

# OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

## PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

*By Larry Becker*



*Where did all that traffic come from?? AAA estimated that there were 35 million people traveling over Memorial Day weekend – about 700,000 more than last year. The National park Service is seriously considering caps on how many people pass through some of the country's most iconic landscapes and historical sites each year. Denali National Park and Yellowstone National Park plan to survey visitors about their experiences in the parks this summer. Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming should announce by the end of the year how it intends to limit access to a popular roadway. More details about the visitor caps may be available at the end of the year.*

*Warning!! Ohio authorities are warning motorists about gas pump credit card skimmers who are expected to be expanding their use this summer. The state Auditor reports that stations along the Interstate 75 corridor have been hit hard by the skimmers. (They attach a device to the gas pump that copies your credit card numbers).*

*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.*

*With the Presidential election this year, we will not see too many new bills concerning our hobby to be introduced this year. Most officials will be involved in the various elections.*

*Tighter security along the U.S. Canadian Border is not making everyone happy as some towns straddle the boarder, with half in the U.S. and half in Canada. There are six Canadian and U.S. checkpoints along a two and a half stretch of frontier road that cuts through the Villages of Derby Line and Beebe, Plain, both in Vermont and the town of Stanstead in Quebec. Students from both areas attend the same schools and must go through the checkpoints.*

*Are you one?? According to Hankook's Tire Guage index spring survey of 1,020 American drivers, 86% rate themselves above average drivers.*

*Toyota is rushing to fix a software bug on Lexus models that causes a malfunction in the vehicles GPS, climate control and “infotainment” or front console radio systems.*

## **ARIZONA**

*Workers will drill hundreds of holes into the ground alongside of the route of the planned South Mountain Freeway. The state Dept. of transportation said the borings will be used to assess soil and rock, as well as ground water depth. A proposal to create a study to tax cars for miles driven die as the Legislature adjourned for the year.*

## **CALIFORNIA**

*SB 1239 which would have exempted emission inspections for vehicles up to model year 1981 died in the Senate. It did not receive the necessary support in the state Senate for passage.*

*On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the state Senate approved SB 1046 which would require Ignition Interlocks for all DUI driving offenders in California. Current law only requires the locks in only four counties as part of a pilot program.*

*A recently introduced bill, AB 797, would create protection for good Samaritans who break windows in cars, only as a last resort, to save animals during times of high temperatures.*

*The Assembly Appropriations Committee has approved legislation to require the Air Resources Board to expand the state’s program for the retirement and replacement of older passenger vehicles and light & medium duty trucks.*

*Responding to legislative requests, the state auditor is launching a review of the DMV disabled placard program, including looking at what the department does to combat fraud. The request was made by Assemblyman Eric Linder of Corona and Mike Gatto of Los Angles.*

*As of July 1, 2016, anyone applying for a driver’s license or ID card for the first time will be required to provide DMV with two documents that prove they are California residents. A few examples of acceptable documents to prove California residency are: rental or lease agreement with the signature of the owner/landlord and the tenant/resident, deed or title to residential real property, mortgage bill, home utilities bills (including cellular phone), medical documents. DMV has a list of other documents that they will accept as proof of residency.*

*A so called “trailer bill” would increase the annual vehicle fee by \$10. Trailer bills are bills that are attached to other legislation. Uber and Lyft and other ride-sharing companies are exempt from paying extra license fees imposed on taxis and other commercial vehicles. There are about 50,000 Uber drives in California. About 17 months ago, the DMV issued an “advisory” that cars used in the ride-sharing services would have to be commercially licensed. Transportation Network Services (they represent ride-share companies) objected and a week later, DMV revoked the declaration, saying it was premature. AB 828 would continue the commercial license exemption through 2017. The Legislature has passed a new budget for the year, but not much of an increase to fix CA.s crumbling transportation infrastructures.*

*The Gov. is urging some utilities to add more charging stations for electric vehicles in the state, as electric vehicle owners are not happy about the lack of charging stations. Nearly one third of electric vehicle sales are in California. He has suggested that utility companies fund the building of the new stations via a rate hike in their services. Some companies that build and maintain charging stations oppose this saying that the utility companies will have an unfair advantage.*

## **CONNECTICUT**

*The state DMV has admitted that about 50,000 incorrect car tax bills will be mailed to Connecticut drivers as a result of its continuing computer nightmare, which has sent faulty information to municipal assessors as to which vehicles are garaged in their towns.*

## **D.C. – WASHINGTON**

*As a massive subway rebuilding gets underway, commuters are urged to find alternative routes. With the construction, many streets will be closed and drivers will have to use detours.*

*A crackdown in April has resulted in the arrest of 27 people for allegedly operating dirt bikes. (No information on why)*

## **HAWAII**

*In the four years since the Kona-Kailua County ordinance known as “Aliyah’s Law” went into effect, Hawaii Island police have ordered 2,168 vehicles towed at the driver’s expense. The law permits the towing of vehicles of motorists driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs or without a valid driver’s license or with fraudulent license plates or registration stickers.*

## **KENTUCKY**

*In less than two years, electric vehicle organization Evolve KY has installed its third fee-free community EV charger. The chargers are a part of its Adopt Charger program.*

## **LOUISIANA**

*Violators of the ban on social media use or texting while driving will receive harsher penalties. First time violators will be fined up to \$500 instead of the previous \$175.*

*Officials in Webster Parish are awaiting approval from the state to begin purchasing materials to permanently repair roads damaged by the March floods. Public Works director, Teddy Holloway, says there are 147 roads that will need some sort of repair.*

## **MAINE**

*Officials say The Cat, a new ferry contracted to transport passengers from Portland to Nova Scotia, will begin service on June 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*Transportation officials say work to replace the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge, which connects Kittery and Portsmouth, N. H., is on schedule and on budget.*

