

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUP HERE AND THERE

by Larry Becker



In February, GM unveiled a new Cadillac program that lets drivers swap one automobile for another as easily as they can switch TV programs. The program, known as Book by Cadillac, charges \$1,500 per month and lets drivers cancel anytime. Using a smartphone, customers can trade in their vehicle up to 18 times per year. The Cadillac program is targeted at consumers of luxury vehicles and is only available in the New York City at the present time. GM also has a similar program known as Maven Reserve which allows Chevrolet drivers in Los Angeles and San Francisco to rent a Chevy Tahoe or Volt for up to 28 days for a flat monthly fee of about \$1,100. Perks of the Marvin program are \$100 of gas and a dedicated parking space for each rental. The Cadillac program has approx 4,000 to 5,000 members.

On March 24th, a Uber self-driving car was in an accident in Tempe, Az. There were no serious injuries and it appears that the other vehicle was at fault. Uber has suspended testing of self-driving cars in the test cities until all the facts are known about the accident.

For us Old Timers!! The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reports that 6,165 people 65 and older were killed and 240,000 injured in traffic accidents in 2015. The number of older drivers on the road is rising, up 33% between 2006 and 2015 with about 40 million licensed over 65 nationwide.

The Los Angeles Police Dept. has been testing Ford's hybrid model and says it will purchase 300 more by 2020. It goes from 0 to 60 in 5.85 seconds. It gets an average of 38 mpg, twice that of a gasoline model.

Save your money!! On May 20th, a 1965 Ford Mustang recognized as the first Mustang hardtop to receive a VIN number will be auctioned off during the Mecum Indy 2017 in Indianapolis.

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.

ALABAMA

A special motor vehicle license plate has been launched that will benefit the state parks system. The plate will cost an additional \$50.

ARKANSAS

The city of Little Rock has started an intensive, yearlong sobriety court program that will enable certain “hardcore DWI offenders” to avoid jail time, heavy fines and community service hours.

CALIFORNIA

Work has started on tearing down the last section of the old Bay Bridge in S.F.

The Gov. and Legislators are putting the final touches on legislation to raise several billions for road maintenance and repairs, yet with no assurance that the measure will pass by a self-imposed April 6th deadline. The bill would raise the gas tax from 18 cents per gallon to 30 cents per gallon on Nov1st. It would also set the variable gas excise tax at 17.3 cents per gallon starting July 1, and adjust it for inflation. The bill would also create several tiers of “transportation improvement” charges linked to the vehicle values beginning on Jan 1, 2018. Those with vehicles worth up to \$4,999 would pay \$25, for example, while those with a vehicle worth \$60,000 and up would pay \$175. The bill also will raise registration fees about \$50, and was approved by the Legislators on April 6th.

The City Council of Roseville has voted to expand the city’s sewer plant and build facilities that recover energy from waste, including natural gas to power city garbage trucks and other city vehicles.

Cap & Trade, (green-house gas bill) has generated \$4 billion for the state so far, but is due to expire in 2020. In his budget for the coming year, Gov. Brown proposes to generate \$2.2 billion in revenue from taxes on refineries, food processors, factories and other green-house gas emitters. As it is, cap and trade accounts for about 11 cents for the cost of a gallon of gas. In a letter to Assemblyman Vince Fong, the Legislative Analyst’s Office in March estimated cap and trade could raise pump prices by 15 cents to 63 cents per gallon by 2021, depending on how the rate is configured with new proposals to the cap and trade bill. (Information from an editorial by the Sacramento Bee newspaper. The cap and trade bill is a complex bill and not easy to understand).

Also, information from James Gallagher of State Assembly District 3 on April 17th, states that almost a third of the tax money collected from the gas tax will go toward projects that have nothing to do with roads and only about 5% will go toward traffic relief. A huge chunk of your gas taxes and vehicle registration fees will go towards parks, boats and even high speed rail.

A state audit says that DMV needs to significantly beef up efforts to prevent fraud and abuse of the state’s disabled person placard program. Almost 3

million people had disabled placard or special license plates as of June 2016. The placards allow people to use reserved parking spaces and exempt them from meters and parking-limit requirements. Hundreds of thousands of the placards could be used illegally, based on the auditor's sampling of records. In a sample of 96 applications, nearly three quarters lacked a full description on the illness or disability being used as the basis for the request. In addition, DMV has not cancelled the placards of thousands of people who have died. Auditors have found that 26,000 placard holders – if they are still alive – would be 100 or older. As of 2014, California's entire centenarian population stood at an estimated 8,000 people.

CONNECTICUT

The Hartford Parking Authority said that as of April 17th, motorists who park can pay by entering their license plate information at the city's kiosks.

D.C. WASHINGTON

The Metro Transit system is raising its fares this summer as it also prepares to cut hours and reduce rush-hour trains.

DELAWARE

Drivers in Wilmington who were ticketed by cameras turning right on a red light last year could get their money back. City officials admit ignoring a state mandate to either suspend the program or justify how the infractions make streets safer.

The Dept. of Transportation has upgraded its mobile app. New features include a clickable road projects map, a sample of a DMV test and a form for reporting transportation issues.

