



## July 2019

### The View from the Top.

#### July 2019

WOW IT's JULY ALREADY, Where has the time gone!!! Things have been pretty busy around our house between the remodeling, Ashley's' High School graduation, preparing for her Grad party, getting ready for vacation at the end of the month, preparing to move and readying our house and my mothers house to sell. Plus working on the stuff for the Berger Show.

#### July WMCC Meeting

There will be no July Official Club meeting. We will however see all of you at Ashleys Grad party on July 13th that you are all invited too. ( See Page 2 for Details).

#### August WMCC Meeting

Sunday August 4th, 2019 time and place TBD. If you have any idea on where we can meet for August please let me know ASAP.

#### August WMCC Newsletter Submission's

Please email me all your submissions for the August newsletter ASAP! I will be on Vacaion the last week of July so will needs these soon.

#### Berger Show Update

Show is coming together nicely, we are working on designs for the t-shirts and awards.

We have Flyers Please pick some up at the Club Meeting or you can stop by Berger and Pick some up at the Reception Desk.

Please be Lining up those Feature Cars, We currently only have about Third of the Feature cars spots filled. Please email me names and contact info as well as the cars they will be bringing. Send info to: [wmcamaro@gmail.com](mailto:wmcamaro@gmail.com)

I am sure many of you have cars lined up but haven't let me know yet. Please get me that info ASAP!

#### Sources Say The Camaro Will Live Until 2023

Multiple sources within GM have told Muscle Cars & Trucks that the seventh-generation Chevrolet Camaro program initially in development has been suspended, and the nameplate will likely be shelved after 2023. At the very least, this means that there's going to be some gap years, again.

The current Camaro, the sixth-generation model, utilizes the dynamic Alpha platform that the Cadillac ATS and CTS utilized. Both are

#### Membership Dues

Yearly membership dues are due, for most members, in January. If you joined the Club before July of 2018, 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



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

## Ashley's Graduation Party

ALL of you are invited. The party will be at our home on **Saturday July 13, 2019**. Party is Scheduled 4-10pm but like many WMCC Activities it will probably go much later.

Address is 56138 Wilbur Road, Three Rivers, MI 49093

We look Forward to seeing you all there!!!!

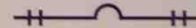


*Ashley Crippin*

Three Rivers Senior High School | Class of 2019



We are thrilled to announce  
the graduation of our  
daughter  
Ashley Crippin.  
We invite you to  
celebrate with us.  
Three Rivers High School  
Class of 2019



**Graduation Party**

July 13, 2019

4 pm- 10 pm

at my home

56138 Wilbur Road  
Three Rivers, MI 49093

*Jestons*

**CONGRATS**

being discontinued, and will be replaced by the Cadillac CT4 and CT5, which utilize an updated version of the Alpha platform, called A2XX. Both the Camaro and the two Cadillac passenger cars mentioned are/will be built at the Lansing Grand River Assembly Plant in central Michigan.

Sources tell us that the Camaro will not transition to the A2XX platform, and 2023 is as far as the vehicle is charted out. Then nothing.

This kind of hiatus happened to the storied nameplate previously, where the last of the fourth-generation Camaros rolled off the assembly line in 2002. All was quiet until 2006, when Chevrolet revived the Camaro name on a concept car, which left people ecstatic. That concept car eventually came to be the extremely popular fifth-generation Camaro, which restarted Camaro production in 2009, the year GM filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The Fifth-Generation Camaro looks nearly identical to the 2006 concept, pictured. Despite the emergency, the fifth-generation Camaro was an instant hit, with sales regularly tallying beyond 80,000 units per year. To put it simply, the Camaro consistently battled the Ford Mustang for the top sales spot between the two iconic pony cars and the larger but equally iconic Dodge Challenger.

The sixth-generation Chevrolet



Camaro launched in the fall of 2015 as a 2016 model, and was marketed as lighter, sleeker, and more athletic than before. Yet it was tighter inside, and more expensive, especially when it came to the LT1-powered SS model.

