



PHOTO: JENNIFER KNIGHTSTEP

The lime-green 1934 Chevrolet E85 Ethanol Coupe, built by the GM Performance Division, on display at the GM Heritage Center.

Cruises, Races, Car Shows To Top Autopalooza Fare

by Jennifer Knightstep
Special Writer

What makes metro Detroit the ultimate destination for car buffs this summer?

In a word, Autopalooza, a series of 13 cruises, races, and car shows, guaranteed to make hearts pound and adrenaline rush.

Autopalooza 2012 kicks off on June 1 with the return of the Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix, and ends with a bang on Aug. 18 at the Woodward Dream Cruise.

In between are nearly a dozen other events, including the Hot Rod Power Tour, known as the ultimate road trip for car lovers.

The Power Tour starts on June 2 at the GM Proving Ground in Milford, then winds its way through seven cities, ending with a Long Haulers Ceremony in Arlington, Texas.

Other events run the gamut from relaxed to refined, with

two NASCAR Weekends, June 15-17 and Aug. 17-19 at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, and Concours d'Elegance on June 29 in Plymouth.

Speaking at an Autopalooza media event at the GM Heritage Center, Jim Campbell, Chevrolet's VP of Performance Vehicles and Motorsports, says it makes perfect sense for Chevrolet to be sponsoring the Autopalooza kick-off event, the Grand Prix.

"Racing is in our DNA," he explains, noting that company founder Louis Chevrolet was a race car driver himself. "One hundred years later, performance is still alive and well here at Chevrolet."

Michael O'Callaghan, executive VP and COO of the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau (DMCVB), sees Autopalooza as a boon for car fans and for the local economy.

"We're excited to host the kickoff of Autopalooza with



PHOTO: JENNIFER KNIGHTSTEP

The women of the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau alongside the 1934 Chevrolet ethanol coupe. DMCVB is the sponsor of the annual Autopalooza car activity lineup every year. Autopalooza is also the Convention Bureau's marketing umbrella name for all the summer car shows.

the Grand Prix and the Hot Rod Power Tour," he says.

"These events have a huge economic impact on metro Detroit. We've estimated that the revenue generated from the Grand Prix, Power Tour and Dream Cruise alone could exceed \$110 million."

Nancy Darga, managing director of MotorCities National Heritage Area, thinks the variety of events is worth noting, pointing out that her favorite Autopalooza events are the family-friendly classic car shows.

"There really is something for everyone," Darga said, "The ladies can wear their white gloves and straw hats for Concours d'Elegance, channeling a little Audrey Hepburn, and the little kids can get their legs going for their trike races



PHOTO: JENNIFER KNIGHTSTEP

The 2011 Chevrolet Camaro Pure Michigan Pace Car on display at the GM Heritage Center.

before the car shows."

Darga, of course, is right. Alongside the classic cars, hot rods, and one-of-a-kind customs, most events will feature live music and entertain-

ment, charity auctions, and food and drink.

The events are scattered around metro Detroit, with something to do almost every day, all summer long.

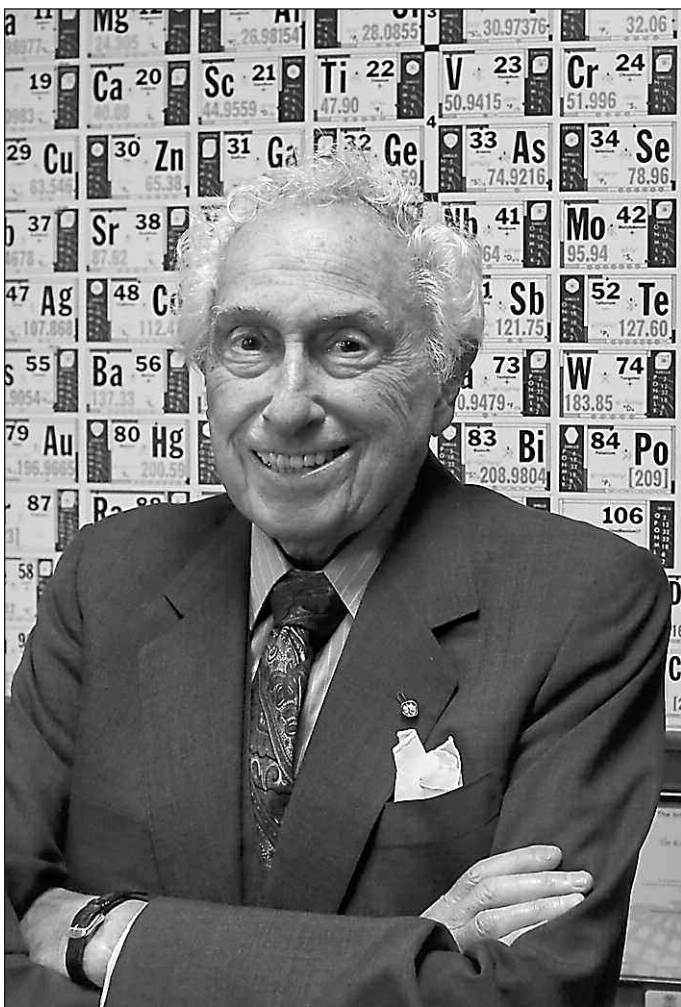


PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

Scientist and inventor Stan Ovshinsky with what he calls his "toolbox," which is the Periodic Table of the Elements.

Detroit's 'Resident Genius' Up for European Award

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

Stan Ovshinsky, the Detroit auto industry's resident research genius since 1960, has been nominated as a finalist for the prestigious European Inventor Award, according to the European Patent Office in Munich, Germany.

