

January 2014

## CAR TALK

*Thanks to the members of our club who often provide me with interesting Corvette news to pass along. I appreciate your help and I know our fellow club members enjoy these morsels of knowledge and entertainment. JC*

For those of us who enjoy watching classic and muscle car auctions, this month is especially exciting. The king of the hill of auctions, Barrett-Jackson at Scottsdale, runs this week from Tuesday, January 14, through Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>, mostly on the ESPN channels. In addition, the Mecum Auction covers 10 days, from Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> through Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>, on NBCSN and Esquire Network (if you get those channels). Each auction is saying they will be sending 3000 cars across the blocks.

So get your pizzas ready, there's going to be a lot of couch time this month.

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### **BIG CORVETTE NEWS!**

On Monday, January 13, at 6:30 a.m., Chevrolet introduced the brand new 2015 Corvette Z06 at the Detroit Auto Show, and live on Chevrolet.com. Of course, the internet version is posted on Chevy's web site and available for viewing at any time.

The bright yellow Z06 they rolled out was stunning! Of course, building upon the awesome new Stingray, it had to be. Equipped with a supercharged 6.2 L V-8, the power output is staggering; 625 hp and 635 ft/lbs of torque. As our own Dick Malley pointed out, the current ZR1 is listed at 638 hp and 604 ft/lbs of torque. Test drivers say the new Z06 is the fastest production Corvette ever, and it will get even better before they start rolling down the assembly line late in 2014. In its very first session on a test track, the Z06 set new course records, running better times than even the ZR1.

I'm sure we'll be following it's developments closely throughout the year.

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Hank passed along a story posted in the LA Times. Seems Chevy has been busy with more than just the new Corvette. (Well, of course they have. We know they just won the honor of Best North American Truck of the Year.) At the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Chevrolet introduced the **Performance Data Recorder**. Billed as an industry first, the system

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seamlessly integrates into a seventh generation Corvette Stingray to record video and telemetry data for wherever you decide to drive it.

The system uses a 720p high-definition video camera that clips into the rear-view mirror housing inside the car and includes a microphone, so you can narrate your fantastic drive or capture the screams of a suddenly-unwilling passenger. The camera is synced with a dedicated GPS receiver that operates five times faster than a conventional navigation receiver for greater accuracy. This means drivers will be able to use the system to precisely track their path through turns and curves to find ways to shave off time. The component records all of the Corvette's telemetry and is hard-wired into the vehicle's network to also glean data such as engine speed, brake force and steering-wheel angle.

The GPS and video data are recorded on a Secure Digital card in the glove box. An eight-gigabyte card can record about 200 minutes of driving, Chevy claims. Drivers will also be able to replay the video on the Corvette's navigation screen when the car is in Park.

Sounds fantastic. So much fun. Just hope no one else has access to this compromising footage, such as the local law enforcement or, worse yet, your insurance company.

The Performance Data Recorder should be available in the fall. No pricing is yet available.

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We've come an awfully long way from the early automatic transmissions. Remember the old Chevy Powerglide? Two forward gears, only shifted once when you took off from the light. Then came the Turboglide; three gears, shouldn't need more than that, right? Then the muscle cars came along and we were so proud of our four-speeds, until the price of gasoline became an issue in the seventies. So they brought out the 5-speeds, where fifth gear was an overdrive gear to allow us better gas mileage. And, of course, if 5 are good, 6 must be better.

Well, hold onto your hats. It was recently announced that GM and Ford have partnered to share the cost of developing 9 and 10-speed transmissions. Of course they're talking about automatic transmissions; who would want to shift manually eight or nine times from one stop light?

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#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- The "New Car Smell" is composed of over 50 volatile organic compounds.
- It would take less than 6 months to get to the Moon by car if you drove non-stop at 60 mph.
- There are 1 Billion cars currently in use on planet Earth.

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- There is one car per person in the US (including babies).
  - Ferrari produces a maximum of 14 cars per day. Most manufacturers put out thousands of cars on a daily basis. As a case in point, Ford reaches an astronomical production rate of 8,000 to 10,000 each day.
  - One out of every four cars produced in the world comes from China.
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### **TRUE STORY OF THE MONTH**

Eric in Illinois says that he has a 2003 Ford Crown Victoria. (I know, that's his fault, right?) Anyway, he says it needed front upper control arms recently. "So I ordered both left and right upper control arms with bushings and ball joints, complete assemblies. I decided to do the work the following Saturday, since it was such a nice day. I took the front tires off the car, unbolted the struts, etc. I installed the left side first and then the right side. A few hours later the job was all done. I took her out for a spin and noticed that she pulled to the left something fierce. I came back home and performed some inspection around the front tires. That's when I noticed that the left side tire was sticking out more than the one on the right. Weird.

"I didn't know why that was happening, since the steering wheel was straight. I got to looking at the old upper control arms that I had removed and that's when I noticed a dirty little "L" mark on one of them. Right away a thought hit me. I pulled off the left front tire and sure enough, there was an "R" on the new control arm. I had reversed the dumb things! So, yeah. Now I had the pleasure of doing the job all over again."