



California Automotive Teachers

Fall, 2012

Issue #42

CAT NEWS

www.calautoteachers.com

Newsletter Highlights

- Officer Reports
- A life Tragically Ended
- SB 750—Vetoed
- Variety of Advertisements!

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A Job Problem Under Repair

By **TERYL ZARNOW**

COLUMNIST—THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Listen, have I got a deal for you.

How would you like to go to school and learn a trade without leaping into debt? To sweeten the deal, you'd also get paid — on-the-job experience and the benefit of a mentor. Oh, and if you do all right, there's a free starter tool set and a job waiting for you at the end.

Today's economic forecast is cloudy with a chance of rain, so an offer like this caught my attention.

Saddleback College in Mission Viejo recently received a \$50,000 grant from Tuttle-Click Automotive Group offering this sweet deal to students in its automotive technology program. The scholarships started in 2008 and were awarded to 10 students. This second round of awards just started.

For auto technicians looking to get a foot in the dealership door, it's a welcome mat. "It offers them a career," explains Dale Sponseller, service manager for Tustin Tuttle-Click Chrysler Jeep Dodge, which currently has four apprentices. "It offers them a chance to make good money in a strong industry.

"Everybody drives. These students are our future."

(Continued on page 11)

**The California Automotive Teachers will meet at Cerritos College
for the Fall 2012 Conference on October 19 & 20.**

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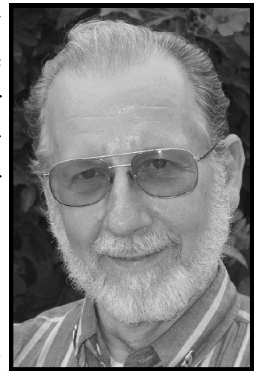


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President's Letter by Phil Jelinek

Skyline College put on a great conference last spring. Those of you who attended know that a lot of effort goes into putting one of those conferences together. If during the conference, something may not go as you think it should, please think of all this work. Our focus is to put these conferences on so you can be better equipped to go back to your classroom and do what you do best, connecting students brains to their hands. It is your job to get the most out of what is offered at the conference.



The upcoming conference has many interesting field trips. One is to Jay Leno's collection; unfortunately he is limited to only 12 people because of Burbank laws dealing with restrooms and the lack of stanchions keeping people away from the cars. For those first 12 who sign up, it will be a great tour. We are also going to the Edlebrock Museum to tour their facilities.

Your Board members continue to work tirelessly on your behalf in Sacramento and around the state being your voice to an educational system that many times discounts CTE and auto classes as non-essential to the education of California's student population. Be committees of one to get to know who your Board of Directors are and tell us how we can better serve you, our members. We continue to fight for you throughout the state so you can do what you do so well. This conference you will have an opportunity to nominate the next person to be voted in by you next year at the spring CAT Conference in 2013. Talk to the person you are nominating and give their name to any Board Member. Many of your Board members are retired or will soon retire. To keep us strong and active, we need more of you to volunteer. I challenge you to become an active part of CAT.

An area we continue to work on is high school automotive program certifications. Certification shows your program has been evaluated to meet state and/or national requirements. There are two automotive program certifications available to us, CalABC's ATTS (California Certification) and NATEF (National Certification). Both are listed on the CAT website by clicking on "Certification" or by checking out the CAT Newsletters for Spring 2008 and 2009 on the website. As a high school instructor, I have had both certifications and you should get involved with one of them. The complete ATTS program can be seen at (<http://www.calautoteachers.com>) and for NATEF by going to their website at (<http://www.natef.com>). The ATTS Certification is free to High School Automotive Programs with Industry paying the fees.

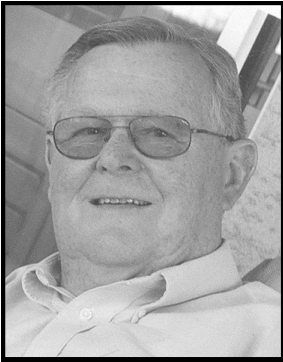
My Master ASE Certification came due this year and I had to go take the NEW computer test. I didn't know what to expect but I was pleasantly surprised that the new system works quite well and best of all, you will have your test scores before you leave. You will still have to wait a bit to get your new certificate but at least you know the results.

I hope all of you have looked into ASCCA (Automotive Service Councils of California) at www.ascca.com. ASCCA is a statewide organization of independent shops that have goals similar to CAT.

We are both concerned with state regulations over the repair of vehicles and properly trained job entry

(Continued on page 6)

Executive Director's Report by Bob Barkhouse



I am writing this report with a "sad heart" and a "happy heart".

