PACIFIC N.W.

THE *Heartbeat* OF THE NORTHWEST

May / June 2025

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.

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Note: You must call Rick's Camaros and use the customer ID listed. Make sure you specify your address for shipping.

A Note from our President

Buckle Up for 2025's LS Fest West April 25th to 27th!

LS Fest West was a huge event and drew thousands of people from all over the Western United States to Las Vegas Motor speedway for a three-day autocross event and included drag racing, 3S challenge, show and shine and burn out contest, and dirt track in celebration of the LS Motor.

I participated in three days of autocross, along with my friends Brent Franich, Chris Nordhaus, Hayle Hoyt, Cody France, Jon Nidermayer and Stevn Sobosky. LS Fest features two types of autocross courses, a traditional layout in a parking lot (autocross #1) and the second on a road course which was a layout to allow for higher speeds through sweeping curves and straight-away (autocross #2).

Joining us this year was Steven Sobosky and his son for the weekend. It was Steven's first time at LS Fest and he and his car performed well. Remember, Steven won Best in Show with his 3rd Gen Resto Mod at the 2024 ACS.

Jon Nidermayer has been helpful in teaching me how to be a better autocross driver. This year he rode along with me and coached, then later I rode along with him to see how he drove the course in his 68 Resto Mod Camaro. Not much to hold onto in a 68' Camaro!

Brent Franich checks the air pressure of his tires between runs on the grid. Brent won 3rd place in his class in the 3S Challenge on Sunday.

This year Hayle Hoyt, Chris Nordhaus's partner, decided to become a driver, she did remarkably well on the courses.

LS Fest West is truly an exhilarating event where one can evaluate the limits of one's car and driving skills, something I enjoy as I work to better my driving skills.

Brian Stanley
President PNWCC 2025

The 1981 Yenko Turbo Z Camaro Is Incredibly Rare

Highlights Of The 1981 Yenko Z Camaro

- The Turbo Z had around 75 horsepower more than the standard Camaro Z28
- There were two options available: a more spartan Stage I, and a more heavily tuned Stage II
- A standard boost gauge sat in place of the cigarette lighter

On paper, Don Yenko was a guy with a Chevrolet dealership in McMurray, Pennsylvania. But to muscle car fans, Yenko was a superstar. In 1966, the race car driver turned the Chevy Corvair into the Yenko Stinger, and a year later Yenko was stuffing 450-horsepower, 427-cubic-inch V8s into Camaros. The 1970 Chevy Yenko Deuce Nova is another stone-cold classic. Clearly not satisfied with the way muscle cars were going at the end of the '70s, Yenko then turned his attention to the Camaro once more. But rather than transplant the engine for some monster V8, he had another idea.

Cars Like The Porsche 911 Turbo Likely Helped Inspire The Yenko Z

The Porsche 911 Turbo had proved how effective forced induction could be at producing big power, so Yenko decided to take that route. The Camaro had

gone from sports car to cruiser, but the potential was there to turn it into an agile and quick machine in the same vein as some of the best sports cars coming out of Europe and Japan. Yenko and Kim Mason, general manager at his Chevy dealership, used Turbo International turbocharger kits to increase the power in the Z28. The 175-horsepower 350 the car would be based on was only available with a three-speed automatic, however, so this transmission stayed on in the turbocharged car.

The Yenko Z Was Suddenly A Contender On The Quarter Mile
Power was up considerably thanks to the Camaro's new forced induction V8. Yenko never revealed how much power the car now had, but many estimate it to be around 240 to 250 horsepower. Hot Rod magazine tested the new car, noting that a stock Z28 rolled through the quarter-mile in 17.10 seconds at a top speed of 79 mph. The Yenko Turbo Z ran the quarter in 14.52 seconds at 97.81 mph, with the boost turned right up to the max. The magazine also noted the good fuel economy of the turbocharged car, saying that it meets all EPA emissions codes and can achieve 22 mpg.

A Closer Look At The Yenko Camaro Turbo Z

1981 Yenko Z Camaro Specs

Engine	Turbocharged 5.7-liter V8
Power	240 to 250 hp
Torque	275 lb-ft
Quarter Mile	14.52 seconds

The Yenko Turbo Z has a “blow-through” turbo setup, which sends compressed air through the stock carburetor, with a maximum of seven psi of boost available. The car had a water injection system as a safeguard against detonation, as well as a fuel heater under the carburetor to prevent engine stumble before the engine had reached its full operating temperature. Much of the Z28’s LM1 350 remained standard, with 8.2:1-compression and two-bolt main bearing caps. Despite the car getting 80 more horsepower, it still had a full one-year warranty as it was sold by an authorized Chevy dealer.

