THE *Heartbeat* OF THE NORTHWEST

November / December 2024

The ***Heartbeat of the Northwest*** is the official publication of the ***Pacific Northwest Camaro Club*** and is provided bimonthly to active members. Distribution is also provided, by the direction of the Club President, to other individuals, clubs, and/or commercial enterprises. The ***Pacific Northwest Camaro Club*** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the Chevrolet Camaro, and no person shall be denied membership because of age, sex, race, or religion.

Online Membership Application / Renewals (Online Application) – Click on this link if you would like to sign up for membership online (or renew your existing membership) and pay the annual $20.00 fee with PayPal

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A Note from our President

As we head into the Holidays, I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, I would also like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. I look forward to the new year and experiences it will bring for the club.

In the last week, the club had its annual Awards banquet at Billy McHale's in Federal Way, with about twenty members in attendance. We spent time recognizing our club officers and volunteers for their service during the year and during the All Camaro show.

All Camaro Show numbers reported the success of ACS with ninety cars in attendance and raised $ 2,172.90 which will be disbursed between the club's two charities: Life Enrichment Options (LEO) and the Washington State Hot Rod Hall of Fame for a student scholarship.

We are planning our annual Christmas party which will be hosted by Barbara and Larry DeCamp at their home on Saturday December 14th at 6 pm. It will be a potluck, and everyone is encouraged to bring one unwrapped gift for the Toy's for Tots give away, and one wrapped gift for the gift exchange with a suggested dollar limit of 20 to 25 dollars. We have already planned some meetings and activities for 2025; Our annual planning meeting is on Saturday January 25th at Griot's Garage in Tacoma at 1 pm, and there is a care clinic with Griot's for Saturday March 15th from 10 am to 11:30 am.

For 2025, I will continue to be President. For the position of Secretary will combine with the Treasurer position, and Kevin Ames will cover both. We need someone to step up to be Vice-President, and we need a new Activities Director who can create and lead activities for the new year. All other positions will remain the same.

