



The Industry Update

**A membership service of the Northwest Automotive Trades Association
For the weeks of April 28 and May 5, 2008**

NATA Board of Directors meeting date changed for better weather in June – Join us in Bend, Oregon on Friday, June 6 for a delicious barbeque and wine tasting event, and the morning of Saturday, June 7 for the NATA Board meeting. Also, learn about **The New Fuels**, like biofuels, E-10 and E-85, and network with other automotive folks from around the state of Oregon. Call 503 253-9898 for an agenda or further information, or toll free 1 800-730-7282. Visit the NATA website at www.aboutnata.org for hotel and meeting location information.

Oregon Skills USA 2008 – “Skills USA Collision Repair and Refinishing” was held in the Collision Center at Linn-Benton Community College this month. The Secondary contestants were from Eagle Point High School, Redmond High School, and Estacada High School. For Post-Secondary, there were three students from Linn-Benton Community College. “The event went well,” said Shannon Harp, Instructional Specialist for LBCC Collision Repair and Chair for Collision Skills USA. The competition was split into two categories: “Collision Technology” and “Refinishing Technology.” The judge for Refinishing was Bob Kingsley, Automotive Paint Specialties. Tom Gray, Main Auto Body, Corvallis was judge for Estimating, Nathan Palmer, Nate’s Auto Body, Stayton was judge for Welding, and Josh Kolling, Main Auto Body, Lebanon judged the Metalworking Competition. Toyota of Portland donated fenders for the competition, Automotive Paint Specialties, Tangent donated refinishing material’s, sheet metal was donated by Kauffmann’s, Tangent, and body materials were donated by CARQUEST Auto Parts, Albany. Great job, all!

Did You Know? It’s the Law!

Have you ordered the new, “Did You Know – It’s the Law” counter cards yet? The 2007 Oregon Legislature passed the Collision Repairer Bill (*SB 523*), effective January 1, 2008, **reinforcing a consumer’s right to select the motor vehicle repair shop of their choice**. Consumer education counter cards are available from NATA for \$15 per each set of 100 (each set includes a counter-top plastic holder). Contact Laurie at 503.253.9898 or laurie@aboutnata.org to order these cards for your business counter. Let consumers know, “It’s the Law!”

Get 100mpg, for real!

Here is a letter from Todd Weedman, owner of Todd’s Auto Imports, to his Prius-owner customers about an exciting new plug in option for Toyota Prius:

Dear Prius Owner,

I want to share with you the exciting news that A123 Systems has completed development and testing of the Hymotion L5 Plug-in Conversion Module for the 2004-2008 Toyota Prius. The Plug-in Conversion greatly extends the Electric-Only range of your Prius which enables many owners to achieve 100mpg. By plugging-in your Prius at night you can drive your first 30-40 miles solely on electricity at a cost of approximately 3 cents per mile; this is the equivalent of purchasing gasoline at \$1.40 per gallon!

Over the past year they have completed field testing and product development protocols to produce the market's first fully tested, standardized and publicly available Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) conversion module. The product is being put into production and will soon be offered for purchase by consumers, as well as fleets and government programs. Consumer deliveries are expected to begin in July 2008.

As a certified hybrid repair facility we are working with A123 Systems to expand awareness, answer questions and determine customer interest in this product. If you do indeed have an interest in taking your Prius to the PHEV level, please call and let me know. I will be happy to answer your questions and give you my advice as to whether a PHEV conversion is right for you.

For more information, give Todd a call, 503-635-1339. Visit his website, Todd@ToddsImport.com

THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

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

Friday, June 6, Barbeque and Wine Tasting, 5 – 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 7, Board of Directors Meeting, 9 a.m. – 12 noon

Lunch: 12 noon – 1 p.m.; New Fuels Discussion: 1 – 3 p.m.

Location: High Desert Auto Supply, 62057 NE 27th St., Bend OR

26th Annual Spring Classic Auto Exhibit & Gathering at Portland Transmission Warehouse

Saturday, May 10, SE 11th 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 Wednesday, May 14

Viking Motor Sports discussion and demonstration with PSU students

Wednesday, May 14, 2008, NATA Training Room, 1710 NE 82nd 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.