

Industry Update



NW Automotive Trades Assn.

Collision event to feature Sulkala

NATA is pleased to announce that collision industry leader Chuck Sulkala is returning to Oregon this month for an NATA collision event. Sulkala, a Boston shop owner and executive director of the National Auto Body Council, will lead a discussion on the "State of the Autobody Industry."

NATA member shop Precision Body & Paint in Beaverton is hosting this "end of summer" gathering on Monday, August 28. A reception will be held at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m., followed by Chuck's presentation and the discussion.

Please call our office at (503) 253-9898 to let us know you will be attending.

Many thanks to Ron Reichen and Charles Dillard of Precision Body & Paint for hosting this event, and to Sherwin-Williams Automotive Finishes for making Chuck Sulkala's trip to Oregon possible.

NATA offers more hybrid training

Leading hybrid vehicle service instructor Craig Van Batenburg is returning to Portland this fall for a week-long series of classes on hybrid vehicle service and repairs.

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 individual classes. **And we're offering an additional 10 percent discount for those who register before September 15!**

Right to Repair' loses more support; GM says collision info may be free

In another blow to hopes for passage of the 'Right to Repair' legislation, four consumer groups and a co-sponsor of the bill have with-

drawn their support. Rep. Rodney Alexander (R-Louisiana) is no longer among the 100 lawmakers listed as co-sponsors of the bill.

The four consumer groups that recently withdrew their support include Consumer Federation of America (led by Jack Gillis, who also leads CAPA, which certifies non-OEM crash parts), the Center for Auto Safety, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, and Public Citizen (founded by Ralph Nader). The groups say they oppose the current version of the bill, which as amended removes the provision for consumers' private right of action.

The Right to Repair Act passed out of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection on May 25 by a vote of 14 to 13 and now awaits a vote in the full Energy and Commerce Committee.

The bill still has the support of many diverse groups, including: RetireSafe (which represents 400,000 seniors); National Grange, Service Station Dealers of America, Tire Industry Association, AAA and others.

In other news related to OEM service and repair information, a GM representative at last week's I-CAR annual meeting said he hopes that before the end of this year, all GM collision-related repair information will be made available free of charge at GM's Goodwrench website (www.gmgoodwrench.com) rather than for a fee at GM's tech info website (www.GMtechinfo.com).

Community college seeks assistance

The automotive service and collision repair programs at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City are coming up on their renewal for NATEF certification and need two shop representatives (one from a dealership, one from an independent) to assist with the review process. NATEF certification helps ensure the programs are teaching the skills the industry needs in entry-level technicians. For details on how you can help, contact Department Chairman Dave Bradley, (503) 657-6958, ext. 2628, email: bradleyd@clackamas.edu.

For the weeks of
August 7-14, 2006

TRAINING AND EVENT CALENDAR

Advance Registration
Required

NATA Collision Event

Speaker: Chuck Sulkala
Monday, August 28
6 p.m. reception,
7 p.m. dinner
Precision Body & Paint
Beaverton

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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