First, let me address the sad portion of this report. By now, most of you have already heard of the passing of Darrell Deeter of Saddleback College. Darrell was an unassuming person that went about life quietly, getting whatever task came his way done to perfection. He could always be counted on and you knew the job would be done and done right. When he came down from Alaska to California there was no doubt that he was California's gain and Alaska's loss. It was obvious when you met him, he was a born leader. He became very active in CAT and NACAT over the years. One of his highlights with CAT was the hosting of CAT Conferences. Hosting a CAT Conference is one heck of a lot of work and it takes many months of planning. He and his staff did an outstanding job. Another sad part of Darrell passing was CAT and its' membership lost a chance to utilize his talents on the CAT Board. About a year ago, I approached him about running for the CAT Board and to eventually becoming President. His response was a quick yes he was interested. There is no doubt in my mind that he is already involved in organizing things up there and scooting around checking things out on his big bike. Put in a good word for all of us when you can, Darrell.

The second "sad heart" item is the deplorable situation we find our 7-12 grades in California. Forget the sad situation the budget is in. My concern is the closing of CTE programs throughout the state. If this budget situation does not clear-up soon, there will be a lot more closures. The stupidity of our legislature's (both Federal and State) along with the California Department of Education boggles my mind. Their continued support of "No Child Left Behind" and the "Exit Exam" are using-up elective hours and forcing the closure of CTE programs. Looking down the road, I only see things getting worse. For eye openers, read proposition 30 in your "Voter Information Guide" page 19 under REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION. Mind you, these are the words of the proponents. Read the last paragraph, did you see CTE mentioned? Outside of funding going towards "No Child Left Behind" and the "Exit Exam" efforts, the only players mentioned was PE and Art. Bummer.

Another sad item we must be aware of is the upcoming "Core Curriculum". From what little I know about "Core Curriculum", it is another "nail in the coffin". We all must keep an eye on this one. If any of you are up on this one and you see it differently, talk to me.

My last sad item is the State Legislature. We do have some people in the State Capitol that believe in CTE but obviously not enough to swing votes the CTE way. As long as the State Budget is in the mess that it is, it will be next to impossible to get any CTE bills through the legislature let along the Governor.

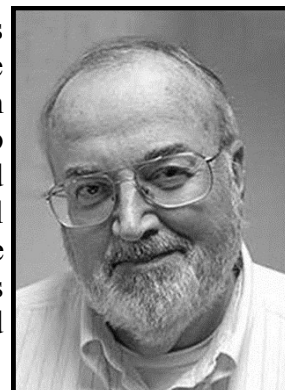
Now let's move on to some "happy heart" items. As I look at other Associations, I see them having decreased membership, revenues and reduced or no State Conferences. I am proud of the members of CAT. You are dedicated to improving teaching skills and the acquisition of technical skills. The proof of that is your

(Continued on page 6)

High School/ROP Officer's Report by John J. Chocholak

NEW “HANDS ON “ INTRO AUTO COURSES

Last spring during the CAT conference at Skyline College there was a “hands on” session for instructors who wanted experience a new “short block” small engine course. This course was developed through a grant at Rio Hondo College in cooperation with CAT as a direct result of an April 29, 2011 the CAT Board approved a motion to develop an introductory course of study for automotive programs for middle schools and high schools. The CAT board determined that a program was needed that used small single cylinder engines of the lawn mower type for basic instruction in four-stroke technology. The intent of the board was to support high school automotive programs with a low cost, very “hands on” shop type class with lots of student use of tools and engines for an exciting educational experience.



At the same meeting, the CAT board also put in place a framework for the development of a 9-week, one semester and full year introductory first year auto course of study. This course was to be designed to be low cost and useable by any instructor in a middle school, high school and community college level class.

Six months later, in support of the CAT Board motion, the Kohler engine company provided CAT with 1,850 small engines for donation to California automotive programs. Those engines were distributed throughout California to many grateful instructors during the first four months of 2012.

Briggs and Stratton Corporation, in support of this work authorized by the CAT board, began to ship short blocks and complete engine sets to Rio Hondo College for the next round of loans and donations to interested automotive instructors. CAT is now in negotiations with small engine manufacturers for “short” and “long” blocks for first year automotive programs. With this support, it is hoped that the cost of first year automotive “intro” programs can be reduced in California.

If you will be attending CAT conferences this year, and you wish to implement or improve your first year auto program, these sessions might interest you:

1. Special sessions for instructors who received donated XT-7 Kohler engines. Presented will be complete curriculum, with work sheets and POWERPOINTS, for a 9-week course using these engines. Attending instructors will take home a CD with everything needed on it to teach the course on the next school day.
2. During these same sessions a CD will be handed out with a complete course of study using Briggs and Stratton “short blocks” for the first engine experience in first year auto programs.
3. Instructors attending these sessions will be able to sign up for the next round of industry engine loans/donations. These instructors will be given “first priority” as equipment arrives at designated storage sites in this state.
4. The latest and greatest in training media will be reviewed and shown during each small engine session.

