

## **CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, INC.**

### **OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE**



**Due to the pandemic, there are very few new vehicle laws...**

#### **CALIFORNIA**

**Experts say that California must improve their electric grid before banning gas-powered vehicles. Many areas of the state have been without power various times as many power companies shut off power due to gusty winds and or storms to prevent causing fires. If the power is off, how do you recharge it?**

**The state reports that 225 teenage drivers were killed in auto crashes last year and is launching a program to increase safe driving for teenagers.**

#### **NEVADA**

**The Tesla Gigafactory near Reno is the job site with the highest number of Washoe County coronavirus cases since January, with 117 cases reported.**

#### **WYOMING**

**Yellowstone National Park officials have proposed an earlier opening date and later closing during the winter at an entrance for snowmobiles and snow coaches.**

#### **WHAATSUUP HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE**

**Travel expert Armanda Norcross expects an increase in travel this holiday season, despite fewer people traveling overall. Many will be traveling to see family and friends for the first time since quarantine began. Hopper's new Travel Confidence Report suggests an increase in travel is likely. According to a poll, 39% say they plan to travel during the holidays this year. However, 21% have said they do not plan to travel, though, in a typical year, they would. AAA says given**

**the implications of COVID-19, it is difficult to make any estimates at this point of what travel around the holidays will look like this year.**

**In the first week of October according to the Internet, Dr. Walter Chien and his wife of Stockton, Ca drove to Dublin, Ca to pick up their new Tesla Model T SUV. Mrs Chien was driving the vehicle home on Interstate 580 when they heard a funny noise and then the top of the car blew off and landed on the freeway. The Chien's had the vehicle returned to the dealer and then noticed that one side window was larger than the other window. They also noticed some gaps in part of the vehicle. The dealer has offered to replace or repair the vehicle. But the Chiens have not decided what to do. There have been several complaints about the workmanship on some Tesla vehicles, with gaps between the panels and loose seatbelts not attached to the rest of the car. Reports say that Tesla may have used non-standard parts that look like most of the bolts, nuts and screws came from Home Depot.**

**Tesla has filed a permit request to add battery production to their new Gifactory in Austin Texas in 2021. Tesla has quietly changed its warranty program on models 4 years or older and less than 50,000 miles on the odometer to a "used vehicle" limited warranty which varies with models. Owners have to contact Tesla to get up to date info on their warranties. Owners of older Tesla vehicles say this may hurt their resale values.**

**Tesla will build a battery factory in Indonesia to produce batteries that will help end the battery shortage problem that Tesla has. They will receive money from the Indonesian government to build the plant and may build an assembly plant there.**

**Tesla has killed its 7-day return policy on new vehicles just after the starting price on Model S sedans cut to \$69,470.**

**Tesla is offering an updated self-driving option to Tesla owners and the cost is \$8,000. There is a disclaimer in the purchase order saying that the system does not make the vehicle autonomous and drivers still have to supervise and control their vehicle. On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Tesla said that the system will be available to rent for \$50 a day or \$2,000 per year.**

**Ford warned that certain 2019-2020 Transit Connect Vans have an engine flaw that could create a fire risk and certain 2020 Ford Escape SUVs have tire pressure monitor flaws that could lead to loss of control. Certain Transit Connect Vans with 2.5-liter engines have a software calibration issue that fails to keep the**

**engine adequately cooled. When the engine temperature exceeds critical limits, it may increase the fire risk.**

**GM is testing electric pickups and may produce them under the Hummer name. Reservations to order the new vehicle became available October 20<sup>th</sup>. The reservations sold out on the \$112,000 vehicle in only a few days. It is expected to be available next fall. A video of the vehicle was shown to dealers recently, but Green Car Reports (an auto review site) that GM admits that it has not produced a physical working model of the Hummer EV and that the video image was simulated. GM announced that the vehicle would be available by September 20<sup>th</sup> but the solar calendar means September 20–December 21. A \$99,995 3X model will be available next fall and a \$79,995 EV2 in spring of 2024. The vehicle comes with many new features.**

**The new Cadillac Escalade (available last quarter of 2020) has many new tech features. The base price is \$76,195, but the model tested by Mark Phelan of the Detroit Free Press and USA Today was \$109,195 excluding destination fees.**

