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Chevrolet Trailblazer 2005: The Weekly Driver Review

By James Raia

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With the addition of the 5.3-liter, 325-horsepower V8 extended cab (EXT), eight Chevrolet Trailblazer models are on the road in 2005. And as the largest and most powerful Blazer available, the new EXT has plenty to offer.

It's comfortable and provides a confident drive. It offers vast cargo space, has an attractive two-tone interior, a well-designed console and boasts of plenty of impressive option packages.

But sometimes subtle qualities or subtle deficiencies are more impressive or problematic than a vehicle's overt characteristics.

So it is with the new Blazer. While recently showing the car to several friends, one sat in the second row of seats. Surprisingly, his head easily hit the roof. My friend is 6-foot-3, and while that's tall, he's not a giant by any stretch.

"I've got a Scion and there's plenty of rear seat headroom," my friend commented.

The quick analysis made a good point. As the largest and most powerful Blazer available, shouldn't a 6-foot-3 person sit comfortably in the middle of the car's three rows?

Conversely, an SUV hardly seems like a vehicle for a remarkable sound system. But the Bose premium sound system available in the Blazer's Sun, Sound and Entertainment Package is superior. The combination AM/FM stereo, six-disc changer, XM satellite radio and eight speakers are arguably the finest music package I've experienced in any test car in the past two years.

Beyond a curious space limitation and a wondrous sound system options, the Blazer offers an odd mixture. It's a well-designed SUV with plenty of space for family and cargo. It has adequate steering and handling, and it offers a quiet ride considering its status as a large SUV with 17-inch tires.

Yet, the Blazer falls short in other key areas.

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The vehicle's braking system seems uneven – fine in some circumstances, soft in other scenarios with far-too-long response time. The Blazer maneuvers well in traffic and its turning radius is surprisingly tight and efficient. But again, for each of the vehicle's strengths, there's a weakness. The Blazer's fuel rating of 14 mpg (city) and 19 (hwy) is hardly impressive.

Standard features are adequate: power mirrors, heated daytime running lamps, remote keyless entry, tinted rear glass, 65/35 second and third-row folding seats and a rear window defogger, among other standard items.

Three options packages, the aforementioned Sun, Sound and Entertainment, as well as the Luxury and V8 Power Play packages, can add nearly \$7,000 to the base sticker, pushing the total price to

more than \$41,000.

Some options are worthwhile, including the OnStar Emergency System (with one year of free service) and leather-appointed seats. Other options - cruise control, leather-wrapped steering wheel and steering wheel audio controls - are standard for other manufacturers' SUVs.

A Preferred Equipment Savings reduction of \$3,150 lowers the top-of-the line Blazer's price, after a \$685 destination charge, to \$38,515.

As such, the Blazer isn't the most expensive or most economical SUV on the market. But certainly, for nearly \$40,000, good brakes and sufficient second-row headroom shouldn't be issues.

2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer

Safety features — Dual-stage driver and front passenger airbags. Antilock brakes.

Fuel Mileage (estimates) — 14 mpg (city), 19 mpg (highway).

Warranty — Bumper to bumper, 3 years/36,000 miles; Power train, 3 years/36,000 miles; Corrosion, 6 years/100,000 miles; 24-hour free roadside assistance, 3 years, 36,000 miles

Base price — \$34,270.00

James Raia is a Sacramento, Calif., journalist who writes about sports, travel and lifestyle topics as well as the automotive column, The Weekly Driver Review. To read more car reviews, visit:

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Naming A Car After A Boat – Chevrolet Corvette

By Keith George

General Motors manufactures Chevrolet Corvette in their Kentucky assembly plant. This car falls in the sports car category. Corvettes are either two door coupes or two door convertibles. Chevrolet Corvette is very similar to Dodge Viper and Ford GT.

Extremely powerful engines are one of the distinguishing features of this car. But though the engine packs power it is not complex. An overhead valve together with a larger displacement, usage of leaf springs in suspension makes Chevrolet Corvette what it is.

Other cars in the similar category are made with a much more complex engine. The cars are in many colors like sunset orange, silver grey. There have been many models of Chevrolet Corvette each better than the previous one.

Corvettes are very sophisticated cars, but they have a little history behind them. Corvette is a small fighting frigate and the car has taken its name from them. The naming has been done by a gentleman called Myron Scott.

Though now General Motors manufacture them in a very big way, the first car built in Flint, Michigan was practically hand made. From that first car the latest Chevrolet Corvette model unveiled in the last quarter of 2005, as a model for 2006, has indeed come a long way. General Motors have constantly strived to make the newer models a cut above the rest, but without any mind boggling complexities. In the niche market, Corvettes stand tall.

Owning a Chevrolet Corvette is a matter of pride. They are stylish and expensive. Only a true car connoisseur can really appreciate the beauty of a Corvette. Fuel economy is another attraction of a Corvette. The cars have become very popular especially with those who are somewhat adventurous and enjoy speed.

Dealers are able to guide the customer and Corvettes come with a thirty six month warranty. There is the benefit of insurance also. Corvettes offer a comfortable ride, but compared to other sports cars, there is less agility because of a light steering and its width. The interior of the 2006 model is an improvement on the earlier models.

There is a big market for used cars and with the advent of internet buying and selling cars have become very easy and convenient. In fact getting the product details or information about new models is easy too. There are used car dealers and the prospective seller can contact them. But getting attached to Chevrolet Corvette is so easy, few think of getting rid of it.

Keith George always writes about valuable news & reviews. A related resource is

Further information can be found at



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