

Your Car Matters

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services- Summer 2009 Newsletter

Tom's Tidbits

While we're all distracted by summer, one of the most critical reforms ever in our country is moving through the sausage grinder of Washington... health care. But, instead of talking about the details of all the competing options, I'd like to say something about the debate itself.

Although about 70% of America wants a single-payer system, but it won't be happening. Why? One reason could be that our legislative process has been corroded by the billions of dollars flooding into our "representatives". They believe that no matter how much they ignore us, the massive money of their corporate masters can propagandize us into re-electing them. Why would any politician (of either party) listen to us when the system is driven by their money instead of our votes?

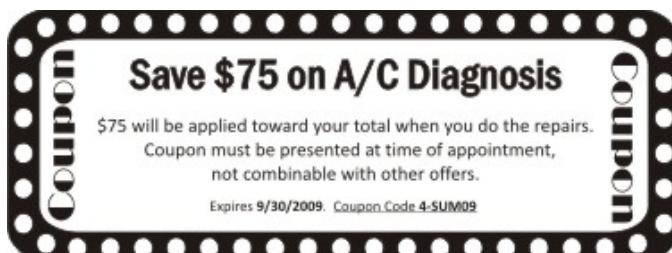
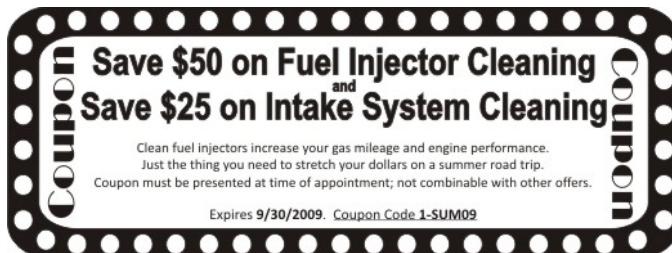
Please, don't prove them right. No matter your stance on health care or any issue, PLEASE call your representatives and tell them what you think! If our small voices are to drown out the roar of all that money, we all have to speak loudly and together.

Make a great day,



Quarterly Coupons

The heat is on... AND SO ARE THE SAVINGS!





It's The "Your Car Matters" Swimsuit Issue!

TDASI... Your Trusted Source For Beach Party Advice.

This one tiny article has all the info you need to hit the beach in style and a well-maintained vehicle. Summer's not the time for the meaty or in-depth articles that have won us our numerous Pulitzer, Peabody, or Nobel Prizes (uh, sorry... drifted off into a summer daydream for a minute). Anyway, you're probably not interested in the deep stuff, so we pulled out some great beach stories. There's lots of summer-critical information as well as some bits and pieces left over from past issues. You'll probably find something interesting here, but either way, it can't hurt to look...

Dog (And Cat) Days of Summer



Dogtan.jpg

As temperatures soar, here's a word of warning to keep Rusty and Fluffy safe. Dogs, cats and even horses can suffer from sunburn, solar dermatitis and skin cancer. The skin of a sunburned animal can be red and painful. Hair loss also may occur.

The most common sites for sunburn include the bridge of the nose, ear tips, and skin around the lips, groin, abdomen and inner legs. Pets that have light-colored noses and skin and thin hair are at greater risk for solar-induced skin diseases.

Sunburn can progress to solar dermatitis, which is characterized by redness, hair loss, crusting and ulceration of the skin. With continued sun exposure, skin cancer (such as squamous cell carcinoma) may occur.

The best way to prevent sunburn is to avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. by keeping the animal indoors or providing shaded areas.

Sunscreens are recommended by the American Animal Hospital Association for appropriate animals. Most human sunscreens can be toxic if ingested by a dog or a cat, so use a pet-specific product, such as those sold by Vet-One, Nutri-vet, Doggles and Epi-Pet. Be sure to read the label, because some products should not be used on cats.

Which Give Better Mileage- A/C Or Open Windows?



downwindow.jpg

By Brendan I. Koerner for Slate.com- The rule of thumb is to keep the windows down while on city streets, then resort to air conditioning when you hit the highway. Every car has a speed at which rolled-down windows cause so much drag as to decrease fuel economy more than a switched-on AC. Air conditioners sap power from the engine and increase gas consumption. Depending on your vehicle's design, an active AC can cut fuel economy by anywhere from 3 percent to 10 percent in standard summertime temperatures. During a brutal heat wave, though, the power drain can be near 20 percent—the hotter it is outside, the harder the AC needs to work at maintaining your cabin climate.

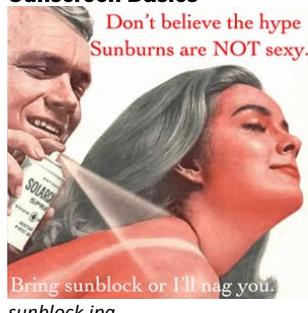
At low speeds the fuel-economy losses associated with rolling down your windows are minuscule. But as your foot gets heavier on the accelerator, the situation rapidly begins to worsen. That's because drag increases with the square of speed. So when you hit the highway, all that wind whipping

through your open windows begins to take a major toll. Even with the windows sealed tight, the majority of your car's power goes toward fighting wind resistance when you're cruising at 55 miles per hour. With the windows down, the engine really starts to strain. But at what exact point do the numbers tilt in favor of air conditioning? The Society of Automotive Engineers studied this issue back in 2004, using both a wind tunnel and test track. The organization's researchers looked at two vehicles, an SUV and a full-size sedan, both of which featured powerful eight-cylinder engines. (The tests were conducted at an average ambient temperature of approximately 86 degrees Fahrenheit.) The engineers found that rolling down the windows on the SUV had only a small negative effect, in part because the vehicle's big, boxy shape was already creating a lot of drag. So, from a fuel-economy standpoint, a driver of an SUV will always do better to shut off the air-conditioner. The sedan, on the other hand, has a sleeker shape and a lower drag coefficient. As a result, its fuel economy was noticeably affected when the windows were rolled down at highway speeds; at around 68 miles per hour (the test's maximum), there was barely any difference between air conditioning and nature's cooling. If you were driving the sedan any faster than that, the increased drag would presumably make AC the more efficient option.

