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Highlights of the 2015 Dallas Auto Show: Luxury, Trucks and more

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DFW Auto Show

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This year's 2015 [Dallas Auto Show](#) fills up over half a million square feet of space full of cars, trucks, SUVs that are not just for the motor enthusiast. With a stunning line of 2015, 2016 and a few 2017 models (notably Ford's newest Raptor), visitors will be immersed in the latest and greatest technology that today's vehicles will be sporting and a great look at the direction that the auto industry is moving towards.



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Some highlights and moments from this year's 2015 Dallas Auto Show outside the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center.
Heather Buen



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Trucks will be one of the most prominent category at this year's **Dallas Auto Show** ever since Ford's debut of a revolutionary new aluminum alloy body with the Ford F-150. You'll begin to see automobile manufacturers begin to turn trucks into the new accessible luxury vehicle. Wishful thinking but trucks today now have many of the luxury features and smooth rides you would normally get from your luxury sedans. So technology has come a long way. At this year's show, Dodge has come up with a new concept truck in their newly introduced Ram 1500 Laramie edition. The concept they unveiled at the Dallas Auto Show is the Ram Texas Ranger concept truck. Earlier this month at the Chicago Auto show, many people commented on the **redesigned front grill** of the newest Ram. With the Texas Ranger edition, the concept Ram will boast the "iconic silver Lone Star Ranger badge." On the exterior, the truck features "five-point, aluminum badge emblems mounted on the front driver-side and passenger-side fenders, with a third badge adorning the tailgate. Each of the four polished-aluminum, 20-inch wheels also gets a milled-aluminum Texas Ranger center cap." Dodge also donated \$100,000 to the Texas Rangers museum in Waco. Truck manufacturers have long been known for trying to create something "Tex-ified" with Ford and their King Ranch editions and Toyota Tundra and their Bass Pro Shop editions. Check out a few 2015 Ram 2500's and 1500's on the **Test Track at the Dallas Auto Show** which I livestreamed via the Meerkat App. Excuse the vertical limitations associated with Meerkat live streaming. Not only can you take a ride in the Ram but you can test drive any vehicle available from FCA US at the multi-brand (Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram and Fiat) ride and drive experience. New this year, is the all-new **2015 Chrysler 200** sedan featuring a completely redesigned "face" of the Chrysler brand recently named Midwest Automotive Media Association's (MAWA) "Family Vehicle of the Year" and awarded the 2015 Best Buy distinction in the midsize segment by automotive editors at Consumer Guide®. Also if you take a test drive experience from FCA US will be automatically entered into a national giveaway, where in early 2016 one lucky consumer can win \$45,000 towards a eligible vehicle of their choice from the Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram or FIAT brands.

Ford's 2017 Raptor may be more of your style if you like off roading. Dallas traffic and road construction has most of us dreaming of off roading as we sit for hours in commuter traffic, but the Raptor you'll see at this year's auto show will launch in late autumn 2016 for the 2017 year. powered by Ford's new, second-generation 3.5-liter EcoBoost® engine that produces more power with greater efficiency than the current 6.2-liter V8, which is rated at 411 horsepower and 434 lb.-ft. of torque. Don't be fooled into thinking that this Raptor won't have the power you need to go off-roading. The high-output 3.5-liter EcoBoost is a Raptor exclusive in the F-150 lineup. It will be paired with an all-new 10-speed transmission for improved efficiency. One of the unique features of this new Raptor is the Terrain Management system allowing the driver to switch modes based upon conditions. Switch from normal mode for everyday driving, street mode, weather mode, baja mode and rock mode. You can also see Ford's 2016 Mustang GT350 as journalists got to hear the engine roar in the auto show itself.

Other notables for this year's auto show included the ten millionth vehicle manufactured at GM Arlington's assembly plant which was a Chevrolet Suburban. The GM Arlington plant has been building cars in North Texas since 1954 and runs three shifts 24 hours a day to meet the demand for GM's line of full sized SUV's. After getting a personal tour with James Bell from GM in comparing GM vehicles with all of the different brands and manufacturers you can get an idea that technology changes include much more of a focus on interior design and technology. Everything from rotary gear shift (already in place in many luxury vehicles but you can also see if you test drive the Chrysler 200), to parking assist functions, to new onboard smart technologies.

Other notable brands and models you may want to check out is Toyota's newest Tacoma as it tries to keep it's top spot among smaller pickups. The introduction of a new Chevrolet Colorado necessitated this move. Nissan also introduced a brand new Titan this year in the Nissan Titan XD with a 5.0L V-8 Cummins engine making 310 hp and 555 lb-ft of torque. For your high performance vehicles you really need to check out the Chevy Corvette Stingray. It's a pretty piece of machinery using the stingray logo as a C7 based Z06. Get it as a coupe or a convertible. Options? Dallas loves options? The Chevy Corvette on display at the auto show is a supercharged 6.2-liter V-8 which makes an amazing 650 hp and an equally amazing 650 lb-ft of torque.

If you have \$2 million dollars laying around, you can always dream about the many luxury vehicles gracing the platforms at this year's auto show such as the Aston Martin One-77, Pagani Huayra, aMcLaren 650S, Bentley GT Speed convertible, Rolls-Royce Wraith and more. Terry Box from the Dallas Morning News, goes into more details about all of the **luxury car brands** at this year's auto show and has a great calculator on how much you will need to make to afford these cars. If you really want to get a sneak peek of a \$2.7 million dollar 1,200 hp Rembrandt Bugatti Vitesse sports car, you need to subscribe because you won't see one at this year's auto show. You will see one in April when **Christie's** Southwest will be previewing their art auctions in Dallas for their post war and contemporary art collections and teaming up with Buggatti Automobiles. If you like Airstream, there is a small display of two Airstreams that partnered with Mercedes to help you envision a luxury RV type of experience. Always great to look at while at the auto show.

Check out more info on the Dallas Auto Show at dfwautoshow.com. The event is going on now until Sunday at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas

When: Wednesday and Thursday 4 to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Ticket prices: \$12 for adults, \$5 for 65 or older, \$5 for children 6 to 12 and free for children 5 and under

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Heather Buen

Dallas Culture & Events Examiner