

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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

By Larry Becker



Many teenagers delay getting their drivers license for various reasons. Forty Four percent have no car, 39% have other ways to get around, 36% say the cost of driving is too high, 29% are not interested in getting a license, and 21% say they are too busy. (Not like when we were young, right)??

Do you have Bed Bugs in your car?? The Detroit news says a new study finds that calls to pest management (control) firms to deal with the infestation are on the rise, and not just at home. The Bugs Without Borders survey, conducted by the University of Kentucky, in conjunction with the National Pest Management Association, discovered big increases in bed bug reports from hotels, restaurants, and public transportation, among other places. The problem for motorists is that it is easy for the persistent to get on your clothes, or lay eggs in your luggage and find a new home in your car. Entomologist Gene White told the newspaper that the bugs can live in your car year round, neither hot or cold temperature can kill them. The chemicals used in homes do not work well in cars because the fumes being given off can be dangerous in an enclosed area and many of the materials used in cars can be damaged by the chemicals.

The five worst selling vehicles of all time are as follows: #5- Cadillac Catera – sold 9,764 vehicles in 2001, #4 – Pontiac Aztek – sold 5,020 in 2005, #3 –The Yugo – sold less than 4,000 in 1991, # 2- Ford Edsel – sold 2,848 in 1960, and #1 – Studebaker Wagonaire - sold 949 1963-1966.

Today, the most successful selling car in the world is the Ford Focus!

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 state legislatures.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has issued a proposed rule to allow motorcycle license plates to be mounted at an angle of up to 30 degrees beyond vertical rather than the current 15 degree limit. The change would provide additional manufacturer design flexibility and match European regulations.

Many cities and states are reviewing their requirements for handicapped placards and changing the requirements. Many feel that the practice is being abused by motorists who are not handicapped. Many cities say that they are losing parking fees due to the misuse of the placards. Portland Oregon officials say that it is not uncommon to find blocks of more vehicles with placards than vehicles without.

ALABAMA

The standard state license plate is getting a makeover, switching from a coastal scene to the mountains of northern Alabama. The State Revenue Department said the new plate will be available January 1st.

Tuscaloosa officials say that after a month long grace period, motorists caught by red-light cameras will now be fined \$100 for each violation.

ALASKA

There is no more free parking in Sitka. On Sept. 13th, the city ended its moratorium on issuing parking tickets after the Assembly made changes to comply with a court ruling, the Daily Sitka Sentinel reports. Sitka and other cities across Alaska stopped issuing parking tickets after the April ruling, which said citations filed in the state must be issued directly to the driver, not left on the windshield.

CALIFORNIA

The Legislature has sent Gov. Brown a bill allowing undocumented immigrants to receive driver's licenses. The license carries a recognizable feature on the front and back of the license to satisfy federal requirements – as well as various provisions to guard against discrimination. The license will not meet federal standards required to

board airplanes or meet other federal requirements. Supporters say the bill will allow undocumented drivers to obtain auto insurance, buy vehicles on credit and serve as a form of ID. Gov. Brown has indicated that he will sign the bill. Similar bills were vetoed in previous sessions of the Legislature.

Gov. Brown has signed AB 1371 which requires motorists to give bicyclists at least 3 feet of space when passing on a California roadway. It also requires motorists to slow down if they can't give room and makes failing to comply, an infraction punishable by a base fine of \$35. The bill will take effect in September, 2014.

The new span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge was opened as planned on Labor Day. There were just a few minor traffic problems caused by the opening. A bill to rename the bridge after former San Francisco Mayor and Assembly Speaker, Willie Brown, has been sent to the Governor. He has said that he would prefer keeping the name that the bridge has been know by for the past 70 years (San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge), but said he would sign the legislation for the name change.

Tailpipe testing for newer-model vehicles was scheduled to end Sept. 1, but certifying testing equipment has set-back the change until November. A new style test will rely on advanced monitoring of on-board diagnostic systems that trigger a check engine light. These systems are standard equipment on newer vehicles.

On Sept. 19th, the Golden Gate Bridge Building and Operating Committee agreed to buy a \$26.5 million barrier to help control traffic.

Web-based car-sharing companies will have to make sure drivers undergo training and criminal background checks and have commercial liability insurance under rules approved by the California Public Utilities Commission on Sept. 19th. The companies also face additional rules and must undergo thorough vehicle inspections. The companies have insisted that they were ride-sharing companies, not a commercial business, but the PUC ruled that they were transportation companies and subject to state regulations.

Construction on a new interchange near Freeport (Sacramento) has begun and will open next year connecting Hwy 99 to I-5

COLORADO

The city of Vail added an all-electric Nissan Leaf to its fleet, replacing a 2003 Toyota Prius. Parking supervisors use the electric vehicle to patrol parking garages and town owned lots. The leaf and 15 other town vehicles, including diesel hybrid buses, are aimed at making the town's fleet more energy efficient.

D. C. WASHINGTON

The city plans to add 132 traffic enforcement cameras over the next few months, the Washington post reports. In addition to speeders and red-light runners, the cameras will nab drivers who run stop signs and encroach on crosswalks and truckers who drive overweight trucks through neighborhoods where they are prohibited.

