



## February 2013

### The View from the Top.

#### February 2013

We are currently locked into the coldest part of the winter here in West Michigan. Temps have struggled to hit 20 degrees the last couple of weeks. Not what you would call ideal Camaro weather. But, being Michiganders, there is no lack in automotive related activities. This past week was the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. It's probably one of the most important annual events of the year, from the automotive industry's perspective. I have always felt fortunate to live close enough to Detroit (but not too close) to be able to attend this show every year, which I've been doing for many years. This year's show was great, one of the best in recent years.

#### WMCC February Club Meeting Sunday February 3rd, 2013

For our February meeting we will be meeting at TGI Friday's in Kalamazoo. TGI Friday's is located right off of US131 on West Main St. (M-43). Take exit 38A off of US131. TGI's is on the north side of the road right between US131 and the Marathon Station. If you get to target you went to far, If you get to Meijer you went the wrong way.

**What: WMCC February Meeting**

**Where: TGI Friday's  
5650 West Main Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(616) 349-6010**

**When: February 3rd, 2013 @ 1:00 PM**

Hope to see you all there!

#### WMCC March Club Meeting Sunday March 3rd, 2013

For our March meeting we will be meeting at Brann's in Caledonia, MI. Brann's is located on the

corner of M37 & 100th ST SE in Caledonia.

At the March meeting we will be having our annual Model Camro show. So bring the Camaro models and collectables.

**What: WMCC March Meeting**

**Where: Brann's  
6450 100th St SE  
Caledonia, MI 49316  
(616) 891-6055**

**When: March 3rd, 2013 @ 1:00 PM**

So mark your calendar and Please plan to attend.

#### Membership Dues

This is just a friendly reminder.

Yearly membership dues are due, for most members, in January. If you joined the Club *before* July of 2012, your dues are now due.

It's \$30 for a single membership and \$45 for a couple.

Dues may be paid at a club meeting or mailed to the WMCC Membership coordinator Shelley Crippin.

Please make checks payable to:  
**"Western Michigan Camaro Club".**

Mailing address:  
WMCC Membership  
C/O Shelley Crippin  
56138 Wilbur Road  
Three Rivers, MI 49093



Doug Warren, WMCC Founder  
1953-2010  
You will never be forgotten

## The latest from Berger Chevrolet

WMCC,

I hope everyone had a happy and safe New Years. Here's a quick update on the Berger 1LE Camaro. The car is completed and in photography in Detroit. The pictures and other marketing pieces need to be put together and we'll include the club in the media release. One of the best parts of this car is a starting price of \$39,985 for the 1SS version. It will be offered as a base appearance package with several upgrades available. The prototype is red and very similar to the SEMA concept version. The 1LE already comes with the close-ratio gearbox and a 3.91 final drive. That combination really wakes up the LS3 engine. Our goal on this one was to make the car look as cool as it runs at a more affordable price than the ZL1. I think you will like it.

We have some other cool stuff in stock and in the pipeline. Hot Wheels cars are coming along with a couple of ZL1 coupes. The first ZL1 is a Blue Ray Metallic paddle shift automatic with sunroof and exposed



carbon fiber hood insert. The second is a Victory Red 6-speed with the exposed carbon fiber hood insert and sunroof. If you haven't seen the 1LE version of the SS Camaro we have an Inferno Orange Metallic 2SS model in stock with Ebony leather. The IOM car looks great with the Matte Black hood and black ZL1 wheels. We have also received an extra allocation of our most popular models the LS automatic and the 2LT coupes and convertibles. There are several winning combinations in stock.

For the Corvette fans out there we just received a Torch Red 427 convertible with the chrome 20 spoke ZR1 Wheels. Red brake calipers and Ebony leather are also included with a black convertible roof. For those looking for the ultimate track car, we just received our last ZR1 Corvette. The car is Velocity Yellow Tintcoat. The interior is Ebony leather with matching yellow custom seat and interior stitching. It also has matching yellow brake calipers and Satin Black (sorry Doug) cup style wheels with PS2 Michelins. It looks very similar to the ALMS version only cooler and more powerful.

