

# Under The Bonnet

Newsletter of the

**Wasatch Mountain  
Jaguar Register**

February 2018



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## JLR Largest Automotive Engine Manufacturer in UK

Jaguar Land Rover has been named the largest automotive vehicle and engine manufacturer in the UK in 2017. The British company produced 532,107 vehicles, a 2.3 percent fall from a record high in 2016, at its three plants in Birmingham and Liverpool. It also produced 305,907 clean



number one car manufacturer. However, the car industry is facing a number of challenges that are undoubt-

More than £4bn has been spent on the company's vehicle and engine plants since 2010, bringing six all-new name-plates and two ultra-clean Ingenium engines to the market.

In the last fiscal year alone, investment

[Ingenium](#) engines in Wolverhampton.

The news comes as the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) announced that annual UK car production has fallen for the first time, having reached a 17-year high in 2016.

“We are proud to strengthen our position as Britain’s

edly impacting consumer confidence, particularly in the UK. Jaguar Land Rover must become as lean and fit as possible so that we can continue to invest in our autonomous, connected and electrified future.”

— Dr Ralf Speth, Jaguar Land Rover Chief Executive Officer

stood at £400m to support the introduction of the Jaguar XF Sport Brake and Range Rover Velar. Plants also gained significant manufacturing technology and upgraded facilities to support continuous improvement.

Note: Press release courtesy of **Jaguar Land Rover**.

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## Tech Giant Elon Musk to Send His Own Tesla Car to Mars Aboard World's Most Powerful Rocket

*The Telegraph*, Helena Horton, 6 February 2018 • 9:31AM

Elon Musk is planning to send his old cherry-red Tesla car to Mars, with a dummy strapped to it, while it plays David Bowie's *Life on Mars* on repeat.

The vehicle will be strapped to the Falcon Heavy vehicle, which is designed to have twice the launching power of any existing rocket, and more than any since Saturn V, which launched the Apollo lunar missions.

The Falcon Heavy consists of three of the company's Falcon 9 rockets joined together, each lending the super-rocket 27 Merlin engines.

This means that it should be able to generate almost 23,000 kilonewtons of thrust - just over double that of the world's current most powerful rocket, the Delta IV Heavy, which is operated by US competitor United Launch Alliance.

The launch later on Tuesday at Kennedy Space Center has been in the pipeline since 2013.

Mr Musk's car will contain a dummy - aka 'Starman' - rather than a human astronaut, although earthlings will be able to experience "epic views" of space via cameras strapped to the vehicle.

It is hoped the car will be thrown into an elliptical orbit that stretches out to Mars' orbit around the Sun.

Mr Musk explained that the Roadster "will be in deep space for a billion years or so if it doesn't blow up on ascent".

That is the big fear. "It'll be a really huge

downer if it blows up," the entrepreneur told reporters. "If something goes wrong, hopefully it goes wrong far into the mission so we at least learn as much as possible along the way.



"I would consider it a win if it just clears the pad and doesn't blow the pad to smithereens. That's four million pounds of TNT equivalent so there's probably not going to be much left if that thing lets loose on the pad."

Despite the likelihood of failure, Mr Musk appeared excited, saying: "The weather's looking good, the rocket's looking good. It's going to be exciting one way or the other, it's either going to be an exciting test or an exciting failure [with] one big boom."

An estimated half-million people are expected to go to Florida's Space Coast to witness the ascent, which may happen as early as 13:30 EST (18:30 GMT).

The rocket is designed to lift the equivalent weight of five double-decker

London buses - 64 tons - into space.

If this maiden voyage is successful, it raises interesting possibilities for future innovation, including larger US satellites and also the realisation of Mr Musk's dream to launch hundreds of satellites into space in order to give broadband to the developing world.

It also means space exploration could be hugely enhanced, with larger robots sent to Mars. Some could even visit outer planets such as Jupiter, Saturn and their moons.

Nasa is also developing a super-rocket, but Musk's, if successful, is much cheaper.

Their Space Launch System is said to cost \$1bn (£715m) per flight, while the entrepreneur claims his Falcon Heavy will cost just \$90m (£64m) per flight.

Casey Dreier, director of space policy at the Planetary Society, told *The Guardian*: "If Falcon Heavy is up and running, it opens up a lot of possibilities. That's the key.

"Nasa is going to be saying: look, instead of waiting around for SLS, we can start putting pieces of our deep space gateway or orbiting lunar outpost in place. The question is will it be reliable enough for the government and others to put in their most valuable assets, to be worth the reduced cost?"

# \$42 MILLION VERDICT

Lawyer: Jury award in repair case is 'clarion call' for body shops, insurers

ERIC FREEDMAN  
and DAVID KUSHMA  
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**T**o Dallas lawyer Todd Tracy, a \$42 million jury verdict for substandard repair work on a 2010 Honda Fit should sound a clarion call to dealerships, insurers and automakers.

"That's going to cause alarms to go off and red flags to go off," says Tracy, whose firm represents plaintiffs in vehicle safety and crash-worthiness cases, including the owners of the Fit.

John Eagle Collision Center, a body shop associated with John Eagle Auto Group in Dallas, used glue instead of welds to fix hailstorm damage to the Fit's roof, although Honda's repair manual calls for 108 roof welds.

The shop took the cheaper (by \$3,000) but unsafe route under pressure from State Farm Insurance Co., the vehicle's insurer, Tracy told *Fixed Ops Journal*. John Eagle's publicist declined to answer questions about the case.

If the allegation can be proved in court, State Farm could be found liable, says Tom Baker, a tort and insurance law expert at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

"The elements of a tort action are having a duty of care and then breaching it by action that's unreasonable," Baker said. "From a tort law perspective, if you got an automobile insurer that's pressuring dealers to cut corners in doing repairs in ways that make the cars unsafe, I'd take that case."

