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**For immediate release**

**National series *MotorWeek* marks 35 years on public television**

***New season kicks off September 12 with focus on***

***the automobile’s 21st century revolution***

**OWINGS MILLS, MD --** Season 35 of television’s longest-running automotive series, *MotorWeek,* premieres on public television stations across the country on Saturday, September 12, 2015.

Episodes of the 2015-2016 season will explore what *MotorWeek* producers call the 21st century revolution of the car that includes such developments as self-driving technologies and the use of electric, natural gas, and even hydrogen to power automobiles.

*MotorWeek* creator, host, and senior executive producer John Davis cites the enormous change in the average family car over the decades since the program premiered on October 15, 1981. “Every part of the automobile has undergone transformation,” he notes, “with the biggest changes in powertrain and control design since the automobile was first invented.”

Davis and car care expert and master technician Pat Goss will again lead a team of on-air reporters for *MotorWeek*’s 35th season in rigorously testing and evaluating new vehicles and assessing cars’ performance, practicality, efficiency, and safety. Davis says that more than 150 cars are examined annually for the benefit of viewers. During the upcoming season, he notes, rare exotics such as the Mercedes-AMG GT-S and Bentley Mulsanne Speed will be featured as well as more practical types of transportation that families depend upon such as new generations of the Honda Civic, Chevrolet Malibu, and Nissan Altima, the first-of-its-kind Tesla Model X crossover.

In 1981 *MotorWeek* launched a new television genre by becoming the first weekly magazine series to blend consumer-oriented car and truck reviews with informed consumer car care advice, and lifestyle stories that show the depth and breadth of America’s continuingly evolving love affair with the car. Along the way *MotorWeek* has also become a leading media advocate in the critical areas of automotive fuel efficiency and occupant safety, allocating countless hours of national broadcast airtime to sharing advances in both areas with viewers.

Produced and distributed by Maryland Public Television, *MotorWeek* airs on 92% of PBS stations nationwide and can also be seen on the V-me Spanish-language network. Winner of dozens of prestigious automotive journalism awards, *MotorWeek* is also seen on the \_\_\_\_ channel. Program excerpts are available to viewers on the program’s website, *motorweek.org*, and on its YouTube Channel, *(address).*

*MotorWeek* is nationally sponsored by RockAuto.com, and the TireRack.com.

**About MPT**

Launched in 1969 and headquartered in Owings Mills, MD, Maryland Public Television is a nonprofit, state-licensed public television network and member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). MPT’s six transmitters cover Maryland plus portions of contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards, MPT creates local, regional, and national television shows. Beyond broadcast, MPT’s commitment to professional educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is manifest in its year-round instructional events and super-website *Thinkport* which garners in excess of 18 million page views annually.

**About RockAuto.com**

RockAuto.com was founded in Madison, WI, in 1999 by the Taylor family. Their engineering background, passion for old cars, and desire to liberate information hidden behind the auto parts store counter led the Taylors to start RockAuto.com. Today, the firm ships thousands of auto parts from more than 200 manufacturers to customers on every continent except Antarctica. The RockAuto.com catalog is updated daily with mechanical parts such as brake pads and shock absorbers, body parts such as bumpers and mirrors, interior trim such as door handles and carpets, and major assemblies such as steering gears, CV axles, engine long blocks, and complete transmissions. The RockAuto.com catalog is expanding constantly.

**About TireRack.com**

TireRack.com is the nation’s largest online consumer-direct retailer of replacement tires, aftermarket wheels, and performance accessories. The pioneering firm is family-owned and is headquartered in South Bend, Indiana. TireRack.com is also America’s premiere source for tire tests. Its team of more than 100 test drivers (its sales team) dynamically evaluates tires from every major tire manufacturer at the company’s state-of-the-art, 11.7-acre test facility. The findings are then posted on the company’s website, [www.tirerack.com](http://www.tirerack.com), where consumers can make an educated decision on a tire, wheel or performance accessory purchase.

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