Paradoxically, because many fuel-efficient vehicles have low drag coefficients, they may actually experience larger relative increases in drag when the windows are rolled down at high speeds. (As the SAE researchers noted, the sedan's drag increased by 20 percent with the windows rolled down, versus just 8 percent for the SUV.) Some engineers have claimed that 45 miles per hour is the break-even threshold for average-size cars; others put the figure closer to 75 miles per hour.

Even if rolled-down windows eke out a win at all but the highest speeds, many drivers will balk at the idea of zipping along the highway while exposed to the elements. There are safety issues to consider, as well as noise and general comfort. So stick with the rule of thumb mentioned in the first paragraph, and you should save a few gallons of gas over the course of the summer—though not nearly as much as if you decided to cut down on your driving a bit. You needn't feel too guilty about bathing in the air-conditioned splendor of a mass-transit vehicle.

Sunscreen Basics



sunblock.jpg

Sunscreen is a substance that helps protect the skin from the sun's harmful rays. Sunscreens reflect, absorb, and scatter both ultraviolet A and B radiation to provide protection against ultraviolet A and B radiation. Sunscreen is available in lotion, creams, makeup, gels, and sprays. Using lotions, creams, or gels that contain sunscreens can help protect the skin from premature aging and damage that may lead to skin cancer.

Decoding Sunscreen Labels

SPF Sun Protection Factor and the number next to it refer to the degree to which a sunscreen can protect the skin from sunburn. The higher the number, the more sunburn protection the sunscreen can provide. You should use a minimum of SPF 15 and reapply often.

UV or UVR Ultraviolet radiation from the sun that can cause sunburn, wrinkling, premature aging, and skin cancer and may also interfere with the body's immune system. Look for "broad spectrum" sunscreens that protect from the two types of UV rays.

UVA Ultraviolet A is longer wavelength UV radiation that can penetrate and damage the deeper layers of skin even if the skin feels cool and shows no signs of burning.

UVB Ultraviolet B is the shorter wavelength UV radiation associated with sunburn and other skin damage.

Water Resistant These sunscreens stay on the skin longer even if they get wet from pool water, ocean water or sweat. But water resistant doesn't mean waterproof. Sunscreens with this label still need to be reapplied. Check the label for reapplication times.

Stay In The Sun But Out Of The Hospital



From MSNBC- Everyone needs a little vitamin D, but sunburn (or, worse, heatstroke) is no fun. Here are some simple tips to protect yourself and your family...

1. Drink up! Plan on 1 gallon of water per person per day.
2. Smear on the sunblock and slap on a hat.
3. Wear breathable fabrics, like cotton or linen, in light colors.
4. Eat salty foods and bananas.
5. Schedule outside activities for before or after midday.
6. Too much sun? Lie down in the shade.
7. Rent a light-colored vehicle.

8. Make sure your pet drinks plenty of water.
9. Check your car's coolant levels.
10. If you burn, stay out of the sun and try some TLC.

Sunscreen or Sunburn? Which Risk is Greatest?



tanvsscreen.jpg

From ToolsToLife.com- We've been told for the past three decades or so that we must cover up; that the harmful UV rays of the sun could promote skin cancer if allowed to reach the body. But what we're finding now is that the once-touted saviors of our outer armor, called sunscreen, also come with risks – and pretty hefty ones at that.

Most traditional sunscreens contain ingredients known to be potentially harmful to the body. Some act as free-radical generators, which can damage cells and cause advanced aging and immune system destruction. Other ingredients offer gender bending effects that increase the body's production of estrogen – a problem for both males and females as we'll see in a moment. Finally, these "xenobiotics," or foreign chemicals, are fat soluble and will remain in our fat tissue, bones, and organs for many years, making us literal poison-toting vehicles for toxic substances.

To be fair, sunscreens are not the only culprit. Most commercially available makeup products including lipstick, mascara, eyeliner, and cover up contain similar problematic ingredients. If it were as easy as reading a label the problem would be fixable, but cosmetic companies do not need to practice full disclosure of all ingredients.

Here are a few summer sun strategies to help you cope without the lotion:

- Whenever possible, wear a hat, long sleeves and pants when outside.
- Try to avoid sun exposure at the peak of the day when the sun is hottest, from 11 a.m. to two p.m.
- Start the season at shorter intervals of exposure and move up gradually, and always avoid burning. In particular do not allow children to sunburn. The base you develop will work to your advantage as it will actually protect your skin from damage.
- Wear protective eyewear that blocks both UVA and UVB rays. Remember retinal damage is permanent so take care of your eyes.

There will always be times when we can't avoid the sun. So find a product that is based in titanium dioxide and/or zinc oxide. These ingredients appear to be safer (at least for now) and literally act as physical barriers to shield your skin.

Tanning with Broccoli



broccoli.jpg

From the Washington Post- New research suggests that broccoli, the vegetable that the former president famously demonized as inedible, can prevent the damage from ultraviolet light that often leads to skin cancer. And as Bush would surely appreciate, he would not even have to eat it. In tests on people and hairless mice, a green smear of broccoli-sprout extract blocked the potentially cancer-causing damage usually inflicted by sunlight and showed potential advantages over sunscreens.

The product is still in the early stages of development. Among other issues to be worked out is how best to remove the extract's green pigments, which do not contribute to its protective effects and would give users a temporary Martian complexion.

But scientists said the research represents a significant advance because the extract works not by screening out the sun's rays -- which has the downside of blocking sun-induced Vitamin D production -- but by turning on the body's natural cancer-fighting machinery. Once stimulated, those mechanisms work for days, long after the extract is washed away.

Old Timey Sunburn Cures...



bikiniburn.jpg

From Thrifty Mommy- There are some simple remedies for the pain of sunburn, and you probably have some of them lying around the house. Next time you fall asleep by the pool, try some of these...

