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2014 Corvette Stingray

Wow! Stingray Convertible, Coupe on Road Late 2013

Chevrolet revealed the 2014 Corvette Stingray convertible at the Geneva Motor Show, featuring an all-new, fully electronic top that can be lowered remotely using the car’s key fob. The top can also be opened or closed on the go, at speeds of up to 30 mph (50 km/h).

“The convertible has been a

part of the heart and soul of Corvette since the very beginning in 1953,” said Ed Welburn, GM vice president of global design. “With the all-new Corvette Stingray, we designed and developed the coupe and convertible simultaneously. As a result, the Corvette Stingray offers an open-top driving experience with no

compromise in performance, technology or design.”

The Corvette Stingray coupe and convertible arrive in global markets in late 2013, with left-hand-drive models to be offered in Europe, the United Kingdom, the Middle East, Japan and Russia. Changes to Corvettes for export vary only in equipment re-

quired to accommodate a respective market’s regulations, such as lighting, headlamp washers and outside mirrors.

The new Stingray has enhanced driver-oriented features including a Drive Mode Selector that controls 12 vehicle settings.

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Club GM Invites Kids to Submit T-Shirt Designs

Club GM’s “Design an Earth Day T-Shirt” contest has begun. It’s open to the children of GM employees and contractors.

The theme for this year’s contest is “Watch GM Grow.” Designs should incorporate GM and the environment. Two winners will be selected to be printed a t-shirt that will be sold to the public. Money raised from the sale of these shirts will go to the Clinton River Watershed Council, and the shirt will feature the winning design from contestants 11-18 on the front. The back will feature the winning design from a child in the 5 to 10-year-old range.

The deadline for submitting a t-shirt design is March 15. Submissions may be dropped off at the Club GM store in the VEC building or by emailing them to Katie Murphy at katherine.murphy@gm.com.

Murphy said that last year there were 60 entries and all entries will be put on display in the VEC lobby on April 25, which is “Take your Child to Work” day.

Children between the ages of 11 and 18 are asked to limit their designs to five colors. Younger children are asked to use only two colors in their designs.

NDIA Mixer Offers Non-Members Chance To Meet Contacts in Defense Industry

by Jim Stickford

The Michigan chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) will be holding an informal networking event at the GM Heritage Center in Sterling Heights on Wednesday, March 20, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Current chapter president Nancy Loerch said that NDIA has chapters all across the country and that the Michigan chapter has about 3,000 members.

Loerch said the NDIA, as a group, focuses on being a liaison between the government and the defense industry. She joined the organization through Women In Defense (WID).

“WID is an affiliate of NDIA,” Loerch said. “So when you join WID, you join NDIA. That was five or six years ago.”

Loerch said wanted her company, StratComm, to have stronger connections with the defense industry, hence her join-

ing WID. She became current president after serving as first vice president. In the normal course of events, the first vice president assumes the role of president for a two-year term. She assumed the presidency in July of 2012.

The value in belonging to an organization like NDIA is in meeting people and making contacts within the defense industry, Loerch said. That’s why she is keen on the March 20 event.

“This is not a formal event presentation,” Loerch explained. “There will be no technical papers presented. This is just a venue for people in the government and people in the defense industry to come together and socialize. It’s also a chance for people who aren’t NDIA members to meet and make contacts and see if they want to join the organization.”

There will be one official presentation. The Red Ball Express Award which will be awarded at

the March 20th social. The award is normally given out at a NDIA event held in California, but that event was cancelled, Loerch said. The Secretary of the Army must approve government travel to happening such as the Tactical Wheel Vehicle Conference in California, but lately he has only been giving his approval two weeks before such events.

A conference such as the California one requires people to notify if they’re attending two months in advance, not two weeks, Loerch said. So without earlier notification, the conference was cancelled. Given Detroit’s traditional role in designing and building tactical vehicles, it was decided to present the Red Ball Express Award at the March 20 social.

The Red Ball Express Award is presented by the Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Division of NDIA “in recognition of superb contributions to Tactical Wheeled Vehicles, the National Defense Indus-



Nancy Loerch of StratComm

trial Association (NDIA), and public leadership or achievement that results in significant contributions to the develop-

ment, introduction or support of Tactical Wheeled Vehicles.

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Falcon F7

Mid-Michigan SAE Event Features Lemke with Falcon F7

Attendees at the Monday, March 18 gathering of the Mid-Michigan Section of SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) are in for a special treat.

Jeff Lemke, founder of Falcon Motor Sports in Holly, will be on hand to showcase his \$225,000 sports car, the Falcon F7. Lemke will bring an F7 to the event, held at Holiday Inn – Gateway Centre in Flint.

SAE contact Mark Pope said Lemke will tell how he got started and talk about and answer questions about the F7.

The Falcon F7 is rated at 620

horsepower, weighs less than 2,800 pounds, and has drawn accolades from automotive sources such as *Motor Trend*: “Midwestern, Mid-Engine Missile” and *Forbes*: “One of the hottest cars at the Detroit Auto Show.”

The F7 also drew a lot of attention when it “held court” at the 2012 Woodward Dream Cruise.

According to the Falcon Motor Sports website, the primary goal is “to manufacture high-quality, hand-crafted, high-performance street machines for high-end automotive enthusiasts with a passionate, renegade spirit.”

The car utilizes a chassis from the Chrysler Viper, has a carbon fiber body and is powered by a GM engine, Pope said. The car and other details can be viewed at www.falconF7.com.

The meeting schedules a sign in starting at 6 p.m.; dinner at 7 p.m. with the main program kicking off at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$20 students; retirees, \$25; \$30 members; and \$35 guests.

Reservations are due by noon on Thursday, March 14. Tickets can be purchased online at www.midmichigansae.org or call Bernard Santavy at 810-635-7948.

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