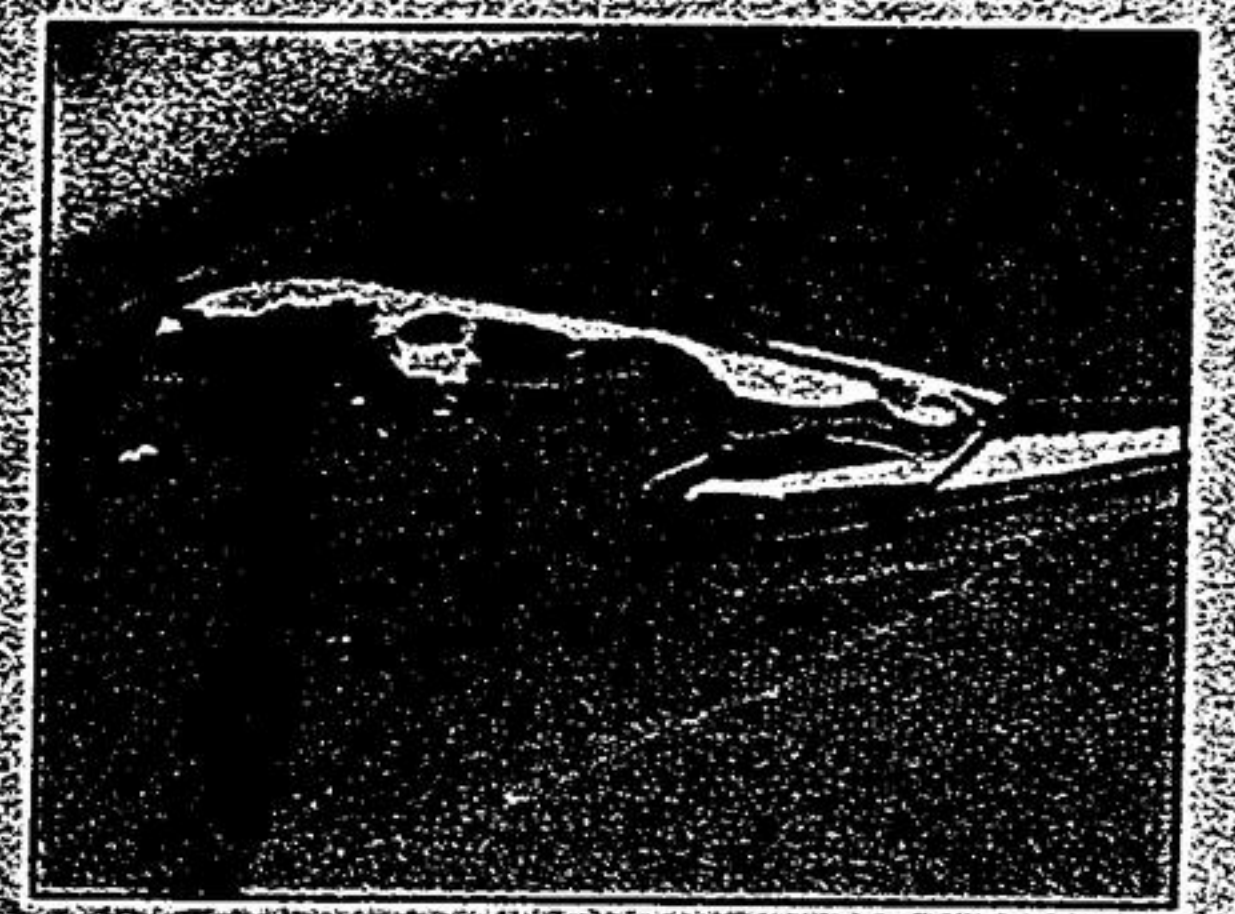


2003 S-Types feature a long list of upgrades



From page 22

Suspension (CATS)

Now enhanced for improved stability and comfort, particularly during cornering and braking maneuvers, CATS uses updated springs for increased roll stiffness and electronically controlled, two-stage adaptive dampers for ride refinement. CATS automatically switches the rear dampers slightly ahead of the front pair at low speed to reduce transient understeer for improved agility and turn-in performance. At high speed, the system automatically switches the front dampers ahead of the rear pair to increase understeer for improved stability.

"Oh no, this car is way too easy to speed in," my wife commented after finishing a grocery trip in record time. "And I felt a little funny parking it in front of the No-Frills store."

I wouldn't consider the S-Type R as being filled with "fills" but the car does come fully loaded with all the features you'd expect for its class. The car's luxurious, sports-style interior features a leather-trimmed R-Performance steering wheel and sports seats which are 16-way adjustable with memory on the driver's seat. The new look S-Type fascia and door caps are finished in gray birdseye maple veneers which complemented our tester's charcoal leather interior.

Nothing much to complain about in this sumptuous and comfortable cabin. Although I'd expect a slight uptick in instrumentation quality and at least a 6CD in-dash changer instead of the old trunk-mounted version. Nip-ticky, I know but at these prices, hey, customers are entitled.

Exterior design cues hinted at earlier include exclusive 18-inch "Zeus" alloy wheels with low-profile tires, Xenon

headlights and a bright-finish mesh front grille with color-keyed surround. Badging on the sides and rear carry the same distinctive red "R" logo that is featured on the nose cone of the latest Jaguar R3 Formula One race cars.

Those badges and what they signify make the S-Type R a rather unique and exclusive car.

So, I was surprised one day to see another car wearing those badges pull up right beside me. Two S-type Rs sitting side-by-side at a stoplight is a rare sight. You'd think we would've waved or nodded to each other. But instead the two Jaguars just sat there like two big cats that had accidentally stumbled into each other's territory and were now deigning to ignore each other lest there be trouble. When the light turned green, we roared off, each on our own separate way, owning the road, leaving the stoplight and lesser cars far, far behind.

Such power and panache. Rare beasts indeed.

Olden Days and Antique Cars

The Markham Village Business Improvement Area and Markham Main Street host the second annual Olden Days and Antique Cars festival, Sunday, September 7, 2003 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Chair of the festival, Keith Thirgood explains, "the transportation industry played a large part in the development of Markham. One of our earliest important companies was the Speight Wagon Works. We felt that a festival celebrating trans-

portation and olden-days values was just the ticket for Markham Village."

At the centre of the festival is its display of more than 150 antique and nostalgia vehicles, which will line the closed street. This year the committee is pleased to

announce that the Thunderbird Club of Ontario will be one of the main participating car clubs.

Entertainment will be provided on three stages featuring vintage rock and roll, Elvis (King Creole) and some great "croon-

ers". The Boy Scouts will be holding a Soap Box Derby on Robinson Street and the kids can create some great crafts with the Bead-Boys as in the previous years, there will be specially selected antique vendors showing their wares along with craft and food vendors.

Markville Ford continues to be the festival's major sponsor and will have its newest models for 2004 on display. The Markham Economist & Sun is the media sponsor and assistance has also been pro-

vided by local marketing agency, Capstone Communications.

The "Entrant's Choice" is the festival's major contest, awarding owners for the best vehicle in the following categories: pre-war, 1945 to 1959, 1960 to 1969, 1970 to 1980, and other vehicles.

As Thirgood says, "Markham Village has such a rich history that we wanted to celebrate our heritage with a tribute to its past."

For more information call: 905-472-2462

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