

BORADORI

AUTOMOTIVE SINCE 1948

"Keeping up with Technology for another 50 Years"

How "Car" Smart are You?

Spring '08

Seems like every other show on TV is some kind of game show, so lets see how well our customers would be at

Automotive Trivia Challenge!

1. In what year was the first "Mustang" produced? (A) 1964 (B) 1965 (C) 1974 (D) 1975
2. What is a vehicle called that uses both gas and electric motors for power? (A) Technobrid (B) Dual-brid (C) Hybrid (D) Funnycar
3. What kind of car did Starsky & Hutch drive in the TV series? (A) Bronco (B) Thunderbird (C) Grand Torino (D) Ranger Pick-Up
4. What famous person was NOT killed in a car accident? (A) Vincent Price (B) James Dean (C) General George Patton (D) John D. Rockefeller

5. What percentage of cars are now purchased annually by woman in the USA? (A) 30% (B) 40% (C) 50% (D) 60%
 6. What was the first Japanese car built in the USA? (A) Honda Accord (B) Mazda Miata (C) Toyota Camry (D) Nissan Pick-Up
 7. What does DOHC mean? (A) Don't Over Heat Car (B). Double Oil Heat Combustion (C) Don't Order Ham & Cheese (D) Double Over Head Cam
 8. What type of car was used in the Smokey & the Bandit movies? (A) Camaro (B) Mustang (C) Firebird (D) Corvette
- Answers on page 3



"Free local Shuttle Service"



1957



2008

Driving Season is Not Very Far Off

I think everyone has cut back on driving as much as possible. However, no matter how much we cut back, we still manage to rack up the miles on our vehicles. Consequently, time after time we see cars and trucks come in that are way over due for

some type of service.

It amazes me how far cars and trucks can go without service, but they could and WILL run more **DEPENDABLY** with proper care and recommended maintenance. Everyone has a story of how long their car con-

tinued to run with a problem. But we are talking about reliability. Peace of mind.

If you roll the dice enough times, you will lose sooner or later. The question is how many times can you roll the dice before you lose.

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More and More Electronics Every Year

It seems like everything we see, touch and feel is electronic. The world is shrinking every day because of electronics and your car is no different. At first the manufactures were forced into shifting to more electronics and computer controls because of government emissions mandates. Now it is just plain less expensive and more dependable.

In the 2000 model year the average car had 12% of its functions controlled by computers. In 2008 it is now at 63% of all functions that are computer controlled. Now remember this is all the models averaged together, some of the higher end models are already at 78%.

What does all this mean to the consumer, well not much really. Most of these control functions won't be evident to you. There may be some new warning lights you haven't seen before, but that's about it. All you need to do is turn the key, put it in gear and drive. The fact that there is no physical link between the gas pedal and the engine isn't really relevant to you. Another fact that probably does-

n't matter to you is that there is a sensor that tells a computer how far you moved the gas pedal, and the COMPUTER told the engine how much power to turn on.

Now to us it is a big deal, we have to know how all this stuff really works. We take it as a personal challenge to keep up with all these new changes. In some ways it makes our job easier but in other ways it can be very frustrating. As the electronics have increased we can see a direct correlation with those dreaded *intermittent* problems. Like, the car that gets towed in because it stopped in the middle of the road and won't start again. It gets here, starts and runs flawlessly. Or the turn signals that wouldn't work, you take time out of a busy day to take it to the shop and once there, they work just fine.

These types of problems will increase by leaps and bounds as the electronic content increases. Mechanical parts are much more predictable. Electronics can affect many aspects of your vehicle. The manufacturer's love this

stuff because there is very little maintenance required. The downside is it works, and works and then with no or very little warning, it stops working. This makes it very difficult to *predict* when it might fail.

I like to use a simple light bulb as an example. We all know they will not last forever, but can anyone predict with any degree of certainty when it will fail. Nope!

It is essential that you trust your service provider. It is true that these electronics will make your car more dependable and it will need less service. But when something does happen, you will need to take it someplace where they know what they are doing. Someplace you can TRUST. That would be us. We will take the time to keep you informed. We will do everything possible to figure out what is going on and get to the bottom of those hard to find intermittent problems.

We have been doing it for over 50 years. Every year brings a new set of problems and we welcome the challenge of figuring them out.

Try out you're A/C system before the Hot weather

Our busiest time of year is when the hot weather finally hits. It is no fun telling a good customer we can not get their car in for A/C repairs until next week, and of course they are going out of town this weekend. Our goal is always to make our customers happy and keep their cars and trucks on the road and dependable, but we can only do so much.

We know many of our customers

put off repairs like A/C work because they don't need the system right away. No one wants to spend money for repairs they can do without. However, on the other hand, when it gets hot, I mean **Chico HOT!** Please give us a little break! Understand that there could be many other people in the same position. You know what I mean, waiting as

long as they can before getting needed repairs done.

This time of year it is easy to forget how hot it can get. Do yourself a favor! One of these days when the car is sitting in the warm sun, flip on the A/C and make sure it gets good and cold. If it gets cold, very fast, it should be fine. If not, bring it in and let us fix it up and you'll be ready for our **Chico Heat!**



Get the best fuel mileage out of your car!