(Continued on page 10)

technicians. By joining ASCCA you will be able to stay on top of these issues and produce students with the latest technology and regulations that (both independent and dealerships) have to abide by. I have been a member of ASCCA for the past 24 years and regularly attend their meetings so I know what is going on with shops where I send my students. If you don't already belong, consider joining your local chapter. Your CAT Board is partnering with ASCCA to stay up with technician training needs, have a larger Legislation force, and establish bonding with industry. They offer \$1000 scholarships for your students that are going to technical and/or trade school. The process is simple and straightforward and can be an asset to your program and student needs.

There are few things that are really good for the classroom and are free to teachers. One of my chapter 5 ASCCA member turned me on to the Virtual Vehicle Website. I checked out the website at: www.virtualvehicled.com. I contacted them and found this site is free to educators. Check it out! What's better than free and could add to your presentations to students.

Don't forget to check out <http://www.FireExtinguisher.com>. It has the set-up to teach "The ABC's of portable fire extinguishers". You already know about A,B,C and D fires. Did you know about the K type fires? Neither did I. This website is already set up for a classroom-ready power point, it's great.

attendance at CAT Conferences. Looking back over several years of conferences, you see a constant attendance of around 200 at each conference. I think it is great when you realize that CAT has a little over 300 members. Each and every one of you should pat yourself on the back, especially at a time when travel money is little or none and travel has become expensive. If you see where CAT can improve its conferences, talk to me at a conference or email me. My email address is bob4cat@sbcglobal.net or on the back page of the newsletter or on the CAT web site.

Another happy item is the BAR. The new Chief, John Wallauch, is a breath of fresh air. He has an open door policy and is pro CAT. He recently reestablished the Education Committee. This committee is made up of educators, BAR staff and Technicians. This committee along with the BAR presentations at our CAT meetings leaves the door wide open for any comment you would like to pass on. The committee answers directly to John. I am very optimistic with John at the helm.

I am also very pleased with our CAT Board and the appointees that do all the grunt work for the organization. They are most dedicated and the finest group that CAT has ever had. CAT has become a well oiled machine. Thanks to all of them from me and I hope all of you have a chance to thank them. They have donated hundreds of hours to keep CAT functioning at the level it has over the last 5 or 10 years.

Lastly, I need to remind you to join ASCCA, it only cost \$25 a year. You will be supporting the independent repair business which is the backbone of hiring technicians coming out of your programs.

Remember, keep the shiny side up and the greasy side down. Bob Barkhouse.

STAR Wins 4 US Patent Challenges

STAR has won all United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) patent reexamination challenges to its inert gas and dye patents. These Patent Office decisions mean any competitor not licensing STAR smoke technology cannot use inert gas (e.g. nitrogen or CO₂) in a smoke machine for fuel evaporative (EVAP) system testing (to prevent creating a flammable mixture inside the vehicle's fuel tank). They also cannot use UV trace dye in the smoke vapor, (which is helpful in finding leaks and essential in high pressure leak applications).

More at: <http://starenvirotech.com/cbs/>



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WEBMASTER Report by Tom Broxholm

I'm very proud of every member embracing our online registration method. Registration at our last conference went very smooth with only a few minor glitches. Most of you pre-registered and all you needed to do was pick up your packets. We had a record low number of members needing to register the day of the conference. This helps out the on-site registration staff immensely. As our database becomes more up to date with your current email address I get less emails regarding registration problems. Yea.... As I have always offered, anyone with a registration problem should contact me ASAP before waiting too late and becoming frustrated. At our last conference we did have a glitch with tour registration counting guest. That has been resolved and I apologize to all guest that were affected.



I`

The fall conference always brings an additional challenge. This is the time when membership dues are due along with the conference fee. I know some members only attend the northern conference and you take care of your membership dues in the spring. This flexibility helps to save CAT some registration costs. However the challenge is the same when members need to pay from two different accounts. Maybe the school is paying for your conference but you have to pay for your dues. The proper way to tackle this challenge with our new system is for you to choose the registration method that renews your membership and pays your dues at the same time. Please do not choose the "Membership Dues Only" and "Conference Only" registration items from our website. Our system will lock you out after completing the first registration item. As always the easiest way to register is to respond to the email invitation. I always send out 2 invitations and one notice. The first invitation is sent out on the first day of registration. The second is sent out 2 weeks later. The last notice is sent out 1 week prior to the expiration of early bird discount. If you are not receiving these invitations they may be in your spam or junk mail folder. If not your email address is incorrect in our system or you have choose to unsubscribe.

