



*"Keeping up with Technology for another 60 Years"*

**Winter 2010/2011 NEWSLETTER** written by Jack Skibo—Owner

**How do You Know a Mechanic is Qualified?**

California laws can be funny and frustrating at times. We all know your doctor, dentist and lawyer all need to pass a state test before they can practice their trade in this state. Even the person that cuts your hair has to pass a state test to get a license. The person that does your nails also has to pass a test before they could get a license to work in this state. Not so for automotive repair technicians! There is no state testing of automotive technicians. Anyone can work on your vehicle and get paid for it.

Considering the complexity, expense and potential safety ramifications of repairing vehicles today it is unbelievable the state has no standards or licensing for automotive technicians. Computer controlled anti-lock brake systems, air bags and electronic steering systems require a high degree of training to service and repair if the vehicle is to remain as safe as when it was new..

There are Automotive organizations such as ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) that set standards and conducts testing and certification of automotive technicians. These certifications are not required by the state unless a technician is licensed to do Smog Inspections. A technician is not even eligible to take the state emissions test unless he already has the required ASE Certifications. But for any other automotive repairs or services there is no testing or licenses needed. Considering the number of parts in a car that can effect the emissions in some way or another it is surprising the state is not concerned about all the unqualified people servicing these vehicles.

An automotive repair shop only needs one ASE certified tech to be able to hang an ASE sign in front of their shop. So how can you know for sure if all of the shop's techs are certified? One of the best indicators would be to look for a AAA Approved repair shop. AAA will not give a shop a AAA Approved status without every technician in the shop having at least one ASE Certification. Shops that have been in business for a long time are much more likely to have higher qualified employees.

Be very suspicious of low advertised prices. You may pay a little less for some service but there is a very good chance the reason it is so cheap is because the person working on your car has minimal training and not likely to be qualified for much more than simple services.

All of our technicians have multiple ASE certifications and are continuously educating themselves on the latest automotive technologies. They are proud of their accomplishments, which is why we can say, we will always do our best to keep your vehicle running as safely and dependable as possible.



"Free Local Shuttle Service"



2010

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## How Good are you with Cars and Music?

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the Beach Boys song, "Fun, Fun, Fun", what car does daddy take away?</li> <li>2. Name the duo that produced such car-themed songs as "Little Old lady from Pasadena" and "Dead Man's Curve?"</li> <li>3. Sammy Hagar once proclaimed in a song that he can't drive at what rate of speed?</li> <li>4. Prince notched his first major hit with a song about a diminutive crimson-colored Chevrolet back in 1982. Name that tune.</li> <li>5. Name the Dan Mclean ballad that has the lyric, "Drove my Chevy to the Levee."</li> <li>6. According to General Motors, this Cadillac model has been mentioned in more</li> </ol> | <p>that a dozen hip-hop songs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Name the artist who scored a major thecho-pop hit with the song. "Cars".</li> <li>8. The AMC car that rhymes with "Gambler" is featured in Diesel's 1981 hit song. Name the vehicle and song title.</li> <li>9. The cheesiest car song title of all time might well be "Get Out of MY Dreams and Into My Car." Who sang it?</li> <li>10. In Blondie's 1981 hit song, "Rapture", four car brands (three domestic, one import) are mentioned. Name them.</li> </ol> <p>Answers on Page 4</p> |
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## Thank You! Thank You!..... Thank You!

Special thanks to all our clients and friends who graciously referred our shop to their friends and neighbors, and also voted us "Best of Chico" for 2010. Our business is built and based on the positive comments and referrals from people like you. We just couldn't do it without you.

We had never asked our customers to vote for us during the annual Chico News & Review survey. This year we felt it would be fun to put out a little flyer and at least tell customers on the counter about the voting period, and BINGO, we won. The best part, and biggest surprise, was all the customers that knew of us winning. When they came in next, took the time to congratulate us. Thanks again to everyone who took the time to vote.





## When is the Right Time to Replace My Car?

We get this question quite often, usually after we tell someone that an expensive repair is needed. The truth is there is no right answer, every case is different. The vast majority of time it is less expensive to do whatever is needed to keep your car on the road. The real question is how dependable do you need it to be.

