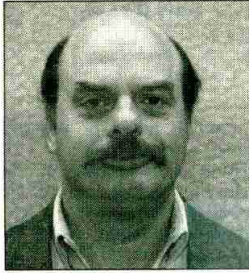


Allen American – Drive Your Dream – November 1, 2007

# THE ALLEN AMERICAN

In the Community. With the Community. For the Community.

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**Inside**

Dream ride

Columnist Tim Carroll takes a driving tour across North Texas.

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## Five Dollars A Mile For A Dream

My old boss once commented that “everyone can afford to go first-class, just not everyone can stay as long.”

That statement came back to me recently as I pulled the Lamborghini Gallardo back into the parking lot. I had just completed a 30-minute cruise along I-20 in the elite sports car and as I pried my fingers from the steering wheel I realized that.

My day began eight hours earlier at DFW Elite Auto Rental in Haltom City where I was joined by seven other car enthusiasts for the 2000 Horsepower Drive Your Dream Tour. John Sears, our guide, briefly reviewed the day’s itinerary and laid down a few simple rules: stay in line, don’t burn rubber, slow down over railroad tracks and don’t wreck the cars. He illustrated his point with a photo of a crunched Dodge Viper that was quite effective.

The Drive Your Dream Tour is a 200-plus-mile ride in the country in five high — make that extremely high — performance cars. Participants ride shotgun and then drive in each car for 30-minutes. I had written briefly about the tour around Father’s Day and was later invited to take the tour if there was an open slot.

I began the tour riding shotgun in a 505-horsepower Dodge Viper convertible with Mike, an IT consultant from Dallas at the wheel. Heading southwest towards Benbrook, we rumbled behind the “pace car” turning heads as our convoy cruised by. I nervously took the wheel just as we left the expressway and turned south on Highway 377. There was no question what the attraction was for this 10-cylinder Viper — raw power.

After the second stop, we all caught our breath and switched cars. The dream drive would only get better. We slipped into a Ferrari 360 Spider and turned onto an unmarked county road that allowed Mike to “push the car a little” as he said. I thought to myself “this would make a great new ride at Six Flags” as the convoy slowed at the top of a small hill somewhere near Granbury. One by one the drivers then pushed their own cars only to pause at the next hill and start again. The lightweight Ferrari handled like a slot car. There must have been a giant magnet under the rear engine because it hugged “the track” at any speed.

It may resemble a Corvette, but the Corvette Z06 is entirely different. The aluminum frame, 505-horsepower car drove like an airplane. It was reasonably quiet and outrageously equipped. Did I mention that it runs from 0-60 in 3.7 seconds?

Despite its size and relative lack of power 325-horsepower, we both enjoyed driving the

Porsche 911 Carrera Cabriolet. It was a luxury car first and a sports car second but it could fly.

Last and certainly not least was the Lamborghini Gallardo Spyder. You could almost hear yourself whistling “go Speed Racer ... go Speed Racer, go-o” as the 10-cylinder engine revved.

The dream does have a price tag (\$989 for the 2000-horsepower tour), but every driver on our tour felt it was worth the cost. The company also offers a “memory tour” for \$539 and a 2,500-horsepower tour for \$1,389 per person. The cars are also available for daily rentals at rates that might raise a few eyebrows, but we’re not talking about Toyota Camry’s here.

What made Drive Your Dream more than an amusement ride was the reality factor. This was no simulation. These were real cars being driven by regular guys like me. Yes, we did get to travel first class, and, no, we didn’t get to stay very long. But at less than \$5 per mile, I thought it was quite a bargain.