

CAR TALK

Chevrolet Corvette SUV

Well, we shared a laugh and a sigh about the news that Chevrolet is going to start putting the Corvette name on other models besides our beloved sports car. We now have some details about what I guess will be the 2025 SUV. I have the article here from the May edition of Car and Driver, so you can take a look at the pictures. Not a bad looking mid-size SUV, though I don't think I like calling it a Corvette.

But at least it's not going to be another new electric vehicle. It's built on GM's Alpha platform, which is currently being used for the Camaro and several Cadillac models. It's estimated to start out around only \$60,000 at the low end. The base model will probably be equipped with a turbocharged four-cylinder engine putting out 300-plus horsepower. Then there will surely be a twin-turbocharged V-6 model with around 400 horsepower. And a high-trim model will likely use the current Stingray V-8 engine with nearly 500 horsepower. All these models are expected to be AWD and utilize a 10-speed automatic transmission. A follow-up version of this SUV may be the Porsche-killer, making use of the Cadillac Escalade V-8 with supercharger and 682 horsepower. Pretty heady stuff.

I guess we'll see what happens. The first Corvette SUV's are supposed to start hitting showrooms in the second half of 2024.

But why couldn't they call it a Monza Super Sport or Blazer Z-44 or something like that?

The Last Camaro, Again

2025 will now be the end of the road for the Camaro. Apparently, Chevrolet just can't seem to compete successfully against the Mustang. But in 2025, apparently, we will see the latest, and last, Z/28. It will also ride on that Alpha platform with some big engine, probably a detuned version of the Corvette LT6 putting out somewhere between 600 and 650 horsepower. It will have all the high-end goodies, like Brembo brakes, big grippy tires, carbon-ceramic brake rotors and the like. So, if you have a craving for a hot Camaro, this will be your last chance. If we ever see another Camaro rebirth, it will definitely be electric.

Trivia Question

What standard equipment on almost every new car sold in North America since at least the 1970s may no longer be available on all future electric vehicles?

- A. AM radio reception

- B. Glass rear view mirrors
- C. Heater for interior air
- D. All the above

A.- Because electric motors play havoc with AM radio signals.

Another What-Not-to-Do Story

This old car guy says replacing rusted exhaust system parts was something I had to do frequently when our family was young. We drove older cars and our Wisconsin roads were well salted in winter. Exhaust components had a very short life expectancy.

The exhaust system replacement on my big '79 Olds 98 Regency went as well as any of the others. As usual, I had to work on my back in my garage with no room to spare. A short test drive confirmed all was right with the new exhaust parts on the Olds. The slight odor of the labels and coatings burning off the new pipes was confirmation of their newness.

My first roundtrip to work in the Olds with the new pipes was quiet, but the smell of something burning was much stronger than usual. Everything under the car looked okay. On my second roundtrip to work, the smell diminished but a rattle developed. The exhaust system rattled with every little bump in the road. I had to crawl under the car again and bang around to finally figure out that the rattle was coming from something loose inside one of the pipes. I did some disassembly and found a scorched metal bar.

I suddenly remembered that my toddler son "helped" me with the original assembly. He apparently shoved a large, beautiful new Craftsman screwdriver from my set into the new pipe assembly while it was laid out on the floor. I dragged the new pipe assembly sideways under the car and lifted it into place without ever noticing my son's contribution to the effort. The screwdriver laid quietly in the pipe until its plastic handle, the source of the aroma, was completely melted away.