

# CAR TALK

## **CORVETTE NEWS:**

First of all I just have to mention how amazing it is that there are so many aftermarket upgrades available for the C7 Corvette already. All kinds of body treatments and interiors items are out there for you to personalize your new Stingray. And if you happen to get bored with the already awesome performance of the car, there are numerous upgrades available to boost the power a bit more. So, we're already seeing some people get very creative with their new Vettes, making theirs just a little bit different.

## **C7 Z06 Performance numbers; are they real?**

Hopefully you know by now that people sometimes use data to tell whatever story they care to. Even test data is often fudged a bit. So, here's an interesting article; you may have seen this in the April edition of Corvette Magazine.

Reports were circulating of dyno test results showing the new Z06 putting out 580 rear wheel horsepower. If you assume the normal 15 percent loss of power between the engine and the rear wheels, that would mean the LT4 engine was making about 680 hp. Now Chevrolet has advertised the new Z06 makes at least 650 horsepower, and manufacturers typically don't understate the good stuff about their cars. So, Corvette Magazine and others were skeptical of these readings.

And then one of their editors had the chance to stand by and watch the dyno testing of a customer's new Z06 on a well-known and trustworthy Dynojet dynamometer down in Florida. The results showed an honest 568 hp and 567 lb-ft of torque at the rear wheels, or 668 hp and 667 lbs of torque at the flywheel. And this was just after the owner had driven the brand new car from the Corvette Museum, where he picked it up, to the shop in Florida - a 14-hour drive. Not bad, eh? Oh, and when they tried the old trick of lying bags of ice on the supercharger to cool the intake before running it again, the numbers came up to 590 hp and 589 lbs of torque, which converts to just a hair under 700 hp and torque.

## 2016 CTS-V

By the way. Next year's redesigned Cadillac CTS-V is going to be lighter than the current model and will be powered by.....are you ready? The LT4 Corvette Z06 engine, slightly detuned to a mere 640 hp. Its 0-60 time is significantly quicker than the BMW M5 and equal to the Mercedes-Benz E63 AMG, which I believe is a whole lot more expensive. They claim it will be a true 200 mph car with luxury. (Wonder if Cheryl's ready to trade in our 2008 model.....)

## What to stock up on?

The owner of a 2006 Z06 is in love with his car and wants to keep it virtually for the rest of his life. He's heard about how certain parts for 4<sup>th</sup> generation Corvettes have become almost impossible to find, should you need one. So he asked a Corvette expert what parts for his car he should maybe purchase now to make sure he'd have one if he needed it down the road. I got a kick out of the response.

"Well, Dude, if I could predict that, I would not advise you to stock up on Corvette parts that will eventually be discontinued. Instead, I would tell you all the correct stocks to buy and Lotto numbers to play, and with the trillions of dollars you'd make, you could buy GM and all of its suppliers and see to it that no Corvette parts ever go out of production. However, lacking such foresight, I will instead offer an alternate suggestion: if you have money to burn, go ahead and buy one or two of every module and sensor in the car. You can always sell your inventory later on if it turns out that you didn't need the parts, and probably make some money that way."

## DashLogic

Here's a very intriguing new product that was introduced at the 2013 SEMA Show. In fact, it won the award for the Best New Interior Accessory Product at that show. Palmer Performance now offers a little device they call the DashLogic. It's a small module that plugs into the OBD II port of a C6 Corvette and allows you to view your performance numbers without a smartphone. Once you plug it in, the information is instantly displayed on your HUD (Heads Up Display) or DIC (Driver Information Center). Users can view boost/vacuum pressure; intake temperature; calculated horsepower and torque; 0-60 times; 1/8-mile, 1/4-mile, 1/2-mile and standing 1-mile times; and much more. They say the DashLogic even includes two auxiliary inputs to add up to two aftermarket sensors for additional data that can also be viewed on the vehicle's HUD or DIC. Data views are customizable and multiple pages of gauges can be cycled through on the fly, alerts can be

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configured to custom-specified conditions using factory vehicle chimes and displays and custom calculations can be created from existing vehicle data. When the DashLogic is removed, the vehicle reverts 100 percent to the original settings.

(palmerperformance.com or call at 801-709-6300)

## **2015 NCM Bash          April 23-25, 2015**

I know it's getting late, but if you have the time and inclination to attend this year's Museum Bash, you need to get your registration in soon. (I've never made it, but I'd love to someday.)

This year's event will give Corvette enthusiasts the chance to see the new 2016 Corvette Stingray up close as well as getting first hand all the latest information about the C7. There's lots of seminars that will cover great info on the chassis, powertrain, interior, design and electronics. As always, there will be a large contingent of GM engineers and designers from the Warren Tech Center, the Milford Proving Ground and the Bowling Green Assembly Plant available to answer your every question. You'll also be hanging around with C4/C5/C6 specialists and professional Corvette racing drivers.

You have the opportunity to take part in several high performance driving events, join in on road tours to historic locations (such as the Belle Meade Plantation and the Shaker Tavern), play golf with members of the Corvette race team, drive around the new Museum race track or sit in on a Museum fashion show. The seminars they have planned give you a chance to hear experts shower you with tons of information and advice you just could not find anywhere else; including "How to Properly Insure your Corvette", "Using 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Navigation", "How to work on and maintain YOUR Corvette", "Personal Security and Safety", "Skydome and Sinkhole Repair Update", "Running Nurburgring", "The KING of all Corvettes" and "Corvette Update and Walk Around". And there's even a celebrity car show.

More information and registration is available at [www.corvettemuseum.org](http://www.corvettemuseum.org).

## 9 Tips for the Best Road Trip Ever

Ever take a trip and just feel like you probably didn't plan it well enough? Ever feel like you probably by-passed a lot of neat stuff? Well here's some hints to help you make the most of your next trip. Hopefully you'll have a little extra time to enjoy it fully.

1. Start with an interesting car. The right car becomes like a companion on your adventure. It can get you into conversations, maybe out of tickets, and give you much better photo opportunities than a rental Kia.
2. Use a road trip as a chance to learn more about how the world works. Like maybe taking a Z06 or ZR1 to the Petroleum Museum in Midland, Texas, to show it where its food is made.
3. Speaking of food, make sure to sample the local delicacies, whether that's stopping at a popular small-town diner or purchasing the hand-labeled beef jerky in a mini-mart.
4. Find a good road. You can pull out the paper maps and look for two-lane highways that run near the interstates (if it goes through a mountain range or state park, so much the better). If you want more assurances before you start driving, go online and search for "good driving roads" along your route.
5. Bring your favorite tools with you. The drive is more fun if you're not stuck on the side of the road.
6. Watch for roadblocks. Coming around a bend and finding a couple cows in the middle of the road can send shivers down your spine. Cows are completely unimpressed by the sound of a V8 exhaust note.
7. Stop often. The worst thing that happens is you maybe waste a few minutes. On the other hand, you might find a hidden race museum or a Route 66 motel straight out of the *Cars* movie; or maybe some weird piece of art like the world's largest ball of twine.
8. Talk to strangers. Let your car act as an icebreaker and you'll hear all kinds of great stories. You might even pick up some good tips on what route to take next.
9. Know your limits.....and that of your car. Don't wait until you see the "low fuel" lamp on your dashboard, only to find that road sign up ahead says "next gas 60 miles".