We also have around 700 new Chevrolet Cars and Trucks in stock at the current time for those in the market for something other than a new Camaro. If they make it, there's a good chance we have it in stock. If you have any questions please e-mail Dick Jacques at [djacques@bergerchevy.com](mailto:djacques@bergerchevy.com) or call him at (616) 293-1850.

The Grand Rapids Auto Show is coming at the end of the month and we should have some great cars and trucks on display.

Hope to see you soon,  
Matt Berger

## Special Autocross offer from the Furrin Group.

*"Below is an Email I received from Curt"*

In 2012, John Smith donated over 100 cones to my club, The Furrin Group. To show our appreciation for the donation, I would like to offer a free pass to any WMCC member that comes to an autocross in 2013 (up to at least 10 passes total, maybe more :-). You just have to show up with your Camaro and say you are with the WMCC. I will let our registration team know. It would be beneficial if your members could preregister if they are going to be at an event. I can't guarantee them entry otherwise.

I've told John that he can already have free autocross for the donation, so he doesn't count :-).

Please pass this along to your group. We'd love to see them out.

Curt Rosenstengel  
Furrin Group Speed Coordinator

## OFFICIAL Club Merchandise.

The Zazzle store with official club Merchandise is now open. We store currently has both of the Berger Club Photos, Mouse Pads, Key chains, Frosted Beer mugs, Coffee mugs, drink coaster and more items being added all the time.



The web address for the store is....

[www.zazzle.com/wmcamaro\\*](http://www.zazzle.com/wmcamaro*)



## How do you get your winter "Car Fix"?

*By Greg Gornick*

Living in the "Winter Wonderland" called Michigan many of us might be staring out the window looking at the fresh 8" of snow lying in your driveway and longing for time with your Camaro again. Many car enthusiasts will get their winter dose of "Car Fix" by grabbing the latest issue of Motor Trend, Hot Rod or GM High Tech Performance. Some will attend car events like the Chevy Vette Fest, a swap meet or the Detroit Auto Show. While others spend the winter in the garage tearing their pride and joy apart building it up even better for next summer. I have found a different way to get my winter car fix that many may have not heard of before. What is it?? ..... How about a little background first...

Many of my close friends know I have been racing Radio Controlled Off Road trucks and buggies for over 15 yrs now, both electric and nitro powered. In Grandville there is indoor clay dirt off road track with bumps and jumps to challenge your driving ability. But in Wyoming there is an indoor carpet road course track called Rapid Competition Raceway. It is located on 28th St. in the Roger's Plaza shopping building. It has been there for 5 yrs and occupies the former Kay Bee toy store so it is nice and comfy for racing on a cold wintry Michigan Saturday.

For years I have seen guys race on-road "touring cars" both on asphalt during the summer and on special carpet indoors during the winter months. But these unrecognizable "bubble shaped" sedans never appealed to me as I like a little more realism in my R/C hobby. Then last winter a couple of my racing friends introduced me to a new on road class called VTA Racing which stands for Vintage Trans Am Racing. Yes, just like when Smokey Yunick, Sam Posey, Parnelli Jones or Mark Donohue were swapping paint on the track racing pony cars back in the late '60s ..... just in 1/10th scale size.

What really appeals to me (and many others

## Food Drive

Our son, Jordan Donker, is a senior at Thornapple Kellogg High School this year. He is currently involved in a service project regarding a food bank located in Caledonia, MI. He is conducting a food drive to try and get some food donations for the food bank. We would love it anyone who wanted to contribute any canned or non perishable items. If you would like to donated please bring the items with you to the meeting on February 3rd. They will be doing a food distribution on February 4th so the timing would be great.