Whether you prefer the current Camaro or not, the

sales charts are sobering: just under 51,000 deliveries were tallied for the Camaro in 2018, which was a 25 percent drop from the year prior (67,940 deliveries). In short, the Camaro Six has yet to see the sales success as seen with Camaro Five. 2019 Camaro SS.

There were warning signs that the Camaro program was on thin ice. Here are a few:

Reception to the 2019 Camaro design refresh from enthusiasts wasn't just negative, it was hostile. Angry comments throughout every social media channel, sales have so far sunk even further, and the futile attempts to douse the flames may have sent product planners into a snap reaction.

Feedback from a survey asking Camaro customers about potential future powertrains, including a V8 hybrid, may not have been as positive as Chevrolet had hoped. Remember, the sixth-generation Camaro is already facing pricing pressure through its life cycle when it comes to accessing its LT1 V8 engine.

Pitching an \$8,000 V8 hybrid option probably wasn't helping the cause to increase sales and/or curb appeal.

Camaro Chief Engineer Al Oppenheiser was assigned to an electric vehicle program, while other notable figureheads on the Camaro team were given new work, as well. This left a skeleton crew to oversee the remainder of the Camaro Six's life cycle.

GM's current postmodernist tagline of "zero crashes, zero emissions, zero congestion" is at odds with several core principles that the Camaro has symbolized for its enthusiast audience. It's nearly impossible to imagine a world where an electric Camaro drives its occupants down an autonomous vehicle highway, as it would attempt to manipulate the decades of what the Camaro has otherwise represented: personal freedom. Our tinfoil hats might be on too tight, but it would otherwise seem as if GM product planners would seek to kill the Camaro, instead of departing from current marching orders from the top.

Despite our valid critiques here at MC&T regarding Camaro Six, it nevertheless remains the best-handling pony car/muscle car on the market, and remains true throughout the lineup. Because where the current Camaro may fall short in packaging, price structure, and practicality, the athletic 1LE package is currently offered on every model. This gives the entry-level Camaro Turbo features like tires and brakes



from the Camaro SS, as is the case with the Camaro V6 1LE. The Camaro SS featured pull-down parts from the 650 horsepower ZL1, while the mighty Camaro ZL1 1LE absolutely bullied the C7 Corvette in the school cafeteria. However, this might have been its biggest problem: playing too closely to the Corvette's sandbox.

Alas, we only have until 2023 to enjoy new Camaro products, pending an 11th hour miracle. And hey, clutch moments happened for the Corvette at least twice. Fortune could smile on the Camaro, too.



the world that the sixth-generation Camaro will run its course by the 2023 model year, leading to another hiatus for the iconic nameplate, as plans for the seventh-generation model have been shelved. In those four years there will just be minor updates, and some visual packages here and there, such as the Shock and Steel Special Edition, and Redline Edition.



The fifth-gen Camaro Z/28 was lighter than the fifth-gen ZL1 by 300 pounds thanks to clever engineering.

## Sixth-Generation Camaro Z/28 Cancelled:

GM's Latest Restructuring Efforts May Be To Blame



There was a reason why the clumsily-named Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 1LE wasn't called the Z/28. Today MC&T is the first to report that General Motors was indeed working on a sixth-generation Camaro Z/28 that would have capped the lineup of the most capable muscle car Chevrolet has ever built. This program has been cancelled, according to sources.

This only adds salt into the wounds of Camaro enthusiasts. Last week, MC&T broke the news to

Powertrain work and business planning was as far as things went for the sixth-generation Camaro Z/28. Then came GM's restructuring plan to free cash flow at the end of 2018 for financial security, and to further fund far-reaching programs such as Cruise Automation and an extensive electric vehicle portfolio. Outwardly, this entailed shrinking its manufacturing footprint in North America, and laying off thousands of salaried employees. Internally, this also meant the demise of select vehicle programs, say sources. This hyper-Camaro was one of them.

