

U-M Students to Race Through Outback – in a Solar Car

The University of Michigan's top-ranked Solar Car Team members say this could be the year they win a world championship, said spokesperson Nicole Casal Moore.

U-M's team – currently number one in the U.S. – will compete against 25 others from across the globe in the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge, Moore said. The week-long, 1,800-mile trek across the Australian outback begins Oct. 6, which is the afternoon of Oct. 5 in the U.S.

For the past quarter-century, the race has happened every other year, and Michigan has finished third five times. The 2013 vehicle, Generation, makes the best of new regulations that require four wheels and a more upright driver.

Like a motorcycle with a sidecar, Generation situates the driver on one side, rather than in the middle of the chassis. The design allows for a sleeker underbelly and a more aerodynamic silhouette.

The car weighs less than 600 pounds and has a lithium-ion battery and a carbon fiber body.

In Generation, the students say they've achieved a powerful combination that could best their predecessors' results, Moore said.

"We've come up with what we think is the most optimal design and, in addition, we've been able to test it thoroughly. So I think that will give us a huge advantage," said Eric Hausman, team project manager and senior in industrial and operations engineering.

"Sometimes we've had a great design when there's a rule change, but we haven't had time to test it. Other times, it's been the opposite, but this year I think we've balanced design and testing really well."

Since unveiling Generation in June, the students have taken it on a 1,000-mile practice race on home soil and a longer one in Australia, Moore said.

It's been remarkably reliable,



U-M's solar car Generation in Australia

Hausman said. A dependable car means less race time spent on the side of the road. In 2011, the team had to stop twice in one day to repair torn wheel fairings while the first- and second-place teams pulled ahead.

The students don't want to comment on their strategy, except to say that they did practice passing other vehicles in case they need to, Moore said. U-M is one of four teams in the race that have chosen asymmetrical designs. The others include 2011 first- and second-place teams Tokai University from Japan and Nuon from the Netherlands.

Drivers will take turns in three- to six-hour shifts. Kyle Chudler, a junior in atmospheric, oceanic and space sciences, described

what it's like at the wheel of Generation.

"I always say it handles like a Porsche, but accelerates like a go-kart," Chudler said. "It handles really well, but it doesn't have the most thrust."

Pick-up isn't important in this case, though. Endurance is – for the car and its operators.

"There will be times when you get bored, when you're just driving through the desert and it's straight road as far as you can see, but then I just remind myself I'm driving a solar car through the Australian outback," Chudler said.

Teams have until Oct. 13 to complete the course, but the winner will likely finish by Oct. 10, Moore said.

Photos to Capture Escalade's Debut

Cadillac will unveil the 2015 Escalade luxury SUV on Oct. 7 with indie rock photographer and director Autumn de Wilde, who produced a series of portraits and a film highlighting the Escalade design process.

"I immerse myself in the world of my subjects. I suppose it's not unlike a method actor's approach sometimes," said de Wilde. "My job is to give the audience even more of a reason to form a crush on this person or this object."

De Wilde's vivid method of portraiture gives her the perfect lens with which to capture the 2015 Cadillac Escalade from an artistic perspective, said spokesperson Jordana Strosberg, adding that the images she created highlight "the sophistication, luxury, and iconic

nature of the Escalade in an expression different than that of traditional automotive photography."

Says de Wilde, "As a photographer, I am searching for those iconic portraits that make you wish you were there. I am always searching."

Autumn de Wilde's portrait series and behind-the-scenes video of her visit to the Cadillac design will be revealed at the Escalade Global Reveal on Oct. 7 in New York City.

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Fall Open House To Support 'Pink' At Lingenfelter's

Lingenfelter Performance Engineering, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, is holding its annual Fall Open House on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lingenfelter Motorsports, 7819 Locklin Drive in Brighton.

The open house will benefit the "Shades of Pink Foundation," a charity committed to easing the financial burden of a breast cancer diagnosis.

The Fall Open House features more than 150 cars from the Lingenfelter Collection. Also, two runway fashion shows are set for 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The show highlights fashions from Impulse Boutique, Lolly Ella Jewelry, Lady La's of LaFontaine Automotive Group, Mariposa Boutique, Harley Davidson and Mother Fletchers Vintage Boutique.

"Our Fall Open House will be a day of cars, fun and fashion dedicated to supporting the Shades of Pink Foundation," said Kristen Lingenfelter. "We greatly appreciate all our friends and event attendees for their compassion and generosity in helping support the important mission of Shades of Pink."

During the fashion show, a Pink Label Harley-Davidson apparel line will be showcased by Brighton Harley-Davidson, and they will unveil a special Harley-Davidson breast cancer motorcycle, with proceeds from its sale benefiting the Shades of Pink Foundation.

Also, Lolly Ella will donate 100 percent of the sales of its special pink quartz bracelets to the foundation during the entire month of October.

Additionally, Rotterdam Jewelers will feature a heart-shaped pink pendant for sale at the event, and will donate a portion of the proceeds to the foundation.

A pink photo booth will be featured, along with boutique shopping and "pink" raffle items.

For more information, contact Kristen Lingenfelter at kristen@lingenfelter.com.

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