Thank You

Bob & Kelly Donker

across the country) is the scale realism this class has brought to R/C racing by requiring "Vintage" bodies to be used. For example the allowable bodies are only ones used during actual Trans Am Racing like the '68 and '69 Camaro, '70 Dodge Challenger, '70 AAR Plymouth Hemi 'Cuda, various '65-'70 Mustangs and the 1971 AMC J71 Javelin. The wheels are replicas of the famous 5 spoke Crager wheels or the 8 spoke wheels like found on Doug's '74. The tires are a retro look with a familiar "S" shaped tread like a Mickey Thompson Sportsman tire and are also staggered in size with narrow front and wide rear tires to help keep the T/A look accurate. Official USVTA races even require round numbers on the doors, hood and trunk along with a driver figure mounted in the car to further increase the feel of recreating the classic Trans Am series racing.



The VTA class is a spec class where only one motor, specific speed control, battery and tires are allowed to keep costs down and the racing very close. The speeds are reasonable for newcomers to control without breaking too many parts while learning to drive the course, yet fast enough to keep the interest of veteran drivers with top speeds of about 25mph. Just like real racing, VTA R/C racing is often very close looking like a train of cars following each other nose to tail just waiting for one little mistake from the lead driver before his competitors takes over the lead.



Just 2 weeks ago my buddy Jim and I were racing in the 8 minute VTA A-Main which I knew would be close as we swapped the lead several times in each qualifying round earlier that day. Jim qualified 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and I was starting up front as the Top Qualifier for the day. When the starting tone sounded we took off running nose to tail lap after lap with me leading him buy just 1.2 sec. after 5minutes of the 8 minute race. At the 5 min mark I got tangled up in lapped traffic allowing Jim to takeover the lead with a gap of 1.5 seconds over my Rally Green and White '69 Z28 Camaro now in second place. His car was a little faster on the straightaway as he chose a taller gear ratio so I had my work cut out for me if I was going to catch his Plumb Crazy Purple '70 Dodge Challenger.



Another minute of close no mistakes racing goes by and I narrow the gap slightly to 1.2 sec but it won't be enough to catch him when I'm running only .1 sec faster per lap ..... < sigh > ..... With only 2 minutes left and lapped traffic approaching again time is not on my side I mutter to myself on the drivers stand. We both make it cleanly through the lappers with the race director announcing "*One Minute Left with Jim leading Greg by 1.0 sec*" at the 7 minute mark in the race This does not seem like much but 1 sec is about 3 corners back on the fast flowing road course we race on.

With only one minute left I quickly calculate there is only time for 5 more laps before the race is over and I mentally almost give up on my chances of winning ..... Until I notice that Jim's car is rapidly slowing a little each lap and I'm starting to reel his car in. *Hmm...* I talk to myself saying "*what is going on with Jim?*" ..... the light bulb goes on and I figured it out,

"Ah, Jim has over geared his car and his motor is getting too hot! Maybe I can just catch him on the last lap". My heart pulse rises as the Race Director announces the gap between Jim's car and mine after each lap ".8 seconds, .5 seconds, .3 seconds, .1 second separates 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place!"



The other racers in the pits all take notice of our race as they hear the announcer calling out the progress of each lap. There are hints of chatter and cheering from the pits for both Dodge and Chevy as I pull right up to Jim's rear bumper on the last lap with only 3 corners to go before the finish line. My hands are shaking on the radio controller as I look for a place to make a clean pass but time is almost out. With 2 turns left to go I stick the nose of my Camaro inside of Jim's Challenger but there is not enough room so I hit the brakes as we roll through the corner with only 2"-3" separating our bumpers. A resounding "Woah" is chanted by the spectators watching as they knew it was going to get ugly if we made contact in the middle of the corner.

As the last 180 degree corner approaches the Director announces "It's going to come down to a photo finish!" Determined to not get passed, Jim drives his Challenger wide to get a good angle to the apex of the corner and protects his line. I cut to the inside of the corner with my Camaro to try a



crossover move knowing this is my last chance as we enter the final straightaway.