DELAWARE

On Oct. 1st, the DMV will be selling a limited number of black and white license plates with 5 digits instead of the more common six. The historic reproduction plates, made from either stainless steel or porcelain, will cost \$110.

The city of Wilmington is considering a yearlong, \$179,340 pilot program to place 200 "Smart Parking Meters" downtown that would allow visitors to pay with credit cards. The technology could include a smartphone app that would alert motorists when their meter is about to expire.

The Division of Motor Vehicles has launched "The Parent's Supervised Driving Program" sponsored by Ford Motors in partnership with Safe Roads Alliance, it is geared toward helping teens develop skills while driving with their parents before being able to drive on their own.

State environmental officials will no longer have workers troll parking lots looking for expired vehicle registrations and vehicles lacking current emission inspection stickers. The agency will use arrest and citation from the Delaware Justice Information System for reports sent to the EPA.

HAWAII

A motorist in Hawaii is suing the DMV for not putting her complete name on her driver's license. The problem is that there are 35 letters in her name and there are only 33 spaces on the driver's license. So they left off the last two letters. The case has not been resolved at this time.

ILLINOIS

The Illinois Tollway authority will publicly reveal drivers who rack up more than \$1,000 in unpaid tolls and fines by putting their names on its website. Spokeswoman Wendy Abrams said the list was completed and was up on the website in the first week of September. The step has been sanctioned by a law signed the last week of August by Gov. Quinn.

Under a new law starting January 1st, free parking for disabled motorists will be limited to those who present a doctor's note explaining that they can not access parking meters or ticket machines. The expectation is that only about 10 to 15% of disabled drivers will ultimately qualify.

KENTUCKY

The state has banned motorists from paying tolls for vehicles behind them when they enter a toll plaza. The state found that some of the toll takers were keeping the money and not telling drivers that the prior vehicle had paid their toll.

The Kentucky Motor Vehicle Property Tax Assessment office is in the process of implementing a new system by which vehicle property taxes are processed (KAVIS). While the system has changed, the legal tax assessment has not been raised. The assessment remains as a percentage (\$25 per \$100) of the valuation recorded in the NADA guide. Given that the new system is not capable of processing vehicles 25 years old or older, there valuations will be entered manually by the county property valuation assessors.

LOUISIANA

The Tiger Drive Bridge, near Thibodaux will be closed for eight months as replacement of the span begins.

Two Shreveport police officers are suing the city and its police chief for using an illegal "quota" system for measuring traffic stops, misdemeanor and felony arrests, and contacts with citizens that, in turn, is used to discipline officers who fail to make the numbers.

MICHIGAN

Legislation has been introduced in the Michigan Senate to exempt historic military vehicles from the requirement that they display a license plate unless the vehicle was originally manufactured with lighting and mounting provisions for a plate. Under the bill, if the plate is not attached to the exterior of the historic military vehicle, it must be present in the vehicle and available upon demand by law enforcement officers.

MINNESOTA

State inspectors found that 90% of the gas pumps examined this year to be accurate. The dept. of Commerce said that's a slight improvement over last year when 88% of pumps inspected through June were accurate.

MISSOURI

The state has made progress in improving its bridges in recent years. But federal figures show Missouri had 687 bridges that were both structurally deficient and "fracture critical," meaning that they are designed in a way that could risk collapse if a single, vital component fails.

NEVADA

Las Vegas City Commissioners have approved a fuel tax that will add 10 cents to each gallon of gas during the next three years. The first part of the new fuel tax, pegged at 3.24 cents, kicks in on January 1st. The fuel tax increases are tied to the rate of inflation, but are capped, which prevents the total additional tax on each gallon from rising above 10 cents a gallon by the end of 2016. After January, fuel tax increases will come every July between 2014 and 2016. The money will be used for new road projects.

In Las Vegas, two school districts attached cameras to their buses in order to catch motorists who pass school busses who have their red-lights flashing and film the licenses plate number of the violators. However, under Nevada law, "photographic, video or digital equipment" can not be used to issue traffic tickets unless the equipment is in the hand or vehicle of a police officer.

WARNING!! Police will have an easier time catching bad guys near the Nevada-Utah line now that they've received a delivery of seven new police cruisers. Sgt David Wiskerchen said the SUV's are equipped with radar, in-car video, GPS technology, backup collision warning and anti-theft protection.

OHIO

A bipartisan team of state lawmakers want to offer tax credits to convert cars and trucks to burn both gasoline and natural gas. State Reps. Sean J. O'Brien and David Hall are preparing legislation to give state tax breaks to back conversions or to buy an alternative fuel option vehicle.

SOUTH CAROLINA

For the third consecutive year, Charleston County is the most dangerous in the state for vehicle crashes, AAA Carolinas announced. During 2012, there were more than 12,000 collisions in the county, 55% higher than the state average.

The city of Charleston is considering making it illegal to text, type or read behind the wheel. The ordinance would not apply to talking on a cellphone. The fine would be \$100 plus court costs.

