



## **February 2014**

### **The View from the Top.**

#### **February 2014**

Well, here we are in January of 2014. It's mid-winter here in Michigan and we've just gone through several days of single digit temps with well below zero wind chill temps. We've set several records around the area for snow fall and Spring seems like a long way off. Most of us have our Camaros stored away for the winter and are starting to get a strong "need for speed" feeling. Well, I can't do anything about the weather, but I can tell you we have a little something different planned to help us get through those winter blues.....

#### **WMCC February Club Meeting** **Saturday February 1, 2014**

For our February meeting we will be meeting at Midvilla Lanes in Middleville, MI. We will be doing a little bowling, and maybe even visit the Micro Brew pub. This should be a fun time, Can't think of a better way to spend a Saturday afternoon, then with good friends.

***What: WMCC February Meeting***

***Where: Midvilla Lanes***

***4611 N.ARLINGTON***

***MIDDLEVILLE MI 49333***

***269-795-3640***

***When: February 1, 2014 @ 1:00 PM***

Hope to see all of you there!!!

#### **Need a New Camaro?** **Berger Chevrolet has It!!**

Berger Chevrolet just happens to have couple of 1LE's in stock in Bright Red and Rally Yel-

low. They also have ZL1 Coupes in Ashen Gray and Red Hot and a convertible in Blue Ray metallic. They have a total of 42 in stock from 1LSs to ZL1s. You can go to Chevy.com or to either of their websites ([bergerchevy.com](http://bergerchevy.com) or [bergerchevrolet.com](http://bergerchevrolet.com)) to narrow your search. They also usually have 2 or 3 used gen 5s in stock as well this time of year.

#### **Camaro Z/28.R Sends Historic Name** **Back to the Track**

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – The Chevrolet Camaro Z/28 returns to its racing roots this week when the all-new Camaro Z/28.R race car debuts in a 2.5-hour endurance race ahead of the 52nd Rolex 24 At Daytona. It will be one of the most production-based competitors on the track, sharing aero, engine and even axle components with the new 2014 Camaro Z/28.

Stevenson Motorsports and CKS Autosport will campaign Z/28.R race cars in the GS class of the IMSA Continental Tires SportsCar Challenge. The Daytona race begins at 1:45 p.m. EST, on Friday, Jan. 24, kicking off the 12-race 2014 season.

"The original Camaro Z/28 was designed for racing and became an iconic performance



**Doug Warren, WMCC Founder**  
**1953-2010**

**You will never be forgotten**

## Attention Members:

Please welcome New Member

### **Loren Boebel**

948 Lakeside Dr SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

E-mail— Loren.boebel@gmail.com

Employed at LB Marketing

1979 Camaro

car through its hard-fought victories," said Mark Kent, director of racing for Chevrolet. "A new chapter in racing begins this week, as the new Camaro Z/28 makes its competition debut in one of the most hotly contested series in motorsports."

Developed alongside its production counterpart, the Z/28.R incorporates the same performance elements that make the 2014 Camaro Z/28 the most track-capable Camaro ever. To enhance grip, for example, the Z/28.R's body shares the same downforce-generating aero package as the production model, including:

- Front splitter
- Rear spoiler with wickerbill
- Hood extractor vent
- Rockers, wheel-house extensions and front tire deflectors
- Belly pan.

The Z/28.R is also powered by the same LS7 7.0L V-8 engine as the production Z/28 and employs the unique, helical-gear limited-slip rear differential found on the production



model. It is standard in the Z/28, helping the driver put down more power to the pavement when exiting corners.

"Apart from series-mandated equipment and the specialized suspension components needed for endurance racing, the Z/28.R is as close to a production-spec race car as you'll find," said Kent.

### **Advancing the Z/28 legacy**

As Stevenson Motorsports and CKS Autosport kick off a full season of racing in the IMSA Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge with their new Camaro Z/28.R race cars, they'll advance the legacy of Camaro endurance racing that dates to the original Z/28's 1967 introduction, when it was developed for the Trans-Am series. More recently, the Camaro GS.R won six races from 2011 to 2013 in the Continental SportsCar Series Grand Sport class, helping Chevrolet achieve a runner-up finish in the GS championship last season.

