



## **February 2015**

# **The View from the Top.**

### **February 2015**

Well, here we are, already starting the second month of 2015. You may think that this is the "slow" time of the year for a "car club", but that couldn't be farther from the truth, for WMCC.

We are hard at work planning the Berger Show (More to come on that later in this newsletter) & the WMCC 40th Anniversary Party. There are several up coming shows and swap meets as well as club meetings.

### **WMCC February Club Meeting Saturday February 7th, 2015**

For our February meeting we will be meeting at Gravity Taphouse Grille, 3210 Deposit Dr. Grand Rapids, MI 49546 @ 2 pm. This is in the vicinity of I-96 and M-37. They have a private dining room reserved for us. Thank you to Steve & Kathy O for making the arrangements.

Hope to see you all there!

### **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 2014, 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 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

### **A Message from John Smith**

Hi all,

I am doing well, going to rehab 3 days a week, getting out in the garage daily, still getting winded and not able to lift a lot but getting around.

John Smith

### **WMCC 40th Anniversary Party**

2015 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Western Michigan Camaro Club. John Smith has offered his property to host the party. The party will be the weekend of July 25th, 2015. Camping will be available for anybody who wants to bring a camper. I am sure it will be a great time. More details to come in the following months.

### **Berger Chevrolet "ALL GM Show" 2015**

Yes you read the title correctly this years Berger Chevrolet show will be and all GM show, so invite all your friends with those Pontiacs, Oldsmobiles, Buicks & GMC's. The other big news is the price for this years show is **\$15** and will include T-shirt and Dash plaque. The Date for the show is Aug 21-22, 2015.

2015 is Berger Chevrolets 90th Anniversary. So we would like to make this show a BIG hit. Berger is working on some pretty cool swag to be included in goodie bags they are also working on some cool artwork for the T-Shirts and awards.

We plan to have several new events at the show this year, Slow Races and a Load Pipes competition. The DYNO will also be back again this year.



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

**You will never be forgotten**

We will need all of your help to run these events.

As you can see our January Berger planning meeting was very fruitful. Thank you to all that attended.

### **GMMG Reunion**

GMMG Reunion @ the 2015 Camaro Nationals.

**June 26 & 27 in Frederick, MD**

This is an information link only.....

<http://www.camaronationals.org/>

GMMG will have special parking & a special separate class (#76). Ballpark - \$30 to register.

If you want your car judged with all the other Camaro's you will be able to move your car Saturday morning. Not sure on the cost???



*2002 ZL-1 Delivery day at Berger Chevrolet, featuring Scott Settlemire with his children.*

The GMMG Registry will have a tent to sell hats, [T-Shirts](#), GMMG signs, stickers & other Registry items.

I'm looking for a couple of committee members to help out.

Watch for updates on the GMMG Registry.....

<http://forums.gmmgregistry.com/viewt...1&p=4535#p4535>

Join the Registry if you have not done so. You don't have to own a GMMG..... <http://forums.gmmgregistry.com/>

Jim Smith

GMMG Registry

<http://forums.gmmgregistry.com/>

### **The 2015 Yahoo Autos Performance Car of the Year: Chevrolet Camaro Z/28**

Spending an entire week with this year's best vehicles, putting them through their paces on both the

road and the racetrack, deliberation for the 2015 Yahoo Autos Performance Car of the Year provided little contention among our judges — the Chevrolet Camaro Z/28 stole the show.

Not long ago, believing that an American-made muscle car could not only line up and compete alongside some of the world's best sports cars, but also end up as victorious, would be unimaginable. For the Z/28, this year's competition was rich with worthy rivals, like the Alfa Romeo 4C, the BMW M235i, the Subaru WRX, the Ford Mustang and the Dodge Challenger Hellcat, among others.

As judges, we consider a wide range of criteria — ride, handling and power delivery; engineering and innovation; design; efficiency, and value. Naturally, when deliberating over the best performance vehicle, efficiency takes a back seat, but performing well in this department is still noteworthy. (With just 13-mpg city and 19 highway, the Z/28 clearly didn't stand out here.) In the same breath, simply having more power does not necessarily equate to victory. We're seeking the total package.