1. Apply apple cider vinegar to the burn with a cottonball, or make a cool compress. Keep the skin moistened. This remedy will help prevent blistering and peeling.
2. Brew tea and refrigerate to cool. Once it is cool, put it in a spray bottle and spray on sunburn or dip a washcloth in the tea and dab. You can also take a bath in brewed tea once it has cooled. Keep the left over tea leaves and apply them when cold to the area sunburnt. The tea draws out the heat.
3. Aloe is effective in relieving pain and inflammation. Take the leaves from an aloe plant and refrigerate them. Peel off the top layer of the leaf and place leaf on the sunburn.

Free Summer Events at Sellwood Riverfront Park



Sellwood Park Concert- 2008

parkconcert2008.jpg



"Car of the Future" Contest at the Tom Dwyer booth

concertbooth.jpg

Sellwood Riverfront Park is one of the jewels of our neighborhood, and for the past several summers Tom Dwyer Automotive Services has been helping to make it even better. There are a couple events we're co-sponsoring this year that we think you should know about. They'll be FREE ways to get your family out to enjoy the spectacular weather, rockin' music, and all the other things Portland has to offer. Plus, we'll be there in the Tom Dwyer booth again with our "Car of the Future" coloring contest for the kids, and maybe even a few new surprises. Check these out...

2009 Summer Concert Series- ABSOLUTELY FREE!!

Put on by Portland Parks and Recreation, these concerts are held in parks around the city on every night of the week. If you can't catch these band at the Sellwood Park on Mondays, go to www.portlandparks.org to get the full city-wide schedule. Trust us, you'll want to attend AT LEAST one!

Monday, July 6, 6:30pm- Kevin Gordon, Blues singer/songwriter

Monday, July 13, 6:30pm- The Garcia Birthday Band, Classic jam band

Monday, July 20, 6:30pm- Conjunto Alegre; Tropical dance party

Monday, July 27, 6:30pm- Midnight Serenaders; Vintage jazz vocals

2009 Sundae In The Park- ABSOLUTELY FREE!!

Four concerts not enough for you? You're a tough sell, my friend, so here's our last, best offer. Sundae in the Park is put on by the Sellwood Moreland Improvement League (SMILE) as a treat for the neighborhood. The centerpiece is FREE ice-cream for everyone, but it includes music, activities, and movies as well. Full info is at their website, www.sellwood.org, but here's the important stuff...

Sunday, August 2nd

Noon-1pm- Festival Brass Band

Noon-3pm- Face Painting

Noon-Dusk- Inflatable Jumping Castle

1pm-2pm Henry Bothe Physical Comedy

2pm-3pm- Tall Jazz Band

2:30pm-3:30pm- Oregon Zoo Animal Presenters- ZAP! Team

3pm-4pm- Melao De Cuba Band

3pm-Dusk- Climbing Wall

3:30pm-4pm- Story Time Under the Trees

4pm-5pm- River City Band

5pm-6pm- Portland Teen Idols

6pm-730pm- River City Band

730pm-8:30pm- Sounds of Rayvis

9pm- Movie- Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull

Easy Summer Money

Our First Annual Postcard Contest



PDXPostcard.jpg

Whether you're hitting the road for vacation (Bon Voyage!) or maybe staying home to relax instead (Non Voyage!) you can still enter our postcard contest. Send us a postcard from wherever you are to tell us whatever you're doing, and we'll post the best responses on the website. We will take all the cards received by September 15th and one will be chosen at random. The winner receives **\$100.00** and will be announced in the fall newsletter.

Free Car Wash Season

'Tis the season to be sudsy...



freecarwash.jpg

It's more than just Summer, it's Free Car Wash Season! As the summer makes our parking lot a little dustier than we like, we offer free car washes to make up for it. The season runs from May 15 to September 15. Sorry, but we only give out coupons for services exceeding \$100 and not for oil changes or other minor services.

"Cash For Clunkers" Bootcamp

All The Basics On A Government Program That Might Actually Make Sense



cashclunkers.jpg

From Reuters Tucked into a military spending bill that just passed Congress and is now heading to President Barack Obama for signature is a piece of legislation meant to help get gas guzzlers off U.S. roads and replace them with new, more efficient vehicles. Called the Consumer Assistance Recycle and Save Act of 2009, or more commonly, "Cash for Clunkers," the \$1 billion program will provide a voucher of up to \$4,500 (effectively just knocking that much off the price tag — dealers will get electronic payments from the feds) to help offset the cost of new car purchases or leases over the next five months.

The version that passed Congress today represents a marginal win for makers and backers of more fuel-efficient cars. It beat out a competing cash-for-clunkers proposal that wouldn't have taken fuel efficiency into account at all in the criteria for trade-in vouchers, but the version that passed today still has only modest MPG requirements. The government will in theory offer up to \$3,500, for example, to a driver who trades in (at a participating dealer) a 16 MPG Hummer for a brand new SUV that gets a dismal 18 MPG.

As Business Insider points out today, there's also the problem that if a car is worth more than the voucher for which it qualifies, the driver would be better off just taking the regular trade-in value. Vouchers don't come as an addition to trade-in values because cars brought in under the cash-for-clunkers program have to be scrapped, so their trade-in value is essentially zero.

This raises questions about how effective the program will really be at taking the most polluting, inefficient vehicles out of the U.S. fleet, according to Business Insider's Jay Yarrow:

We find it to be a stretch to believe that anyone driving around in a car that's worth less than \$4,500 can suddenly—in the middle of Great Recession—afford a new car. There's a reason they're driving around in a clunker, and no \$4,500 discount is really going to do much to change that. While the program is supposed to run July 1 through November 1, The U.S. Department of Transportation has 30 days to set regulations for the program — including how dealers should crush, shred or otherwise dispose of traded-in clunkers — after it gets Obama's signature. Legislators, however, have laid out the basic framework. Here's how it works:

Clunkers, Defined: You can only trade in drivable vehicles made in the last 25 years that have been continuously insured by the same owner for at least one year leading up to the trade in (so no junkyard finds or used cars bought to "flip"). Qualifying "clunkers" will have a fuel economy rating of no more than 18 MPG (combined city and highway ratings, which you can find on <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/sbs.htm>).

