The Gallagher Tech Talk Series at the Troy Traffic Jam

Sunday, August 2nd

At the Tech Talks Tent in the Center of the Show!

Moderated by Autoline's John McElroy, each 45-minute Tech Talk will give you the opportunity to hear about engineering and design from the past to the present. You'll have the opportunity to ask your own questions and continue the conversation right at the cars. Don't miss Troy Traffic Jam Tech Talks in the tent at the center of the show! Tech Talks are presented by Gallagher Global Brokerage.

John McElroy is a journalist, broadcaster, analyst, and lecturer in the automotive industry. As the President of Blue Sky Productions, he is also the host of "Autoline After Hours,' a weekly live webcast that focuses on new cars and technology. John's passion for cars was sparked on an automotive plant tour as a six-year-old and continues today.

10:00am: Direct Connection yesterday and today with Paul Rossi, Tony Mandella, and Chuck Spieser, and the 1970 and 2023 Super Stock Challengers

Direct Connection continues to support the demand for Mopar street and track performance with more than 300 performance products and performance kits. Paul Rossi, Tony Mandella, and Chuck Spieser will do an old school/new school comparison of the famed 1970 Dodge Challenger T/A 440 Six-Pak to the 2023 Super Stock Challenger SRT powered by a modern GEN III Hemi. This new car was just recently built to break records and is at the 2026 Troy Traffic Jam!

Paul Rossi is a Super Stock Legend, Hall of Fame Member, and active team owner of the current Super Stock Challenger. From his racing days on Woodward Avenue, Paul became the driver of the NHRA wheel standing Dodge Challenger 440 Six-Pak T/A. As a four-time Pike's Peak winner and 5-time champion IMSA Track Racer and NHRA Dragster, Paul now spends his time representing Direct Connection and contributing back to the motorsports industry.

Tony Mandella is a top NHRA Sportsman driver and pilot of the Paul Rossi Challenger Drag Car. Tony is a partner at PMR Race & Speed Shop, who built the new Paul Rossi Challenger SRT. His passion for racing and all things high performance keeps him busy on the drag strip and in the national spotlight in NHRA winner's circles.

Chuck Spieser is a Senior Account Director and Direct Connection Brand Ambassador with more than 20 years of experience developing high-impact motorsports marketing programs across NASCAR and NHRA. Known for building trusted relationships throughout the racing industry, connecting brands with racers, builders, and enthusiasts that drive business, strengthen brand loyalty, and deliver real-world performance.

11:00am: The Ford and Multimatic's Le Mans program with Moray Callum and Garen Nicoghosian

Exactly 50 years after their first win at Le Mans, Ford beat Ferrari once again in 2016 in an exciting race. Moray Callum and Garen Nicoghosian will share their experience on the design team that brought Ford back into the racing spotlight and attendees will get a rare look at the GT test vehicle next to the GT Mk IV. Learn how design and engineering all came together to make this memorable winning car.

Moray Callum retired in 2021 from Ford as the Vice President of Design. Over Moray's 40-year career he has worked in design studios in North America, Europe, the UK, and Asia, on a range of influential and iconic designs. His most recent works include the current Ford Bronco redesign and his favorite, the 2017 Ford GT.

Garen Nicoghosian is the Head of Design for Multimatic. As a life-long enthusiast of automobiles, racing, art, and design, Garen worked on the 2017 Ford GT program, the NASCAR 2013 Gen 6 Fusion, and the 2015, 2013, 2010, and 2005 Mustang programs.

12:00pm: Corvette's Grand Sport and Grand Sport X with Josh Holder, Vlad Kapitonov, and Brian Stoeckel

Chevrolet is bringing back a classic driving experience with a next-generation engine in the **2027 Grand Sport and Grand Sport X**. Listen to Chief Engineer Josh Holder and the Design Managers for Performance Vlad Kapitonov and Brian Stoeckel discuss the classic but modern design and LS6 6.7L V8 that gives the Grand Sport top performance with drivability.

Josh Holder has been chief Corvette engineer since 2020 and is responsible for the engineering, development, and launch of all 8th generation Corvettes including the 2024 E-Ray, 2025 ZR1, and 2026 ZR1X. Josh grew up with a passion for speed; his father was an auto mechanic into drag racing before purchasing a Corvette and getting into Autocross.