If you need to split your payment here is how to do it.

1. Make sure to 1) respond to the email invitation or 2) from the website conference registration page click on the "Membership Renew & Conference Reg." button.
2. You will be asked if you need to pay by PO. If you need to make any part of the payment by PO choose yes and provide the purchasing agent's name and email address.
3. When you get to the payment page. If you are paying partly with credit card choose credit card for your payment method. There will be a box for you to indicate how much to charge to your credit card. Fill in the amount you wish to pay along with your credit card information and click "Finish" If you are not paying any part by credit card choose PO or check. Click "Finish".
4. An email will be sent to you with your balance and where to mail the PO or check. Additional information on where to mail checks and PO's can also be found on our website on the conference page.
5. If you need to make the second payment with a different credit card return to our website and click on "Membership Renew & Conference Reg." button. Then click on "Already Registered".
6. Enter your name, email and confirmation number and click Next.
7. The next page will give you the opportunity to pay the remainder of your balance with a second credit card.

I hope this helps and if you have to renew in the spring please keep these instructions.

A Message from the Newsletter Editor!

We always need technical articles to share with our members.

If you have an article for the newsletter
(it is never too early) please email them to:

rick@calautoteachers.com

(Continued from page 5 - Chocholak)

And a reminder – this summer Briggs and Stratton will have factory approved small engine training classes in Visalia California! There will be two one-week sessions: July 15 and July 22. Of course CAT will publish information on these classes before summer. If you want to get registered early, contact:

John Reid, Director of Education MWE

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Reid.john@mwe.net

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Matt Perry, 28, graduated Irvine's Northwood High School in 2003. He didn't know exactly what he wanted to do, but he knew what he enjoyed: Working on cars.

"I'm more of a hands-on kind of guy."

He's sharp and articulate, but studying what he calls "softer skills," like history and literature, doesn't seem relevant right now.

"Academics seem to be given greater importance than doing stuff ... I see a lot of college debt and no jobs."

Now he has the job, but no debt.

Perry chose Saddleback because his high school shop teacher told him they had a good program. He went to school mostly part time while he worked at jobs with limited career potential.

In 2008, Perry received one of Tuttle-Click's first scholarships.

He had nearly earned all four of his automotive certificates, but he was still taking classes. The \$750 per semester scholarship covered his tuition and books. Tuttle-Click gave him a \$4,000 starter tool set and a job while he was in school. It offered real-world experience paying about \$11 an hour — and he was paired with a technician with 25 years' industry experience.

"The value was being paired up with a mentor and not just being a lube tech. From the very beginning I helped fix cars with actual problems."

The scholarship solved that eternal Catch-22 of landing a first job.

"If you try to get in as an auto technician to diagnose and fix problems, you need experience. But if you don't have a job, how do you get experience?"

This is not your father's career. The future of automotive technology isn't going to look anything like its past.

"This is a forward-moving industry," explains Professor Clifford Meyer, chair of the automotive technology department at Saddleback. "It's not your old days when the counselor in high school would throw anybody who couldn't read into (automotive) technology."

Auto tech students can earn certificates as specialists in chassis, engine service, and engine performance, plus a general certificate as an automotive technician. They can combine these with academic courses in order to earn an associate in science degree and then transfer to a four-year university.

Students graduating from articulated local high school automotive programs receive college credit at Saddleback.

It's a public-school value at about \$46 per unit. "Saddleback was the best deal I ever got," Perry says. "It's a fantastic bargain." The department offers 16 class sections per semester with 25 students in each. Meyer says enrollment has increased 4 to 8 percent per year over the past 10 years – and most classes fill the first week of registration.

"Our students are highly trained," Meyer notes. "And they get jobs."

Sponseller says Tuttle-Click was having trouble finding qualified technicians for its six local locations. By copying this program that the automotive group already offered at Pima College in Arizona, they can help train future technicians in Orange County themselves.

The scholarship program complements Saddleback's curriculum by letting students work on cars in the areas that match their current classes.

"Whatever the school is teaching them, we will actually teach them more in depth ... It's not a simulated problem in a car. It's an actual problem."

From his own experience, Sponseller thinks mentoring is key. His 23-year career started when his brother mentored him as a service technician.

This program might not be the golden ticket to eternal riches, but it can be a first step toward a decent life.

Perry is two years out of school and still working at Tustin Chrysler Jeep Dodge where he is now a Chrysler certified master electrical technician. He started with an interest in engines, but his mentor was an electrical technician. Electrical turned out to be Perry's strength and a good choice.

Cars have only gotten more electronically complicated, he explains, with their touch screens and Bluetooth technology. Activating a turn signal relies on a message passed through four computer centers.