"The new Camaro Z/28.R is a significant advancement from the GS.R that won multiple races in the Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge the last three years," said Lisa Talarico, Chevrolet program manager for the Continental Tire series. "We expect the new engine package, suspension components

## 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 2013, 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

and aerodynamic improvements to help our teams to further successes in the 2014 GS class. The GS class is full of great competitors, and we believe the performance level of the new Z/28.R will provide us the opportunity to contend for a championship."

The 2014 Camaro Z/28 goes on sale this spring.

### [2012 Chevy Camaro ZL1 wrecked by Delaware dealer while in for service](#)

Imagine, if you will, that you own a 2012 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 Coupe. To get this car, you traded in a 1969 Camaro SS and a 2011 Camaro SS. You take your new ZL1, which only has 10,000 miles on it, into the dealership you bought it from to deal with an issue with the paint, which is covered under warranty.

You then get a call from said dealership, explaining that an employee came in, outside of business hours, and decided to take your 580-horsepower sports car out for a joyride. During said joyride, the employee just so happened to wrap your ZL1 around a telephone pole. That's exactly what John and Debbie Hooper claim they are were through, after an employee at a Georgetown, Delaware's First State Chevrolet allegedly wrecked their ZL1. This incident, which the Hoopers say happened back in December, has set fire to the forums of [Camaro5](#), covering the Hoopers' dilemma.



The couple was in a fight with the dealership to get a replacement for their car. Insurance

companies are involved and naturally, the Hoopers had lawyered up. From the sounds of the most recent updates, the dealership attempted to offer the Hoopers a replacement ZL1 that had more miles and options they didn't want, which the couple turned down.

First State claimed that as the employee shouldn't have been in the car in the first place, it wasn't liable for the crashed ZL1, although it did try to make things right with the Hoopers by offering them a car with more mileage, modifications, options they didn't want and a rather questionable prove-nance. This was turned down. The Hoopers wanted a new ZL1 for their troubles.

Now, thanks to a little cooperation from General Motors and **Berger Chevrolet**, in Grand Rapids, MI, a 2013 Camaro ZL1 is being sent to First State. According to a post on the Camaro5 forums, John Hooper said, "I understand that it will be about two weeks before the insurance check is cut, the old car is paid off, the new car arrives, and a new purchase contract will be signed by my wife and I for the *purchase* of our new ZL1." Emphasis is his.

There aren't many other specifics on the forums, so we can't say whether it's the dealer's insurance or the Hooper's insurance that are picking up the tab for the wrecked Camaro. As for the newer Camaro, it seems like the Hoopers are being treated like any other purchaser rather than getting special



treatment after what they've been through. Whether that's right or not, we'll let you decide. What is clear is that the Hoopers are getting what they wanted - a new ZL1. As car people, we should simply be happy about that.

### **Berger Chevrolet provides happy ending for Delaware man whose dealer wrecked his prized Camaro ZL1**

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Berger Chevrolet is providing a happy ending for a Delaware resident who raised a furor on the Internet after an employee of his local Chevrolet dealership wrecked his prized Camaro ZL1.

John Hooper, who was underwhelmed by the initial offer to replace his wrecked car, says he'll be satisfied when he takes delivery of [a red 2013 ZL1](#) that's being "Bergerized" before it's delivered to him.

"I have nothing but positive things to say about Berger Chevrolet," said Hooper, who kicked off a firestorm when he posted an account of his car's demise on "[Camaro5.com](#)," a forum for owners and fans of the popular muscle car.

The ZL1 is a high performance version of the popular muscle car that was developed for the track. With a 6.2-litre V8 that produces more than 400 horsepower, it carries a sticker of nearly \$60,000.

Hooper said Berger, General Motors and the dealership, First State Chevrolet of Georgetown, Del., have arranged for him to continue the payments he was making on his former car.



First State, which fired the employee who took his car out for its ill-fated spin on Dec. 15, has suffered in the wake of the brouhaha, said Hooper, who has authored a book on Camaros and sold two vintage Camaros to get the ZL1 that was wrecked.

