



CHAPTER "99" NEWSLETTER ASC-CA-NORTH



Summer Plans NO MEETINGS UNTIL SEPTEMBER!

From President Ken...

Our meeting in May with the Bureau of Automotive Repair went Very well. We had close to 40 members and guests show up!! 5 nonmember shops showed up with multiple employees. We used this meeting as our membership drive. There were 3 shops that expressed interest, 1 said they would join. The Board will follow up in August as we prepare for our September meeting.

Murphy's Real Laws

1. Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.
2. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
3. A day without sunshine is like....well....night.
4. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
5. Back up my hard drive? How do I put it in reverse?
6. I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.
7. When the chips are down the buffalo is empty.
8. Seen it all, done it all. Can't remember most of it.
9. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
10. I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.
11. He's not dead. He's electroencephalographically challenged.
12. She's always late. In fact, her ancestors arrived on the "Juneflower."
13. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted and used against you.
14. I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges.
15. Honk if you love peace and quiet.
16. Pardon my driving, I'm reloading.
17. Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?
18. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

Auto News

Commercial prospects for "driverless" cars got a boost last month when four vehicles on autopilot successfully trailed a lead car on a 124-mile route near Barcelona, Spain.

The test run -- dubbed Project Sartre -- involved three Volvos and a semitrailer that maintained a 20-foot distance between vehicles at 53 mph.

Ricardo PLC, which organized the test with six other companies, used off-the-shelf radar and sensors, said Eric Chan, the chief engineer.

The vehicles used radar and cameras to determine the distances from other vehicles in the platoon -- the same hardware used for intelligent cruise control or collision avoidance. Software controlled the accelerator, brakes and steering wheel, leaving the driver as a passive monitor.

The experimenters improved the camera software, added a vehicle-to-vehicle communications system and installed a small computer to provide a user interface for the driver. And that was it.

"The aim was to create something that is ready for production in the near future," Chan said. "All the systems that we used are already in production or close to it."

Denser traffic

Project Sartre is the product of a three-year-old joint venture of Ricardo, Volvo Car Corp., Volvo Technology and four other organizations.

The road train included a Volvo XC60, V60 and S60, plus a semitrailer. The vehicles followed a lead vehicle driven by a professional driver for 124 miles on public roads outside Barcelona.

In theory, the car platoon offers three benefits:

1. Motorists can relax and do other tasks on long trips.
2. Vehicle speed can be optimized to improve fuel efficiency by an estimated 20 percent.
3. Highways could safely accommodate denser traffic.

Although Project Sartre's car platoon required vehicle-to-vehicle communications, it did not need sensors installed on the highway. And its platoons can, in theory, share the road with cars that lack vehicle-to-vehicle communications.

Ricardo will wrap up Project Sartre this year when it publishes a report on the results. There's no immediate plan to create a commercial version.

But it appears to offer some possibilities to suppliers of collision-avoidance sensors -- companies such as Robert Bosch GmbH, Continental AG, Denso Corp., TRW Automotive, Delphi Automotive and Autoliv Inc.

Continental subsequently introduced its own driverless car, a Volkswagen Passat with radar sensors, video cameras and onboard computers.

Help for traffic jams

In 2010, Google gained attention with a small fleet of driverless Toyota Priuses guided by video cameras and revolving lidar sensors mounted on the roof. Lidar, short for light detection and ranging, is an infrared laser sensor that measures distances.

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Christian Schumacher, Continental's North American director of engineering systems, said in April that the next step for driverless cars would be traffic jam assist, in which the vehicle steers, accelerates and brakes itself at speeds below 37 mph.

The future of car platoons would look brighter if traffic jam assist is implemented, but Ricardo's Chan said he could not predict whether car platoons can be commercialized.

"From a technical point of view, it could be done in a few years," Chan said, referring to car platoons. "But from a legal point of view, it would take a bit longer. That is very hard to predict."

Andy Rooney Quotes...I miss this guy!



Anyone who watches golf on television would enjoy watching the grass grow on the greens.

Computers make it easier to do a lot of things, but most of the things they make it easier to do don't need to be done.

I don't pick subjects as much as they pick me.

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

People will generally accept facts as truth only if the facts agree with what they already believe.

Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives.

Nothing in fine print is ever good news.

All men are not created equal but should be treated as though they were under the law.

CODE of ETHICS

1. To promote good will between the motorist and the industry.
2. To have a sense of personal obligation to each individual customer.
3. To perform high quality repair service at a fair and just price.
4. To employ the best skilled personnel obtainable.
5. To use only proven merchandise of high quality distributed by reputable firms.
6. To itemize all parts and adjustments in the price charged for service rendered.
7. To retain all parts replaced for customer inspection, if so requested.
8. To uphold the high standards of our profession and always seek to correct any and all abuses within the automotive industry.
9. To uphold the integrity of all members.
10. To refrain from advertisement which is false or misleading or likely to confuse or deceive the customer.

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

(Updated 2/29/12)

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Dale Drinnin.....	549-3305
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 loulou.cogan@heartland.com
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 (530) 515-2344
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