Another "Ooh!" is gasped from the spectators as we both make the corner without any contact between our cars that are separated by less than one inch! Jim and I both grab full throttle with his car almost a length ahead of mine as he had the better line coming out of the last corner. The adrenalin is flowing for both of us after 8 min of close racing, my hand is shaking on the steering wheel control as we guide our cars toward the finish now just 50' away. We both try to hold our line on the back stretch but we rub fenders twice as my Camaro is gaining on Jim's Challenger. I hear the spectators cheering for us as we cross the finish line with the Challenger beating my Camaro by only a fender length!

Jim and I both take a deep breath and turn to each other with a grin on our faces silent from the amazement for what just happened at the finish line. We pick up our "toy cars" and walk back to the pits greeted by accolades from the spectators who remark on how much fun it was for them to watch such a close racing finish. Jim quickly grabs the race results from the printer, cracks a smile while pointing his finger to his name at the top proving to me that he indeed did win that race. I grab the race results (and in an attempt to regain my pride) I point out I had the fastest lap of the day by going 2 tenths of a second faster than he did. After a moment of silence we both burst or laughing and exchange a high five while already thinking of how we are going to change our car setups trying to be just a tenth or two faster in next weeks race.



On my drive home from the track, with my adrenalin levels back to normal, I think about just what happed in the race today. Basically after 8 minutes of racing, 39 laps and navigating our

“Race Cars” cleanly through 351 corners our cars are separated by a difference of only 3 inches!! Whew! Now that is close racing and is how I get my winter “**Car Fix**” on!! J

I have also started racing this winter the USGT class which is similar to VTA racing but uses a slightly faster motor and more modern realistic GT style of racing bodies like a Lamborghini, Porsche, Audi, BMW etc.



I'm currently racing a BMW M3 GT2 and a Porches 911 Turbo on our USGT class which is just as competitive as the VTA class, just with a little more acceleration out of the corners and a top speed of about 30 mph. In the VTA class I have been racing a '70 Dodge Challenger along with my '69 Z28 Camaro and having a blast each

Saturday racing against my friends.



## 2013 Events Calendar

*(\*denotes Official WMCC Event)*

### WMCC Monthly Membership Meetings:

- \*~~Jan 6, 2013 January WMCC Meeting – Quaker Steak & Lube, Grand Rapids, MI~~
- \*Feb 3, 2013 February WMCC Meeting ~ TGI Fridays, Kalamazoo, MI See Newsletter for Details
- \*Mar 3, 2013 March WMCC Meeting ~ Branns, Caledonia, MI
- \*Apr 7, 2013 April WMCC Meeting ~ TBD
- \*May 5, 2013 May WMCC Meeting ~ Mendon Dustoff Carshow Mendon, MI
- \*May 25, 2013 June WMCC Meeting ~ Lane Automotive Show, Watervliet, MI
- \*Jul 7, 2013 July WMCC Meeting ~ TBD
- \*Aug 4, 2013 August WMCC Meeting ~ TBD
- \*Aug 25, 2013 SEPTEMBER WMCC Meeting ~ TBD
- \*Oct 6, 2013 October WMCC Meeting ~ TBD
- \*Nov 3, 2013 November WMCC Meeting ~ TBD
- \*Dec 7, 2013 WMCC Annual Christmas Party/Club Meeting - TBD

### All Camaro (& F-Body)/ All Chevrolet Events:

- \*Aug 23-24, 2013 14th Annual Berger Chevrolet “All Chevy Show” - Grand Rapids, MI

### Other Automotive Events of Interest:

- \*May 5, 2013 50th Annual Dust Off @ Mendon High School, Mendon, MI 269-273-3535
- \*May 25, 2013 25th Annual Lane Automotive Car Show (Free!!!!), Watervliet, MI
- \*Jun 30, 2013 3rd Annual Summer Classic Carshow, Light & Life Wesleyan Church 3 Rivers, MI www.llwclive.com
- \*Jul 6, 2013 6th Annual Adam Shafer Memorial Car Show – Lawton High School, Lawton, M