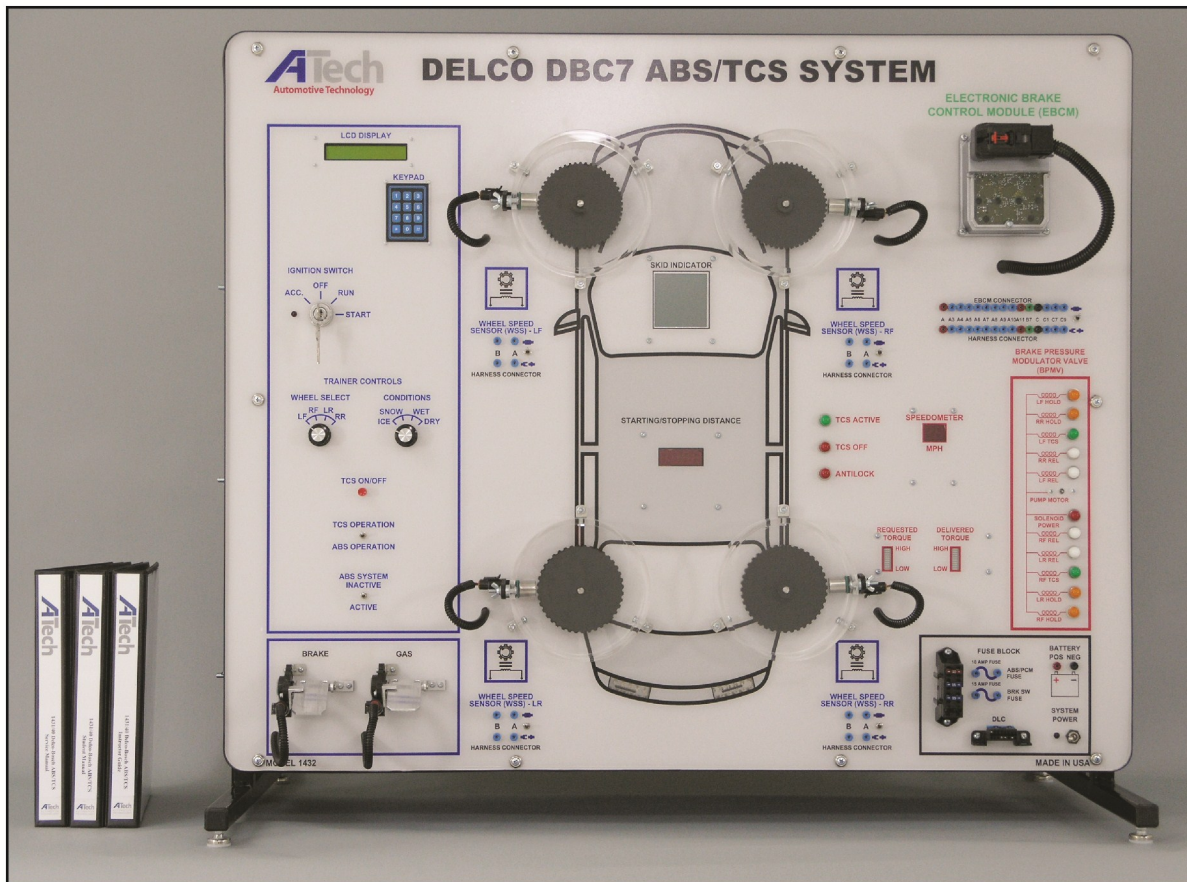
"You have to have a more analytical, logical mind... Fixing something is easy. Diagnosing the problem is the hard part. I like the puzzle... That gives you a jolt. You can actually get it fixed."

Perry's advice? "It's no longer adjusting valves and turning wrenches ... Learn as much as you can." An electrical technician learns basic computer science, electrical theory, and logic. "You won't get hired off the street with just a bag of tools. You need training."

Perry figures it takes 10 years' experience to become really good. But four years into his career, he's not bad.

Every day he goes to work and looks forward to working on cars – and that's not bad, either.