HAWAII

Drivers arrested on a repeat DUI offense would have to agree to stop drinking alcohol for at least 90 days and wear an ankle bracelet for at least 90 days if they want to be released from jail under a bill being considered in the Legislature.

ILLINOIS

New state ID cards aim to ease interactions between police and people with disabilities.

Chicago Mayor Emanuel's office says paving season has started in Chicago. Among the roads to get repaved this year is 1.1 miles of North Broadway.

IOWA

The Legislature has sent the Governor a bill that would let police officers stop and ticket drivers who were texting while driving. The legislation would take

July 1st and the Governor is expected to sign the bill. The bill would allow officers to pull over drivers specifically for texting.

LOUISIANA

Legislation to exempt antique motor vehicles from state and local taxes has been introduced. It defines an antique motor vehicle as a vehicle which was manufactured at least 25 years ago, is maintained by a private collector and not used for commercial purposes.

MICHIGAN

State Senators have voted 374-0 to approve legislation that could allow the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority to assess small fees on commercial vehicles, not just private passenger vehicles.

MINNESOTA

The State Dept. of Transportation is cutting back on using ice-melting salt on state highways. The move is aimed at saving not only money, but also Minnesota lakes, rivers and streams from salt contamination.

State lawmakers say they may be close to a deal putting the state in line with federal Real ID license requirements.

MISSOURI

The state Senate has voted 31-1 for a bill that would expand regulations for transportation companies such as Uber and Lyft.

MONTANA

For the first time in 24 years, the Montana House is calling for a fuel tax hike. The 8-cents-a-gallon gasoline boost and 7.25 cents for diesel would help fix roads and bridges.

NEVADA

A bill that would have added additional requirements for classic vehicle registration has been withdrawn after meetings with SEMA and collector car hobby members.

NEW JERSEY

Bad, Bad day! A police car driven by a Howell patrolman enforcing a statewide crack down on distracted driving was hit from behind by a motorist using a handheld cellphone.

The city of New Brunswick is switching to digital parking permits that allow license plate scans to determine if a vehicle has permission to park in a neighborhood.

NEW YORK

New York City will launch the first two routes on its new ferry service on May 1st. The 22-stop ferry, named NTC Ferry, will link Manhattan with waterfront neighborhoods in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx.

OHIO

Ohio is considering using variable speeds on its highways next year. The speed limits would be increased or decreased depending on traffic. The speed limits would be posted on electric highway signs as they are changed.

PENNSYLVANIA

Authorities have charged a dozen people with being part of a crime ring that rented out fraudulently obtained license plates used to evade law enforcement, parking tickets and tolls.

RHODE ISLAND

The contractor that built the Interstate 195 Bridge over the Providence River has agreed to pay \$500,000 to resolve allegations that the railings were improperly installed.

The popular seasonal ferry service across Narragansett Bay between Providence and Newport will run for six weeks longer this year and also have more daily trips.

TENNESSEE

A bill to make the names of people who refuse to pay traffic camera fines confidential has been withdrawn for the year.

WEST VIRGINIA

The state Senate has voted not to repeal the requirement that motorcyclists wear helmets.

A bill that would allow titles to be issued for abandoned vehicles has been approved by the state Senate and sent to the Governor for signing.

Construction has started in Charleston for long awaited bicycle lanes. The lanes will stretch along Kanawha Blvd with removal of and paving along a grassy median.

A bill to allow uncovered off-road after-market light bar has been signed into law.

A bill to criminalize certain exhaust system use has died in the Legislature.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Did you see one??? According to the National UFO Reporting Center, there were 5,516 reported UFO sightings in the world in 2016.

What is the difference between motorists and cyclists? Almost 10 pounds, according to an ongoing study. Researchers from Imperial College, London, have made an early report on a large study that's trying to find out how different types of transport affect physical activity and general health.

Lazerlight is a new bike attachment that projects a green bike icon on the ground nearly 20 feet of the user. It can be angled and alerts drivers and pedestrians of the cyclist. It costs \$200 and been used in Europe for several years.

Mercedes and automotive supplier **Bosch** are going to collaborate to introduce a driverless car by the start of the next decade. The move follows a deal with **Uber** to put "urban taxis" on the streets by 2021.

According to a survey by **USA Today**, Zip codes can unlock many incentives that may be offered on a specific vehicle for a metro area. As an example, a 2017 **Buick Envision** had \$20,000 in incentives in **Detroit**, but \$4,000 in **Tampa**.

According to **InsuranceQuotes.com**, the average automobile insurance premium increases after one \$2,000 or higher, claim by 44%.

A study by **AAA** shows that one-third of U.S. car owners can't afford surprised repair costs.

According to a survey by **Jiffy Lube**, 60% of men clean their vehicle exterior daily or weekly, but only 30% of women do clean theirs as often.

Steve Robinson of **Nebraska** has taken road repair in his own hands by patching hundreds of potholes near his home over past several years and estimates that by summer's end, he will have spent \$10,000 on 10 tons of pothole patch.

According to a survey by **Motel 6**, 48% of Americans have been to 10 states or less in their lifetime.

An audit of **Hartford Connecticut Police Dept.** has found that police failed to report thousands of traffic stops as required by a state law intended to prevent racial profiling. The data says police submitted information on about 2,000 stops, but dispatch logs show about 6,500 stops.



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