

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

by Larry Becker



The U.S. EPA is phasing- out gas pump vapor recovery nozzles. The pollution- control devices have been required since 1994 in about 49 ozone non-attainment areas across the country. Individual states will still have the authority to mandate the nozzles. The EPA's decision to abandon the nozzles is part of the Obama Administration's directive that federal agencies identify outdated regulations. The EPA concluded that the controls are unnecessary since

about 70% of all U.S. vehicles are now equipped with onboard vapor recovery systems, including all vehicles manufactured after 2006. According to the EPA, 31,000 affected gas stations in most urban areas where smog is a problem will each save \$3,000 apiece once the ruling is fully implemented.

There is still much debate on how to reduce distracted driving due to cell-phone use, texting, or use of other electronic devices. There are proposed federal bills banning their use along with several states, which have proposed bills also. (In 1930, former Massachusetts State Senator George Parker tried to ban car radios because they were too distracting).

Watch where you walk! A growing number of communities are trying to get messages across their states to starve off pedestrian accidents that can happen when people walking become too engrossed with their phones or texting. This spring, Fort Lee, N.J. police began issuing \$85 fines for careless walking and the Utah Transit Authority made distracted walking around trains punishable by a \$50. Several other communities also have similar ordinances

A two-year study conducted by the Coordinating Research Council concludes that at least 5 million newer vehicles on the road today could be threatened with engine damage from gasoline that contains 15% or 20% ethanol (E15/E20). The EPA had made it “illegal to fuel pre-2001 vehicles”

with E15, but only required gas stations to place orange and black warning labels on E-15 pumps.

The following state bills are not laws at this time. They have recently been introduced and are under consideration by the respective state legislators.

A growing number of states are taking aim at motorists who have parking tickets and do not pay them. Many municipalities are asking courts to suspend the violator/s driver's licenses after they accumulate a certain number of unpaid parking tickets. Some of the states are Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New Jersey, Hawaii, and California.

ALABAMA

Text messaging on Alabama highways will be illegal starting Aug. 1. Gov. Bentley signed the measure into law on May 8.

CALIFORNIA

The state legislature is pondering a new version of a law that would require drivers to give cyclists a three-foot cushion. The bill failed last year, but the new version has a notable difference. If the driver doesn't have enough room to steer 3-feet clear of a cyclist, the driver must slow to a

reasonable speed. Last year's bill required drivers to slow to 15 mph, and the bill was vetoed for safety reasons.

Camping fees will increase by \$2 this season at five campgrounds in the Tahoe basin. The campgrounds are: Fallen Leaf, Meeks Bay, William Kent, Kaspian and Nevada Beach which are operated by California Land Management on the national forest system land.

Senate Bill 1310 would slap drivers caught texting or talking without a hands free device with a higher base fine, bringing the total fine faced by first-time offenders to about \$200.

DELAWARE

Lawmakers are considering a bill that would authorize speed enforcement cameras in school zones in a pilot program in Dover and Wilmington. The cameras would record vehicles traveling at least 11 mph above the speed limit.

As of May 31, drivers in Rehoboth Beach can pay for parking with their smart-phones through a free app. Parking fees are \$1.50 per hour. The smart-phone service costs an additional 50 cents for each transaction. Parking meters will still take quarters.

D. C. WASHINGTON

Metro approved an across the board increase in parking fees and bus and rail fares, the Washington Post reported. The rail increases average about 5%. Bus fares increased by 10 cents to \$1.60 to those who use Smart-trip Cards. No information is available at this time about the increased parking fees. The increases take effect July 1.

Drivers will find speed cameras at more than 25 new locations, the police department announced in May. Speeders will receive warnings notices until June 6. After that, citations will go out and fines will be imposed, the Washington Post reports.

The District of Columbia will pay about \$200,000 to four people who challenged their drunken-driving convictions based on flaws in the police department's alcohol breath-test equipment. They alleged that police had failed to properly calibrate the devices, and that prosecutors relied on the scores even after knowing that the machines were flawed.