The Z/28 delivered. With a dry sump, 7.0-liter naturally-aspirated V-8 pushing 505 hp and 481 lb.-ft. of torque, power clearly was never an issue. But what impressed us most was how efficiently it handled that brute strength. While the 707-hp Hellcat fights you with every touch of the gas pedal — especially on our tight autocross course — the Z/28 works with you. Traction is immense, thanks to near-slick Pirelli P Zero Trofeo R tires; the DSSV dampers by Multimatic (the same folk that provide the Red Bull F1 team) ensure the car's balance is beautifully neutral and predictable when pushing to the limit; the driving experience remaining visceral and explosive.

On our autocross course, the Z/28 lapped over 1.5 seconds faster than anything else we tested. For a 3,820 lb. muscle car — on a tight, twisting course; going head-to-head with a 2,465 lb. carbon-fiber Italian — that's not only impressive, but quite astonishing. It was also the easiest car to extract a lap time from; the Alfa 4C was second quickest — thanks to that lightweight, nimble chassis on a course where power came second to handling — but it was on-edge the entire time; maintaining consistency was difficult.

It's fair to say that of all the cars we tested, the

# YAHOO! AUTOS

## 2015 PERFORMANCE CAR OF THE YEAR



Z/28 and its \$72,305 price tag was only surpassed by the Maserati Ghibli. That may seem astronomical for a muscle car, but the Z/28 is not your typical pony. It arrives standard with Brembo carbon-ceramic brakes, which, when combined with the monster tires, provide some of the best stopping power we've ever experienced on a production car. Air conditioning is optional, and you only get one speaker assigned – left only for the mandatory door chime. The rear windshield is also 0.3 mm thinner, saving 400 grams. And sound deadening? Ha. Why would you want that?

Yes, the Z/28 is a track car, albeit a street legal one – even forgoing carpet in the trunk to save every gram of weight possible. The technology and innovation in the Z/28 may not be evident on the surface – bar a hefty body kit for downforce – but within, it's some of the finest engineering we've seen in years.

It should, therefore, be a one-trick pony – a car that excels on the track but remains horrifically unlivable elsewhere. What we unearthed is that, while not a daily driver by any means, the Z/28 isn't as harsh on the streets as you'd expect. The grippy soft tires provide some form of cushioning on bumpy roads, and the V-8's burble is so enticing that you don't want materials to drown it out. As one of our judge noted: "The stiff damping doesn't crash hard on rough roads like the Alfa 4C, and its cabin isn't race-car noisy like a Viper ACR."

One thing you do need, however, is air conditioning. It adds \$1,500 to the bottom line, and 30 lbs. of extra mass. Our test car arrived without cool air, and it quickly became uncomfortable for even the shortest of drives: "This beast gets hot," one judge said. We also wouldn't mind more than mono radio regardless of the weight penalty.

In our testing, the Alfa Romeo 4C won a lot of hearts for its nimbleness and go-kart-like dynamics – lapping our track faster than the Mustang, WRX, M235i and, yes, even the Hellcat. But on the road, the harshness and drone of the motor made livability too low for many. The BMW was so well rounded that it was always a strong competitor, but again, the Z/28 does its intended job of going quickly so darn effectively nothing else could compare.

What of the new Ford Mustang Ecoboost and its independent rear suspension, equipped with the optional Performance Pack? That felt like a good start rather than the highly developed ride presented by the Z/28; it's a comfortable car with bags of rear grip that makes its handling almost too mature. The affordable Subaru WRX is perhaps the most akin to the Z/28 in spirit, but our judges couldn't ignore the level of understeer that developed on the autocross.

Despite its Camaro nomenclature, the Z/28 should not be thought of as a muscle car – it's a Porsche 911 GT3 competitor, one that, like the Porsche, crushes exotics worth twice as much (it's also \$60,000 cheaper than the 911 GT3). Its engineers went above and beyond to take a heavy platform and turn it into something very special — a raw, brutish racer, featuring rear-wheel drive and a proper, delightful, manual gearbox. It's everything a true performance enthusiast could ever dream of, at a price that's more attainable than its direct competition.

As the king of our test track, the Z/28 deserves the title of 2015 Yahoo Autos Performance Car of the Year. As one tester put it: "It's intoxicating. A heavy Camaro simply shouldn't be this good.

<https://autos.yahoo.com/blogs/motoramic/2015-yahoo-autos-performance-car-of-the-year-chevrolet-camaro-z-28-175859834.html>

### **2016 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350R Trumps Camaro Z/28 With Reported 7:32.19 Nurburgring Lap?**

Nearly every major automaker on the face of the planet tests their cars at the perilous 12.9-mile Nurburgring Nordschleife in Germany. [Chevrolet](#) set a new performance benchmark for big American pony cars at the circuit known famously as 'The Green Hell' when they put their 3,800 lb [Camaro Z/28](#) around the track in [7:37.47](#), but Ford has reportedly topped their crosstown rivals.

