

# Tech Center News™

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## Frost Blows in New Records For OnStar Remote Link Use

The Polar Vortex over most of eastern North America sent outdoor and coolant temperatures plummeting during most of January.

For residents of the affected regions, that meant doing something as simple as driving to work could be a cold chore.

But GM offers a service that allows drivers to get warm without having to wait for their cars to warm up while driving, said Analisa Bluhm, spokesperson for the Chevy Cruze, Sonic and Spark.

Cruze owners with OnStar's RemoteLink Mobile application were able to avoid some of the chill because they could check their car's status and warm the interior from any distance, said Bluhm. And GM's records show that drivers took advantage of the service.

RemoteLink, Bluhm said, set single-day and single-hour request records last month. And, on the day of Jan. 7, upwards of 200,000 requests were sent through the mobile application across all General Motors' brands, setting a one-day record.

Later in the month, when the frigid air returned, the single-hour record was set on Jan. 28 with more than 20,000 requests.

Cruze owners used the app more than any owners of any other GM vehicle did.

For all of January, Chevrolet owners made 2,909,674 requests through the app. Of that total traffic, 1,603,107 – or about 55 percent of – requests were for remote start.

The vehicle stays locked after a remote start, so it is secure, even when in a public space. A key in the ignition turn is required for the vehicle to move.

More than 15 percent of RemoteLink requests were to check the car's vehicle data, such as tire pressure or oil life, said OnStar Infotainment spokesman Stuart Fowle.

Owners of Volt extended-range electric vehicles asked different questions, such as how the frigid temperatures affected charging levels.

Existing RemoteLink users were just part of the record month, Fowle said. Historically, most customers download the RemoteLink app to their smartphones in January. This January saw more downloads than any previous January on record.

"Chevrolet, paired with the RemoteLink app available through OnStar, offers one of the most



RemoteLink smartphone app

winter-weather-ready lineups of any manufacturer," said Philip M. Abram, GM chief infotainment officer.

Remote start is available on most Chevrolets with automatic transmissions and is a part of the free RemoteLink Key Fob service for 2014 and newer model year vehicles, Bluhm said.

On-demand vehicle diagnostic information and the ability to send directions from your phone to your vehicle requires an active OnStar subscription.

## 28 Features Aid Camaro Z/28 In Quest for Performance

As the saying goes, "everything old is new again."

That holds true for Chevrolet's new Camaro Z/28, said Chevy spokesman Monte Doran, added that the original Z/28 (1966-74) was lightweight, nimble and "incredibly powerful."

Of course, it was designed for road racing.

The 2014 Z/28, said Doran, carries the same spirit, with every detail engineered specifically to create the ultimate track-capable Camaro.

To enable the Z/28 to quickly lap the most challenging road courses, Doran said, engineers and designers focused on strengthening three key areas during development:

- Increased grip: The Z/28 is capable of 1.08 g in cornering ac-

celeration, due to comprehensive chassis revisions;

- Increased stopping power: The Z/28 features Brembo carbon ceramic brakes capable of 1.5 g in deceleration, and consistent brake feel, lap after lap;

- Reduced curb weight: The naturally aspirated Z/28 weighs 300 pounds less than the supercharged Camaro ZL1 and 55 pounds lighter than the Camaro 1LE – with changes ranging from lightweight wheels to thinner rear-window glass.

To enhance the balance and overall driving feel of the Z/28, 100 percent of the unsprung mass – suspension, wheels, tires and brake system – differs from the Camaro SS.

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2014 Chevrolet Camaro Z/28



2014 Ford Fusion Hybrid

## Ford's New Fusion Hybrid Gets High Marks

by Jim Stickford

Ford's efforts to develop a full lineup of electric and hybrid vehicles has paid off, say Ford officials and the editors of two publications.

The automaker was recently honored by *Kelley Blue Book (KBB)* and *U.S. News and World Report* for producing excellent hybrid vehicles at affordable costs.

KBB listed the Ford C-Max and the Ford Fusion on its 2014 "10

Best Hybrid Cars Under \$30,000" list.

KBB wrote, "The Ford Fusion is one of the hottest mid-size sedans on the road right now, and the Fusion Hybrid offers all the same bold styling with even better fuel economy. The most fun-to-drive hybrid mid-size sedan also offers some of the coolest in-cabin tech."

"Fresh from its debut last year, the Ford Fusion continues to redefine the role of the mid-size family sedan, including a plug-in

hybrid electric model dubbed the Fusion Energi.

"Unlike the hybrid car, the Energi can run at high speeds up to 22 miles solely on electric power, after which the gasoline engine kicks on to power the vehicle."

The article continues, "Those interested in more traditional methods of propulsion will be quite satisfied with Ford's gasoline-only offerings, including two small displacement turbo en-

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## SRT Viper Named Collectible Car of Future

The National Automotive History Collection (NAHC) has selected the Chrysler Group's 2014 SRT (Street and Racing Technology) Viper as its "Collectible Car of the Future."

NAHC members vote annually to name the "Collectible Car of the Future" from North American-built vehicles launched during the previous calendar year, said Nestor Austin, spokesman for the organization. The SRT Viper was selected from 19 all-new vehicles introduced in 2013.

"We ask our members to predict which of the year's new vehicles will command the highest attention at Detroit's famous Woodward Dream Cruise 25 years from now," Charles K. Hyde, president of the NAHC Board of Trustees said. "Car enthusiasts select this award, making it unique among vehicle-of-the-year awards."

"Quite impressively, this is the third time Viper has been the recipient of this award, a testament to Chrysler's visionary design team."

Ralph Gilles, president and

CEO – Chrysler's SRT Brand and Motorsports, accepted the award in ceremonies at Chrysler's Featherstone Research and Engineering Center in Auburn Hills on Feb. 19.

"With fewer than 30,000 Vipers built since the nameplate's launch in 1992, the Viper has earned its place as a unique, hand-built American exotic supercar," said Gilles. "The National Automotive History Collection award further recognizes the exclusivity and collectibility of our flagship performance machine from Chrysler Group."

The NAHC is the world's largest collection of automotive books and historical materials, and is housed at the Skillman Branch of the Detroit Public Library, Austin said. The NAHC Board of Trustees raises funds and provides volunteer assistance for the collection.

Every year, the NAHC's board of trustees, which consists of "car guys who worked in the auto industry," looks at the new vehicles produced in North America to try to estimate which one

will be the most collectible, Austin said.

"The vehicles under consideration have to be produced in North America, but they don't have to be from a Big Three manufacturer," Austin said. "This year, the SRT Viper beat out 18 other vehicles, including the Cadillac ATS-V and the Cadillac CTS-V. Other nominees included the Jaguar F-Type, the Mercedes-Benz S-Class and the Range Rover Sport."

The honored vehicle gets a plaque on the wall of the NAHC offices in the Skillman library branch, Austin said.

The fifth generation of "the iconic American-built supercar" returned in 2013 as the SRT (Street and Racing Technology) brand's flagship performance machine with more power and performance, superior craftsmanship, new technologies and creature comforts, Austin said. Power from the all-aluminum, 8.4-liter mid-front V10 engine delivering 640 horsepower and 600

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AHC Trustee Jack Harned, left, with Ralph Gilles

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