

July 2012

## CAR TALK

### **REGULATORY NEWS:**

So, did you spend time with your favorite car yesterday? Thanks, at least in part, to the efforts of our friends at SEMA, Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, was officially declared by the U.S. Senate to be Collector Car Appreciation Day. Did you notice an unusual number of hot rods and classic cars on the roads yesterday? I hope so.

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After months of negotiations and fussing back and forth, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have finally agreed on a \$120 billion package to fund highway construction and other transportation projects for the next two years. This spending is financed by the current \$0.184 per gallon gas tax and the \$0.244 per gallon diesel tax, along with \$19 billion in general Treasury funds.

The new law also funds state programs to reduce distracted and impaired driving and increase seat belt use. And it increases the civil penalties for defective or noncompliant vehicles and equipment. Fortunately, lawmakers did drop some of the more onerous provisions that were objected to by SEMA and the automakers, such as mandatory installation of event data recorders.

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### **CORVETTE NEWS:**

Most of you are familiar with, or have at least heard about, Callaway Corvettes. Callaway has been offering their improved-performance versions of the Corvette for 25 years now. Not only do they look fantastic, but Callaway Corvette models are well-known for their finish quality and awesome performance. Callaway is somewhat unique in the marketplace of modified Corvettes in that they enjoy a close relationship with Chevrolet. When you purchase a new Callaway Corvette, you get a 3-year/36,000 mile warranty, as well as an optional 5-year/100,000 powertrain service contract. Oh, and you buy them through selected Chevrolet dealerships, rather than from a shop in an industrial complex somewhere.

They are great looking cars, they handle exceptionally well and, yeah, they're kind of powerful. For example, their top dog, a 427-equipped Z06-based Coupe, currently develops 652 horsepower and 620 lb-ft of torque and gets you from 0 to 60 mph in 3.3 seconds. They're not just warmed-over stock Corvettes, they are loaded with unique, high-quality components inside and out.

Ok, so if you've ever thought of grabbing one of these special models, this might be the perfect time. Callaway is celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary by building a

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25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Limited Edition Corvette, which happens to be the most powerful LS3-based Callaway Corvette ever produced. It puts out 620 horsepower and 555 lb-ft of torque. GM worked so closely with Callaway on this project that they even supplied special parts and procedures at the Bowling Green assembly line to facilitate the final assembly at Callaway's California and Connecticut factories.

But, don't think too long.....they're only building 25 of these special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary models. If interested, go to [callawaycars.com](http://callawaycars.com) to get more details.

Oh, and the only dealership in California, currently, that sells the Callaway cars is Selman Chevrolet in Santa Ana; though I wouldn't be too surprised if Penske gets added to that very short list.

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2013 Indianapolis 500

Did you hear that for the 11<sup>th</sup> time in the history of the Great Race, a Corvette will serve as the Official Pace Car? It'll be a beautiful 2013 638-horsepower ZR1 in the special 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Package with the optional racing stripes.

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For the first time ever, the Corvette is now being sold in South Korea. The signing of a free-trade agreement between the U.S. and South Korea in 2011 has opened the door to this new market. So the Corvette is now the ninth Chevrolet model being introduced into Korea. By the way, the base model goes on sale there for a mere 86.4 million won (\$75,000).

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To Put Things in Perspective---

There's been a lot of talk about how Corvette sales have lagged lately, with just under 13,000 units sold in 2010. But here's something to consider: in the fiscal year ending July, 2010, Porsche sold just 14,000 sports cars worldwide, and most of those were the less-expensive Boxster and Cayman models. The 911 model, the car that is more of a Corvette competitor, sold only 6,255 units. So, it would seem that Corvette's reputation is doing just fine.

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## **OTHER CHEVROLET NEWS:**

Finally, Chevrolet is going to get back into the V-8 powered, rear-wheel drive, full-size performance sedan market. In late 2013, they should be introducing a new Chevrolet as a 2014 model using the ever-popular model name Super Sport. It will be built in Australia by GM's Holden company, but built for the U.S. No pricing or firm performance information has been made available, as far as I know, but it will be a performance car and should compete against other American models such as the Chrysler 300C, the Dodge Charger Hemi and the

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Ford Taurus SHO. It's also the new platform for the Chevrolet teams competing in the NASCAR Sprint Cup series and will probably be used in the 2013 season, replacing the Impala.

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### **STORIES TO LEARN FROM:**

Bryon in Illinois states that he is the proud owner of two GTO's, and 1965 and a 2004. "The front brake lines on the '65 GTO were rusted through so I needed to replace them before the car show season started. My '65 is always in the garage and my '04 sits outside as my daily driver. To change the front brake lines I had to run my car up onto ramps to get enough clearance to disconnect and re-route them. I got all the brake lines disconnected, but there was one connection that I couldn't reach from below so I slid out from underneath the car and tried to reach it from above. With the car on the ramps it was too high in the air and I couldn't reach it, so instantly I decided to just back the '65 off the ramps to finish the job.

"I started the car and backed it slowly off the ramps, but I forgot two important things in my mad dash to complete the brake line job: (1) I forgot that I had disconnected the brake lines under the car and (2) My beautiful '04 GTO was sitting outside the garage right behind the '65.

"My frantic blunder started when I tried to put on the brakes to slow the car and the pedal went to the floor. My other blunder was that I couldn't manage to hit the emergency brake or shut off the engine prior to backing into the front of my '04. With the wheels of the '65 spinning on the gravel in the driveway (since it was still in reverse with the engine running) it managed to push itself up and over the hood of my '04. I probably wouldn't have had as much damage to the '04, but the '65 has air shocks in the rear that were pumped up to maximum height. The only saving grace was that the '65 only received some minor scratches under the rear bumper. Oh yeah, I had just gotten it home from the body shop one week before this brilliant incident."