The award, first launched in 2006, is the first European prize to distinguish inventors who have made "an outstanding contribution" to innovation, economy and society.

The European Inventor Award ceremony will be held on June 14 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Ovshinsky is nominated in the category of "non-European countries" for the invention of nickel-metal hydride batteries (NiMH), which enabled the hybrid and electric car industries to take off and is very important for solving the problems of CO2 and minimizing the use of gasoline – since currently about 40 percent of CO2 emissions comes from the transportation industry.

It is of interest and note that more than 4.5 million hybrid electric vehicles with

NiMH batteries have already been sold worldwide with many more being built.

Ovshinsky, the developer of 300-plus industrial patents, is today the president and CEO of Ovshinsky Innovation LLC and Ovshinsky Solar LLC, both based in Bloomfield Hills.

Since leaving Energy Conversion Devices a few years ago, Ovshinsky today operates from a retired elementary school building near Square Lake and Squirrel roads, where he does his research, gives technical lectures and receives visitors, including Nobel prize winners, from around the world.

Ovshinsky, now 90, is famous for having founded Energy Conversion Devices on Schaefer Road in Detroit with his late wife, Iris, back in 1960 – long before there was ever a formal "energy industry" to speak of.

Since then, if you've used a cell phone or portable device that operates on rechargeable batteries, or otherwise have driven an EV or hybrid car, Ovshinsky and his five decades of research have had a hand behind it.

Today, Ovshinsky is as

feisty as ever in a sit-down interview at his office there in Bloomfield Hills last week.

"The industrial base of America has shrunk dramatically – I don't see how without the kinds of people who built the industries, and know what to do and how to built them," he said, "you can't have a powerful country and a good country in terms of giving proper jobs if you don't really have an industrial base."

"I'm very concerned about the fact that all my life, I've built new industries... then I saw the machine tool industry go under, we used to have a wonderful machine tool industry."

"We didn't even sell it off, we just lost it! Everything I was involved in was basic industry – steel was very hard hit... the auto industry was beginning to struggle (earlier). It was so hard to believe that we couldn't make better cars (than Japan)."

Back in the 1990s, Ovshinsky teamed up with then-GM Chairman Robert Stempel to use Stan's batteries in the 2nd-generation GMEV1 electric vehicle, the car that kicked off the modern EV industry in spite of the all bad

Astronaut Speaks at Tech Show

Thomas K. Mattingly, II, a former NASA astronaut whose career overlapped both the Apollo and space shuttle programs, will be the keynote speaker at the Altair HyperWorks Technology Conference at the RenCen Marriott May 15-17 in Detroit.

Ex-NASA astronaut Mattingly, who is now director of space enterprise for Systems Planning & Analysis, Inc., will be the keynote speaker on the topic of "Simulation, Reality and Humans" at 9:30 a.m. on May 16.

Troy-based Altair, sponsor of the conference, recently announced that its Altair ProductDesign unit has been honored by the NASA Engineering and Safety Center for its contribution to the water drop testing of the Orion Crew Module.

Altair ProductDesign, which serves as Altair's multi-disciplinary product development consultancy, successfully developed modeling methods and performed dynamic water impact simulations to help improve the safety systems and structure of the module.

The Orion Crew Module houses NASA astronauts during space travel and allows them to safely descend back to Earth from orbit after mission completion. As a water "landing" is a complex and dynamic event, NESC contracted with Altair to develop critical simulation models during the study phase.

Country's Easton Corbin Is Latest Ram Truck Artist

AUBURN HILLS – Ram Truck brand is presenting "Road to the Ram Jam," an all-star country music series featuring five of today's best country artists leading up to a Dec. 29 invitation-only 2012 Ram Jam concert event where all five artists perform.

Fans can win tickets to the concert as well as collectible posters and vinyl records created for each artist. The vinyl record for Mercury Nashville recording artist Easton Corbin, the third Ram Jam artist, is his new single, "Lovin' You Is Fun."

Corbin will offer fans a chance to win a free download of his new single "Lovin' You Is Fun," from his forthcoming sophomore album

"All Over the Road," when they enter the Road to the Ram Jam concert sweepstakes.

The remaining Road to the Ram Jam artists will be announced later and all five participating will receive a lease on a 2012 Ram 1500 Laramie Longhorn truck. The trucks will then be auctioned off in early 2013 with all proceeds going to benefit a charity of each artist's choice.

Proceeds from Corbin's Ram truck will be donated to the Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund honors the bravery and dedication exhibited by Americans in our Armed Forces who have sacrificed life or limb by awarding col-

lege scholarships to their children.

Scholarships are awarded to students whose parent has been killed or permanently disabled in an operational mission or training accident. For the 2011 academic year, the fund awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to 240 sons and daughters of American heroes. To date, the fund has awarded more than \$5 million in scholarships. For more information on the Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund, go to www.freedomalliance.org.

"I feel so fortunate to be a part of the Road to the Ram Jam series involving three things I am passionate about: trucks, honoring our military

and country music," Corbin said.

"Growing up on a farm, I learned to love trucks. Driving my new, loaded Laramie Longhorn is great and to be able to auction it off and donate the proceeds to the Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund is an added bonus. I am looking forward to this program and being a part of the Ram Jam Concert in Nashville in December."

"Easton Corbin is a great addition to the select family of Road to the Ram Jam artists," said Fred Diaz, President and CEO - Ram Truck Brand and Chrysler de Mexico, Chrysler Group LLC. "East-



Mercury Nashville recording artist Easton Corbin, the third country music artist to be announced as part of the Ram Truck brand's "Road to the Ram Jam" all-star music series, stands in front of his all-new 2012 Ram 1500 Laramie Longhorn truck.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4