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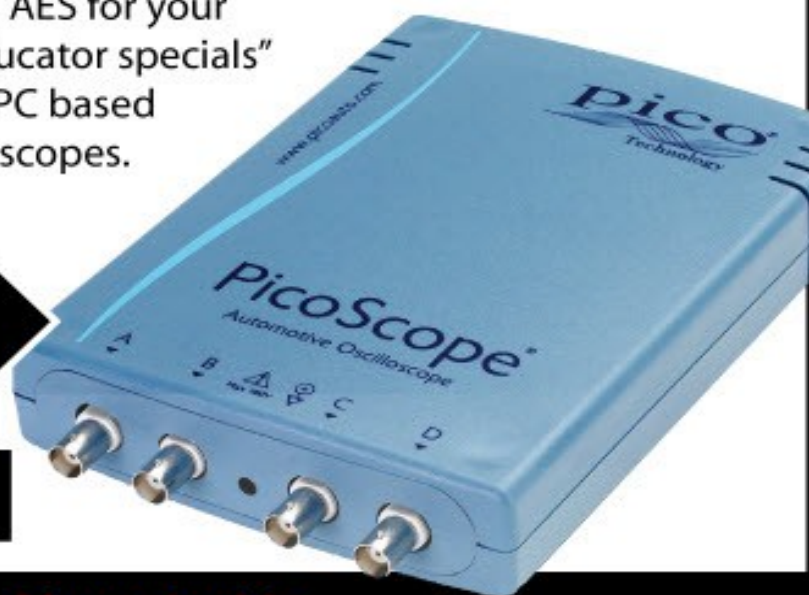
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Half page	\$150.00	\$100.00
Quarter page	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00

We would like to invite your company to advertise in our newsletter. Please note that part of the newsletter is now printed in color! The number of color ads is limited so get your space reserved as soon as possible. Every attempt will be made to accommodate your first choice.

Since space is very limited and sells out quickly, reserve your advertising space early. The deadline for submitting an advertisement for the fall issue is September 15th and March 15th for the spring issue.

Contact rick@calautoteachers.com

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So Long for “Now” Darrell Deeter



It is with a very heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of one of our members – Darrell Deeter, Automotive Technology instructor at Saddleback College. Darrell died on Friday, September 7th at his home in Lake Elsinore. At this time, all we know is that there was an accident in his garage and his wife found him when she returned home later that day. Cliff Meyer, Darrell’s colleague at Saddleback is struggling with his loss and trying to find a temporary replacement for Darrell’s classes (no easy task in itself). Cliff told me tonight by email that Darrell’s students are struggling with his loss too.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Darrell Deeter Scholarship Fund for student’s in the Saddleback College Automotive Technology Program;

Here is the link: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=saddleback&id=1>

Once the link opens select the Darrell Deeter Scholarship and follow the prompts. I made a donation and it was very easy to do – just have your credit card ready.

There is also a Facebook page that has been started, where you can leave a message and/or view some great photos of Darrell and wonderful comments from friends and colleagues;

Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/deeterscholarship/>

Many of you are aware that Darrell taught in Alaska for many years before moving to Saddleback. He is a Past-President of NACAT and according to George Hritz, was prepared to begin his journey through the CAT leadership this coming spring – George was planning on nominating him as Vice President of our organization. Those of us on the CAT board were looking forward to having his leadership and energy on the Board.

Darrell always reminded me of the “Energizer Bunny” – always going and going and going – doing great things. I particularly remember him literally running all over the Queen Mary during the NACAT Conference the year CAT hosted the event in Long Beach. I believe he single-handedly kept the seminars running smoothly – I’m sure George Hritz, Rick Escalambre, and Wayne Olson will attest to that. I was certainly envious of his free-spirited motorcycle journeys he took every summer.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the scholarship fund.

Jim Custeau

Past-President CAT

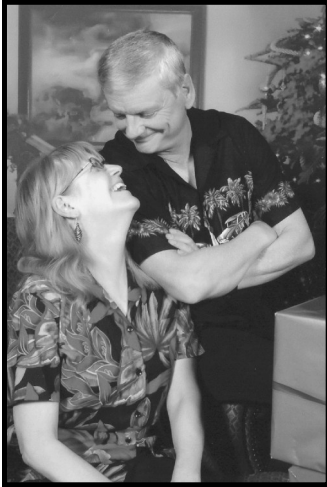
Jim126@cox.net

Excellence in Education

Darrell Deeter

In memory of Darrell this article is being presented to members as a reminder of how quickly a life here on earth can come to an abrupt end. If we all had the energy, enthusiasm, and positive attitude Darrell displayed the world would be a much happier place for all.

(Darrell was selected for this recognition earlier this year)



Name: Darrell Deeter

Age: Young, REALLY young! (OK, 58)

Family: Long suffering wife of 32 years, Beth. One daughter, Stephanie.

Hometown: Brea, CA.

Current City of Residence: Lake Elsinore, CA

Training/certificates: Bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts from California State University, Long Beach and a Masters in Vocational Education from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. ASE certified Master Auto, Master Medium/Heavy Vehicle, M1-M3 Machinist, plus L1 and L2

Automotive experience and how many years at each: All were part time except my place. Auto parts store, 4 years (college years). Automotive machine shop – 3 years. Worked in an independent repair shop – 3 years. Owned my own independent repair shop – 7 years.

