



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS PLUS WHAATSSUP

Due to all of the problems with the Coronavirus, there is not too much new to report on. Most auto makers are involved in producing various types of medical equipment.

Most states are banning visitors from other states due to the spread of the virus.

There were 6,590 pedestrian deaths in the U.S. last year, making 2019 the deadliest year since 1982, according to a survey by the Governors Highway Safety Association.

It is almost impossible to purchase a new vehicle made in the U.S. with a stick shift. It is available in a limited number of pickup trucks, but difficult to find. Many vehicles made in Europe, but available in the U.S. are available with a stick shift.

Tesla has increased the power of their Models S and Xs via computers that been installed in the vehicles when they were purchased new.

Auto dealers are using the internet to try to sell their vehicles since the Coronavirus has almost delected shopper traffic. Dealers offer to deliver a model of the buyers choice for a test drive. On-line auto sales are expected to increase to 60 or 80% over the next few years. Most buyers say they hate the process of spending time at the dealer hagaling over the price and like the on-line sales. A salesman in Michigan moved his desk to a small table outside the showroom. The buyer makes the deal via the internet, comes to the dealership to get the vehicle. The sales rep stays a safe distant away, fills out the paperwork, steps back, has the buyer sign the necessary papers, then picks up his copies and the keys are in the vehicle and ready to go. Most dealers are offering curbside pick up and delivery for serving customers vehicles

On April 21st, USA TODAY said that GasBuddy listed 14 states that were selling gas for under \$1 per gallon. Fuel-savings app GasBudd, listed the states as: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia and Wisconsin. (Here in California gas still costs about \$2 plus a gallon and is higher in Southern California. On April 23, gas at Sam's and Costco was \$2.05 and at a big name gas station for \$2.74 in Sacramento.

New Jersey is the last state in the union to require gas station employees to put gas in your car. Now a group of gas station owners has asked the Governor to repeal the seven-decade old law and let drivers pump their own gas. Convenience store owners in several counties have been forced to stop selling gas due to employees testing positive for the virus. Most gas station owners say they have problems finding employees to sell gas. New Jersey and Oregon remain the only states with restrictions on self-serve gasoline. In late March, Oregon made the practice optional.

Something very rare in the Los Angeles area. Due to less vehicles on the road, the smog is almost gone and views of the local mountains are available.

Norway has the highest percentage of electric vehicle ownership in the world. The U.S. & Japan/China have more vehicle owners but based on population, Norway is number one. They also have thousands of buyers on waiting lists for new models.

Zook (an electric car company in the San Francisco area) has admitted that some new hires from Tesla were in possession of certain Tesla documents when they joined Zook. Zook will pay Tesla an undisclosed amount of money and under go an audit to assure that none of the documents were maintained or are using confidential Tesla info. Tesla is also involved in a lawsuit with Google over self driving vehicles. Not much information is available on the lawsuit.

Bloomberg says that it will take months to get all auto plants fully reopened. Most of the parts suppliers have been closed also and will require time to resume full production.

According to a test by Car and Driver, Tesla's new 250-KW super charger only saves about 2 minutes versus the Tesla 150-KW charger.

Car lease problems – Plummeting auto sales have coincided with a drop in the value of vehicles that have reached the end of their lease contract, experts say. One person in Southern California tried to return her leased vehicle approx two weeks before the lease expired, but the dealer refused to accept it as he said he did not have space for it. Other auto dealers have given reasons for not accepting

lease returns. About one-third of vehicles sold in the U.S. are leased and there are about 13 million active leases. Edmonds.com say about 1.4 million leases are expected to expire this year, on an average of about 340,000 per month. As of the first week of April, new vehicles sales were down 67% from a year ago and used vehicle sales were down 64%. Most auto finance companies do not want to work with lease returns. Leasing companies are trying to talk lease holders into extending their leases. A Los Angeles attorney says that refusing to accept a lease return is illegal.

The tornado that hit South Carolina in mid-April damaged the roof and interior of the Borg Warner plant which supplies essential parts for Fiat Chrysler, Toyota and Ford. This may cause delays in restarting manufacturing at various plants.

Health experts say that drivers should open their windows at least three inches to allow fresh air into the vehicle especially when others are in the vehicle. If you are using your AC in the vehicle, make sure that the unit is not set in the recirculating mode – select the mode to bring in fresh air.

In three years, GM expects all of its facilities in Southeastern Michigan to run on clean and renewable energy. GM has purchased 500,000 megawatt hours of solar energy from DTE Energy MIGreenPower program. DTE says the investment will support nearly 1,500 clean energy jobs in Michigan during project construction.

The all-new Ford Bronco release has been delayed until September due to the virus outbreak. There will be two models, a large and small. The larger will be based on the Ford Ranger platform and the smaller model on the Ford Escape platform. There are conflicting reports about the vehicles. One report says they will have a new 6-speed transmission and another report says they will have a new 10 speed transmission.



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