Brian Stanley
President PNWCC 2024

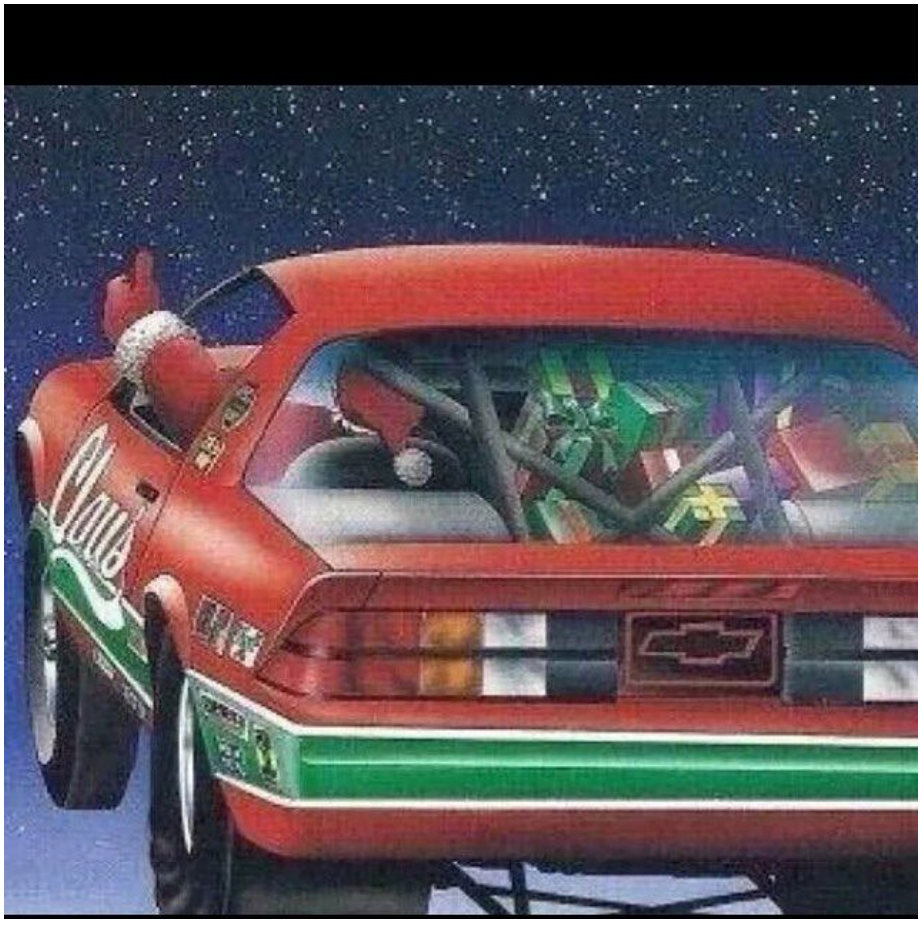
Thoughts from the Newsletter Editor

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. As we approach the end of 2024, we are in need of members to step up and help with the running of the club, it really doesn't take too much time, but we haven't had a group of new Officers for quite some time. We would like to have somebody step up to be Vice-President for 2025 and we need somebody for Activities Director for 2025 as well.

As the planning is getting started for the 2025 All Camaro Show, we could use volunteers to help with parking on the day of the show. This would require you to show up early for the show and be able to direct cars to the proper areas to park for the show, if we have enough people, it won't be too difficult and shouldn't take too much of anyone's time.

As this will be the last newsletter for 2024, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Don't forget the Club Christmas party on Dec. 14th at the DeCamp residence in Federal Way. We will see you again in 2025.

Kevin Ames
Newsletter Editor



Third-Gen Chevrolet Camaro vs Pontiac Firebird: 3 Reasons Why the Chevy Was the Better Car

By: **Sergiu Tudose**

I quite like the fact that when GM designed the third-generation Camaro, it looked absolutely nothing like the previous model. Of course, the same can be said about the Pontiac Firebird, since the two are joined at the hip. But which of them is the better car? I'm not sure the answer is simple, but at least on paper, I'm siding with the Camaro.

Let's get something out of the way first. There are a lot of Firebird fans, me included, who immediately think back to KITT (the Knight Industries Two Thousand car from the TV series Knight Rider) whenever we hear the name 'Firebird'. It would be best to ignore KITT's influence all together, because that design was bespoke, and the end-result looked nothing like a stock Firebird. Now, both the third-gen Camaro and the Firebird were introduced in late 1981 for the 1982 model year, with a man called Jerry Palmer responsible for their designs. Palmer, who would later be inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame, also worked on the updated C3 Corvette, and its successor, the C4 Corvette. For the uninitiated, as Bane would put it, there probably isn't all that much between the Camaro and the Firebird in terms of design. Some might say they look nearly identical, except for the front-end styling and taillight panel. In reality, the design language is clearly different. All it takes is a closer look.

The Firebird features way more rounded corners than the Camaro, which has a more angular aesthetic. Their fenders are also different, as are the quarter panels. Anyway, let's dive into our three main reasons why the Camaro can objectively be viewed as the superior product compared to its sibling.

#1. Styling appeal

This isn't about what's different or what's the same, but rather which of the two has broader appeal. I believe the answer is the Camaro. Its sharper lines and simpler design (again, this is me being objective), gives it a timeless aesthetic compared to the Firebird's more, let's say, exuberant styling.

It's why you might hear some people say that the 3rd-gen Camaro's design aged better than that of the Firebird, which should continue to be the case as the two vehicles morph into genuine American classics.

Again, we need to ignore the fact that the Firebird was immortalized as possibly the most popular automotive TV character of all time. KITT was a heavily customized Trans Am spec model, with a bespoke nose, blacked out tail panel, black wheels, and a futuristic interior by 80s standards. Come to think of it, one could even argue that as nice as KITT looks, a clean, black IROC-Z looks almost as good today.

#2. Affordability

This one is rather simple. Generally speaking, the Camaro was a more affordable product than the Firebird, which meant that it “spoke” to a wider audience. It’s part of the reason why people bought more Camaros than they did Firebirds.

Of course, the price difference wasn’t necessarily a big one (we’re talking a few hundred bucks with regards to starting MSRP, for instance), but in the end it did all add up.

#3. Racing heritage

The Camaro's IROC-Z specification gained significant attention when it was first introduced in 1985. It was named after the International Race of Champions, and it was offered as an option package on the Z28, featuring upgraded suspension, a lowered ride height, new shocks, larger sway bars, and an optional Tuned Port Injection system borrowed from the Corvette.

By comparison, the third-gen Firebird sort of lacked any direct racing ties, although Pontiac did introduce plenty of desirable specs and packages throughout this car’s life cycle.

I’m not going to dive deep into performance, even though Camaro fans will point to certain variants and say that generally, they delivered better acceleration when compared to equivalent Firebird trims. The thing about performance is, neither car really had anything worth writing home about. At least not when compared to their muscle car predecessors.

