

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAAT SUP HERE AND THERE

By Larry Becker



There is a push in Congress to require the federal government to buy American Flags only manufactured entirely in the U.S. and made of only U.S. manufactured material.

The states with the highest state gasoline taxes are : #1-California 53.6 cents per gallon, #2 New York 50.5 cents per gallon, #3 Connecticut 49.0 cents per gallon and #4 Hawaii 48.7 cents per gallon. The states with the lowest state gas taxes are: Alaska 8 cents per gallon, Virginia 13.6 cents per gallon, New Jersey 14.5 cents per gallon and South Carolina with 16.8 cents gallon. Note! This does not include any federal taxes.

According to a 2011 survey by AOL/Cars, California has 8 cities in the ten places to have your vehicle stolen. #1- Fresno, Ca, (#1 for more than 1 year), #2- Modesto, Ca, #3 Bakersfield Ca, #4 Spokane Wa, #5 Yakima Wa, #6 San Francisco Ca, #7 Stockton Ca, #8 Anderson South Carolina, #9 Vallejo Ca and # 10 Visalia Ca. These figures are for the year 2011 as figures for 2012 have not been released yet. California is expected to be the number state again.

Not all of the following proposed state laws are not laws at this time. They have recently been introduced and are currently under consideration by the respective state legislatures.

ALABAMA

The city of Opelika reports that red-light cameras in the city have generated more than 500 citations in the first full month. Mayor Gary Fuller said 794 warnings were issued in April when the cameras first started being used. After a grace period, 533 citations were issued in May, the first month for which complete figures are available.

Auburn University's athletic department is adding more than 2,000 free and 800 paid parking spaces and new tailgating areas for football Saturday.

ALASKA

A project once held up as an example of government waste and derisively labeled a "bridge to nowhere" is getting another look. The state recently proposed six "build" alternatives to improve access between the southwest Alaska community of Ketchikan and Gravina Island, where the Ketchikan International Airport is located.

ARIZONA

A dude rancher has filed a notice of appeal with federal authorities to stop the use of a bypass road to the Grand Canyon Skywalk. Grand Canyon Ranch Resort owner Nigel Turner claims the road for the alternative access to the Skywalk is unnecessary because two other routes already exist.

CALIFORNIA

On July 1st, the state increased the excise tax on gasoline by 3.5 cents per gallon. This gives California the honor of having the largest gas tax of any state. The excise tax on a gallon of gasoline in California is now 39.5 cents per gallon.

The state has delayed the opening of the new span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge until December, when another safety review will be done.

SB 556 by Sen. Ellen Corbett of San Leandro would require government contractors who have government emblems or insignias on their uniforms to also wear an emblem saying, in capitol letters, "NOT A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE." That also goes for the worker's

vehicles. This bill does not set well with city, county and state agencies. For example, the Yolo County Transit buses are driven by contract drivers, and that would require the buses to have large letters, taking up nearly the entire side of the bus, saying “THE OPERATOR OF THIS VEHICLE IS NOT A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE.” Most other cities, county and state agencies say they would be facing the same problem.

Several California counties have received special state grants to what safety officials say is one of the most dangers on the road – driver impaired by drugs. The counties are getting money for special drug testing equipment. The new machines are faster and detect more drugs, including a group with the street name “bath salts”, which are like amphetamines. There are many prescription drugs used by drivers that also impair their driving skills. Many other states have, for years, had programs that dealt with drivers and drug use.

Sad, Sad Day! After years of noise complaints from residents, the Long Beach City Council has taken steps to draft an ordinance that would require ice cream truck drivers to turn off the music when they are serving customers.

COLORADO

Transportation officials plan to increase the threshold for a high occupancy vehicle, or HOV, from a minimum of two occupants of a car to three along the stretch of U.S. Highway 36 between Denver and Boulder.

CONNECTICUT

The state is trying more than double the number of electric vehicle charging stations by the end of the year.

