

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.



Volvo has introduced a new convertible to its lineup, the **C70**. Due this spring, the new C70 sports a nifty retractable hardtop, one of the few 4-seat convertibles to have this feature. The retractable hardtop creates a solid, quiet, coupe when closed, yet in 30 seconds transforms for open-air driving. Volvo project manager Patrik

Widerstrand says, "We have succeeded in creating a car that is both an elegant convertible and a sporty coupe." The C70 is equipped with Volvo's 2.5 liter, 218 horsepower, turbocharged 5 cylinder engine driving the front wheels. As with all Volvo's, safety is a high priority, even with the convertible roof. The windshield pillars are made with a rollover bar formed inside to greatly strengthen the structure. The rear passengers are protected by rollover bars which are extended in the event the car's computer senses a rollover is about to occur. In addition, side impact airbags deploy from the doors to protect the occupant's head area and these are



designed to remain in place long enough to help in rollovers. Like other Volvo's, the company has paid close attention to front and side impact protection with Volvo's Intelligent Vehicle Architecture, VIVA. VIVA is a combination of engineering that absorbs and distributes crash energy before it reaches the occupants. The C70 comes with anti-lock disk brakes and electronic traction control as standard equipment. Fortunately, Volvo didn't spend all the development money on the great safety features, they saved some for the driving experience. The C70 is based on this year's S40 chassis which is known as a well mannered driver's car, so the C70 should not disappoint in this area. Enthusiastic drivers can opt for the 6-speed manual gearbox over the 5-speed automatic. Watch for the C70 to arrive this spring at your local Volvo dealer. In the meantime, check them out at <http://new.volvocars.us>.

Did you just see a great, unbelievable deal on a low mileage, 2005 car on the web? Well, buyer beware! The recent hurricanes created a huge amount of flood damaged cars, many of which will end up on the used car market. These cars are totaled by insurance companies and sold for scrap. Unscrupulous individuals purchase the cars at scrap value, then dry out the engines, change the oil and thoroughly clean the interior and exterior. By transferring the title through a state that does not track scraped vehicles, the



title is "washed" to disguise the car's sordid history. In an effort to stop this process, the National Insurance Crime Bureau is creating a database of vehicle identification numbers (VIN's) of the affected vehicles. Normally available to police, insurance companies and state motor vehicle departments, the NICB will be making this database available to the general public through their website www.nicb.org. the meantime, a good fact sheet on what to look for is already posted. Since this type of fraud can

occur anytime, it is a good idea to read the fact sheet and give yourself a leg up when checking out any used car. Some of the easy items to check for are signs of mud in the trunk and under the trunk mat and water lines along the trunk wall. Most dishonest dealers will not take the time to clean behind the decorative panels in the trunk. Also look for white powder corrosion on aluminum parts in the engine compartment or rust on screws and other hardware. This type of corrosion may show up on cars after a couple of winters in the snow belt, not on a 1,500 mile "cream puff" from the "sunny south". A colleague of mine just invested over \$900 replacing brake lines, rotors and calipers on a 1999 Chevy pickup. When I looked underneath the truck, I couldn't believe the amount of corrosion! He bought this vehicle used two years ago and I would not be surprised to find that it came from a flood of earlier in that year. Other resources on the web to help fight this problem are www.carfax.com and www.autocheck.com.

Places to Be!



If you like classic cars then the place to be this weekend is **Hershey, Pennsylvania** for the AACA Eastern Division National Fall Meet. The Antique Automobile Club of America is one of the oldest and largest clubs dedicated to the classic and antique car hobby. The meet features a large flea market that opened this past Wednesday. But the real treat is Saturday, October 8, when the Show Field is opened. Row upon row of cars and trucks, from literally the beginning of automotive time through the 70's are on display. Some of the cars are one of a kind, something you may only see at this meet. In addition, a huge car corral is staged for those interested in purchasing a classic of their own! Some spectators just sit in lawn chairs along the main highway and watch the great parade of cars as they arrive at the show field. While at the show, take time to visit the AACA Museum, one of the premier auto museums in the world. Free shuttles are available from the grounds. If there is only one car event you can attend during the year, this should be the one. Admission is free. See the AACA website at www.aaca.org and download the 2005 Hershey brochure.



October 7, 8 and 9 feature the **Sugarloaf Crafts Festival** at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg, Maryland. More than 450 artists and crafters will be on hand to display their handiwork and demonstrate their craft. Headlining the entertainment are Rita Coolidge and The Fabulous Hubcaps. As you may suspect, there is plenty of food also available. Admission is \$7 for adults with under 12 admitted free. Parking is also free. More information, directions and discount coupons are available at the website, www.sugarloafcrafter.com.

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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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