The group that operates the Southern Connector Toll Highway in Southern Greenville County wants the state's help in collecting thousands of dollars owed to it by toll violators, but state transportation Secretary Robert St. Onge is reluctant to do it the way the groups wants because it involves Social Security numbers. More than \$200,000 is owed, association officials say

TENNESSEE

Attempts to cut waiting time at driver service centers over the past two years has been hampered by computer issues and an increase in handgun permit applications, the Tennessean reports. More than 100 self-service kiosks were installed for routine business, but some business, including handgun permits, must be handled at the windows.

UTAH

The state plans to rebuild a 7-mile stretch of interstate 15 along the divide for Salt Lake and Utah Counties. The state Dept. of Transportation said the Point of the mountain is the last major stretch of I-15 that has not been improved in about 50 years and it was prone to buckling in the summer's heat. The \$247 million project will start in spring and take nearly two years to complete.

VIRGINIA

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge and tunnel Commission has voted to increase tolls at the tunnel, effective Jan. 1st. The fee for passenger vehicles will increase from \$12 to \$15 during peak periods on Fridays through Sundays from May 15th to Sept. 15th.

Google has spent the last five months testing one of its self-driving cars in the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute's "Smart Road" program. Google supplied the car, Virginia Tech provided the expertise and Transportation officials provided \$2 million in funding.

VERMONT

A \$60 million project to replace a steel bridge on Interstate 90 includes traffic surveillance cameras, message signs, and radar traffic sensors to help broadcast live data to a website for public use. Construction is set to start at the end of September and extend through the summer of 2016. Project updates, traffic information and camera feeds will be available at www.19BrattleboroBridge.com according to the Brattleboro Reformer.

WASHINGTON

State officials said construction delays and redesign costs could use up the Highway 52 bridge's \$100 million in reserves and eventually send the project an additional \$128 million in the red, the Seattle Times reports. Most of the costs are related to design errors that caused cracks in the first four giant pontoons of the floating bridge.

State lawmakers are constitutionally protected from receiving non-criminal traffic tickets during a legislative session, as well as 15 days before, Washington State Patrol spokesman Bob Calkins said. The Tacoma Police Dept. abides by a similar policy. The logic?? Detaining lawmakers on the road – even for the time it takes to issue them a speeding ticket – may delay them from getting to the capitol to vote, Calkinss said.

WEST VIRGINIA

Motorists traveling through Charleston won't have to deal with interstate construction much longer. West Virginia Dept. of Transportation spokesman Brent Walker told the Charleston Daily Mail that the \$23million project is expected to be completed by Oct. 15th. Contractors are repairing portions of Interstate 64 and 77 where the highways merge.

WHAT'S UP HERE AND THERE

Trying to get out of a ticket? Here are some excuses that the police have heard before: #1- I couldn't see the sign telling me not to do that, #2-I'm lost and unfamiliar with the roads, #3- I didn't know it was broken, #4-Everyone else was doing it, #5- I'm having an emergency situation (spilled hot coffee on my lap), #6 – I missed my turn, #7- I had to get to the bathroom, #8 – I didn't do anything dangerous, #9 – I was on my way to an emergency (helping someone who is ill), #10 – My GPS said it was the right thing to do, #11- I wasn't even supposed to be driving (my friend is intoxicated). The ranking of excuses vary by gender.

Tesla Motors opened its 19t Supercharger station on August 29th in Woodburn Oregon, meaning that owners of the company's Model S luxury sedan can travel from Vancouver, B.C. to Eugene, Oregon for free, the Statesman Journal reports.

A new state park has opened near Fort Bragg (South Carolina) on land owned by the Rockefeller family. The publicly owned Carvers Creek State Park totals more than 4,300 acres.

Rhode Island state officials said that a major computer upgrade at DMV is expected to be finished April 2014, nearly four years late and \$7 million over budget. (Oh well, what else we can expect from the governments)?

The Wyoming Legislature's interim Revenue Committee is considering a proposed hike in the beer tax in Buffalo. The state has not increased the tax since it was levied at 2 cents a gallon in 1935. Good News! The proposal was voted down.

Trust your GPS?? Forty percent of drivers using GPS units say that their units led them astray 1 to 4 times. Twenty three percent say their units have led them astray 5 or more times according to a survey by Harris Interactive for Michelin in April 2013.

Bob & Judy Higday, Eric & Carolyn Beeby are putting the finishing touches on the CHVA 2014 National Tour. The tour will start in Tacoma, Washington and will be a hub tour. For an information packet, please send \$5 to Carolyn Beeby, 430 Oak View drive, Vacaville, Ca, 95688-4224. Make checks payable to Carolyn Beeby and include your CHVA membership number. Also please see attachment for more information. Also, see attachment.

Countries with the most traffic deaths are: #1 – China-275,983, #2 – India- 231,027, #3 – Nigeria – 53,339, #4 – Brazil – 43,869, #5 – Indonesia – 42,434 and the U.S. – 35,490. Information from World Health Organization Global Status Report on Road Safety.



***Larry Becker
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