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Cadillac Top Domestic Brand in CR Survey

by Jim Stickford

GM's hard work in improving the quality of Cadillac vehicles paid off recently when *Consumer Reports* issued its 2012 Annual Car Reliability Report, which placed the brand highest among domestic manufacturers.

This year's report showed Cadillac as the top domestic brand, moving up 14 spots in reliability. Last year it was 25th, now it ranks in 11th place.

The *Consumer Reports* Survey stated, "Its CTS coupe was the most reliable domestic car. A number of other GM nameplates –

Buick, Chevrolet, GMC, also moved up in the ranking. The Chevrolet Volt extended-range electric car continues to have above-average reliability, and the compact Chevrolet Cruze, dismal in its first year, improved to average."

The *Consumer Reports* survey reliability ratings do not come from the organization's experience during vehicle testing. Instead, it relies on owners to supply the *Consumer Reports* National Research Center with data. Earlier this year, the organization asked subscribers to report serious problems they've had with their vehicles in the prior 12 months.

CR bases its predicted-reliability scores on the most recent three model years of date, provided the model hasn't been redesigned for 2013. The scores are presented as a percentage better or worse than the average of all cars.

The minimum sample size is 100 vehicles, but *Consumer Reports* often gets many more. The 2012 Honda CR-V, for example, had 2,981 responses. Other 2012 models with more than 2,000 responses included the Toyota Camry and the Subaru Outback.

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2012 Cadillac CTS Coupe

Warren, Berkley To Hold Blood Drives Nov. 8 & 9

On Friday, Nov. 9, the Warren chapter of the American Red Cross is holding a blood drive at its South Macomb Blood Center located on 13260 East 11 Mile Road between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The Berkley chapter of the American Red Cross is holding a blood drive between 1 and 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 28105 Woodward Avenue in Berkley.

To schedule an appointment for either drive, visit www.redcrossblood.org.



Hot Wheels Vice President of Design Felix Holst

Bringing Memories to Life With Hot Wheels Camaros

If you think the new Chevrolet Camaro introduced at the SEMA show in Las Vegas on Oct. 29 looks like a Hot Wheels toy on steroids, that's because the vehicle is actually based on a Hot Wheels model car first sold in 1968.

"Millions of us grew up playing with Hot Wheels," said Chris Perry, vice president of Chevrolet marketing.

"Offering a special production model of the Camaro Hot Wheels is an opportunity to bring those

memories to life, for kids of all ages."

Jim Campbell, vice president of Chevrolet motorsports, said Hot Wheels and the Camaro were introduced at the same time back in the 1960s.

"When I am asked why Hot Wheels and Chevrolet, I say because it has brand association," Campbell said. "The public will be able to buy two types of Hot Wheels Camaro. One is a special

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Center Line Boasts Its Right to Say It's Home to Mopar

by Jim Stickford

The City of Center Line was recently declared the official home of Chrysler's Mopar division.

Center Line mayor David Hanselman said that it only made sense to make what was unofficial official.

"I grew up in Center Line," Hanselman said. "Mopar has been with us since I was a young boy. I watched them construct the building back in the 1950s. They maintain their world headquarters here and have a warehouse here."

City Manager John Michrina said that Center Line is a relatively small city, and when he talks with other city managers, they ask what's in Center Line.

"I ask them if they've ever heard of Mopar," Michrina said. "We're proud of the fact that a business that employs thousands of people across the globe is based in Center Line. We want the world to know that and the best way to get the word out is to put that fact on the 'Welcome to Center Line' sign."

The sign can be seen at the corner of 10 Mile Road and Sher-

wood, one of the western entrances to the city.

Pat Caporali, Chrysler communications, said that while Chrysler has recently been emphasizing the Mopar brand across the globe, they thought it was great when Center Line officials said they wanted to honor their company in a more local way.

"We have been putting more emphasis on Mopar globally," Caporali said. "We want people to consider Mopar products and services to encompass more than just the 'muscle car' market.