How Much Cash? New cars qualify only if they have a sticker price of \$45,000 or less. So no Tesla Roadsters (\$109,000), but a Toyota Prius (\$22,000) could qualify, depending on your trade-in.) And once the \$1 billion appropriated for the program runs out (good for an estimated 250,000 vouchers), it's over unless Congress extends the program.

Passenger Cars: New passenger cars will qualify under the program only if they have a fuel economy of at least 22 MPG. If the new model gets four more miles to the gallon than the old car, you qualify for the \$3,500 credit. With a 10 MPG improvement or more, you can qualify for a \$4,500 credit.

Trucks and SUVs: For light trucks, SUVs and minivans, the new vehicle has to get at least 18 MPG and can offer as little as a 2 MPG improvement over the old one to qualify for \$3,500. With a minimum 5 MPG improvement, you can qualify for \$4,500.

Where the Rubber Meets the Road

A Little Care Can Keep You Safe AND Save You Money!



Tireheader.jpg

This April we saw a lot of vehicles coming in with heavily overinflated tires to improve gas mileage, so we sent a warning to all our clients about the dangers of over inflation. Tires are one of the most important parts of your vehicle, and it's critical that they be maintained to proper specifications. Since April was just a quick heads up, we thought we'd go into a little detail about what those specs actually are and how they can affect your safety and economy.

What are the right tires for my car?

The specifications for your tires can be found on a label in the driver's door jamb, and in your owner's manual. Your vehicle comes with a set of vehicle manufacturer recommended specification tires when new. When it comes time to replace your tires you face a choice; replace the tires with the same or very similar tires or find a tire that suits your needs better than the originals. You will want to meet or exceed the load ratings as a rule, but no matter what the new tires will have to meet the size specifications listed for your vehicle, unless you're changing wheels. Often the vehicle manufacturer will list an optional size along with the stock tire size installed originally. There are some reasons you may want to change to specialized tires; mud & snow performance, longer tire life, better traction, winter driving, heavier loads, smoother ride, racing, recreation, or off-road use.

You'll have options when you want to consider in selecting replacement tires. Feel free to ask us for help when choosing the right tire for your vehicle. And of course, we provide free tire care for every tire we sell, along with air pressure and inspection, rotation and balance, and flat repair if ever needed.

What's the right pressure for my tires?



Inflate1.jpg



Inflate2.jpg



Inflate3.jpg

You'll find the proper tire pressure for your vehicle printed on a label in the driver's door jamb and in the owner's manual. Do not use the pressures molded into the outside of your tire. Make sure the tire specifications and tire pressures on your vehicle match the tire specifications and pressures on the label in the vehicle's driver door jamb or owner's manual.

The pressure in your tires should always be checked when the tire is cold, meaning it's been sitting stationary for a while and the tire temperature is very close to ambient temperature. As your car drives, friction and the tire's case flexing causes the air inside the tire to heat and expand, which increases the pressure and gives higher tire pressure readings.

Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure is critical. In a properly inflated tire the maximum area of the bottom of the tire presses against the road, resulting in the optimum wear, control and braking. Some people over-inflate the tire to improve gas mileage, but this bulges out the center and leaves a narrower strip of the tire in contact with the road. Under-inflation is just as bad, because the center of the tire pulls away from the road leaving the edges to carry the weight of the car. (The illustrations below are greatly exaggerated)

We check the tire air pressures on every vehicle we service as a courtesy to our clients, to insure their safety, and to extend the life of their tires.

When should I replace my tires?



Pennyttest.jpg

Tread depth in the US is measured in thirty-seconds of an inch. Most new car tires start with 10/32" to 11/32" of tread, and are considered worn out when they are down to 2/32". The classic "Penny Test" can easily tell you when your tire is worn. If you put a penny into the tire tread with Lincoln's head pointing in, and you can see the top of his head, it's time to replace the tire.

Knowledge is power

Here's how you can use all this info to save money. **Which Tire is a better deal... a 320AA tire for \$50, or a 540AA for \$75?** All other things being equal, the best tire is the one that gives you the most miles per dollar. The "A"s in "320AA" and "540AA" are the ratings for traction and temperature, but we'll drop the letters and just deal with the treadwear numbers. If you divide the cost of the tire by the treadwear number, you'll get a ratio of the cost to the life of the tire. In this example;

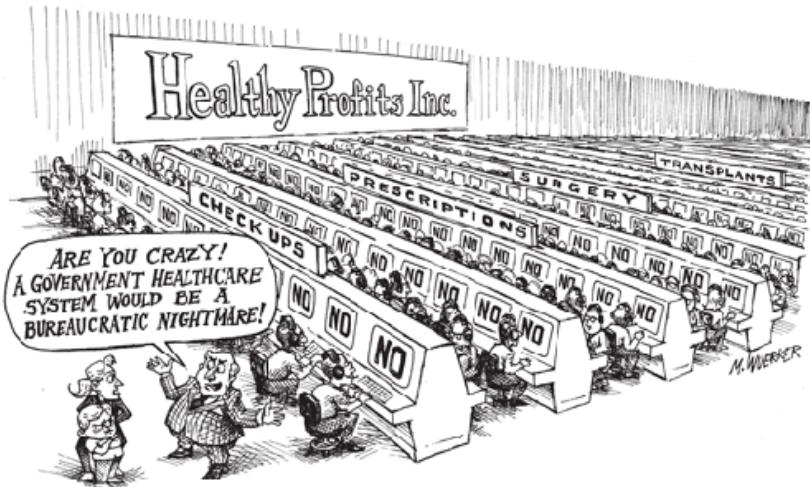
$$\begin{aligned}\$50.00 \text{ (cost)} \text{ divided by } 320 \text{ (treadwear)} &= \mathbf{.16 \text{ cents per unit}} \\ \$75.00 \text{ (cost)} \text{ divided by } 540 \text{ (treadwear)} &= \mathbf{.14 \text{ cents per unit}}\end{aligned}$$

The 540AA costs less per mile and would be the better buy provided you need longer lasting tires, care for the tires, keep them rotated and aired up properly. Now go save money!