What was your favorite and least favorite subjects in school: Favorite - Auto shop, of course.
Least favorite - French

Where do you get your update training? CAT, NACAT, other "on site" training classes, and by reading 'bout a half-dozen monthly magazines.

How did you get your start? Taught auto shop and motorcycle mechanics at Ontario High School, Ontario, CA, in 1977

Hobbies? Long distance motorcycle riding and camping.

What is the closest you have been to a famous person and who was it? Was 13 years old and met Dan Gurney at a car show. A really nice guy. I'm sure he remembers the encounter!

Favorite TV program? Castle

Tell us about a life changing experience. Moving to Alaska, 1984-2005. We intended this to be a one year gig but we fell in love with the place. Because the population was/is so small, I was able to do more stuff than would have been possible in So Cal. Everything from flying into remote villages to teach either

(Continued on page 19)

outboard motor, marine electrical system, or diesel engine repair to helping write and deliver the training course for the State of Alaska Emission Control program. I was also on the Seward City Council for a few years and was the Assistant Director of Instruction and Housing (the equivalent of a college V.P.) at a state-run vocational school. All that could never happen down here!

What was your first job and what was the pay? Auto parts store - \$2.00/hr.

What is your dream job? Gosh, I think I'm livin' it right now!

Person you most admired and why? A gentleman named Gordon B. Hinckley. An absolutely stellar fellow with more integrity in his little finger than most of us have in our whole body. He passed away in 2007.

Favorite music? Sorry, I'm stuck in the '60's with Simon and Garfunkel

Favorite food? Tough call as I love both Mexican and Italian.

If you were granted one wish, what would it be? To live up to my potential as a husband, father, and teacher.

Favorite sports team? Lakers

What changes have you seen in your classroom over your career. Students are so much less prepared to face the world now than when I started.

What is the biggest problem you see for the automotive teacher? Besides the median age of the average automotive teacher AND technician? Encouraging students to enter a profession where they are still considered to be a "grease monkey" despite the knowledge and material demands of the profession.

What is the biggest problem you see facing the automotive industry today? The industry's refusal to pay a reasonable wage to those who repair the impossible-to-repair.

What was the first car you owned and how did you afford it? It was a 1957 Renault 4CV. It was \$50. This one isn't mine but it looked just like it. Powered by a mighty 750cc 4 banger!

What are your favorite automotive/motorcycle magazines? Rider, Engine Builder

Favorite quote: "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got".
Attributed to Henry Ford



The Golden Years! By Terry LaCroix

Ah, retirement! The Golden Years - My reward for 45 years of work in automotive service and education. Summer the year around. It'd be travel and leisure - doing what I want, when I want. A new Corvette and a great "Golden Handshake." How grand it will be. Then all of a sudden I realized... My wife's at work, my son's at UCSD and it's just the cat and me at home. Worse yet, the cops are behind the Corvette 24/7. It was all a shock. My familiar patterns of time and tasks and regular interchange with peers and students were gone. Poof! When people had asked, "What do you do for a living," I used to say, "I'm a college teacher" but now was I to say - "Nothing"?



Experts say the three major precursors to substance abuse are boredom, loneliness, and depression. Sounds a lot like my early retirement to me! Indeed, I developed all three and it lead to one beer, two beers, then vodka, etc. Before long, I was drunk and miserable all the time!

I mention all this because, subjective and personal as it is, I know a lot of CAT members are approaching retirement and my advice is to think about it, plan and prepare. Some daunting days of readjustment might be lying in wait if you are unwary or unprepared. It could happen to you!

Now for the "rest of the story." I got over that bump in the road four years ago and retirement at this point is truly wonderful. I've found time to read (over 70 books on the Kindle and iPad), I've done lots of work on my truck and Shelby (I've included photos). There's lots of time to visit and spend with friends. I walk and run in the neighborhood or on the beach over 5 miles every other day. I've sorted out my tools and reorganized the garage. I continue to volunteer at TriCity Hospital in the emergency room (and have logged over 1000 hours). Generally, all the things I always wanted to do but never had the time for. And, hopefully, when my wife retires (my son graduated), we'll get to travel!

I miss MiraCosta College, my colleagues and the students, however, when I left, I'd had my fill of teaching! I still see my friends Steve Vail, Paul Katson and Arnoldo Williams, who are taking the program to new levels of excellence. And of course I miss all my many friends in CAT to whom I owe so much and from whom I've learned so much! As for me, I've taught my last class.

In all, I really enjoy retirement. I'd just warn you, when the time comes - plan ahead. Some people take to it like a duck to water, but others, like me, have to ease into it. It is a big adjustment, but it can be absolutely great!



