

Audi TT Test Drive



Winding Road™

245-mph Koenigsegg CCX



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EDITOR'S LETTER

How is this issue of WINDING ROAD different from all other issues of WINDING ROAD? It's different because we've cut the magazine's total page count by exactly half.

No, we did not decide to dial it back; we rather enjoyed a recent letter from reader Paul Shamansky who said he was forced to unsubscribe because we had put too much into the magazine. The reason behind our page count change is that our hardworking art director, Nate Luzod, continues to push the limits of the electronic display in both our downloadable PDF format and our [on-screen active magazine](#) reader. Now, what used to be two pages (effectively one "spread") is called one page. It's easier to navigate and easier to figure out where you are in the magazine. There's absolutely no change at all in the amount of WINDING ROAD you're getting, although this could be a great opportunity to trick Mr. Shamansky into believing that we took his message to heart.

This issue reveals two interesting perspectives on two German coupes,

the [BMW 335i](#) and [Audi TT](#). After we wrapped our stories and photo shoots with these two cars, I asked our European Editor, Matt Davis, if it would be useful to compare the two, since they're both coupes, both German, and both will eventually be offered with all-wheel drive. We decided against it, for the simple reason that the two cars were created for two completely different reasons. The TT is so much smaller and lighter and seems to have been tailor-made for its four-cylinder turbo engine, whereas the BMW is a sporty, elegant touring coupe with torque at its core. The new Audi feels proper in all-wheel drive, but the BMW feels right in a rear-wheel-drive format (although the xDrive version will be special, no doubt). The BMW is bigger in many ways, not the least of which is its remarkable rear-seat room, making it a true four-passenger coupe. Audi's TT

is bigger than the original, but it can't match the BMW in space. So— we've gone ahead and done it anyway— there's your comparison right there.

This month's [Driver Evaluation](#) section features a new face: 25-year-old Patrick Long. His name should be no surprise to anyone who follows sports car racing in this country or abroad. The Thousand Oaks, California, native is one of the few young racing talents in this country who chose endurance racing first and foremost for his motorsports career, rather than opting for a career in NASCAR or open-wheel. Porsche spotted the youngster's talent years ago and he's been on their official factory team since 2003, which is without a doubt one of the best jobs in the business. I saw Long win his class at Le Mans in 2004—his rookie appearance at the famous round-the-clock event—and was surprised to see



Photo: Tony Di Zinno

how cool and collected he looked. Even after his victory in the Petersen Porsche 911, the young Long carried himself like an old pro. Northern California entrepreneur Shane Mahoney introduced me to Long that week and I found he was no different in person—calm, confident, measured, and nearly German. It's no surprise that Long makes a great long-distance racer, and everyone who knows him expects that he'll remain a top name

in motorsports for decades to come. We're happy to feature him in our Driver Evaluation section, where we learned that we share his guilty pleasure (In-N-Out Burger). He also got us wondering, "Are there any other factory Porsche drivers with demolition-derby-driving fathers?"

Thanks for your time,

Reilly Brennan



NAME:

Patrick Brian Long

LIFELONG DREAM:

to win Le Mans, Sebring and Daytona overall

FIRST PAYING JOB:

I was a ranch hand! also PTG BMW in 2002

FIRST CAR MEMORY:

my father taking part in Demolition Derbies!

FAVORITE CAR:

Porsche 917/30, McLaren MP4/2

FAVORITE RACE TRACK:

Oulton Park, Long Beach, SPA

FAVORITE PUBLIC ROAD:

Potrero Road, Decker Canyon, PCH

FAVORITE ENGINE SOUND:

Judd V10

RACING HERO:

Tom Kristensen, Mick Doohan

FAVORITE MUSIC:

British inspired rock; stereophones etc.

FAVORITE RESTAURANT:

Drais, Las Vegas / Latino kid, CA

FAVORITE MOVIE:

Shawshank Redemption, Pulp Fiction

GUILTY PLEASURE:

In-n-Out Burger

PERFECT DAY:

w/ a bunch of friends surfing longboards

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

7/5/06