Your individual needs, use, and even how long you plan to own the vehicle all play into the decision of which tires are the best for you. For example if you need tires but are planning on selling the car soon, you probably shouldn't spend the money for the best tires available. In that case, a cheaper (200 or 220 treadwear number) would be more appropriate. When you're entering the tire market, knowledge is power. Remember to stop by the shop, and we'll give you all the power you need to make the best decision.

Summer Cartoon

Sick of health care?



healthcartoon.jpg

Drew's Kitchen

Hot off the grill



drewskitchen.jpg

It's summer, so no wants to spend time cooking inside. Even Drew has moved his Kitchen to the backyard to enjoy the great weather, so this summer we bring you a recipe straight from the piping embers of Drew's grill...

1 lb ground chicken, preferably mixed ½ white and ½ dark meat
½ cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
⅓ Cup grated parmesan cheese
1 tsp minced garlic
½ tsp each kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
⅓ Cup mayonnaise
¼ cup finely chopped fresh basil

1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
1 tbsp finely shredded lemon zest
4 onion Kaiser rolls, split
8 strips bacon (about 8 oz), cooked until crisp
1 large tomato, thinly sliced
4 leaves romaine lettuce

1. Prepare a charcoal or gas grill for medium heat (350°-450°; you can hold your hand 5 inches above the cooking grate only 5-7 seconds.)
2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, gently mix chicken, cheeses, garlic, salt, and pepper. Form into 4 burgers about ¾ inches thick, making a slight depression in center of each patty (this helps keep the burgers flat as they cook.) Put on a plate, cover, and refrigerate until ready to grill.
3. In a blender, whirl mayonnaise, basil, lemon juice, and lemon zest together and refrigerate until ready to use. With a silicone brush or oiled paper towels, lightly oil the cooking grate.
4. Grill burgers, covered, turning once, until browned and no longer pink inside (cut to test), 8-10 minutes total. Transfer burgers to a clean plate and place buns, cut sides down, on the grill until lightly browned (about 30 seconds.)
5. Spread toasted sides of buns with basil mayonnaise. Set a chicken patty on each bun bottom and top each with 2 strips bacon, a tomato slice, and a lettuce leaf. Cover with bun top.
6. Each burger has 670 total calories, 56% (378 calories) from fat; 38g protein; 42g fat (12g sat.); 35g carbohydrates (2.7g fiber); 1,121mg sodium; 138mg cholesterol.

Technician Spotlight

Ian Park



ianpark.jpg

Of all the people at TDASI, only one person touches every vehicle that comes through the door. Ian Park, our post-service tech, has the responsibility of checking each vehicle after servicing to make sure it is ready to hit the road again. "It doesn't require the same level of technical skills as rebuilding a transmission, but it's still very important. A small problem with fluid or pressure that's not caught could cause big problems very quickly. It's up to me to make sure that doesn't happen," said Ian. Tom strongly agreed. "Our post-service tech is one of the most important positions in the shop. It's easy for a tech to miss a small detail in a complex repair. A loose oil plug can destroy a \$10,000 engine, and a burnt out brake light bulb can cause a life-changing accident. We don't skimp on our checkout procedures; we make sure that it's handled by someone we can trust to do it right. It's a critical part of our service, and one most clients don't even know we provide."

Ian recently returned from seven months in Cambodia, and a short stint in Thailand and Malaysia. Far from just a sightseeing trip, he was teaching English and working with a volunteer medical team. "We take so much for granted here, but seeing the crushing poverty over there can completely change your perspective. My medical group worked with thousands of children living in sprawling garbage dumps filled with medical waste, corpses, and poisons, among other things. I spent time stitching them up because they had ripped open their bare feet on broken glass or jagged metal while scavenging for things to sell. Giving them shoes was an option, but a difficult one because the parents would immediately sell the shoes for food or medical care." It wasn't the totally depressing trip you might expect, though. "Despite these severe educational and economic conditions it was very rare to see children who were unhappy or unable to smile."

Ian is one of the few people at our shop who's not planning on staying in the automotive repair field for the long run. He already has a degree in political science with an applied mathematics emphasis, and is currently working on a graduate degree in criminology. "The best thing about working at Tom Dwyer Automotive is the flexibility. I work four 10-hour days a week, and then do all my class work on Friday and Saturday. It's a lot to squeeze in, but it's worth it." Four days of work and two days of school leaves one open day a week. What does he do then? "Well, I do some home remodeling. I play a co-ed lacrosse. My brothers were on an all-state championship lacrosse team in Washington, so I have to try to keep up with them. I've made several sailing trips into Northern B.C. Canada just south of Alaska. Now I sail a 16' Laser, and I spend a lot of time fishing and hunting. Anything that gets me out. I also enjoy wrenching on my 1990 Ford 4x4. Don't be surprised if you see me up in Silver Lake or Brown's Camp!"

With so many different abilities, the future after Tom Dwyer could go a lot of different ways. "I haven't really decided yet, but I'm looking for an opportunity that combines all my interests. I think it will probably involve working with a government agency of some type, maybe the Coast Guard, USAID, the Foreign Service, immigration, or something like that. I want to do something that takes me overseas, and that makes a difference in people's lives."