One big problem we have seen lately is people putting off a lot of regular service. Then when a repair is needed, (plus the service that has been skipped), it seems like a huge bill, when in fact it is just a minor repair plus a lot of service catch up. This leads some customers to think all of a sudden their car is “falling apart”. This is just not true. We have hundreds of customers that have vehicles with more than 200,000 miles on them and they are still very dependable.

Is this your main vehicle that you plan to jump in at a moments notice to drive to grandma’s house in the Bay area? Is this the car you have to depend on to get to work? Is this the car your daughter is driving out to Butte every day? Or is this just a second car that is used to run around town but never goes on long

trips? Can you afford a new or newer car? Will another used car be THAT much better than what you now have?

Don’t think just because we know how to fix cars we have all the right answers. I checked out a used car for my sister years ago and found it in very good condition. Then without warning the transmission failed four months later. Just like your doctor doing a physical, sometimes there can be a problem we cannot detect doing normal tests. Other times even with perfect maintenance, something will just break with no warning.

Without a doubt keeping your car well maintained as long as possible is the best way to save money. Sure a newer car looks nicer, smells better and feels better, but ask yourself; “Does this make good financial sense for me?”. Sooner or later there is a point when you have to make a choice; Fix your current vehicle, or get a newer one. Putting off that choice as long as possible will save you money. Regular maintenance will keep what you have as dependable as it can be to the very end. A little luck can’t hurt ether.

## The Mommy Test

I was out walking with my 4 year old daughter. She picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth. I took the item away from her and I asked her not to do that.

“Why?” my daughter asked.

“Because it’s been laying on the ground, you don’t know where it’s been, it’s dirty and probably full of germs” I replied.

At this point, my daughter looked at me with total admiration and asked. “Wow! How do you know all this stuff?”

“Uh...”, I was thinking quickly, “All moms know this stuff. It’s on the Mommy Test. You have to know it, or they don’t let you be a Mommy.”

We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but she was evidently pondering the new information.

“Oh....I get it!” she beamed, “So if you don’t pass the test you have to be the daddy.”

.....“Exactly” I replied back with a big smile on my face and joy in my heart.....

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“Return Service Requested”



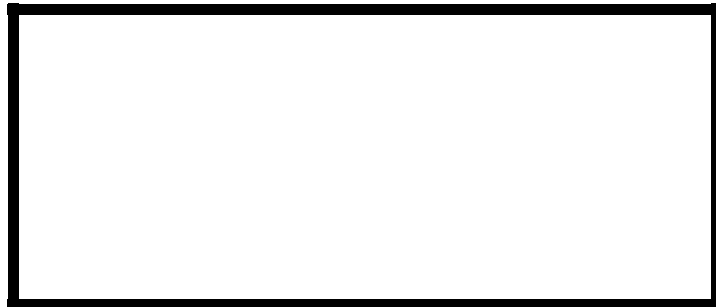
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*“Keeping up with Technology another 60 Years”*

**News Flash:**



**“FREE LOCAL SHUTTLE ”**



**What Should You do if Your Car Overheats?**

“PULL OVER AND SHUT IT OFF” as soon as possible. Overheating is by far the #1 cause of major engine problems. There are many reasons an engine could overheat all of a sudden, a small coolant leak, a hose breaking, a radiator seam breaking open.

The cause is usually minor and easy to fix, the after effects are what can be devastating. The longer the engine runs while hot the higher the possibility of engine damage. Like most of us you do not even check the gauges until you smell or notice something wrong. Sometimes if you do smell something odd and notice that the gauge is reading hot, it may be too late already!

Your best bet is to keep the cooling system in top condition. Original hoses can not be considered dependable when they are more than 10 or 12 years old. They crack and wear on the inside, making it very hard to tell their real condition from the outside.

I know it never seems to happen in a good place but if your car gets hot shut it down ASAP, no matter where you are. A tow will be a lot less than any engine repair.

1. T-Bird 2. Jon and Dean 3. 55 mph 4. Little Red Corvette  
5. American Pie 6. Escalade 7. Gary Numan 8. Rambler;  
“Sausalito Summerlight” 9. Billy Ocean 10. Cadillac, Lincoln, Mercury and Subaru.