

Industry Update



NW Automotive Trades Assn.

Hybrid vehicle training this fall

The hybrid vehicle training we offered this past spring was so popular that we've invited instructor Craig Van Batenburg back for a whole set of classes this fall.

Check out the calendar section of NATA's website (www.aboutNATA.org) for more details, but the week of November 6, we'll run four different hybrid-related classes from Monday through Thursday evenings. Then on Saturday, we'll offer a full-day course focusing on the Toyota and Lexus hybrid drive.

Members can sign up for the full series of classes for just \$379, or can register for any of the particular classes they want. **And we'll be offering an additional 10 percent discount for those who register before September 15!**

The classes are expected to fill up quickly, so don't put off registering!

Tech contest being held

Independent techs over the age of 21 are eligible until August 11 to enter the Amoco Ultimate Golden Mechanic contest by visiting a website (www.BPGoldenMechanic.com). Three winners will receive a two-night trip to Las Vegas to compete in a head-to-head competition during the SEMA show. The winner will receive \$25,000, a year's worth of gas and a tool kit, and will serve as an Amoco spokesman in 2007). The nomination process includes writing in 500 words or less why you should be considered a "Golden Mechanic."

Consumer Reports, AAIA disagree over 'Right to Repair' legislation

The Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association (AAIA) reports that a recent survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation, directly contradicts statements made by the Consumers Union in Consumer Reports magazine that the service information issue has been solved.

The survey of more than 1,000 independent repair shop owners, service managers and service technicians reveals that \$5.8 billion in service and parts sales is being lost annually because they are unable to readily access the necessary repair information and tools from car manufacturers to properly diagnose and repair vehicles.

AAIA says that the survey also found that independent repair shops lose additional sales when forced to turn away 1.2 million consumers each year due to the lack of information to repair their vehicle. And 70 percent of survey respondents said that they have no confidence that vehicle manufacturers will always provide them with the necessary tools and information in the future.

Despite support from other consumer groups such as AAA and the Center for Auto Safety, Consumer Reports said the legislation sounds great but in reality is a "bogus solution" that could compromise vehicle anti-theft systems and allow unscrupulous shops to retune vehicles to crank up performance – increasing tailpipe pollutants. The magazine said advocates of the bill are exaggerating a problem that affects "a minuscule 0.2 percent of auto repair customers."

List of events, other info on website

If it's been a while since you visited NATA's website (www.aboutNATA.org), now's a great time to stop by! The calendar section includes the dates of this fall's "Express Lunch and Learn" sessions, or click the link from the homepage to find a list of technicians looking for work or to find out how to post your job openings at the site (free to members!). There's also lots of information about other membership benefits. Check it out!

Desks, office chairs available

NATA has a large executive-style desk with credenza, as well as several other smaller desks and office chairs available for sale. Call our office for more information...

For the weeks of
July 24-31, 2006

TRAINING AND EVENT CALENDAR

Advance Registration
Required

Collision Ind. Conf.

Wednesday, August 2
Fairmont Hotel
San Jose, Calif.

NATA's 'Express Lunch and Learn'

Wednesday, Sept. 20
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
NATA Training Room
Northeast Portland

NATA Board Meeting

Thursday, October 5
Langdon Farms Golf Club
Aurora, Ore.

NATA's 'Express Lunch and Learn'

Wednesday, October 18
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
NATA Training Room
Northeast Portland

Hybrid Electrical System Analysis

Monday, November 6
6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
NATA Training Room
Northeast Portland

HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT MORE INFO? WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

Northwest Automotive Trades Association

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