There Were Two Options Available For The Yenko Z

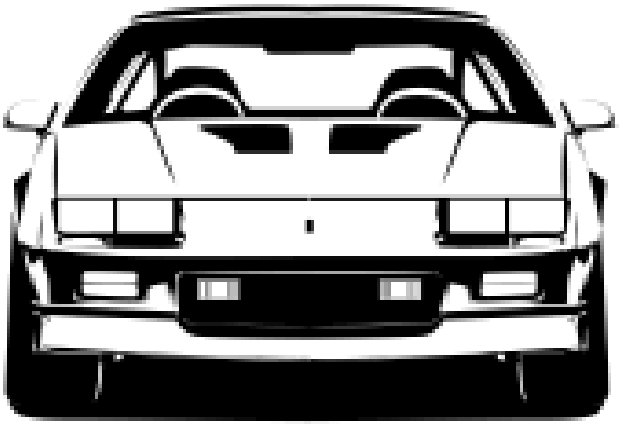
Buyers could opt for two different Tubo Z packages, with wildly different sticker prices. The standard Stage I Turbo Z was a fairly well-specced car but aside from the extra power, it made do with much of the standard Camaro suspension set-up. Customers got cruise control, tilt steering wheel, and air conditioning, all for $10,500. Visually, the car was only distinguished from a standard Z28 by the “Turbo Z” door graphics and the aggressive front air dam that mimicked Camaro IROC race cars. This addition wasn't just for show, with air ducts that could be routed to feed air to the front disc brakes.
The Yenko Z Certainly Wasn't Cheap

The Stage II option opened up a suite of chassis tuning to better utilize the extra power. For $17,300, the Stage II Yenko Z had Koni shocks, Guldstrand polyurethane bushings, and modified stabilizer bars. The car also came fitted with Weld two-piece 15x7-inch wheels with Goodyear Wingfoot radials (245/60-15 at the front and 255/60-15 at the rear). Both cars got a boost gauge in place of the cigarette lighter and a water injection light and water injector level indicator panel, the latter with three displays: 'safe', 'add', and 'danger'. For the Stage II cars, owners also got Kamp leather seats and a Racemark steering wheel.

Here's How Much A Yenko Z Is Worth In 2025

Yenko hoped to sell 200 Turbo Z cars, but in the end, just 19 were built. Of these, according to Hagerty, just three were the more expensive Stage II cars. When you consider the cult following of some Yenko cars – a 1968 Chevrolet Camaro Yenko costs $367,000 in good condition – the Turbo Z cars are not as expensive as you might think, especially considering how rare they are.

The hard part is finding one for sale - they don't appear very often. Mecum Auction sold one of the three Stage II cars at Kissimmee in 2018. This example had 38,852 miles on the clock and sold for $68,200. By comparison, a 1981 Chevrolet Camaro Z/28 with a 175-horsepower 350 V8 sells for $24,500 in good condition, according to Hagerty Valuation Tools. At Kissimmee 2020, a red Stage I car surfaced but only fetched half of what the Stage II car reached. The final selling price was just $31,900.



Bowtie People

Birthdays

Jenni Ames	6/7	Gary Shaefer	7/9
Melissa Smith	6/19	Steve Hartson	7/10
Tim Loewen	7/1	Drew Smith	7/14
Jim Weaver	7/7	Ryan Schaefer	7/20

Anniversaries

Larry and Barbara DeCamp	6/2
Jim and Carrol Weaver	6/6
Marilyn Muscat and Kent Woodworth	7/13
Dan and Kristie Morgan	7/16
Larry and Marcy Angel Rosenlund	7/26

2025 All Camaro Show

July 27th, 2025

TO REGISTER ONLINE

SCAN ME

GRIOT'S GARAGE

PACIFIC N.W. Camaro CLUB

THE Heartbeat OF THE NORTHWEST

Coffee by:
Wandering Cowgirl Coffee

Food Available
from
Supreme Smashburgers

Griot's Garage

3333 S. 38th St, Tacoma

8am - 2pm

A Northwest Camaro Only Event

SS
Camaro
BY CHEVROLET
Firebird
6th Annual
Firebird-Camaro
Car Show!
Sponsored by:
WESTERN WASHINGTON FIREBIRDS
Sunday June 1st, 2025
O'Reilly
AUTO PARTS
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CAMARO CENTRAL
Burger Master
BURGERMASTER
10 am - 3 pm
Registration starts @ 9 am
For more information & to register online, visit:
www.wwfirebirds.com

JULY 12TH
11AM - 3PM
CHEVROLET OF EVERETT presents
ANNUAL CAR SHOW
ALL PROCEEDS & DONATIONS SUPPORT
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2025 Pacific NW Camaro Club Activities

May

5/24 8:00 am Car Club Challenge, Bremerton Raceway, Bremerton

June

6/1 10:00 am Firebird-Camaro Show, Burgermaster, Issaquah
Hosted by Western Washington Firebirds

6/7 8:00 am Caffeine and Gasoline, Griot's Garage, Tacoma
6/13-15 Camaro's in the Cellar, Yakima, WA
6/14 8:00 am Car Club Challenge, Bremerton Raceway, Bremerton
6/20 4:00 pm Car Club Challenge, Pacific Raceway, Kent
6/27 4:00 pm Car Club Challenge, Pacific Raceway, Kent

July

7/5 8:00 am Caffeine and Gasoline, Griot's Garage, Tacoma
7/11 4:00 pm Car Club Challenge, Pacific Raceway, Kent
7/12 11:00 am Chevrolet of Everett Car Show, Everett
7/27 8:00 am ALL CAMARO SHOW, Griot's Garage, Tacoma

August

8/2 8:00 am Caffeine and Gasoline, Griot's Garage, Tacoma
8/2 8:00 am Car Club Challenge, Bremerton Raceway, Bremerton
8/6-10 Hot August Nights, Reno, NV
8/15 4:00 pm Car Club Challenge, Pacific Raceway, Kent
8/22 4:00 pm Car Club Challenge, Pacific Raceway, Kent

If there are any events you would like to see, or you know of something that we could do as a club; please contact 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						
#2						
#3						

OTHER INFO/REMARKS:_____

OTHER INFO/REMARKS:_____

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)

5008 60th Ave NE, Marysville, WA 98270

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