"They've had death threats, they've had defecation put on their cars and windows and people have flooded their phones and Facebook Pages with threats," said Hooper in a telephone interview with The Grand Rapids Press/Mlive.

"This has made it to Poland, Russia and Singapore and everywhere in between," said Hooper, whose plight resulted in more than 1,400 posts on his initial posting and was picked up by Jalopnik and other websites for car buffs.

Delaware State Police have charged the employee, Eric Peterson, 42, of Georgetown with careless driving and failure to have insurance identification in possession, according to CapeGazette.com.

Hooper, who interviewed Berger Chevrolet's owners for his book several years ago at a car show at Martin Dragway, said he contacted the Grand Rapids dealership about finding a replacement for his beloved ZL1 after he was underwhelmed by the replacement his local dealer found.

John Knaggs, general sales manager for Berger, said they had one 2013 ZL1 on the floor when they were contacted by Hooper.

After he learned about the circumstances and the Internet hoopla, Knaggs said he got General Motors and First State Chevrolet involved for damage control. "A bad thing happened to some good people," he said.

Knaggs said they will "Bergerize" the ZL1 for Hooper by blacking out the grilles, adding special wheels and tires, custom graphics and floor mats before shipping it to First State Chevrolet for Hooper.

The gesture is sure to burnish Berger's reputation among high performance car enthusi-

asts. The dealership at 2525 28th Street SE has sold customized versions of Chevrolet's high performance cars dating back to the muscle car era in the late 1960s.

Berger sold about 200 Camaros last year, including 13 of the high-performance ZL1s, Knaggs said.

Hooper, who said he's waiting "until the fat lady sings" before declaring he's fully satisfied, said he hopes to return to Grand Rapids this summer for a Berger-sponsored car show.

"They're outstanding people and they're fine examples of what a Chevrolet dealership should be," Hooper said.

[http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2014/01/berger\\_chevrolet\\_provides\\_happ.html](http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2014/01/berger_chevrolet_provides_happ.html)

### From the Hoopers

I just wanted to let everyone know that Berger Chevrolet was instrumental in getting me a replacement for my 2012 ZL1 that was totaled by an employee of First State Chevrolet in Georgetown, Delaware.

I spoke with Dick Jacques several times regarding a 2013 ZL1 they still had in stock. Dick spent a lot of time with me on the phone about this car. He even stayed up until the wee hours of the morning to email me photos of a similarly-equipped car so I could see what it would look like.

If you are not familiar with the story, after the car was totaled by First State's employee the dealership basically left me hanging. They would not offer insurance information, nor would they step up and offer to pay the difference between the value of my car and the price of obtaining a comparable replacement--which is their liability according to Delaware state law. We were going to have to hire a lawyer (at our expense) just to try to get what was rightfully ours. After several posts on the Camaro5 forum, and after a few articles in the local newspaper, the story went viral. So many people reached out to GM and Chevrolet that First State was forced to make good

on the deal. The car is being prepped for transport to First State Chevrolet, where I will purchase the car at a reduced price to replace my totaled 2012.

Dick Jacques at Berger Chevrolet spent time with me even though he would not receive any compensation or commission on this sale. What a guy! If anyone has any automotive needs, I highly suggest Berger Chevrolet and Dick Jacques.

Several members of the club were following the story on Camaro5 forum and offered their support and sympathy, and I really appreciate that.

I also want to give a shout-out to Pfadt Racing Engineering who stepped forward with the offer of a sway bar for my new car, along with Cold Air Inductions, Diode Dynamics, and JDP Motorsports who also offered parts for the car. They are great people who must have EXCELLENT customer service.

Hopefully I will be able to bring the new ZL1 to the Berger show this year. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again, even though it won't be the same without Doug.

*John Hooper*





**Don't Miss the Next WMCC Meeting  
Saturday February 1, 2014 @ 1pm.  
At Midvilla Lanes, in Middleville, 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 269.506.0411  
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 269.506.0901  
Web & Social Media: Steven Hall 517.706.7303  
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**