



## *The Industry Update*

**A membership service of the Northwest Automotive Trades Association  
For the weeks of April 14 and 21, 2008**

**Going Postal – On May 12, a first-class stamp goes up a penny, to 42 cents.**

**Nissan halts parts discount to State Farm** – for now The CRASH Network is reporting that at least one automaker, Nissan, has halted offering State Farm a discount through the insurer's electronic parts ordering system. State Farm's "Select Service" shops in the Indianapolis and San Diego markets were notified in late February that the insurer's test of the parts ordering system – which includes a pricing discount provided to the insurer by the automakers – was completed but that they should continue to use it as the insurer evaluates the results over the next several months.

State Farm's George Avery said Nissan's decision to halt the discount was not necessarily long-term. Each automaker had the option of discontinuing the discount during the several months after the test while the program is being evaluated and before deciding how to proceed, he said. Avery said no decision has been made about whether, when or where the program will be rolled out. For more information, visit the CRASH Network website ([www.CrashNetwork.com](http://www.CrashNetwork.com))

**Consumer group joins in support of "Right to Repair"** - RetireSafe, an advocacy organization promoting solutions for older Americans, has declared its support of the Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act (HR 2694) and strongly urges Congress to pass the legislation on behalf of its nearly 400,000 members.

"The mission of RetireSafe is to protect the rights of older Americans, providing solutions to enhance their lives," said Michelle Plasari, president of RetireSafe. "Many older Americans live on a fixed income and Right to Repair ensures that they can continue to enjoy the affordability and convenience of having their vehicle serviced at the repair shop of their choice."

Plasari said older Americans often rely on a trusted neighborhood shop.

"Their personal choice will be severely compromised if they are forced back to the dealer for service and repairs, particularly if there is no dealership in their area," she said.

RetireSafe encourages its members and all motorists to visit [www.righttorepair.org](http://www.righttorepair.org) to send a letter to each of their congressional representatives, urging them to support the Right to Repair Act (HR 2694) by adding their names to the growing list of co-sponsors.

**'Tis the season for scholarships, available for automotive training** - Know someone interested in joining the industry? Scholarships are now available for automotive or collision repair training at Oregon and Southwest Washington area community colleges. Completed applications for the \$1,000 scholarships, sponsored annually by Northwest Education & Automotive Training (NEAT), must be submitted by May 16. Winners will be announced by May 30, and the scholarship funds will be available for those enrolling for summer or for the 2008-09 school year. To be eligible for the scholarships, students must be enrolling in an automotive mechanical or collision repair program at a community college in Oregon or Southwest Washington. (Those enrolling in an auto manufacturer-affiliated program are not eligible.) Winners are chosen using a point system based primarily on an instructor or employer evaluation and a statement of career goals.

NEAT is a non-profit organization supported by more than a dozen high school and community college automotive training programs, and a wide range of industry-related businesses, associations and vendors. For a scholarship application, visit the "Education" section of the NATA website ([www.aboutNATA.org](http://www.aboutNATA.org)).

**Take the time to visit the NATA website** - On the homepage there are links to " The New Fuels", including detailed information about biofuels in Oregon. Also, the "2008 Insurer Report Card", and, **new for consumers: Report complaints against your insurance company, report them to the DCBS, and download a consumer complaint form** [www.aboutnata.org](http://www.aboutnata.org)

### The Calendar

#### **NATA Board of Directors Meeting/Special Event Barbeque and Wine Tasting**

Friday, April 18, Barbeque and Wine Tasting, 5 – 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 19, Board of Directors Meeting, 9 a.m. – 12 noon

**Location:** High Desert Auto Supply  
62057 NE 27<sup>th</sup> St., Bend OR

#### **Association of Women in Automotive (AWA) Rummage/Plant Sale**

April 26th at Pacific Motor Sports, 936 SE Powell Blvd from 8 am-2 pm. Perennials plant sale and various stuff to peruse and purchase.

#### **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Classic Auto Exhibit & Gathering at Portland Transmission Warehouse**

Saturday, May 10, SE 11<sup>th</sup> and Clay St., Portland, Registration 6:30 a.m., free event 7 – 11 a.m.

Sponsored by Baxter Auto Parts, Chrome, McGuire Bearing Co. and Larson & King Classics, Customs, Rods, Sports Cars. More info, call Gary, 503 233-4966.

#### **NATA's Express Lunch and Learn**

##### **Viking Motor Sports discussion and demonstration with PSU students**

Wednesday, May 14, 2008, NATA Training Room, 1710 NE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Portland, RSVP with Laurie • 503.253.9898

Formula SAE provides a more challenging engineering project for college students. The Society of Automotive Engineers hosts multiple US competition locations as well as European and Australian FSAE competitions. It attracts sponsorship from several top automotive companies including DaimlerChrysler, General Motors, Ford, and Honda. Many bright and successful automotive engineers have participated in this event and are now employed with these companies.

#### **Americana/Folk Concert with the Saw Tale Ridge Band**

August 16<sup>th</sup>, The Pond in Beavercreek OR  
Sponsored by AWA, more details to follow.

#### **Have Questions? Want More Info? We're Here for You!**

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