The sixth-generation Chevrolet Camaro Z/28 was also slated to get its own engine unique from any General Motors vehicle on sale today, called the LT3. It would have had a displacement of 6.6 liters, a higher redline than the LT1, and would have been naturally aspirated. In short, it would have been the spiritual successor to the legendary 427 cubic-inch LS7 in the fifth-gen Z/28 and C6 Corvette Z06. This engine program was also canned in November 2018.

It wasn't disclosed to us if the LT3 would have been more powerful than the 650 horsepower LT4 engine found in the Camaro ZL1.

Speaking of which, this news gives us no reason to forget how much of a world-beater the 2019 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 1LE is. And naming aside, it's

nevertheless the spiritual successor to the Camaro Z/28, despite not having a naturally aspirated engine.

Like the fifth-generation Camaro Z/28, the ZL1 1LE possesses trick Multimatic DSSV dampers, where lesser variants do not. The ZL1 1LE also built on the former Z/28's capabilities with extensive aero work, highlighted by front dive planes and an exposed weave carbon fiber rear wing that adds up to 300 lbs of downforce. The suspension system can also be adjusted for different setups, including the front ride height, camber, and rear sway bar.



In short, the extreme nature of the Camaro ZL1 1LE will not be easily outmatched by its rivals, as Chevrolet really outdid themselves with its capabilities. Its incredible Nurburgring lap time of 7:16.04 is proof of that. Then again, with an MSRP of \$71,295, customers are certainly paying for it. That said, it still undercuts the price of the (760 horsepower) 2020 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500.



## Help Wanted

As we move into the new year I would like to add a few New positions in WMCC and fill a couple of vacant ones. There are still several positions available if anyone is interested.

### Events Coordinator(s)

This person would be responsible for our Calendar of events. This person would actively look for events for the club to attend, they would be the Club contact person for special events in the club.

### Club Photographer

This position is just what it sounds like. This person would be responsible for taking pictures at WMCC events and meetings and getting them to me for the newsletter.

### Member Profile Reporter

This person would be responsible for contacting a different member each month and interviewing them for the newsletter. Finding out about them and their hobbies. About what made them join the club, why they love the Camaro, where they got it, and how long they have owned it, etc.

### Columnist(s)

This job could be several people. I looking for people to write columns for the newsletter. They should be car related, how to's, new product offerings, or really just about anything of interest as long as its not politics.

If you are interested in any of these positions or have another position not listed that you would like please let me know as soon as possible. You can call text or email me.

*Gary Crippin*  
*President*  
*Western Michigan Camaro Club*  
269-506-0411  
[wmcamaro@gmail.com](mailto:wmcamaro@gmail.com)





# Berger's 20th Annual **All-GM Show**

Hosted by the Western Michigan Camaro Club

**Two full days jam-packed with speed, performance, & fun!**

**Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- **Open Track Day** at US131 Motorsports Park, Martin, MI - 9am - 4pm
  - Race your own GM vehicle (100 racer limit, \$20 fee)
- Get a ride in a wheel-standing COPO Camaro (limited availability, \$75 fee)
  - Preregister at [www.bergerchevy.com](http://www.bergerchevy.com). Payment collected at event entry.
  - Free for spectators

- **Meet & Greet** at Berger Chevrolet, Grand Rapids, MI - 7pm - 10pm
  - **28th Street Metro Cruise**

**Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**

- **All-GM Show** at Berger Chevrolet - 8am - 4pm
- Featuring funny cars, DYNO, over 50 awards, GM Show Cars, feature cars, silent auction, 4th Annual GMMG reunion, classic GM vehicles, and more!
- \$15 registration fee includes free t-shirt for the first 300 entries  
(Registration day of show only. No preregistration for Saturday car show)
- Free for spectators

*With special guests:*

**John Force and Brittany Force**



*John Force*  
RACING



*"when fast just isn't fast enough"*

2525 28th St SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

(616) 949-5200  
[www.bergerchevy.com](http://www.bergerchevy.com)