When Center Line approached us with their proposal, our reaction was, 'That's really nice.'"

Mopar's national parts distribution center and packing operations are based in Center Line and employ more than 1,000 hourly and salaried employees.

More than 280,000 authentic Mopar performance parts and accessories are distributed from the Center Line warehouse to 319 international and 20 North American shipping points in the United States. From there, parts are sent to 120 different countries.

Caporali said Mopar has just



Signage at 10 Mile and Sherwood

formed a partnership with Magneti Marelli to extend Mopar's

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SAE Schedules Its November Meet

The Mid-Michigan section of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) will hold its November dinner and program meeting on Monday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m. in the Holiday Inn – Gateway Center in Flint.

The featured speaker is Mark Stielow, the author of the book, "Pro Touring," a book about muscle cars.

Stielow began his career as an engineer at GM, and was involved in the development of the Chevrolet Caprice police car. He moved from there to GM Motorsports Technology, and eventually was recruited by Summit Racing to be their chief engineer for product development.

He is currently engineering group manager for GM high performance vehicle operations.

Tickets are \$25 for SAE members, \$20 for retirees and \$18 for students. Non-member tickets are \$30, and the event is open to the public.

For more information, call Bernard Santavy at 810-635-7948 or email SAEMidMichSec@cs.com.



BorgWarner's "Engineered for Racing" turbochargers have achieved powerful performance and durability over the 212,000 miles of practice, test, qualifying and racing in the 2012 IZOD IndyCar Series.



EFR Turbocharger

BorgWarner's New Turbochargers Debut at Recent SEMA Show

Auburn Hills-based BorgWarner introduced its next-generation EFR-7163 (Engineered For Racing) turbocharger and its current EFR and AirWeeks Series turbochargers at the 2012 Specialty Equipment Manufacturers Association (SEMA) Show in Las Vegas.

The show, held Oct. 30-Nov. 2, was widely attended by OEMs and their suppliers.

BorgWarner's new compact EFR-7163 features an innovative lightweight aluminum bearing housing and mixed-flow turbine. This design is meant to combine the responsiveness and compact packing of a B1 turbocharger with greater flow capacity to achieve 550 horsepower.

"BorgWarner's latest EFR turbocharging advancements are built on our highly successful season as the exclusive turbocharger supplier for the IZOD IndyCar Series," said Pete Kohler, president and general manager, BorgWarner Turbo Systems.

"Our innovative technology optimizes responsiveness and

maximizes power output, combining the best qualities of B1 and B2 turbochargers in a small, powerful package."

Designed for powerful performance in a compact package, BorgWarner's new EFR-7163 turbocharger achieves up to 550 horsepower while using a small B1 frame size that fits easily into a tight engine bay. Track-proven in the IZOD IndyCar Series, said Kohler, an aluminum bearing housing reduces the turbocharger's overall weight by approximately two pounds.

For fast response, the 63mm mixed-flow turbine features lightweight Gamma-Ti material and innovative geometry, say BorgWarner officials, to increase turbine flow capability while providing lower inertia than a conventional radial-flow turbine wheel.

To provide the best balance of quick response at low engine speeds with high flow capacity at top engine speeds, BorgWarner officials say their engineers optimized the 71mm (OD) compressor

wheel to manage as much flow capacity as a larger conventional wheel.

For added flexibility, the turbine housing, say BorgWarner officials, accommodates either a v-band or T25 inlet connection option for engines using an open manifold or a T4 twin scroll housing for engines using a divided manifold.

SEMA visitors also had the chance to view BorgWarner's new EFR-7163 turbochargers in a 2013 Ford F-150 FX4 SuperCrew pickup powered by an EcoBoost 3.5-liter engine.

In addition, BorgWarner will showcase its current EFR turbocharger line, which, officials say, features race-proven Gamma-Ti turbine wheel technology with a range of units supporting 225 to 1,000 horsepower per turbocharger, as well as its AirWerks turbocharger line, which includes the competition-ready S and K series supporting a range of 120 to 1,700 horsepower per turbocharger.