Vlad Kapitonov is a Design Manager at the Performance Exteriors Studio. Over 25 years at GM Design he has helped shape standout Chevrolet vehicles, including the full C8 Corvette lineup from Stingray to ZR1, the C8.R and Z06 GT3.R race cars, the Chevy Silverado EV, and most recently, the 2025 Corvette CX and CX.R concept cars.

Brian Stoeckel is the Creative Design Manager for Chevrolet Interiors at General Motors Design Center. Since 2010 Brian's interior design work has ranged from Full Size Truck and SUV interiors to Performance Vehicles like the Grand Sport and Grand Sport X.

1:00pm: 25 Years on from the Rolex Daytona 24 Hour Race with Kelly Collins & Gary Claudio

Kelly Collins and Gary Claudio will discuss racing legend Dale Ernhardt Sr. 25 years after his tragic death with behind-the-scenes stories from the 2001 24 Hours of Daytona race. Attendees will see the famous No 3 Corvette C5-R, built by Pratt & Miller for the race on loan from the National Corvette Museum and transported by Reliable Carriers.

Kelly Collins is a world-renowned race car driver and driving specialist with a career that includes a diverse range of racetracks and wins. Growing up in Southern California, Kelly's passion for driving started with off-road motorcycles before shifting to Formula One racing in 1987. That expanded into Barber Dodge Pro Series, IMSA, the FIA GT Championship, US RoadRacing Championship Series, American LeMans, Grand-Am Sports Car, and more with wins at Petit Le Mans, Rolex 24 at Daytona, and 12 Hours of Sebring. In 2001 Kelly teamed with the legendary Dale Earnhardt, Dale Earnhardt Jr., and Andy Pilgrim in the 2001 Rolex 24 at Daytona where his racing expertise helped Dale and his son take their first and only podium finish together in a Corvette C5-R. Kelly is a Skip Barber Racing School instructor and has been a stunt driver for scores of Hollywood productions.

Gary Claudio's career with Corvette and Corvette racing has brought the brand and program to where it is today. As a kid, Gary fell in love with Corvette when he first saw his neighbor's Daytona blue '63 split window. He joined GM in 1977 where he worked his way up to the regional office in North Carolina at the perfect time to build relationships with Corvette and NASCAR. In the late 1990's, Gary was involved in GM's consolidation of its motorsports marketing activities into GM Racing which led to his work with Corvette Racing. It was Gary's idea to bring in Dale Earnhardt and Dale Earnhardt Junior to drive the #3 Corvette in the 2001 24 Hours of Daytona race, raising awareness for the program to other race fans.

2:00pm: Le Mans & More with Racing Legends David Hobbs and Roger Bailey

David Hobbs and Roger Bailey, both Brits, have been life-long friends on and off the track since the 1970s. At the 2026 Troy Traffic Jam, David and Roger will share their experiences and more than a few stories from their extensive careers.

David Hobbs is an award-winning driver who competed in the world's most famous racing events including the 24 Hours of Le Mans, 24 hours of Daytona, 12 hours of Sebring, Daytona 500 and Indianapolis 500. David first raced his mother's Morris Oxford in 1959 and in the following 30 years raced many of the greatest sports cars ever built on tracks around the world. Starting in the 1970s, David became equally known for his skills behind the microphone through his broadcasting career with CBS, ESPN, Fox Sports, Speed TV, and NBC. David is best known by the youngest generation as the voice of "David Hobbscap" in Cars 2, a 1963 Jaguar from his real-life hometown in England. David has retired to Wisconsin but remains active in the ISMA race scene.

Roger Bailey is a renowned mechanic who worked for virtually every top sports car team including Ferrari, Penske, McLaren, Tyrrell, Mecom, Alan Mann, BRM, Cooper, and Ford over his 52-year career in sports cars, F1, IndyCar, and Le Mans. At thirteen, Roger received a motorcycle from his grandfather and immediately mastered rebuilding the engine. From seventeen he was employed as a mechanic, traveling the world for his career. Roger most enjoyed building engines and gained the nickname "Boost" for his ability to extract horsepower from turbo engines. In 1986 he co-founded the American Racing Series which became the Indy Lights Series in 1991 under his direction until 2012. Roger has retired to Michigan but remains active in the racing world.