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Old Pontiac, new need for speed

It's 'cause cool Scandinavian air is denser. Right?

It's been a quarter-century since Gale Banks and *Car and Driver* magazine sought to build a genuine 200-MPH production car based on the ultra-aerodynamic third-generation Pontiac Trans Am. Now comes word out of Europe that Norway-based Polly Motorsports has built one that will match the performance of a

Bugatti Veyron — Volkswagen's 1,000hp, 250 MPH, million-dollar supercar that still manages to lose money on every example built.

Polly squeaked 1,400-plus horsepower from a Procharger-blown 540-cu.in. Donovan big-block Chevy, fed through a ZF six-speed trans back to a 9-inch Ford rear with 2.47:1 gears.

Here are some stats to flatten your eyeballs: 0-60 in 2.2 seconds. 0-125 in under six seconds. 0-180 in 12 seconds and change. It'll do the quarter-mile in 9.2 seconds at 120-plus MPH. And it's got a recorded top speed of 407.134 kilometers per hour — 252 MPH, making it the fastest street-legal car in Germany.

Apparently it's theoretically capable of 435 kilometers per hour (a whopping 270 MPH!) but the track in Germany they hired to test it is too small to accommodate that sort of beating.

There's talk of this car coming to the States to do some open-road racing events. We'll bring you more as we learn it.



Mark Donohue tribute at Watkins Glen opener

As the Northeast emerges from the winter thaw, Watkins Glen International will kick off its 2009 season with a special event honoring legendary race driver Mark Donohue. The season opener is a tradition at the upstate New York facility — this is the 61st season — and one of the attractions is a rare opportunity for fans to drive the famous 3.4-mile course.

The special tribute will feature some of the now-vintage race cars once driven by Donohue and will include the official release of the new Mark Donohue biography, written by Michael Argetsinger, son of the late Cameron Reynolds Argetsinger, Watkins Glen founder.

Opening weekend is April 25-26; for more info, go to www.theGlen.com.

Corvette calendar

The only date that matters is Bloomington Gold

If you like Corvettes but you've never been to Bloomington Gold, you're doing yourself a disservice. This year's event, the 37th, will be held June 25-28 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois. It's the longest continuously running Corvette show out there. Whether you want to learn about Corvettes through seminars, buy one of 350 available at auction, or just walk around and look at the most original, most historic and best-preserved Corvettes in the flesh until your feet threaten to fall off, Bloomington



Gold is one-stop shopping.

Attendees and judging participants can register online

or by mail. For more details about the show, judging and registration procedures, visit

www.bloomingtongold.com, call 309-888-4477 or e-mail info@bloomingtongold.com.