

CAR TALK

CAR SHOWS:

One of our favorite Corvette-related car shows in Southern California is coming up next Sunday, May 18, in San Diego. It is the Plastic Fantastic All Corvette Car Show. More than 300 Corvettes are expected to be on display at this show, which is billed as the largest and oldest all-Corvette show in the Southwest. It's held at Seaport Village. For information, go to the website for the North County Corvette Club, ncocc.com.

CORVETTE NEWS:

Most car companies like to brag whenever they win some type of automotive award, of course hoping that it will result in increased sales. Chevrolet has certainly won more than its share of awards over the years, and a good number of those have been for Corvettes. This year, the 2014 Corvette Stingray has become the industry's most awarded car of the year. The Stingray has even earned the coveted title of 2014 North American Car of the Year.

In case you're not familiar with what that means, the North American Car of the Year is voted on by 48 automotive journalists from the United States and Canada and recognizes the most outstanding vehicles of the year based on factors including innovation, design, safety, handling, driver satisfaction and value for the dollar. The 2014 Stingray beat out every other 2014 vehicle to earn that title.

Some of the titles the 2014 Corvette Stingray has been awarded include:

AUTOMOBILE Magazine's 2014 Automobile of the Year,

Car and Driver Magazine put it on its annual 10 Best list,

Road and Track Magazine named Stingray its Performance Car of the Year,

It is Yahoo!'s 2014 Yahoo Autos Car of the Year,

Autoweek Magazine's Best of the Best top new car,

Popular Mechanics Magazine's 2014 Auto Excellence Award,

Esquire Magazine called the Stingray reveal the Automotive Event of the Year,

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Kelly Blue Book's Best Resale Value Top Ten List,

Kelly Blue Book's Best Resale Value for a High Performance Car,

The Motor Press Guild's Innovation Vehicle of the Year (over \$29,000),

Automotive Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC)'s Best New Sports/Performance Car

AutoGuide.com's 2014 Reader's Choice Car of the Year,

The Detroit Free Press's 2014 Car of the Year, and

Bloomberg News 2014 Car of the Year.

Plus at least 6 other awards that I don't have listed here. How's that for a car that's been in production for over 60 years?!

AUTOMOTIVE TRIVIA:

The Ford Mustang was originally going to be called the Ford Torino when it was launched in mid-1964. Why was the name switched from Torino to Mustang?

- A. Ford discovered that in Quebec, Torino was ubiquitously used in place of "baby strollers", much like the brand name "Kleenex" in place of facial tissue.
- B. Henry Ford II was about to leave his wife for an Italian woman. Ford executives did not want people to think the Torino car was named after Ford II's Italian sweetheart.
- C. "Torino" was a trademark owned by Studebaker. Ford did not acquire the right to use the Torino name until 1968.

The answer to the trivia question is B.

WHAT NOT TO DO.....STORY:

Trent in Louisiana warns us to "Always Be Aware of Your Surroundings".

"When prying a seized flywheel off an engine, try to remember not to launch the flywheel at your head with the prybar, or you will have three scars to explain for a while:

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1. The one where the flywheel jumps off the motor and hits you square on the bridge of the nose.
2. The one where you instinctively throw your head back and slam the back of your skull into the frame rail.
3. The one where you instinctively jump forward from THAT and slam your forehead into the bell housing.

"Luckily, I must have blacked out for a bit, or I think that chain reaction would have been self-sustaining, possibly forever."