

Cars & Places Magazine

Cars & Places eNews

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Hello from Cars & Places! Welcome to eNews, our weekly update on the automotive world and area happenings. If you are a new reader, welcome! We hope you enjoy our tidbits of news as we ramp up our new magazine. And let us wish all you fathers out there Happy Fathers Day on Sunday!



We don't usually talk about trucks here at Cars & Places but there has been so much buzz about the new **Honda Ridgeline** we thought we would take a look. Honda took a look at what many people do with their F-150's and Silverado's and found that the average pick-up did not get used as the commercials like to show. Most people are not dropping bucket loads of gravel or pallets of concrete block in the back of their trucks. The Ridgeline

is for the homeowner that could use a truck to get some mulch or a couple of 2x4's at the home center then take their friends out to dinner in the evening. All the convenience features one expects in new high-end automobiles are standard or available with the Ridgeline. The \$27,700 base price includes a 255 horsepower V-6 engine with 5-speed automatic and electronically controlled 4 wheel drive. Moving up the the RTS or RTL models add luxury features like climate control and leather seating surfaces. The pickup box is made from a reinforced composite plastic material that will withstand the normal wear and tear this pickup is expected to see. It even has a lockable storage compartment under the floor of the bed. The tailgate works both like a standard drop down tailgate and also swings like a door to allow easy access to the storage compartment. Honda has carefully studied their intended market and it looks like they have hit the mark. Honda expects to sell 50,000 Ridgelines this year. Check out <http://automobiles.honda.com/> for full details of the Ridgeline.





A few weeks ago we reported that the **ZAP** company of Santa Anna, California was going to import an Americanized version of the Smart ForTwo micro car. Well... Daimler/Chrysler, the parent company of Smart GmbH, has issued a press release stating they will not be doing business with ZAP, now or in the future. Ulrich Walker, the president of Smart has too many concerns about ZAP. Even after this news, ZAP is still pressing ahead and will soon have new cars for sale. They did not reveal the source for these cars. Smart scrapped plans earlier this year to import a small SUV but has said they would be developing a new ForTwo that will be planned for both the United States as well as Europe. Hope you didn't send a check already! Full information is on the ZAP website, www.zapworld.com.

How about another **My First Car** story, this one submitted by Carroll Ball of Pasadena, Maryland. Remember, we would love to hear your story, and you can get a great Cars & Places wearable! Send them to info@carsandplaces.com.

As a teenager we lived on the water so I was more interested in owning a boat that I could water ski behind than owning a car. After all, I could use my parent's car but their boat wasn't fast enough to ski behind. I would even take my dates out in the boat in the summer months going several miles up river from our house to a restaurant on the water. Fast forward to the year 1967 and I am in Viet Nam. My fiancée wrote me that she had bought us a car from a neighbor. Her message said it had very low mileage, was a 1965, and was a Corvair or a Corvette, and even had fancy wheels. Now the only thing I saw was that she had just bought me a 1965 Corvette, with 4-on the floor, and it had mag wheels! About three weeks later I received some pictures of "our Corvette". The only problem was it was a 1965 Corvair with a 2-speed automatic transmission.

We drove that Corvair for the next 6 years racking up 80,000 miles, hauling all of our worldly belongings in a U-haul trailer. I guess you could say we just about drove the wheels off of it. But it was, without a doubt, the most difficult car to work on that I have ever owned. I remember one time while living in Rhode Island the emergency cable broke. To even see the emergency brake cable you had to remove a pan that covered the entire underside of the car that must have been held in place by at least 5,000 screws. I drove that car for several months, often passing up a good parking space because I had no parking brake and the transmission didn't have a park position. If I could find a parking spot on a slight hill I would just open the door and pitch a brick under the rear wheel to stop the car from rolling away. When I wanted to leave the store I would just back the car up several feet, open the door, and retrieve my "parking brick".

This story does have a great ending. Thirty years later my wife and I bought a used 1993 40th Anniversary Edition Corvette that I still have today.
Carroll Ball

Places to Be!



Next weekend, why not take a drive to beautiful Danville, Virginia. While you're there, check out the **Southside Sky-Fest Air & Car Show** on Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26. This will be one of the largest car shows in southern Virginia. There will also be hot air balloons, over 15 vintage warbird aircraft, wingwalking, the A-10 Thunderbolt Demo Team and much more (including a jet-powered outhouse...no kidding!)

Although it seems to be about a five hour drive down Routes 15 and 29 through Virginia, it should be well worth the trip. For more information, visit their website at www.southsideskyfest.com. Here you'll find comprehensive schedules for both days detailing all of this year's exciting events. Click the following link to download a Microsoft Streets & Trips map file. [Mapfile](#) Note: You need Microsoft Streets & Trips or Map Point Software to view the route.



Take a drive to the country for the **28th Annual British Car Day** at Lilypons Water Gardens (www.lilypons.com) in Buckeystown, Maryland. This is a great outing for the entire family. You're even encouraged to bring your pet and a picnic lunch and enjoy the beautiful grounds of the water gardens. If you like, there will be food and drink for sale at reasonable prices. The Chesapeake Chapter of the New England MGT

Register has organized and run British Car Day for over 27 years. This year will surely be an enjoyable experience for the car enthusiast and nature lover alike.



Check it out at www.chesapeakechaptermgtclub.com/05BCD.htm.



Mount Joy...now that sounds like a cheerful town. Visit their Farmer's Market, a long-standing tradition in Lancaster County, every Saturday through the end of September. Hours are 8:00 am until 12:30 pm. Mount Joy, Pennsylvania is situated just northwest of Lancaster off Route 230. Their market features seasonal items, fresh fruit and veggies, plants, birdhouses and shoo-fly pie and other baked goods to mention a few. See the Main Street Mount Joy website for more details www.msmj.org/events.htm.

Thanks for reading this edition of eNews! Please forward this to your friends and car buddies! If this was sent to you by a friend, just go to www.carsandplaces.com and sign up for your personal copy. Be sure to stop by the website often to check on the progress of our full-blown publication!

Until next time, enjoy your drive!

Rick Trawick
Publisher

Any comments or questions you may have are welcome. Please email them to info@carsandplaces.com. If you would like to see your event mentioned, send it to the same address.

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