mazda. The Premium Plus model is packed with extra options.

BASE PRICE: \$38,990 *
TYPE: Compact SUV
ENGINE: SKYACTIVE-G 2.5 L
HORSEPOWER: 187 hp
TRANS: SKYACTIVE Sport Mode AT
MPG: 30 highway

Toyota bZ XLE FWD Plus



The Toyota bZ Electric SUV is "priced right" in a very competitive electric market. Available in both FWD and AWD. AWD model offers 338 hp. Tech improvements on both models offer improved dashboard viewing.

BASE PRICE: \$37,900 *
TYPE: Electric SUV
ENGINE: Single Electric
HORSEPOWER: 221 hp
TRANS: AWD
MPGe: 131 combined

SHOWCASE REVIEWS

2025 Range Rover SE P530



The 2025 Range Rover SE SWB P530 delivers private-jet comfort with commanding presence and surprising athleticism. Its twin-turbo V8, luxurious cabin, and advanced four-wheel steering create an ultra premium SUV experience equally suited for city streets, mountain roads, or snowy ski trips.

BASE PRICE: \$134,100*
TYPE: Full-Size Luxury SUV
ENGINE: 4.4L Twin-Turbo V8
HORSEPOWER: 523 hp
TRANS: 8-Speed Automatic
MPG: 16 City / 23 Highway / 19 Combined

Lexus IS 350 F Sport



The Lexus IS Sports Sedan is a "top-seller" for the brand. Packed with the things you like in a FUN-TO-DRIVE sports sedan. The Lexus Safety System 3.0 offers the driver confidence behind the wheel.

BASE PRICE: \$56,363 *
TYPE: Sports Sedan
ENGINE: 3.5l V6
HORSEPOWER: 311 hp
TRANS: All Wheel Drive
MPG: 26 highway

Toyota C-HR XSE AWD



As Electric EV sales "Bounce Back" with the elevated price of gas, Toyota's timing is right for the all-new 2026 C-HR. It fits well in Toyota's lineup of Hybrids & electric EV vehicles.

BASE PRICE : \$39,000 *
TYPE: EV
ENGINE: Dual Electric Motors
HORSEPOWER: 338 hp
TRANS: All Wheel Drive
MPGe: 112 combined

Toyota Land Cruiser Hybrid Wagon



The Toyota Land Cruiser has been an ALL-TIME best seller for the brand and a favorite of the off-road crowd. The Hybrid model offers buyers a savings at the pump. A "test-drive" is suggested.

BASE PRICE: \$ 62,645 *
TYPE: SUV
ENGINE: I-FORCE MAX 2.4L 4 cyl
HORSEPOWER: 326 hp
TRANS: 8 speed AT
MPG: 25 highway

SHOWCASE REVIEWS

Toyota RAV4 LTD Hybrid AWD



The Toyota RAV4 was a “test-drive” vehicle on our recent Road Trip (see page 1 story) The 2026 RAV4 performed well as to PRICE, POWER & PERFORMANCE. We suggest a “test drive: at your local Toyota dealer.

BASE PRICE : \$43,300 *
TYPE: SUV
ENGINE: 2.4L 4-Cylinder
HORSEPOWER: 236 HP
TRANS: ECVT
MPG: 41 combined

VW Tiguan SEL R-Line Turbo



We tested the VW Tiguan at the NWAPA “Mudfest” event in May of this year. Northwest Auto Writers commented on how the VW Tiguan Compact SUV was A “value based” SUV loaded with EXTRA OPTIONS

BASE PRICE: \$43,085 *
TYPE: SUV
ENGINE: R-Line TURBO
HORSEPOWER: 268 hp
TRANS: ECVT
MPG: 29 highway

VW Atlas SEL Premium R-Line



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

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

Volkswagen ID. Buzz



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

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

“...JAY LENO Gave Me The Inspiration To Grow Auto News”

Global Auto News Expands:

- ★ Retail Locations
- ★ Direct Mail
- ★ Email “Fast Blasts”
- ★ Social Media
- ★ AI Platforms
- ★ New “Podcast”

by Bill McCallum

When you start on a journey sometimes you have no idea when or where it will end. That's where I was 40 years ago when the idea of an auto newspaper was born.

I was publishing 2 weekly newspapers at the time “Uptown News” in Bellevue WA and the Coal Creek Newcastle News to the South. Both papers had a small auto section and were growing. I wasn't a car guy but I grew up in the business with family members involved with new car dealerships. I discussed the idea of an auto newspaper with Jim Hammond, the founder of the Puget Sound Auto Dealers Association and the original organizer of the Seattle Auto Show. He said “go for it” and you can count on my support. Thus Puget Sound Auto News was born. A few years later we expanded to Eastern WA, and Oregon and changed the name of the paper to Northwest Auto News.

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

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

Next chapter. From our launch in California we build a network of over 1,000 retail automotive distribution locations in four more states. (Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, and Montana) and changed the name of our paper to GLOBAL AUTO NEWS and launched our online program. (www.autonewsonline.com) Currently we have added a digital platform sending out e-mail “fast blasts” reaching over 1,000K auto enthusiasts, media & PR firms, OEM's and car collectors.