**There are 104 reports of cars hitting protesters in recent months. Amid thousands of protesters nationwide this summer against police brutality, dozens of drivers have plowed into protestors marching in roadways, raising questions about the driver's motivations.**

**The deadline for REAL ID requirement has been delayed until October 1, 2021 due to the pandemic.**

**A few years ago, most new car buyers were concerned about fuel efficiency, comfort and best price.**

**A recently launched feature on Lincoln cars promises to help reduce anxiety and stress, improve sleep, enhances personal performance, and build self-esteem. All of this is available with a popular Calm program through the Lincoln Way app Calm, and may be used in the car, on a mobile phone or tablet. It comes at no cost for one year to Lincoln owners of 2000 year models or newer in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.**

**Ford is offering up to 75 options on the new Ranger base model pickup. Some of the options are adjustable vehicle height, towing straps installed and a custom grill. The options are available on STX Special Edition models. Ford has announced that it will end production of its Mustang Shelby GT 350 this fall. The good news is that it is bringing back the Mustang Mach I after 17 years. It will be at dealers in the spring of 2021 with a base price of \$51,720 plus a \$1,195 destination charge.**

**The demand for the new Ford Bronco is greater than Ford expected. Some buyers who have preordered the vehicle may have to wait until next year for their vehicle and it may be a 2022 model. By mid-August, Ford expected to have 160,000 reservations for the vehicle. The price for the two-door 2021 Bronco begins at \$29,995 for the base model including destination fees. The four-door base model is \$35,695 including destination fees.**

**GM and Honda have teamed-up to launch an electric “blockchain” charging network for electric vehicles. Very few details are available at this time.**

**Nissan has announced that it will end sales of commercial vans in the U.S. after 2021. They will concentrate on fleet-sales of cars and electric vehicles. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, Nissan announced that it will include automated driving features in all future new models regardless of price. The system will not be activated at this time, but Nissan wants to be ready when self-driving cars are allowed on highways. They expect to roll out 20 new models by 2023.**

**Toyota announced that they plan to stop sales of their Land Cruiser in 2021. The vehicle went on sale in 1957. The 2021 entry-level model price is \$89,880.**

**A lady in Michigan saved her money while she worked in order to purchase her dream car when she retired. She purchased a 2019 Corvette 206 model for \$97,000. A year and 15,000 miles later the vehicle developed shutter and shimmering. The cause was the wheels were cracked or bent. When she contacted GM, she was told that the cracked wheels were her fault and would not replace them. She has since filed a lawsuit against GM. Other Corvette owners have reported the same problem, cracked or bent wheels.**

**Waymo will allow the public to download an App to catch a ride in a fully autonomous van with no one behind the wheel. The program is being tested in the Phoenix-Chandler area.**

**The owner of a 2006 Ford F-350 argued for years that Ford Super Duty trucks with defective 6.0 diesel engines were sold to thousands of unsuspecting buyers and then concealed the known problems, saddling customers with repair bills and exposing them to engine failure. Now an appeals court has agreed with Charles Margeson of Torrance, Ca, who was the first truck owner with a 6.0L diesel engine to seek a fraud claim against Ford. The Ca Appeals Court last month upheld a lower court ruling in Margeson’s favor. Five other jury awards against Ford in similar cases are pending.**

**Due to people being out of work or earning less money due to the pandemic, they have found that their credit scores may have dropped. Many people with credit**

**scores of 300 to 600 are finding it harder to get an auto loan. Many advertised loan offers are less attractive. Most auto loans now require a larger down payment and the interest rate is higher.**

**The U.S. Transportation Dept. has released figures on costs of gas-powered vehicles vs electric vehicles driven 15,000 miles. Fuel for gas-powered vehicles was \$1420 and cost for using electric powered vehicles was \$620. For a SUV cross-over gas-vehicle was \$1800 vs \$780 for electric vehicle and pickups were \$2300 for gas powered vs \$980 for electric powered. Consumer Reports say a typical 7-year ownership of electric vehicles average fuel savings of \$4200 for cars, \$6300 for SUVs and \$8,000 for a pickup compared to similar gas powered vehicle. Costs to maintain and repair an electric vehicle over a 200,000 mile period, is roughly half as much as maintenance and repairs on a similar gas powered vehicle with an average savings around \$4600.**





*Larry Becker*

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