



## DRAGWAY RETROSPECT

by Dewey Ketner

### Onondaga to Offer Return to Yesteryear

This is one of a series of columns to appear in the newspaper periodically. The author, Dewey Ketner, is a recognized expert on the subject of drag racing.

From 1960 to 1978, Onondaga Dragway created some of the most exciting early drag racing history in Michigan.

It was home track to Jon Lundberg, the voice of drag racing who called the run of Art Arfons' jet dragster with a "from the pits body" roped on top to the early maiden run of E.J. Potters' "Bloody Mary" Chev V8-powered Harley Davidson motorcycle and the appearance of "The Eldorado Duece" – a 1932 Ford 5-window

coupe powered by a Cadillac engine and never beaten in show or drags.

All the early racers – Kallita, Crippen, Chris Karamesines, Ben Gutierrez, Mannor family, Capital City's blown Olds roadster, "Lawman," Ramchesters and hundreds more were all flag-started by "Hook" Brondyke.

Now that's old-time early drag racing when drags were fun.

Today, it's time to get ready for a return to yesteryear's drag racing excitement as any old-timer will bench race with you about how much fun it used to be – and is about to come alive again at the Onondaga Dragway.

The dragway is scheduled to



Onondaga 1962

reopen July 6 – subject to a bucket list of projects to be completed.

I am assembling the history of Michigan's first and early drag racing. Anybody with photos or history of the first (on dirt) drags at Stanton, please contact me at dewey.ketner@yahoo.com or by phone at 301-742-7224. Photo and history credit to you assured by Onondaga Dewey.

On a different, but related, subject, the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Mich., has dedicated 8,000 square feet of show-room space to hot roddings,

thanks to the efforts of Dennis Lesky, owner of the Ionia Hot Rod Shop and builder of national championship 1932 Fords, '32 Ford frames and associated parts.

You've got to see this display – it's outstanding.

– Onondaga Dewey

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Drag racing, street and custom cars now have national certification of their significant contribution to the history of the progress of American cars.

### 2014 Stingray Zooms Around Raceway With 'Impressive' Performance Marks

The 2014 Corvette Stingray equipped with the Z51 Performance Package, according to Chevrolet, is capable of accelerating from 0 to 60 mph in 3.8 seconds, braking from 60 to 0 in 107 feet, and sustaining 1.03 g in cornering.

Cumulatively, the acceleration, cornering and braking capability of the Corvette Stingray enabled it to lap the Virginia International Raceway's (VIR) 4.2-mile "Grand Course" in 2:51.78.

"For the new Stingray, we set out to elevate every aspect of the Corvette's performance," said Tadge Juechter, Corvette chief engineer. "Considered alone, the acceleration, braking and cornering performance of the Corvette Stingray is truly impressive. More significant is how well they work together, resulting in a lap time at VIR that places the new Stingray in the upper echelon of all sports cars."

The lap around VIR was conducted in a Stingray equipped

with the available Z51 Performance Package and Magnetic Ride Control. The vehicle that conducted the lap was modified only with safety features like a racing seat and harness, and fire extinguisher system.

"The new Stingray constantly communicates feedback to the driver, which makes you feel incredibly confident behind the wheel," said Jim Mero, Corvette vehicle dynamics engineer.

"That confidence encourages you to attack each corner because the Stingray drives so well: the tire grip is incredible; the steering response is some of the best I've ever experienced; the Magnetic Ride dampers allow little body roll through the corner, while still soaking up the rumble strips when you clip the apex," he said. "It's just addictive on the track."

The 2014 Corvette Stingray coupe goes on sale in the third quarter of 2013 for a suggested starting retail price of \$51,995,



2014 Corvette Stingray

excluding tax, title, and license fees.

The \$2,800 Z51 Performance Package includes an electronic limited-slip differential; dry-sump

oil system; integral brake, differential and transmission cooling; as well as a unique aero package that further improves high-speed stability.

### Magazine Honors Ford F-150 Truck

The Ford F-150 has been named winner of the 2013 Light-Duty Challenge by the editors of PickupTrucks.com and Popular Mechanics magazine.

"In our performance-oriented competitive events, the Ford half-ton was dominating," said Mark Williams, editor of PickupTrucks.com. "It finished in either first or second place in 11 of 13 events. If this were the Olympics, there would be a new Ford F-150 on a cereal box."

F-150 beat out five competitors, including two of the newest entries from General Motors and the latest Ram. Judges tested the 2013 Ford F-150 against the 2014 Chevrolet Silverado 1500, 2014 GMC Sierra 1500, 2013 Nissan Titan, 2013 Ram 1500 and 2013 Toyota Tundra. Trucks were put through rigorous performance tests including 0-60 mph acceleration (loaded and unloaded),

braking, overall handling, towing and fuel economy.

"The results of this test show why F-Series has been the best-selling pickup truck in America for more than 30 years," said Doug Scott, Ford truck group marketing manager.

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