Bill McCallum (Left) & Chris Chung meet with Jay Leno at Comedy Show (photo Auto News)

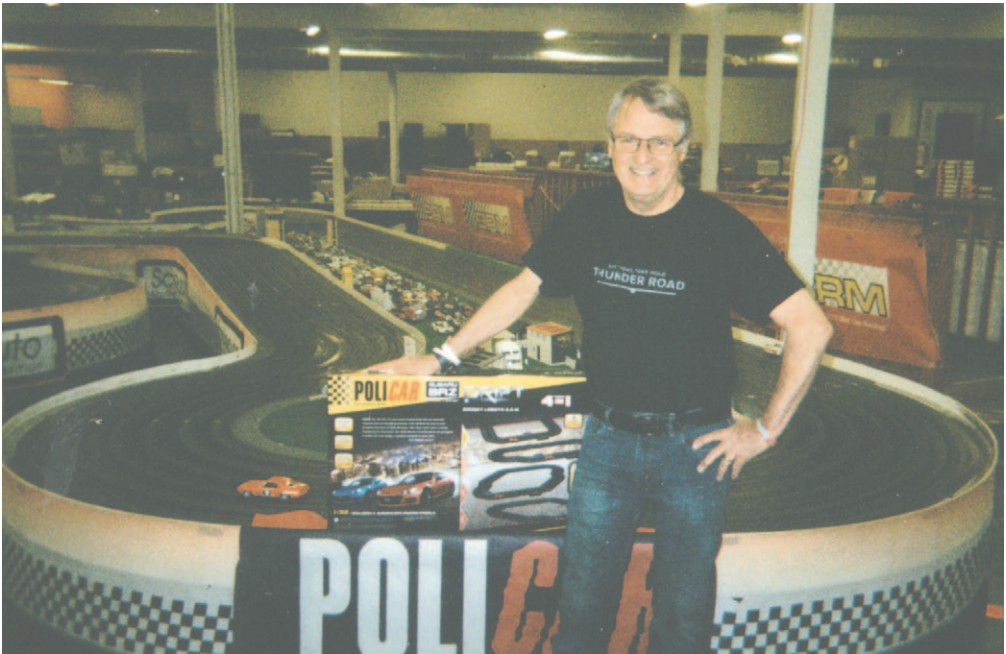


Bill McCallum, Auto News Publisher (far left) with Jay Leno on stage after Jay's Last Tonight Show (photo Tonight Show Staff)

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Faggioli and Bardahl Return to the Pikes Peak Podium

by Christopher Chung

Simone Faggioli and Bardahl once again proved they belong among the elite competitors on America's Mountain, earning a third-place overall finish and second in the Unlimited division at the 104th Broadmoor Pikes Peak International Hill Climb.

After entering race week as the defending King of the Mountain, Faggioli delivered another impressive performance aboard the NP01 ATM Bardahl, securing pole position, leading qualifying, and remaining one of the fastest competitors throughout the week.

The Italian hill climb legend completed the 12.42-mile course in 8:32.997, adding another podium finish to an already remarkable Pikes Peak résumé and reinforcing the strength of the Faggioli Racing Team and Bardahl partnership.

The momentum began early in race week.

Faggioli consistently topped practice sessions and qualifying, ultimately earning pole position with the fastest qualifying run among the field. The

performance established the defending champion as one of the favorites heading into race day and demonstrated the speed of the newly developed NP01 ATM Bardahl.

Competing against factory-backed entries and some of the world's most accomplished drivers, Faggioli once again showcased why he remains one of the most successful hill climb competitors in motorsport history.

"It is always special to stand on the podium at Pikes Peak," said Faggioli.

For a driver who owns 11 European Hill Climb Championships and 19 Italian Hill Climb Championships, another podium finish on America's Mountain represents yet another achievement in one of motorsport's most demanding events.

The race also highlighted the depth of the Faggioli Racing Team. Diego Degasperi delivered an outstanding drive to finish fourth overall and third in the Unlimited category, placing two team entries inside the overall top four.

Rookie Franco Caruso demonstrated impressive pace throughout race week

before an early race incident ended his Pikes Peak debut. Fortunately, Caruso escaped without injury.

The 2026 event also marked an important step in the development of the NP01 ATM Bardahl package. The ATM Motori twin-turbocharged V6 showed exceptional pace throughout testing and qualifying while helping establish the team as one of the benchmarks on the mountain.

Bardahl once again played a critical role through its technical support, lubricants, additives, and M-LAB engineering specialists, helping maximize the performance of all three entries throughout race week.

While the team arrived in Colorado seeking a repeat victory, the 2026 campaign reinforced something equally important: Bardahl and the Faggioli Racing Team remain among the premier competitors at Pikes Peak.

The pace was there.

The podium was there.

And with another strong performance on America's Mountain, attention has already begun to turn toward the next chapter

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