

What? The Fall Newsletter Already!

Where did the summer go? Mom was right, the older you get the faster time seems to go by. I agree; but do you ever wonder why? Different theories abound, but this makes the most sense:

For a 5-year-old, one year is 20% of their entire life. For a 50-year-old, however, one year is only 2% of their life. This "ratio theory," suggests that we are constantly comparing time intervals with the total amount of time we've already lived.

Maybe that is why some older customers swear their vehicle was just smogged last year!



New BAR 97; Just When is it Required?

We should know soon (maybe by the time you read this) the required to use date for the new BAR 97. It is sounding more like it will be sometime in the first half of 2018. Some already have made the decision to keep inspecting the 1999 and older vehicles and are renting or buying the new equipment. One thing to consider about renting is your dynamometer. The dyno has to be working correctly when you rent the ESP Gen3 or the World Wide platform for them to include the dyno under the warranty.

Last newsletter we were looking for a Maha dyno to replace our obsolete Sun Lad. I did locate one and after a lot of clean up, got it all hooked up and it seemed to go well. But it was discovered two of the four lift bellows were leaking. The repair tech said they sell them for about \$1,000 ea. The price

on-line at several smog suppliers was \$625 ea. Geesh, for suspension airbags?

So I took to the internet and found the specs for these particular items (wouldn't you know it, the Maha uses very unusual airbags). Read on in the "Tip Stop" where and what was found.

Brake and Lamp Class Oct 11th and 14th

The classes are on Wednesday Oct 11th and Saturday Oct 14th. Wednesday night will be from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. and then on Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The cost is still \$150 for both.



You will be provided with instruction on the inspection requirements, study manuals, and several sample tests that will assist you in studying for the test. BAR indicated the new Brake and Lamp inspection manuals will not be out until next year. In class I will go over the expected changes in inspection procedures (mainly the brake inspection).



The Tip Stop

Using the Internet for Help

Before I get back to the dyno repair, it might be helpful to mention what is available on a search and some helpful websites that might give you some extra information or insight for a smog test or repair.



Are you aware of the BAR's CalARC (californiaarc.org) website and the Ask the Ref.org for smog check information and for help on BAR related issues? If you want to post questions or answers on the forum at CalARC you can easily register. You can view the topics without registering. I post there more often than I should, but many times I learn more information than I give out.

A lot of you are very familiar with using the internet and a Google search. It can be productive or maybe a waste of time. It is those times when you find very valuable information that it was worth the search. I get surprised when I Google a DTC or monitor issue and it points to a manufacturer fix or even an unorthodox method that results in a good diagnosis. Use common sense and verify with tried and true trade standards.

Then there are manufacturer's websites that offer some free information without signing up for a paid subscription. Most are familiar with iATN; even the free side has good information. The discussions on the forums are very good sources too. The following are some websites we have found useful on occasion. There are more for sure, but these are free and easy to use.

GM Mode 6 and DTC parameter information:

<https://service.gm.com/gmspo/mode6/>

This Ford site has a lot of info on monitors and DTCs for model years 1996 to current. Ford OBDII Information:

<https://www.motorcraftservice.com/FreeResources/OBD>

The OBD clearing house has a good list of TSBs and information for I/M programs. Click on the "OEM" tab at the top of the page. The OBD clearing House:

<https://www.obdclearinghouse.com>

Some of the questions on this ASE study guide site were the exact same ones on my A6 & A8 renewal exams.

ASE practice tests (except L1):

<https://www.freeasestudyguides.com>

There are also good diagnostic and repair videos on YouTube, but some that are very wrong. So be very careful, and don't assume what they say or do is correct; Trust but Verify!

Oh and about those Maha dyno airbags, after a few Google searches, and emails, we found exact replacements out of England for \$76.91ea. So I bought all four since shipping was going to be \$305; still a better price.

The end of another year is approaching fast; as you get older one starts to reflect on the fact that more years are behind you than ahead. Make the best of every day, don't let the little setbacks of a single day cause you not to enjoy the next.

Take care and Have a great ending to 2017!

Jerry Esmay

