

CHEVY

HIGH PERFORMANCE

CONTENTS

SPECIAL FEATURE

22 READERS' RIDES GOES WIDE

With so much reader feedback from last year's Local Heroes Special, we've decided to bring it back for the second time, only this year, we've made it even bigger, showcasing 31 of the hottest rides submitted.

TECH

50 DOMESTIC EXOTICA

In an effort to unlock the secrets of GM's latest LS9, we take a first-hand look into the innards of this new beast, build one ourselves, and get the skinny from GM engineers.

58 SHORT STOPPIN' Z

We swap out the factory brakes with new gear from Power Slot, Hawk, and Classic Tube and follow it up with braking distance numbers.

64 THE 500HP QUESTION

It may be small, but it's no slouch. This high-compression AFR-headed 327ci small-block uses a factory-cast block to achieve a staggering 553 hp in naturally aspirated form.

70 A MONSTER IS BORN

We follow along as Westech Performance's Steve Brulé builds a pump gas 496ci big-block to the tune of 780 hp.

ON THE COVER

Associate Editor John Nelson snapped Ray Thompson's small-block-powered '68 Camaro, which is undoubtedly a fitting street machine for this month's Local Heroes theme. For what it's worth, Ray's been patiently waiting for, *ummm*, let's just say a fair length of time for his feature to grace the pages of *CHP*, so here's to you, Ray—cheers!