#### **MONTANA**

*All 50 miles of Glacier National Parks Going-to-the-Sun Road are open to vehicle traffic between the park's west entrance near West Glacier and St. Mary.*

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

*Legislation to establish a road usage fee for motor vehicles registered to travel on state roads died when the legislature failed to act. It may be reintroduced next year.*

#### **NEW JERSEY**

*A 42-year old woman was arrested for thousands in unpaid tolls as she drove a dump truck across the George Washington Bridge according to Port Authority Police who discovered that she did have an EZPass transponder and owed more than \$15,800 in tolls and fees.*

#### **NEW MEXICO**

*The University of New Mexico announced that two charging stations for electric have been installed. One is at the Cornell Parking Structure and another one at the Yale Parking Structure. The service is available to all electric vehicle owners.*

#### **NEW YORK**

*Bill Finch, the former mayor of Bridgeport, Conn. was elected by the Thruway Authority's board to head the agency that oversees the 570-mile superhighway and the Tappan Zee Bridge, along with its replacement set to open in 2018.*

#### **MICHIGAN**

*Rates will g up! The Michigan Legislature has voted to end an \$86-million tax credit that in-state auto insurers have enjoyed for the past few years.*

#### **NEW YORK**

*The state will contribute \$4 million toward welcoming centers on both sides of the Walkway Over the Hudson State Park.*

#### **OHIO**

*The city of Worthington, a suburb of Columbus, is considering allowing golf carts to run on city streets.*

*A magistrate has ruled that a revised ordinance limiting the use of steel wheels on Mitchel County roads still violates the religious freedom of Mennonites. In August 2015, 14 year old Derek Zimmerman was cited for violating the steel wheel ordinance. The teen is part of the Goffdale Conference Mennonite Church, whose beliefs ban the use of rubber tires.*

#### **OKLAHOMA**

*The state Transportation Commission has approved route plans for the new turnpikes in the eastern and southwestern parts of the Oklahoma City area.*

#### **OREGON**

*The state Transportation Dept. has reduced the speed limit by temporary order on certain stretches of US Highway 97 and US Highway 20.*

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

*Gov. Haley has OK'd more than \$2 billion to be borrowed for road and bridge projects across the state. The Gov. also vetoed a bill regulating mopeds, telling legislators requirements for helmets and safety vests amounts to "government overreach."*

#### **VIRGINIA**

*The new Midtown tunnel (Portland area) is set to open months ahead of schedule. The tunnel connects Norfolk and Portsmouth. Work on the project began in 2013 and was set to open in December.*

*The Aviation Museum in Richmond will be closed at the end of June. It has a collection of 38 aircraft. No info on what will happen to the collection.*

#### **WEST VIRGINIA**

*The city of Clarksburg is rolling out a new bicycle patrol system that officials hope will cut down on crime in the city. The patrol will cover the downtown area and Glen Elk.*

#### **WYOMING**

*Make sure the tank is full!*

*The city of Chugwater could get a gas station to replace the one that burned down more than 3 years ago. A 70-mile stretch of Interstate 25 north of Cheyenne has been without gas ever since a man with shoe polish on his face drove off the highway in a fiery crash that burned down the Horton's Corner convenience store.*

# **WHAATSUUPHERE AND THERE**

*In 1913, New York was the first state to require vehicles to have a license plate, but they were made by the owner of the vehicle using their initials. The first state to issue license plates for vehicles was Massachusetts in 1913. The first plate (#1) was issued to Fredric Tudor. One of the relatives still holds the active registration on the plate. The plate was made of iron and covered with a porcelain enamel, blue cobalt background, white numbers and the letters MASS across the top*

*At least 4 auto makers, Toyota, VW, , Fiat Chrysler and Mitsubishi, continue to sell new vehicles with defective Takata air bags that need to be recalled, according to a Senate Commerce Committee report. The vehicles must be recalled and repaired by 2018, so the companies are using this loophole to continue to sell the vehicles. One problem is that there is not an adequate supply of replacement air bags. It is estimated that approx. 69 million vehicles were in the recall. Toyota told the committee that it expected to produce about 175,000 vehicles for the U.S. market with the riskier Takata air bags through July 2017.*

*COSTLY!! A recent study showed that California drivers paid an average cost of \$435.47 per transaction when their “check engine” light came on, the highest in U.S. The average cost in the US was \$387.31 which included parts and labor. CARMED, an automotive information/technology company, say the most common problem associated with the “check engine light” is a faulty oxygen sensor.*

*In the Denver area, Wal Mart has begun testing home delivery of grocery items using Uber and another ride share company.*

*The Zebra (on-line survey company) states drivers could save money by improving their credit rating. From a poor rating to good would save approx 32% and going from good to excellent would save 27%. Many insurance companies base their rates on a person’s credit rating score.*

*No Class!! San Francisco firefighters and paramedics responded to a call and entered an apartment building to retrieve a person who needed their help. When they emerged from the building, they found that someone had stolen the ambulance. It did not go far, an unidentified woman, crashed into a concrete barrier near Treasure Island.*

*Another Smart One!! A man in Wilmington Delaware robbed a bank, but locked himself out of his car and was quickly arrested by police.*

*GM has developed a new safety feature to some of its models aimed at preventing kids or pets from being left behind when the vehicle is parked in the hot summer sun. The first GM vehicle to have the feature will be the Acadia.*

*Uber and Lyft have been allowed to start ride-share services at Phoenix’s Sky Harbor airport. Rates to downtown Phoenix range from the airport run as low as \$9. Uber and Lyft both have low price fares for airports in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York, plus several other large cities.*

***NOTE: There will be no issue for next month as I will be traveling most of the month***

***Larry Becker***

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