

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS



PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

We were sad to learn of the loss of long time member and past CHVA president, Randy Huebner in early July.

Just in time for the 4th of July weekend, 7 states raised their gas taxes. The states are: Oklahoma 3 cents, South Carolina 2 cents, Indiana 1.8 cents, Maryland 1.5 cents, Tennessee 1 cent, Vermont .42 cents, and Iowa 0.2 cents per gallon.

Lawmakers across the U.S. are rethinking their laws on cellphones in vehicles. A new law in Georgia effective, July 1st, makes a point of prohibiting drivers from streaming video while driving by facing a large fine. Also they may not hold a wireless device or support one with their body, watch or record videos or text while driving. A Washington state law, the Driving Under the Influence of Electronics Act, makes it illegal for Washington drivers to sneak a peek at their smartphones when stopped in traffic or at a stoplight, though they can touch a mounted or in-dash screen.

Hundreds of Tesla Model 3 buyers have put up a \$1,000 refundable deposit to reserve an opportunity to purchase a vehicle. Tesla has notified them that an additional \$2,500 is required. The vehicles may be available in 2 to 4 months. Tesla said the base Model 3 would sell for \$35,000, but no base models have been manufactured yet, only models that sell for \$49,000 to \$73,000. Buyers who put up a deposit can cancel their order and should receive a full refund in approx. 3 days. On June 29th, Tesla announced that it was lowering the price on two of its Model 3 cars, the \$49,000 and \$74,000 models about \$1,000. But some of the features of the cars will now be an extra and will increase the vehicle cost.

On July 2nd, Tesla announced that it had reached its goal of producing 5,000 cars per week, but a news report states that Tesla has stopped putting their cars through a standard auto-industry braking test. On July 18th, an analyst for the investment Bank, Needham and Company, said Tesla had a big increase in cancellation in orders, maybe as much as 24% of the buyers who had put down a \$1,000 deposit several months ago. Elon Musk, head of Tesla denied the report.

Kroger Foods has announced that they will test driverless vehicles for their home delivery service which will allow customers to receive same day order-delivery. The electric powered vehicles, called the R1, is about half as wide and long as a large SUV and can hold about 20 large grocery bags.

A Detroit Free Press/USA Today Network investigation found that SUVs are a leading cause of escalating pedestrian deaths nationwide, which are up 46% since 2009. Federal safety regulators have known for years that SUVs, which have higher front-end profiles, are at least twice as likely as cars to kill walkers, joggers and children they hit.

Automakers and suppliers are developing an array of systems to avert accidents, including safer information systems and crash-avoidance technology, not to mention the far-out solution: self-driving vehicles.

Car-subscription is a new service for people who do not want to own a car. For a monthly fee, that includes insurance, registration and maintenance, you can drive a selection of cars, usually with no long-term contract. But for travelers, a car subscription can offer an even bigger opportunity, a chance to take your car on vacation with you virtually speaking. Clutch, Carma Car and Flexdrive are companies who help dealerships with vehicle subscription services with major car manufacturers, including Audi's On Demand, Cadillac Book, Ford's Canvas, GM's Maven and Volvo's Care by Volvo. Reports say the average cost is approx. \$1,000 per month plus some additional fees.

A National Science Foundation study reveals that having a single self-driving car on the road, can reduce congestion by influencing the traffic flow of at least 20 human-controlled automobiles around it. The study also says that self-driving cars could someday put an end to traffic jams.

Tesla has signed a deal with China to build a new electric vehicle manufacturing plant in Shanghai. On July 25th, Tesla announced that it had delayed delivery of two Model 3 vehicles. It had expected to reach its goal to produce 5,000 cars per week in December, but that has been changed to March. There is always some new info on the internet concerning Tesla.

Uber terminated all of its 100 self-driving testers in San Francisco and Pittsburgh, but in late July, resumed testing in Pittsburgh using two safety operators (mission specialists) in each vehicle.

