



## *The Industry Update*

**A membership service of the Northwest Automotive Trades Association  
For the weeks of March 31 and April 7, 2008**

**Express Lunch and Learn, Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>: "New Fuels" discussion featuring Nikola Davidson, NW Biofuels Assn. and Mark Fitz, Star Oil** - A new law in Oregon in 2008 requires a mix of ethanol fuel in gasoline. All fuel sold in Oregon will be a mix of gasoline and E10 phased in by these dates: January 15, 2008, for northwest Oregon; April 15 for mid-state; and September 16 for eastern Oregon. This requirement will remain in effect on a year-round basis. *(See calendar section for more information.)*

**California once again revises Zero Emission Vehicle Rule, automotive groups still fighting the "super warranty" issue there** - The California Air Resources Board (CARB) voted last Thursday to triple the amount of zero emission vehicles (ZEV) that staff had proposed for car companies to produce from 2012 through 2014, while directing staff to look at overhauling the program to account for legislation passed in the state to reduce global warming emissions from motor vehicles. Staff had originally proposed 2,500 pure zero emission vehicles, but on Thursday CARB increased that number to 7,500. The increase in the number of ZEVs required to be produced is still lower than the 25,000 ZEV vehicles that are currently required by the board and is based on a technology audit CARB commission last year, which concluded the development of advanced vehicle technologies is moving too slowly for the industry to comply with the existing 2012-2014 requirement. Car companies will be able to make up the difference by marketing gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles and natural gas-fueled vehicles, which are also known as partial, zero emission vehicles (PZEVs). CARB also would permit companies to obtain credits for selling "enhanced" advanced technology vehicles such as plug-in hybrids and internal combustion engine vehicles powered by fuel cells.

Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association (AAIA), along with the California Automotive Wholesalers Association (CAWA), testified at the hearing against the proposal based on concerns that the increased number of PZEVs and plug-in hybrids which would be required by the revisions would be mandated to come with a 15 year/150,000 mile "super warranty." AAIA and CAWA testified that CARB has no authority under current state statute to extend the warranty beyond the mandated 3 year/50,000 mile bumper to bumper emissions warranty or the 7 year/70,000 mile warranty on higher priced repairs. AAIA and CAWA also charged that CARB fails to have any evidence that the extended warranties provide any incentive for the car companies to build more durable emissions systems as has been claimed by the agency.

**Oregon law removes "super warranty" from PZEV program** - The state passed a "modified" PZEV program after NATA was asked to serve on a Governor's task force regarding implementing the tougher California emission standards in Oregon. NATA called the "super warranty" unfair to Oregon's automotive industry, saying the partial zero emission vehicles (PZEV) portion of the California standards, which require that PZEVs carry a 15-year or 150,000 mile "super warranty" from the manufacturer, raised troubling questions for the automotive industry, both independently-owned and dealership shops. NATA further stated that if adopted in Oregon, the "super warranty" would very clearly and unfairly direct consumers away from small family-owned shops to dealership shops with the hope that the problem was covered under warranty. Dealerships, too, could suffer if they are not adequately compensated by the automakers for the additional warranty work.

NATA testified the PZEV portion of the proposed emissions standard will also put a huge and unrealistic financial burden on auto manufacturers and parts suppliers to come up with parts that meet these new standards.

In a victory for the independent repair and aftermarket industry, Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission voted to NOT include "super warranty" requirements on PZEVs, even as the state adopted other aspects of California's tougher emissions rules.

**Fun events planned from the Association of Women in Automotive** – There are some great fundraisers coming up that you don't want to miss: the **Rummage/Plant Sale on April 26th at Pacific Motor Sports, 936 SE Powell Blvd from 8 am-2 pm**. There will be a perennials plant sale, like iris or raspberry plants. Also, donate stuff from your basement, garage, storage unit, etc., and drop it off on Friday April 25<sup>th</sup> until 6 pm. at Pacific Motorsports. ASA volunteers will also pick up your donation upon request. Also put on your calendars the **Americana/Folk Concert with the Saw Tale Ridge Band August 16<sup>th</sup>** at The Pond in Beavercreek OR. (*Watch for more information in Industry Update!*)

**ATTENTION NATA Health Plan Groups** - Recently it was brought to our attention that BENU, our health plan administrator, has been receiving a lot of calls from NATA groups they are unable to help. BENU handles all of our billings and enrollment information but they cannot provide advice or guidance on any insurance rules or on ERISA Law. To save our groups time and frustration, we want to help direct you to the right place from the beginning. If you have questions about qualifying events, dependent eligibility rules, new hire and rehire waiting periods, please call Cathi at the NATA office, 503 253-9898.

**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)).

**DID YOU KNOW....IT'S THE LAW!** – Counter cards are still available at the NATA office explaining a customer's right to select the motor vehicle repair shop of their choice (amending ORS 746.280). Also, poster-sized counter cards will be available soon.

Take the time to visit the NATA website...on the homepage there are links to 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)

**NOVA Information Systems has a new name** - Effective April 14, 2008, NOVA Information Systems/NOVA Network, an Associate Member of NATA, will be known as Elavon, to align the company under one global brand. Elavon will now be a global source for innovative, customer-driven merchant processing solutions and is backed by highly responsive customer service. In the U.S., it is the third largest credit card processor and is rated #1 for reliability by MasterCard.

**You're invited to train on "Virtual STAR" paint system for surface coat operations** - Mark Williamson from the Iowa Waste Reduction Center has agreed to come to Portland to preview the "Virtual STAR" equipment they have developed for training efficient surface coating operations. This equipment is expensive (around \$50,000), so DEQ is trying to find "leaders" in the surface

coating sector that could learn about this equipment and help DEQ determine if this type of training would be valuable to all surface coaters. The National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) rules for surface coating operations requires new paint processes and procedures. The training will be on April 15 from 1 – 4 pm at the CH2M Hill Center Building, 2020 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 400, Portland, OR 97201, in Conference Room A/B.

If you'd like to attend, RSVP to **Rich Grant, DEQ, (503) 229-5560.**

## [The Calendar](#)

### **Portland Transmission Warehouse 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Featuring Training, Trade Show, Factory Reps, Door Prizes, Special Pricing and Featured Products, and more!*

Trade Show and Open House

Saturday, April 5 • 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

1016 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Portland OR 97214

RSVP 503 233-4966, toll free 800 444-4556

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

**Topic: The New Fuels**

Wednesday, April 16 • 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Jay's Garage, 734 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. • Portland, OR 97214

RSVP with Laurie • 503.253.9898

### **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

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

**Topic: 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 started in 1981 to provide a more challenging engineering project for college students. The Society of Automotive Engineers have grown the program from only six teams, to having multiple US competition locations as well as European and Australian FSAE competitions. This event has attracted sponsorship from several top automotive companies in the world including DaimlerChrysler, General Motors, Ford, Honda, and the list goes on. Many bright and successful automotive engineers have participated in this event and are now employed with these companies.

**[Have Questions? Want More Info?](#)**  
**[We're Here for You!](#)**

#### **Northwest Automotive Trades Association**

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