## Upcoming Events

### **2019 Michigan FBody Meet & Greet Car Show**

Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 8 AM – 3 PM  
@The HUB Stadium 2550 Innovation Drive,  
Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326  
<https://www.mifbody.com/meetgreet/>

### **Berger Chevrolet's All GM Show**

August 23 & 24, 2019  
Berger Chevrolet  
2525 28th Street  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512  
Friday - Open Track Day at US131 Motorsports  
Park  
Friday - Meet & Greet at Berger Chevrolet  
Saturday - All GM Car Show at Berger Chevrolet  
More to Come!!! info @ [https://  
www.bergerchevy.com/all-gm-show.htm](https://www.bergerchevy.com/all-gm-show.htm)

### **20th Annual Camaro Nationals**

June 21-22, 2019  
Maryland Camaro Club  
Frederick Fairgrounds, MD  
[www.camaronationals.org](http://www.camaronationals.org)

### **Sturgis Camaro Rally**

June 27-30, 2019  
Black Hills Camaro Club Sturgis, SD  
[www.sturgiscamarorally.com](http://www.sturgiscamarorally.com)

### **28th Annual Camaro Superfest**

July 5-7, 2019  
Riverside Park  
Ypsilanti, MI  
<http://www.camarosuperfest.com/>  
Barry Hensel [barry76Lt@wowway.com](mailto:barry76Lt@wowway.com)  
734-649-3056 (between 5pm-10pm)

### **NEOCC's 26th Anniversary Camaro Fall Classic**

Sept 6-8, 2019  
Summit Racing Equipment in Tallmadge, Ohio  
<http://www.neocc.org/annual-neocc-fall-classic/>

### **Camaro Fest IX**

July 11-14, 2019  
Bowling Green, Kentucky  
<http://www.camarofest.org>

### **F-Body Nationals**

September 21-22, 2018  
Memphis International Raceway  
5500 Victory Ln, Millington, TN 38053  
<https://fbodynationals.com/>

### **Detroit Grand Prix-Camaro Corral Motor City Camaro Club**

May 31-June 2  
Belle Isle, Detroit, MI  
[www.detroitgp.com/camaro](http://www.detroitgp.com/camaro)  
866-464-prix

### **Bloomington Gold Corvettes**

Indy Speedway June 20-22, 2019  
Sturgis Camaro Rally  
June 27-30, 2019 Sturgis, SD  
Black Hills Camaro Club  
[www.sturgiscamarorally.com](http://www.sturgiscamarorally.com)

### **Camaro Fest IX**

July 11-14, 2019  
Bowling Green, Kentucky  
<http://www.camarofest.org>

### **4th Annual Sweetest Ride Around Car Show**

on World Famous Beale St  
hosted by River City Camaro Club  
July 26-27 Memphis, TN  
901-574-7692

### **15th Annual Car Cruise**

PACE - Pittsburgh Area Camaro Enthusiasts  
August 10th 11am to 3pm  
Wright Chevrolet 3800 Ohio River  
Blvd Baden, PA. 15005  
[www.pacecamaro.net](http://www.pacecamaro.net) [https://www.facebook.com/  
groups/125556788018027/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/125556788018027/)

### **CamaroCon 2019**

Oct 12th & 13th, 2019  
Las Vegas Motor Speedway  
<https://camarocon.myshopify.com/>

Official Club Sponsor

# **Berger Chevrolet**

2525 28th Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

[www.bergerchevy.com](http://www.bergerchevy.com)

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**Berger**  
Since 1925   
It's always better at Berger



**Don't miss the next  
WMCC Meeting  
Sunday August 4, 2019  
TBD  
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 or face book page 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  
Membership: Shelley Crippin 269.506.0901  
Newsletter Editor: Gary Crippin 269.273.5051  
Club Archivist: Ray Cochran 616.403.3941

### **Club Sponsor**

**Berger Chevrolet ~ BERGERCHEVY.COM**

### **Website**

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

### **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/westernmichigancamaroclub/>

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**