Client Profile

Rebecca Whetstine



Rebecca Whetstine

rebeccaw.jpg

"I'm getting ready to go to Sundance next week, so I'll have to squeeze this interview in quickly," said Rebecca. With a teaser like that, we were all set to ask about Bruce Willis, Uma Thurman, or Indy film, but Rebecca just laughed. "No, no, no. Sundance is a 12-day Lakota religious ceremony. This year it's being held on the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana, and I was asked to participate." Of course, that sounded even more interesting. "It starts with a four-day purification and preparation period followed by Tree Day, when the men go and cut a three-story cottonwood tree and carry it to the site by hand without any part of it touching the ground. Then come four days of dancing, prayers, sweat lodges, and offerings from sunup to sundown (without food or drink), and then a four-day 'decompression' period."

At first glance it would be easy to think that Rebecca is a nice suburban lady dabbling in the novelty of an exotic culture, but that first glance would be wrong. Her ex-husband is full Cherokee, and they lived in Oklahoma Indian Country for many years. "I was never a cultural tourist – I always lived on the same level as everyone else, as one of the community working the same jobs; no family or other backup to pitch me a line out of there if it was bad for me. My entire life is lived in this lifeway, and my family back home (in Oklahoma) do not see me as separate. My son is a fully traditional ceremonial man, and recognized and respected as such."

Oregon is one end of a circular trip for Rebecca. She grew up in Eugene, and left at 17 to follow the love of her life to Los Angeles. When he left L.A. for France, Rebecca moved to San Francisco. Here she learned about one-woman shows from the founding members of the Living Theatre and became an active part of the Bay area performance art movement. Her next stop was the North Shore of Lake Tahoe where she met her husband, and then they were off to Vermont. Plans changed a little on the way when they took a right turn in Colorado and headed to an Indian hospital in Oklahoma. Oklahoma was home to the family for many years, from a rural Indian community area called Chewey Hollar to the capital of the Western Cherokee, Tahlequah. She and her son finally returned here to God's Country in 1994.

Rebecca's now settled into a slightly more mainstream job as a Credentialing Coordinator, where she monitors the quality of doctors and small clinics and helps them deal with health care agencies and governments. "Small medical groups are being forced out and consolidated into larger organizations. Credentialing helps these groups survive by ensuring their quality, and de-listing them when they don't meet rigorous standards. Aggregating the small clinics and solo practitioners together into larger groups also gives them leverage when they are negotiating with insurance companies and regulatory bureaucracies." This oversight can sometimes drive important changes where it matters most- with patients. "One doctor had had 20 malpractice cases in 10 years. The possibility of losing his credentials caused him to take a look at himself and make hard changes. It drastically improved his patient relationships, and the malpractice problem went away."

Amazingly it wasn't the Sundance ceremony, life on the reservation, performance art, or battles with insurance companies that drew our attention to Rebecca. "When I started my new job, I started a new commute as well. The industrial environment near OMSI was fascinating to me because it reminded me so strongly of my days in downtown San Francisco. I found myself becoming more conscious of my surroundings and especially the people living under the bridge. Some of the best advice I ever received was to 'do what's in front of you' so I decided to do what I could to help these people." She and her son gathered the gear they had accumulated through a lifetime of camping, took it to the bridge, and distributed it to the people living there. Because instead of just writing a check to charity she was actually meeting the people she was helping, Rebecca began to establish relationships with them and see them as individuals rather than personifications of social problems. Her involvement quickly grew as she spent her own limited funds to buy toiletries and other articles for the people who "sleep rough" as she called it. "It's amazing how far money can go when you try to stretch it. We were able to buy 9 bags of basics for \$120. We also included little treats like small candies and even tobacco. I didn't judge whether they needed these things; I was just serving basic human needs. I knew they would make a big bright spot in someone's day."

Things came to a screeching halt when Rebecca ran out of funds, and she was so embarrassed she quit driving under the bridge just so she wouldn't have to see the people she could no longer help. She turned to writing about her experiences on a community blog, and other people quickly responded. New batches of clothes and equipment started to appear, and Rebecca even persuaded Next Adventure to donate camping gear. She returned to making trips under the bridge until the supplies once again ran out.

Fate intervened when the Tom Dwyer Courtesy Shuttle drove into Rebecca's life. No, we didn't run her over, she told us about her experiences under the bridge when we gave her a ride to her office. We thought that sharing her story with the hordes of "Your Car Matters" readers might mean another influx of equipment, and so we arranged to make her this quarter's Client Profile subject. The needs may be less critical as we enter summer, but the people are still there and we know fall and winter will be coming around again. Rebecca suggests things like tarps, ropes, bungees, Chap Stick, and coats, which are common in Portland garages, don't spoil, and are useful year-round. Sleeping bags are always needed, and new bags of socks are cheap and appreciated. She also suggests people give things in good condition, rather than grimy or broken things that would have been destined for the trash. "These are real people, and they are worth it," says Rebecca. If you'd like to help Rebecca help others, or if you'd like to read some of her writings about the people under the bridge or her experiences with Indian culture, please drop her an email at analytics@softhome.net.

CNP Update

Following The Money



With the summer heat blazing, surprisingly few people are thinking about what they could do to stop global warming. If you're part of our Carbon Neutral Program, you can just concentrate on keeping cool because you know you're doing something important already. CNP signups always slow down during the summer though, so if you know anyone that might be interested in doing a little more to help human civilization continue please send them to our website to signup. You can tell them about the \$350 in discounts they'll receive for their \$100 program membership, but it's really the contribution to stopping global warming that will catch them.

Many Carbon Neutral Program members have been curious about exactly what kind of projects their money goes to fund. Here's a great example of the kind of projects Bonneville Environmental Foundation, our CNP Partner, supports every day...

Portland, Ore. - Da Vinci Arts Middle School in Portland is celebrating a roofing renaissance at its new LEED Platinum-anticipated, net zero energy, high performance classroom building. The school hosted an open house on April 10 to showcase the latest innovation of its groundbreaking building: a roof constructed with integrated photovoltaic (PV) solar tiles.

Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) donated 150 32-watt SolarSave® tiles from Applied Solar, Inc. that are being integrated into the roof and wired to an inverter in the building. When combined with a smaller, pole-mounted PV array already located at the site, these two systems will generate up to 6.3 kW of energy — enough to provide the 1,490-square-foot building's electricity needs — making it the first net zero energy, LEED Platinum-anticipated, freestanding public school classroom in the nation.

"This project is a landmark for Portland Public Schools, providing a model for high-performance learning spaces of the future," said Nancy Bond, PPS resource conservation specialist. "We are thrilled to have such engaged, forward-thinking community partners to help us make it a reality." The building will house a music room, two practice rooms and a small recording studio. Scheduled to be completed this summer and to be filled with music-making students in September, the building has a high thermal mass (thanks to thick walls) and boasts an innovative design that incorporates natural ventilation and day-lighting as well as nightly venting to regulate heating. It is being built with non-toxic, environmentally friendly materials and processes and will employ an artistic storm-water management system that connects to an adjacent garden.

Designed as a showcase of technologies for future district renovation and new construction projects, the building has benefited from more than \$500,000 in design, construction and consulting services donated by the community, including significant contributions from SRG Architects, Todd Hess Building Co. and PBS Engineering.

"BEF looks for opportunities like this to put innovative renewable energy technology to work generating electricity and teaching students at the same time," said CEO Margie Gardner.

The da Vinci High Performance Classroom project is the sixth collaboration between Portland Public Schools and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation's Solar 4R Schools program. In addition to donating the solar tiles, BEF also consulted with the engineers and architects during the construction process and contributed educational materials and teacher training opportunities through its Solar 4R Schools program to help make the building a focal point of learning both about music and renewable energy.

BEF also has worked with Portland Public Schools to provide renewable energy education and solar demonstration installations at Cleveland and Lincoln high schools, Rosa Parks Elementary School and Sunnyside Environmental School, as well an earlier project at da Vinci. Previous projects were funded with the support of Energy Trust of Oregon and Portland General Electric.

Sellwood Bridge Update

More happenings with the worst bridge in the country



bridgevid.jpg

We usually go months with nothing new to tell you about our rickety neighbor, but this time it's different. The first thing to mention doesn't involve the bridge itself, but is a horrifying story with the bridge as a backdrop. Amanda Jo Stott-Smith is accused of throwing her two children 75 feet from the Sellwood Bridge into the Willamette River, killing her 4-year-old son and injuring her 7-year-old daughter who survived more than 30 minutes in the river. The story predictably made national headlines, and perhaps also predictably involves allegations of revenge, alcoholism, abuse, domestic violence, and other sordid details. We won't be updating you on this story since the media will be all over every lurid detail as it comes out. However, it was such a huge story that we thought it demanded some mention and we wanted to extend our deepest sympathies to everyone involved.

On a much brighter side, there's a new blog that has detailed and frequently updated about the bridge itself from some of the people actually working on the project. If you go to <http://sellwoodbridge.blogspot.com>, you'll find among other things a great video of Ted Wheeler giving a tour of the bridge and all its defects, as well as these fun facts:

- The basic design for a new bridge was approved 2009, and federal approval is expected by 2010. Bridge engineering will also begin in 2010, with construction starting in 2012.
- The projected cost to replace the Sellwood Bridge and the Highway 43 interchange is \$321 million, in 2012 dollars.
- If the county can put together all the money, construction should be completed by 2015. If not, the project can be built in phases.
- The Oregon Legislature passed a \$300 million a year transportation bill in May that includes some funding for a new Sellwood Bridge, and the Governor is expected to sign it.
- \$30 million of the bill is designated to build a new interchange where the bridge connects with Highway 43 on the west side
- Multnomah and Clackamas counties are permitted to enact local vehicle registration fees for replacement of the bridge
- The City of Portland has agreed to commit \$8 million a year of new funds from increases in state vehicle fees and the state gas tax to raise a total of \$100 million for the bridge. This money may help secure federal funds to complete the project.

STOP THE PRESSES!! Just as we were going to print with this newsletter, the following email came in from Multnomah County Public Affairs. We'll have more information on it in the next newsletter.

"As many of you know from a previous email, the county needs to close the Sellwood Bridge for two Sundays to complete an independent bridge inspection that is required every 2 years for every public bridge. (This is different from the quarterly Sellwood Bridge inspection we do with our own engineers.) We will need to close the bridge for at least 8 hours on **Sept. 13 and 20**. The closure hours are not yet known, but in the past the bridge has closed around 7 am and reopened by 3 pm. I'll keep you posted when we have more information."

Websurfing With Tom

Helllloooo? Is there anybody out there?



websurf.jpg

No one ever reads this section, and you don't know what you're missing. For instance, this summer we actually watched something by Sean Hannity. Usually there's not much he could say that would be interesting, but when he's debating God with Christopher Hitchens there's a certain cringeworthy entertainment value that made the cut for the Websurfing section. As always, we offer the standard disclaimer:

"We can't guarantee that everything will be interesting to you, but we can guarantee that it was all interesting to us, and that we looked at each link personally and none of them were pornographic at the time of posting."

What, you say? Not interesting enough for you? Think you can do better? Please, **SEND US YOUR MOST INTERESTING LINKS** and we'll post them in our upcoming issues!