## Insurer sued

Tracy's clients, Marcia and Matthew Seebachan, were injured in December 2013, when a Toyota Tundra struck their Fit head-on, trapping them inside the burning wreckage when the roof collapsed. They had bought the used car four months earlier, and the roof repair wasn't included in the vehicle history report, according to legal documents.

The Seebachans filed a federal lawsuit in October that accuses State Farm of negligence, deceptive trade practices and breach of warranty for allegedly demanding that the shop not follow more expensive manufacturer repair standards.

The suit cites Honda's 2008-13 Fit Body Repair Manual, which says: "Any person who intends



A Texas jury concluded that substandard roof repairs to this used 2010 Honda Fit aggravated the effects of a collision in December 2013. Red arrows show where roof detached during the crash.

to use a replacement part, a repair procedure or a tool that is not recommended by Honda must determine the risks to their personal safety and the safe operation of the vehicle."

State Farm hasn't filed an answer in the case. A company spokesman said in a statement: "The comments made about State Farm cited in the lawsuit (against the repair facility) are not supported by the facts. Additionally, they are not in line with State Farm's mission to serve the needs of our customers and our long, proud history of advancing vehicle safety."

In October, a Dallas County jury decided the Seebachans' injuries were worth about \$42 million and held John Eagle Collision Center 75 percent liable. The jury attributed the remaining liability to the Tundra's driver.

After the verdict, the body shop and the Seebachans reached a confidential settlement for "a lot of money" says Tracy, who made a presentation about the case at the Specialty Equipment Market Association trade show last month in Las Vegas.

## Repair shops 'bullied'

Insurer pressure on repair shops is widespread, affecting "millions of vehicles," Tracy says. "It happens in every shop across the country numerous times a day."

His firm is handling six similar cases in Texas, three of them wrongful-death suits and three involving "unbelievably bad catastrophic injury cases," he says.

"I'm trying to get them to trial as quickly as possible," Tracy says. "Juries don't like repair facilities getting bullied by the insurance companies."

Repair facilities that don't follow automakers' specifications under pressure from cost-conscious insurers and claims adjusters put themselves at risk of liability, Tracy says, but adds that shops are vulnerable to such demands if they want to do work covered by insurance.

In a joint statement, John Eagle and Tracy said the dealership is "making a commitment to encourage the collision repair industry across the nation to follow OEM bulletins instead of insurance companies' mandates when they repair vehicles."

The statement also said the dealership wanted to settle the case before trial, but State Farm "elected to proceed with the trial."

Tracy argues that automakers should make their repair specs available online without charge to every shop that wants them.

"They are the true experts in design and engineering, and they know best how to comply with all the regulations and be crashworthy," he says.

But insurers remain "the big elephant in the room," Tracy says.

"They're holding a gun to the repair shops' heads: 'If you don't kowtow, we're not going to send you any business.'"

"That's extortion." ■

## My Other Car Is ...

### A 2011 Mustang V-8 GT With Glass Top

—by Mike Cady

Currently my other car is a 2011 Mustang V-8 GT with a glass top. It is a candy apple red with British tan leather interior and is a limited edition with only 1,064 produced with the glass top.

We have shown the 1954 XK-120 Sport Coupe and the 2011 Mustang GT in numerous car shows across the Mountain West. I have owned numerous other cars over the years to include the following:

My first other car was a 1966 Mustang which I purchased after I completed my military service with the Air Force in 1968. Over the years I also acquired a 1968 AMC Javelin, 2 1956 MG's, 3 Volkswagen's, a 1979 Porsche 928, 1986 Pontiac Fiero GT fastback, a 2009 Pontiac Solstice Coupe.

The 2009 Pontiac Solstice

Coupe was a limited edition of 1,266. The wicked ruby red color which I had was a limited production of



221. Pontiac since seized production of all their cars in 2010. Looks like maybe I should have hung on to the 2009 Solstice Coupe but it was quite small inside for two tall people.

So hence, I traded it in for the 2011 Mustang GT glass top. As you can see my other car has made the rounds

back to a Mustang.

Although I have enjoyed all my other cars in many special ways, my heart will always belong to my very first car owned ; my 1954 XK-120 Sports Coupe that I bought in 1963 in Mason City, Iowa.

I was the third owner of the car. Since I was under 21 years of age, my dad had to co-sign with me. My dad kept it stored for me while I was in the military

and made sure it was started up periodically.

Since then I have loved my time over the years restoring this beauty. It has been and always will be a labor of love.

## Seeking Project E-type or XK

Tim Lincoln, phone 585-305-7727, is seeking an E-type or XK 120/140/150, project or driver car. Rust, water damage or other problems will be considered.

## XJS Parts Seek New Home

Club member Joe Sampson has some XJS parts he'd like to pass to a good home.

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## Club Calendar

*(Lots More To Come!)*

*Saturday, March 18, 2018*  
BMCU Eureka Run

*Saturday, April 21, 2018*  
BMCU Antelope Island Run

*Saturday, May 5, 2018*  
BMCU Coleville Run

*Saturday, June 16, 2018*  
[British Field Day](#)  
Liberty Park, Salt Lake City

*Monday, July 2, 2018*  
[Eaglewood Festival of Speed](#)

*Saturday, August 8, 2018*  
BMCU Trappers Loop Run

*Saturday August 25, 2018*  
Park City Classic Car Show  
Main Street Park City

*Saturday, September 29, 2018*  
BMCU Fall Colour Tour

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# Club Officers

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He Played  
A Sax  
Had No B.O.  
But His Whiskers  
Scratched  
So She Let Him Go  
—*Burma Shave, 1933*