D.C. – WASHINGTON

While the Washington Monument is closed for earthquake damage repairs over the next year, 488 lamps will restore the marble tower’s glow each night on the National Mall. The Monument is scheduled to reopen in 2014.

HAWAII

A new study ranks the state’s roads 48th in the nation. The Reason Foundation’s Annual Highway Report says Hawaii’s state-maintained system ranks second from the bottom in

performance and efficiency and suffered the worst rate of decline in the nation from 1989 to 2009.

A new mobile application helps the public locate electric vehicle charging stations in the state. The app provides drivers with EV charging station locations and mapping directions for all four counties. The free “EV Stations Hawaii” app is available for Apple and android devices.

As of Jan. 1st, 2014, it will be illegal to smoke at parks and bus stops on Oahu. This includes beaches, playgrounds, swimming pools and athletic fields.

IDAHO

Boise city leaders are putting the brakes on a plan to raise rates for parking in metered sections of the city’s downtown.

KANSAS

State officials are considering the long-term possibility of adding tolls to some highways in the Kansas City area to ease traffic congestion and help pay for road improvements. Tolls may be an option, decades from now for parts of Interstate35, Kansas 10 and other highways, the Kansas City Star reports.

The Topeka Municipal Court and City Police Dept. had requested funding for electronic ticketing software, but the Topeka City Council denied their request.

KENTUCKY

Be aware! Phone customers in the 270 area code may use seven or 10 digit dialing starting in August as the region prepares to roll out an additional area code. The option to use 7 or 10 digits runs from August 3rd through January31, 2014, after which customers will be required to dial 10 digits when placing local calls.

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge reports that the city’s red-light camera program has resulted in declines in both traffic crashes and violations at select intersections.

MASSACHUSETTS

Two months after a state highway truck spilled yellow paint on a local highway near South Hadley, city officials say they are frustrated that the state has yet to clean up the mess. The Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation says a broken hose is to blame for about 100 gallons of paint that spilled onto Route 202 on May 1st, but did not say when they would clean it up.

MICHIGAN

A new statewide safety campaign will display the number of traffic fatalities on electric signs along state roadways. The Dept. of Transportation reports the number is currently 440 so far.

The Michigan State police are putting more emphasis on catching aggressive motorists on area freeways.

MINNESOTA

Information about highway construction and road incidents is just a swipe of your smart phone away with a new app from the State Dept. of Transportation. The 511 mobile application is available for free at Apple's App Store and the Google Play store.

MISSISSIPPI

The Jackson Pothole Patchman has roamed the city for weeks, filling in the crater-heavy roads with buckets of asphalt and his own sweat. Now, Ron Chane (pronounced Chaney) is hanging up his asphalt-filled bucket after meeting his personal goal of 100 repairs as of July 6th.

NEBRASKA

Statutes based on old English law that says "the king is always right" make it tougher for people to recover repair costs from cities after vehicles are damaged by chuckholes or other street hazards, said Gary Krumland, legal counsel for the League of Nebraska Municipalities. He says state law starts with the premise that government cannot be sued.

On July 1st, a new state law that sets aside an estimated \$65 million a year in sales tax revenue for roads went into effect.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Gov. Hassan has signed into law a measure requiring a child safety restraint for 6-year-old children riding in vehicles, unless they are at least 4 feet 9 inches tall.

NEW JERSEY

Great news for seniors! The beach town of Wildwood has yet to write a ticket for anyone violating its saggy pants ordinance, which took effect over July 4th weekend. The rule prohibits anyone on the boardwalk from wearing shorts, swimsuits, pants or skirts more than 3 inches below the waist.

AAA South Jersey is going to provide emergency transportation for members whose bikes break down. Riders who call for help will get transportation to any point of safety within a 15-mile radius of the breakdown.

NEW YORK

Look Out!! More state troopers in unmarked sport utility vehicles are on the road this summer (and fall) looking for drivers who are texting. Concealed Identify Traffic Enforcement vehicles are taller than average and intended to let officers see better into other cars. The fine for texting violations can be very expensive.