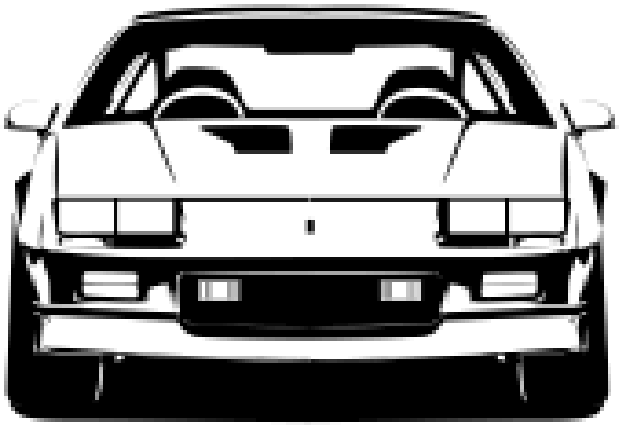
Wait, so the Firebird flat out loses?

No, it's not a blowout, because Pontiac certainly did an amazing job with the 3rd-gen Firebird. In later years, the Trans Am GTA spec, fitted with the 5.7-liter TPI V8 unit, offered performance on par with, if not better than, the Camaro's very best variants.

Meanwhile, the Firebird was also often praised for its more upscale interior, featuring slightly better fit and finish – particularly in higher trims. I think the difference was rather negligible, but it's still worth mentioning.

There's also a sense of exclusivity with the Firebird, because of its distinctive design with the pop-up headlights, optional decals, digital dashboards (on later Trans Am GTA models), and so on. Maybe exclusivity is the wrong word, but to some, these cars felt a little less mainstream with the right spec.

So, how about you guys? Are you Team Camaro or Team Firebird? We'd love to hear from anyone who's ever owned either of the two (as third-gen models), so if that's you, just drop us a line below and tell us your story.



Bowtie People

Birthdays

Floyd Lorenz	12/2	Dr. Sue Sykes	1/12
Marcie Ostenberg	12/5	Barbara DeCamp	1/23
Jo Ann Hill	12/11	Rick Jones	1/24
Cindee Goodwin	12/19	Chuck Kelstrom	1/25
Marcy Angel-Rosenlund	12/28	Ken Nylin	1/29
Jessica Weaver	12/31	Carrol Weaver	1/30

Anniversaries

Kevin and Jenni Ames	12/13
Mark and Melissa Smith	12/17
Lynne Marie Dean and Brian Stromberg	12/31
Marc and Cindee Goodwin	1/22

2024 Pacific NW Camaro Club Activities

December

12/14 6:00 pm PNWCC Christmas Party/Potluck, The DeCamp Residence, Federal Way

January

1/25 1:00 pm PNWCC Activities Planning Meeting, Griot's Garage, Tacoma

March

3/15 10:00 am Car Care Clinic, Griot's Garage, Tacoma

If there are any events you would like to see, or you know of something that we could do as a club; please contact the Activities director at activities@pnwcc.com

PNWCC
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PACIFIC N.W. Camaro CLUB

THE Heartbeat OF THE NORTHWEST

NEW MEMBER _____ OR RENEWAL _____

NAME:_____ DATE:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____ STATE:_____ ZIP:_____

PHONE#: _____ ALT PHONE#: _____

EMAIL:_____ ALT EMAIL: _____

Would you like to receive your newsletter by (check one): ____EMAIL ____REGULAR MAIL ____BOTH

Would you like to receive event and other club announcements by email? (check one): _____YES _____NO

MEMBER & FAMILY	BIRTHDAY (MM/DD)	FAMILY MEMBER	BIRTHDAY (MM/DD)

ANNIVERSAY (mm/dd):_____

CAMARO	YEAR	MODEL	TYPE	ENGINE	TRANS	COLOR
#1						

OTHER INFO/REMARKS:_____

#2						

OTHER INFO/REMARKS:_____

#3						

OTHER INFO/REMARKS:_____

How did you find out about PNWCC? (circle one): Friend Website Facebook Google/Bing

or other source?_____

Interests (circle all that apply): Cruising Shows Drag Racing Restoring Modifying

or other: _____

Please mail this application with check/cash for membership dues of **$20.00** - checks payable to:

Pacific Northwest Camaro Club (PNWCC)

126 S. 293rd Pl, Federal Way, WA 98003

Web: www.pnwcc.com or Contact: secretary@pnwcc.com