According to a new report by the Insurance News website, Wizard Quote, the top ten cities with the worst drivers, based on accidents, DUIs, speeding tickets, and citations, including tickets for distracted driving are as follows: #1- Omaha, Neb, #2-Riverside, Ca, #3- Sacramento, Ca, #4- Columbus, Ohio, #5- San Francisco Bay area, #6- San Diego, Ca, #7- Charlotte, N.C., #8- Portland, Oregon, #9- Los Angeles, Ca, #10- Salt Lake City, Utah. There are several other surveys on cities with the worst drivers and reports and results all vary.

Nisan is recalling 105,000 vehicles to replace Takata air bags. Ford has agreed to pay \$299.1 million to a so-called economic loss covering at least 6 million U.S. vehicles with potentially faulty Takata air bags or faulty replacement of them.

Air pollution in national parks such as Yellowstone, Yosemite and Acadia is as bad as some U.S. large cities and the foul air may be causing tourists to cut visits short or avoid going at all, according to a study released July 18th.

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

CALIFORNIA

An initiative that would reverse a law that allows immigrants residing in California illegally to obtain driver's licenses has been cleared to begin gathering signatures for the 2020 ballot.

For the fiscal year ending in June 2018, the DMV cited 2,485 people for unauthorized use of disabled placards. This is a 58% increase over the previous fiscal year. The violations are misdemeanors and carry fines of \$250 to \$1,000 and the placard confiscated. DMV started the crackdown on misuse in 2017.

A new state law that became effective July 1st requires that ride-share and taxi drivers to have blood alcohol levels of 0.4 or less when transporting passengers. The old level was 0.8%.

DMV is adding hours and Saturday services to some offices in order to eliminate a large backlog for services. On July 25th, a report was released that a DMV employee took a 3-hour nap at work every-day for 4 years and it cost the state \$40,000 in lost production. Her supervisor said she had to wake the employee two or three times every workday. Don't worry – they both still have their jobs at the DMV! The average trip to the DMV in Sacramento takes approx 4 hours and 10 minutes and in San Jose, it takes 3 hours and 11 minutes. Wait times vary at different locations depending on the reason for the visit.

D.C. WASHINGTON

The D.C. Council has voted to impose a 6% tax on ride-share companies to help generate nearly \$180 million needed to fund Metro next year.

DELAWARE

Roadway deaths are outpacing last year's, 61 to 47, for the same time period in the state.

The state Dept. of Transportation may add guardrails along a stretch of Route 1 where 5 members of a New Jersey family were killed in a mid - July accident,.

FLORIDA

After being #1 for almost a quarter of a century, the towns of Waldo and Lawtey are no longer designated as "Traffic Traps" by AAA.

Cracks have been found in a portion of concrete being used for a bridge connecting Pensacola and Gulf Breeze.

GEORGIA

The "Hands-Free Georgia Act" which bans hands-on cellphone use while driving became effective July 1st.

A bridge on Interstate 516 near Savannah has been renamed for Floyd Dams Jr, the city's first black mayor who died in 2014.

IOWA

A state transportation plan would close 11 Interstate rest areas and 16 parking-only sites.

The city of Dubuque will begin sharing traffic camera video with a technology company to help develop methods to decrease traffic dangers.

LOUISIANA

The state's new digital driver's license app is now available to the public.

KANSAS

The launch date for new vehicle plates has been moved from 8/1 to 8/15

MAINE

In the city of Portland, speeding tickets for low-end violations have been reduced by about 15%. Fines will stay the same for violators going 20 to 29 mph above the speed limit.

NORTH CAROLINA

A woman says her request for a specialty plate to honor her wife, LSBNSNV has been denied by the state DMV.

OHIO

Ground has been broken in Columbus on a \$45 million center to test self-driving vehicles.

OREGON

The quickest and easiest route to Terwilliger Hot Springs from Eugene is expected to reopen in August after being blocked by a landslide since before Christmas. The boulders have been pushed into Cougar Lake.

RHODE ISLAND

A bill allowing for the issuance of courtesy registration and historical license plates for vehicles 25 years old and older has been approved and sent to the Gov.