85 years in 40 seconds- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A91Fwf_sMhk&feature=related

Why Intelligent Design is wrong PART 1- FANTASTIC DEMO-

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2SVMKZhV2g&annotation_id=annotation_588345&feature=iv

Why Intelligent Design is wrong PART 2- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xx5t5_trnuU&NR=1

Sean Hannity vs Christopher Hitchens- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5INo7W2P-Jk&feature=related>

Ben Stein vs. Richard Dawkins- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlZtEjtlrc&feature=related>

Evidence that Earth is 6000 years old- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1msS71xL00&feature=related>

How to convert an atheist part 1- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_rqUsC2Ksii&feature=fvw

How to convert an atheist part II- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qmcOG-na4E&NR=1>

How does economic policy shape our country?- <http://economyinncrisis.org/>

Photo Retouching Examples- <http://www.newfaces.com/shop/digital-photo-enhancement.php>

Health Care Horror Stories- http://www.sedonaobserver.com/SiCKOinSedona_000.htm

Miniature Wonderland Model Train Scenery in Germany- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PN_oDdGmKyA&feature=player_embedded

Hidden meanings in popular logos- <http://www.walletpop.com/specials/hidden-meanings-in-popular-logos>

Who gets the big money? Where lobbying money goes in politics- <http://www.opensecrets.org/index.php>

Your representative needs to hear from you- www.callcongress.org

What is waterboarding? Here's a real demonstration, done by SERE instructors- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITJSVQjd9BE>

Obama's budget cut with pennies- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWt8hTayupE>

Great look at what our techs go through to diagnose your car- <http://www.ifitjams.com/index.htm>

Picture gallery of auto parts- http://www.trustmymechanic.com/parts_gallery.htm

Great auto site- <http://www.autosite.com/content/home/index.cfm>

Choosing the right repair shop- <http://www.autosite.com/content/own/maintain/index.cfm?action>ShowArticle/aid/137647>

Getting your car ready for winter- <http://www.autosite.com/content/own/maintain/index.cfm?action>ShowArticle/aid/137644>

Getting your car ready for summer- http://www.autosite.com/content/own/maintain/index.cfm/action>ShowArticle/aid/137646

Great tip on touch-up painting- http://video.about.com/autorepair/Filling-In-Small-Scratches.htm

Federal Trade Commission tips on choosing a repair shop- http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/autos/aut13.shtm

Interactive walk-through of maintenance tips on your car- http://www.kptv.com/automotive/19242819/detail.html

Draw a radius around a point on a map- http://www.freemaptools.com/radius-around-point.htm

Discover Magazine- http://discovermagazine.com/

High School Reunion Practical Joke- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds5bUpBz5-Q&feature=player_embedded

Bird in wrong place at wrong time- http://www.tubearoo.com/articles/89864/Randy_Johnson_Explodes_Bird.html

Susan Boyle on "Britain's got Talent"- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lp0IWv8QZY

Japanese talking and spinning electric car- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZG4EkaTYUkg&feature=player_embedded

Great marriage equality ad- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHhrkJX1Yci&feature=pyv&ad=2974739369&kw=gay%20marriage

God builds a better mousetrap- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rW_2lG9EZM&feature=related

Christian talk radio show- www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZsI5pgIR9s

Progressive Magazine- http://www.progressive.org/

Libertarianish economic theory of Ludwig Von Mises- http://mises.org/

Up-to-the-minute crime stats, customizable map- http://www.crimereports.com

Coolest Camper Ever- http://www.sylvansport.com/index.html

You won't believe what librarians are doing these days to get new patrons... http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFhmSDIACew

Rentable, reusable, recycled plastic boxes for moving... http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10yTBlp5ssM&feature=player_embedded

Telling Green from Greenwashing... http://www.greenwashingindex.com/index.php

TIME article on Greenwashing... http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1840562,00.html

GM Teams with...Segway? http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qY4msj5Q05Q

Skateboard without board- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wu0l1wfnhY&feature=related

Interactive "Tree Of Life" shows genetic relationships between all living creature- http://itol.embl.de/

Solar powered EV here today- http://www.sealbeach.org/

Sustainable Technology Program at OIT (Oregon Institute of Technology)- http://www.oit.edu/Default.aspx?DN=d4688e71-90b0-4c28-949d-90fd6db1513b

One of our techs in his movie debut- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qro7nBWqlak

Conspiracy Humor and News- http://www.zapatopi.net/

Join the move for Cascadian secession- http://www.zapatopi.net/cascadia/

Urban Gardens- http://www.growing-gardens.org/

Classes on Chicken keeping- http://www.growing-gardens.org/portland-gardening-resources/chickens.php

Plans for an urban chicken coop- http://www.thegardencoop.com/

Southwest Airlines, "Hostesses in Hotpants" Ad from 1972- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHnqnyzegfc&feature=player_embedded

Coolest Tree Houses You'll Ever See- <http://weburbanist.com/2008/06/23/15-more-tree-houses/>

"Green" Cars Becoming Consumer-Friendly- <http://www.canada.com/richmondnews/features/livegreen/story.html?id=e8f816ee-89c2-4120-b9df-9e5de815af98&k=28141>

Where Does Stuff Come From? <http://www.storyofstuff.com/>

How efficient is that car I want? <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/>

Non-classified version of report on Warrantless wiretap program- <http://media.npr.org/documents/2009/jul/surveillancereport.pdf>

News To Make You Furious

OpenSecrets.org and VoteSmart.org



scream4.jpg

This issue's "News To Make You Furious" isn't really news at all. We've all known for years, or at least suspected, that our government at all levels is bought and paid for. Here's proof. Go to www.OpenSecrets.org and see just how bad the cancer eating away at our democracy is. You have full access to the contributions and the candidates, all culled from public records. You can sort by subject, person, or lobbying group. You can, as the wise man said, "follow the money".

Not furious enough? Take your laptop to the beach and surf on over to www.VoteSmart.org, where you'll find the complete voting records of all those pre-purchased representatives. You can have hours of fun correlating voting records with contributions, then spend hours more sobbing convulsively when you realize how this cesspool of corruption has destroyed the heritage of our parents, our own personal retirements, and the opportunities for our children. Enjoy your Summer!

Thanks for your business!

Thank you to all of our clients and friends who have graciously supported and referred TDASI over the years. Our business is built upon the positive comments and referrals from people like you. Recommending us to others is the highest compliment we can receive. Referrals are critical to our survival and long term growth.

We strive for 100% client satisfaction, so please take the time to complete the survey left in your vehicle after each visit. This information is helpful for us to improve and continue to provide impeccable automotive service. Thank you for your trust and continued support!