### Cruise Nights

## January 2013 WMCC Meeting Notes

January 6, 2013

Quaker Steak and Lube in Grand Rapids, MI

**Present:** Teresa and Carl Lins, Angie and Dave Kemp, Shelley and Gary Crippin, Gay and Dave Verburg, Christi and John Falkenhagen, Cheryl and John Smith, Ronnie and Dennis Mykols, Ann Kohler, Ken and Mary Swick, Bob and Kelly Donker, Jeff Hahler, Bill Nies, Skip Balzeski, Roberta and Leo McNamara, Ron Kooienga, Angela and Dale Rogers, Kathy and Steve O., Doug Vandermeer

**Thank you to Carl and Teresa Lins:** Everyone thanked Carl and Teresa for the Christmas Party, lots of fun.

**Next Meeting:** Off exit 38 in Kalamazoo at TGIF's. We will have Berger flyers ready to distribute. John F. and Carl will be running the Berger Show this year.

**Six Gen Camaro Built in Lansing:** Gary stated it is going to be significantly smaller.

**Club Picture:** The picture is online and available for ordering. Gary will send out the link [Zazzle.com/wm Camaro](http://Zazzle.com/wm Camaro)

**March Meeting:** John talked about Mike Moran at Brann's in Caledonia and they would like us to come there for the March meeting. The meeting will be on Sunday and we will be doing model car show.

**April Meeting:** We will think about it and decide at the next meeting. John Smith reminded everyone last year we did a bowling and meeting in Ionia last year and possible we could do that on Saturday.

**Detroit Auto Show:** The show is January 19-27<sup>th</sup> this year and Gary asked if anyone is interested in going. Some expressed interest and Gary stated he talked with Carl about going and they were thinking about going on Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> and if anyone would like to go let him know.

**New Members:** New member Jeff stated he has a 79 Camaro and this is his second car and is married and has one daughter. Bill from Holland 96 Z-28 white and he has a son in Grandville. Ron has a 2011 SS and stated he is married.

**Newsletters:** If anyone see's any articles please forward them to Gary. If you have pictures, please send them and he will get those done. Gary apologized for not getting Christi's pictures in and asked she forward them again and he will get those in next time.

**Car Craft Magazine:** John shared this month they had a real nice story on the Copo Camaro that is being built.

Gary adjourned the meeting.



**Don't Miss the Next  
WMCC Meeting Sunday February 3rd, 2013  
at Brann's @ 1:00pm  
in Caledonia, MI.  
See Newsletter for Details.**

### **The Western Michigan Camaro Club**

Is dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation and promotion of the Chevrolet Camaro as the premier four passenger sports car ever. The club was formed in 1975.

### **Meetings**

The WMCC holds monthly membership meetings on the first Sunday of each month. Times and location vary, so see the Newsletter or check the club's web site at [www.wmcamaro.org](http://www.wmcamaro.org) for specific times and locations, or call one of the officers.

### **WMCC Officers**

President: Gary Crippin 269.273.5051  
Co-Vice President: Carl Lins 269.795.7878  
Co-Vice President: John Falkenhagen 269.795.7612  
Secretary: Bonnie Edwards 517.765.9929  
Treasurer: Anita Warren 616.531.7482  
Membership: Shelley Crippin 269.273.5051  
Webmaster: Gary Crippin 269.273.5051  
Newsletter Editor: Gary Crippin 269.273.5051  
Club Archivist  
& Photographer: Ray Cochran 616.403.3941

### **Club Sponsor**

**Berger Chevrolet ~ BERGERCHEVY.COM**

### **Website**

[www.wmcamaro.org](http://www.wmcamaro.org)

Watch [www.mifbody.com](http://www.mifbody.com) for the latest info on upcoming **WMCC** events.

### **Camaro Corner**



**56138 Wilbur Road  
Three Rivers, MI 49093**