Under present law, vehicles must be at least 25 years old or older and only used for parades, exhibitions or car club activities.

The state has billed about \$625,000 to trucks in its first month of tolling.

The state DMV says that commercial driver's license holders can now submit their medical certifications online to comply with federal requirements.

TENNESSEE

The number of Confederate battle flag license plates has reached a new high point. Data show that 3,273 of the plates were still active at the end of fiscal 2018.

UTAH

An electric vehicle corridor has been established along Interstate 15, the state's most traveled freeway.

The maximum toll rate for Interstate 15 Express lanes is being doubled to \$2.

WASHINGTON

Officials have proposed tolling rates ranging from \$1 to \$2.25 for the new State Route 99 tunnel.

WYOMING

A report by the U.S. Dept. of Interior's Office of Inspection General has confirmed that the road departments operated by the eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes misspent \$6.2 million of Bureau of Indian Affairs money.,

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

A lost art! In 2006, 47% of all new vehicles had the option of automatic or manual transmission. Now that has dropped to 20%. Most young drivers, including my granddaughters, age 31 and 33, do not know how to drive a vehicle with a manual transmission.

Some safety features of the 2018 and 2019 cars are: adaptive cruise control that adjusts your speed by sensing the car in front of you, lane-keeping assistance

that gently eases you back into your lane and route-based speed adaptation which slows your car down based on the navigation system's map. Some of these will not be available until the 2019 models arrive and may be only on certain models. They are expected to be on nearly all cars soon.

Park your car and make money. GM's mobility unit, Marvin, said it is testing a new peer- to- peer car sharing program, offered through the Maven app in Chicago, Detroit and Arbor, Michigan. The service allows you to list your vehicle on the Marven app and rent your car to others when you aren't using the vehicle. Vehicle owners receive 60% of the rental and Maven gets 40% and GM pays the insurance while the vehicle is rented. Vehicles must be GM cars and must be a 2015 or newer model.

A Big Fireworks display! In Wyndmer, North Dakota a man's truck was destroyed after roughly \$2,000 worth of fireworks ignited in his pickup bed as he drove down the highway. The driver suffered only minor injuries.

According to Research Services, the average new car loan rate for 4 years is 3.92 % and the 5-year rate is 4.01 %. The rate for a 4 year used car is 4.29%. The rates are up from last year and also up from 6 months ago.

According to information by the Detroit Free Press, pedestrian fatalities have risen 49% since 2009, while overall traffic fatalities are up only 11%. They cite distracted walking into traffic as the main cause for the increase.

There were 8,565 state parks in the U.S. in 2017, up from 7,975 in 2012.

Need to save money on your hotel rates? Last year, WhyHotel began operating "pop-up Hotels" with newly built luxury rental apartment buildings that have yet to lease out all of their units. More information is available on line for WhyHotel, but they are only available in certain areas at this time.

Toll Roads! The most expensive in the U.S. is the 17-mile stretch on the Monterey Peninsula that connects Pacific Grove to Pebble Beach and will cost you \$9.25 or almost 54 cents per mile. Other toll roads are: E-470 in the Denver area, a 47 mile road that costs \$15 or 33 cents per mile, the Delaware 11 mile Turnpike costs \$4 or 36 cents per mile, Chicago Skyline that connects with Illinois 90 costs \$4 or 51 cents per mile and the Fort Bend Turnpike in Houston, Texas,

seven and a half miles long and costs \$4 to get on, go up as you travel and the average cost per mile is 53 cents.

According to a recent survey, 38% of travelers have had purchases declined due to suspected fraud while traveling.

LARRY BECKER

26 JULY 2018



1956 Desoto

Desoto was a division of Chrysler. It was founded by Walter Chrysler in 1928 and the first models were sold as 1929 models. It was marketed as a mid-priced vehicle. Shortly after introducing the Desoto, Chrysler completed its purchase of the Dodge Company. The Desoto was sold from 1929 to 1961. Chrysler officially dropped the Desoto marque on 11/30/60, but sold a few models as 1961s.