It can be hard breaking some old driving habits. There are already hundreds of books in the stores on how to break old habits but I will leave that subject alone. These are new habits you need to learn. Most you have heard before.

#1 The easiest thing you can do is keep your tire pressures up. Seems easy, but at least 50% of the tires we check during services are low, 10 % to the point of being dangerous.

Most owner's manuals tire pressure ratings are a *minimum* pressure. We suggest setting the tires a few pounds higher and rechecking them often for better fuel efficiency and tire life.

#2 There is no need to WARM UP any car or truck built in the late 80's that is running properly. You are just wasting fuel. Instead, start it, wait 15 to 30 seconds then put it in gear and go. You want to be light on the

throttle until the temp is up. Modern computer controls and fuel injection make this possible.

#3 Did you know that on the highway, it is more economical to drive with the windows up and the A/C on than it is to have the A/C off and the windows down. Not to mention the fact that it's more comfortable. A/C systems made in the last 20 years take very little horsepower to run.

#4 You all know this one: Drive like there is an egg under the gas pedal. Surprisingly, this even works when driving a race car. The smoothest/fastest drivers are usually the ones that are the lightest on the gas. Not just ramming the gas pedal it to the floor.

#5 Watch the traffic and lights way ahead of you. Keep your foot off the gas

when the light is red 50 or 75 yards ahead. You will save gas and wear on your brakes.

#6 Most cars built in the last 20 yrs. can go a long way between *tune-ups*, but they will not run forever. We old timers were used to tuning-up cars every 10,000 miles. Now they just seem to run forever. At the very least follow the manufacturer's recommendations for service intervals, but keep in mind these are *maximum* figures. Doing them a little sooner could help fuel economy in the long run.

#7 Forget all the gimmicks, pills in the tank, magnets on the fuel lines. They DO NOT work. The *Highway* figures posted on new cars are done with a warmed up engine and at 48 mph. So, I know it's hard, but slow down a little and get more out of your next tank of gas.....it can make a big difference.

Automotive Trivia Challenge Answers

1. A. If you picked B you were very close. The Mustangs went on sale in April 1964 but were 1965 model year cars.
2. C. That should have been an easy one.
3. C. It was a Grand Torino made by Ford. Remember the big white stripe down the side.
4. A. Vincent Price was the only one who did NOT die in a traffic accident.

5. D. 60% is a big number but that is what it is. Women now handle close to 70% of auto repair and maintenance.
6. A. The Honda Accord was the first but now just about every large manufacturer is assembling cars or trucks here, including BMW and Mercedes Benz.
7. D. Now



that was a tough one unless you know engines. Overhead cam means the camshaft can open and close the valves directly without needed to push rods and arms, making them more accurate and efficient, but more expensive to manufacture and repair.

8. C. It was a Firebird.. Remember they had that big giant bird on the hood with its wings spread open!

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“Keeping up with Technology for another 50 Years”

Info inside:

- [Car Quiz Questions](#)
- [The new age of Electronics](#)
- [Fuel Mileage help](#)
- [A/C Season soon](#)

“FREE LOCAL SHUTTLE ”

Change in Smog laws

In November of last year, a new law was passed that requires us to perform a fuel evaporation system test while doing the normal smog inspection on all 1995 and older cars.. On 1996 and newer vehicles, the vehicles perform this test on themselves while you are driving. This extra procedure adds \$10 to the cost of the test.

Starting March 1 , 2008 we are also required to do a Visual Inspection for smoke from the tail pipe on all cars during a smog inspection. There are cases where an engine can burn oil and smoke but still pass the tail pipe test. The pollutants the smog machine is designed to test, you can not see. The visual test will now fail these cars that are burning oil to the point that they put out smoke. There is no added charge to the consumer.

Did You Know?

We can now handle any front end or alignment problem you may have. For many years we did not do this type of work but now we have the latest computer controlled alignment system and the right personnel to get the job done correctly, and to our standards.

Like everything else on cars and trucks these days the steering system has gone to computer controls and lots of electronics. Here are just a few of the latest innovations.

Some models now have electric power steering pumps. Less load on the engine for more power and fuel economy.

Several models of trucks now have rear wheels that steer. So the truck can turn sharper and squeeze into tighter spots. They tried this in cars and the overall handling improvement was not worth the added expense.

Sensors in the steering column that sense now fast the steering is being moved so a valve on the pump can adjust

the pressure. Less pressure can help the fuel economy, even if it is .0001%, every little bit helps.

Sensor in the shocks and wheels that tell and computer the car is in a slid or panic situation so the computer can try and help by adjusting some suspension and or brake settings.

One trick that has been around a while is lowering the overall cars ride height so it will be more aerodynamics at freeway speeds, again for a little better fuel economy. When the car is going slowing the ride height is higher so it can go over bumps better and at lower speeds there is no advantage for the car to be low.

Bottom line is the manufactures will do what ever it takes to get just that little bit better fuel economy or handling advantage And we will be here to fix or adjust what ever it is the manufactures decide to come up with.