HAWAII

Hawaii stands atop an unfortunate list: states with the highest percentage of deaths among pedestrians age 65 and older – a group comprising 14 % of the state's population. To make it's streets safe for pedestrians,

bicyclists, transit riders and people with disabilities, as well as motorists, the state passed a “complete streets” law in 2009. The law directs counties to consider all users needs when planning new roadways or upgrading streets. That could mean including such features as wide sidewalks, curb cuts for wheelchairs and bike lanes.

IDAHO

On May 8th, the Boise City Council is considering new regulations for taxi cabs. The possible regulations will include an English language requirement for drivers and seven-year age limit for new cab permits.

LOUISIANA

Starting June 1, parking rates at the Shreveport Regional Airport will increase by 50 cents a day at all three lots. Airport Authority Chairman Bishop Lawrence Brandon said weekly rates in the long-term lot will no longer be offered

MAINE

Work has begun on Memorial Bridge and will continue into fall. The nearly 2,100 foot-long, 46 feet-wide bridge is getting a \$7 million paint job. The painting may cause some traffic slow-downs or delays.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The summer parking meter rate at Hampton Beach went up a quarter to \$2 an hour, in effect through Oct. 1. New park-and-display meters accept cash, coins and credit or debit cards.

NEW JERSEY

In the second week of May, the State Supreme Court heard arguments about “Kyleigh’s” law, which requires young drivers to put red decals on their license plates. An appeals court in 2011 upheld the law, which is named for a teen, who died in a 2006 crash and is meant to help enforce restricted driving privileges for younger drivers. The court has not released a decision on the case at this time.

NORTH CAROLINA

Three miles of Cape Point has been closed to vehicles and pedestrians because of the first piping plover nest of the season hatched. The bird nests from April to July on the North Carolina coast, where it’s considered a threatened species.

OHIO

The Cleveland City Council approved spending \$75,000 for electric vehicle charging stations at the zoo, a municipal parking lot and a third, undetermined site. Customers will pay by credit card for electricity used when they plug in their vehicles.

The Department of Transportation is seeking bids for advertising and sponsorship of rest areas and welcome centers. The department spends nearly \$50 annually to maintain 101 rest areas. ODOT Director Jerry Wray said the revenue also could pay for some of the major transportation construction that could be delayed due to funding cuts.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia's Parking Authority General Council said the plan to make 300 of the city's 1,600 cabs more accessible to the disabled by the end of the year hasn't been formally adopted. The goal is to have all cabs modified by 2016.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The DMV will offer driving tests by appointment at 12 locations starting June 4. DMV Executive Director Maureen Shwedo said the number of road tests triple during summer months.

TEXAS

The University of Texas – El Paso has installed 10 plug-in electric vehicle recharging- stations that are available for student, staff and visitor drivers.

VIRGINIA

On May 24, the State Department of Transportation unveiled six new electronic message signs in the Hampton Roads area. VDOT will display current travel times in minutes for two different routes to the Virginia Beach oceanfront and North Carolina's Outer Banks.

whatsup here and there

The Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners Michigan hopes to finish construction on the Model A Ford Museum by Labor Day. The museum will be in a building designed to resemble one of the Dearborn-based automaker's old dealerships. The museum is well worth a visit.

If the Navy and Army Air Corp had their way, the Golden Gate Bridge could have had one of two silly names. The Navy wanted to paint the bridge black with yellow stripes like a giant bumblebee so that it would be more visible in heavy fog. The Army Air Corp wanted it painted red with white stripes like a barber pole. In the end, consulting

architect Irving Morrow held sway, arguing that the orange-primer already covering the bridge would make a lovely and highly visible - final coat. If he had not held out the bridges may have been known as the Bumblebee Bridge or the Barber Pole Bridge.

Traffic deaths fell an estimated 1.7% nationwide in 2011, and the death rate may have reached the lowest point since tracking began in 1949, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated in a report released on May 7th.

Fort Knox opened its newly renovated welcome center on May 24. The 24-hour center will offer maps of the installation and its historic trails and information on activities and area hotels and restaurants.

May 26, 2012