OHIO

A new 70 mph speed limit took effect July 1st along some rural parts of Ohio's Interstate highways.

NORTH DAKOTA

On July 3rd, a new law took effect that required jail time or community service for first-time DUI offenders who have a blood-alcohol content of .08 percent. Drunken drivers who cause the death of another person can face up to 20 years in prison.

RHODE ISLAND

Traffic Delays!! A deteriorating quarter-mile-long bridge that carries Interstate 95 traffic through the heart of Providence is being replaced in one of the state's largest transportation projects. The Rhode Island Dept. of Transportation held an official groundbreaking for the nearly \$150 million Providence Viaduct on July 15th.

SOUTH CAROLONA

The state Dept. of Transportation has launched its new 511 Traveler Information System to include traffic cameras images, travel time estimates, interactive maps of travel incidents, weather information and average traffic speeds. The system can be accessed with a computer, tablet or smart phone.

TENNESSEE

The University of Tennessee-Martin has installed two electric car chargers in the parking lot of the University's stadium. UT-Martin and ECOtality, the provider of the charging stations will split the revenues from them.

TEXAS

The days of free parking on the beachfront Seawall Blvd. in Galveston are coming to an end. It has not been announced when the new fees will go into effect, but it will soon cost \$1 an hour for up to eight hours.

VIRIGINA

A proposed Virginia Beach ordinance would allow bicycle riding in the water's edge anytime from October to April, the Virginia Pilot reports.

VERMONT

The state is joining 14 other states and cities in calling for the EPA to adopt proposed new rules calling for big cuts pollution from vehicles by 2017. The standards would cut smog-producing emissions from vehicles by 80%and soot by 70%.

WISCONSIN

The state Supreme Court ruled against Parnell Burditt, a volunteer firefighter who argued he was immune from liability after driving through a red light and colliding with another vehicle when responding to an emergency call.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Just two weeks after the grand opening of a new interconnected trail system for all-terrain vehicles in northern New Hampshire, someone has been stealing signs posted along the route. The North County ORHV Coalition will be selling signs with the "Ride the Wilds" logo for \$15, plus \$3.50 for shipping. The goal is to stop people from stealing the signs as souvenirs.

A blue and yellow historical marker was unveiled on a site near Middletown New York, near the site where Cal Rodgers landed his plane on Sept. 17, 1911, the first stop on the first flight across the continental U.S.. Rogers took off in his biplane from Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn. and landed 49 days later in California.

Something to consider! A citizen who lived in Tennessee had a permit to carry a concealed weapon. He obtained a Delaware drivers license, and was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon which could have resulted in an 8 year prison term. State officials say his Tennessee permit automatically expired the day he obtained the Delaware drivers license. The Delaware Attorney General has decided to drop the case after a "through review" of the case. His decision had nothing to do with several threats of law suits for violation of the second amendment.

If you live in the Los Angeles area and do not want to drive, there are companies that will furnish a chauffeur who will drive you and your vehicle for an hourly fee. The companies, BeMyDD, The Private Chauffeur and Private Drive L.A. The average cost is \$40 per hour including gratuity.

Also in Los Angles, there is a ride sharing program via a phone app (LYFT) that allows citizen to summon a vehicle to pick them up. The cost is a suggested donation, usually about 20% cheaper than a taxi. Since they only accept donations, they are exempt from regulations for taxis. Many of the

ride-share users are residents who have been partying and do not want to drive because of Sobriety Checkpoints. The taxi-drivers association has lodged complaints with the city over the use of ride-share vehicles.

A survey by Jae Yang and Veronica Bravo, of USA Today, has found that only 29% of the 1,000 adults surveyed, would feel comfortable being in a self-driving car. Only 29% say they would be ok and 2% don't know.

*Larry Becker
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Dale Mathew's 1961 Plymouth wagon (now Hemi-powered) - allpar.com