The [Mustang Shelby GT350R](#), just one of the three major performance debuts the Blue Oval celebrated

at this past North American International Auto Show in Detroit, is serious business. Between its 500+ horsepower 5.2-liter flat plane crank V8, aggressive aerodynamics kit and carbon-fiber wheels, we could tell right away Ford was gunning for the [track-star Z/28](#). A new report from [Evo](#) magazine indicates they've succeeded, after lapping the 'Ring in 7:32.19.

***That said, there is some controversy here. For one, the source for this claim is unknown, and video evidence has yet to be seen***, but the hottest sixth-gen Mustang yet seems to have all the right hardware for track day duty. Ford ditched the rear seats and stereo in the GT350R, along with the air-conditioning, and also added sticky Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires and aggressive aerodynamic pieces. These are similar to the modifications Chevy applied to their [Z/28](#), all in a package which could potentially weigh less than 3,500 lbs.

And there is another counterpoint to the claim that the 2016 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350R being quicker around the world's most notorious race track. The Camaro guys have been open with saying that the Z/28 is entirely capable of putting itself around the 'Ring faster than in 7 minutes and 37 seconds, which was done in the rain. In fact, the [Camaro Z/28 is said to have ran the Nurburgring in 7:31 in the dry, but the cameras weren't rolling so "it didn't count."](#)

<http://gmauthority.com/blog/2015/01/shelby-gt350r-mustang-trumps-camaro-z28-with-reported-732-19-nurburgring-lap/>

2015 GT350

vs.

2014 Z/28



coming soon...

## 2015 Events Calendar

(\*denotes Official WMCC Event)

### WMCC Monthly Membership Meetings:

- \*Feb 7, 2015 WMCC Club Meeting – Gravity Taphouse Grille - See Newsletter for details
- \*Mar 1, 2015 WMCC Club Meeting - TBA
- \*Apr 4, 2015 WMCC Club Meeting - TBA
- \*May 3, 2015 WMCC Club Meeting - Mendon Dust-Off, Mendon HS Mendon, MI

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

- \*May 30, 2015 11th Annual MiFbody Meet & Greet, Bakers of Milford, Milford, Michigan
- \*Jun 26-27, 2015 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Camaro Nationals/GMMG Reunion, Fairgrounds, Fredrick, MD
- Jun 26-28, 2015 Carlisle GM Nationals car show in Carlisle, PA
- Jun 12-14, 2015 2015 Camaro Nationals, Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 2525 Wyecroft Rd, Oakville, ON, Canada
- Jul 3-5, 2015 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Camaro Superfest, Riverside Park, Ypsilanti, MI
- \*Jul 25, 2015 WMCC 40th Anniversary Party, Sand Lake, MI
- \*Aug 21-22, 2015 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Berger Chevrolet All GM Show, Grand Rapids, MI

### Other Automotive Events of Interest:

- Feb 5-8, 2015 Michigan International Auto Show, Devos Place Grand Rapids, MI
- Feb 7-8, 2015 KAARC 52nd Annual Winter Swap Meet @ Kalamazoo Fair Grounds
- Feb 14-22, 2015 Chicago Auto Show – McCormick Place, Chicago, IL
- Mar 7-9, 2015 Detroit Autorama, COBO Hall, Detroit, MI
- \*May 3, 2015 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Mendon Dust-Off, Mendon HS Mendon, MI
- Jun 6-13, 2015 2015 Hot Rod Power Tour - <https://www.raceit.com/Register/?event=30034>
- \*Jun 28, 2015 LLWC Carshow, Light & Life Church, Three Rivers MI
- \*Aug 14, 2015 Woodward Dream Cruise – metro-Detroit area
- \*Aug 21-22, 2015 28<sup>th</sup> Street Metro Cruise, Grandville, Wyoming, Grand Rapids, Kentwood, MI (tentative)

**Please send all event dates and details to [wmcamaro@gmail.com](mailto:wmcamaro@gmail.com) so we can get them included in the calendar. Thanks!!!**





**Don't miss the next WMCC Meeting at  
Gravity Taphouse Grille,  
in Grand Rapids, 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 weekend 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**