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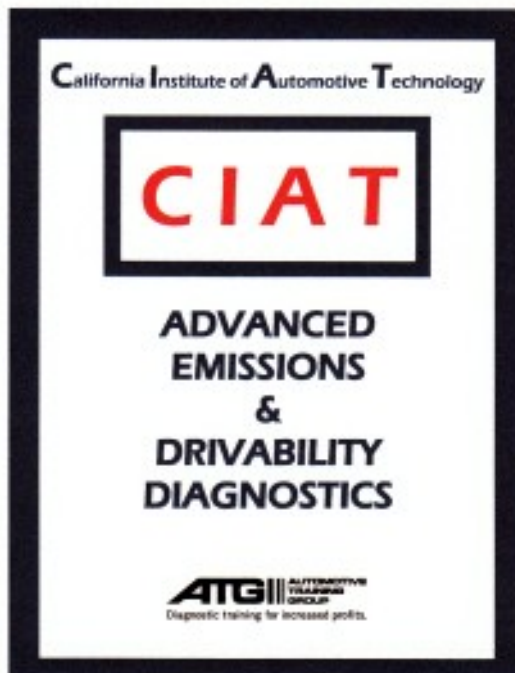


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George Hritz's Farewell to Teaching

I guess it has become somewhat of a tradition that when you retire you write an article for the CAT Newsletter. So here are my thoughts.

About fifteen years ago I received a message on my home phone. It was a vague message about someone who knew me and wanted to get in touch. It was a little creepy. Well, I called the number and it turned out to be a guy I knew when we were students at University of Nevada. He had a life changing event that happened while he was working as a Detective for the Washoe Nevada County Sheriff Department which made him want to say thank you to the ten people that had the greatest effect on his life. First I was honored, and then I thought what in the world did I do to make that list? He said I taught him by example to never give up or get too discouraged by what life throws at you. Playing college football and facing the selective service draft was a challenge but I had to just keep rolling towards my goal of becoming a high school Auto Teacher and Coach. Dale was a Marine before we met and after graduation he reenlisted with the Marines and then he was a Sheriff. Dale is now an accomplished ceramics artist, Dale presented me with a beautiful Raku pot that he had made for me. I realized that we all can have an effect on others that changes their life without even knowing that we did.

As I finish my teaching career I think back on the people who affected me and helped make me who I am. There are people who I knew very well and I consider them to be friends and the people I met in passing. There were people who were in charge and established guidelines. The instructors I've taken classes from. There were mentors, family and schoolmates. There were coaches that provided both positive and negative examples. Then, also there were the people who I looked to for guidance and those who asked me for help, and also those special students. I guess we can all remember those who influenced us. I can't thank all of them because, some have passed away, I've lost contact with some, and others I don't know their names. So reflection and gratitude will have to do. I am proud to say that there are hundreds of guys and a few women who are successful people who are feeding their families and paying taxes because of what I was able to teach and share with them.

I have no plans or limitations for retirement so whatever comes along I can do it if I want to. I do have a couple of goals, I want to visit all the National Parks of America and I want to build a Hot Rod. There are fifty-eight National Parks and I've visited twenty-two. So I've got a pretty good start. As far as the car I don't know what make or model but I can't start until I get my kids' stuff out of my garage. I will continue to be an active member of CAT so I'll see you at the next conference!



“Hey Buddy” Darrell, you might be gone, but you are not forgotten!

When I first got the news that Darrell had died accidentally, I had to sit down immediately. A rush of pain, tears and enormous sense of loss hit me. Here a few words of my valued time with him.

Not sure when I first met Darrell but I believe it was just shortly before he moved to Alaska with his family to accept a teaching position there. We had conversations at NACAT conferences and I was impressed that he took on hosting a NACAT conference which many thought was a bad idea and no one would come. After a poll was taken to affirm the people would come, he and Beth put on a very successful conference event after some of his support staff “jumped ship”. He started looking for opportunities to come back to California and finally found a job at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo. He maintained his leadership in NACAT and CAT including hosting a CAT conference at Saddleback.

When I decided to discontinue my leadership positions with NACAT to make room for fresh new leaders and ideas, Darrell was one of the few who came to me to express regret at my leaving. That meant a lot. Each time we would meet he always had a smile and willingness to help if anybody asked.

When putting together the team from CAT that hosted the 2007 NACAT conference on the Queen Mary, I asked Darrell if he would take on audiovisual support, which he readily agreed to do. Not only that, but he jumped in to help other team members with different tasks, often at a moment’s notice.

Since then, Darrell and I would see each other at CAT and NACAT conferences and in between we had lunches and visits to work on NATEF certification for his automotive program. Not long ago Darrell was searching for information about long term or deceased members of CAT and NACAT. Who would have imagined that he would be the focus now. He never showed any evidence of being down to me and his eyes always lit up when he talked of his motorcycle adventures. I secretly hoped he wouldn’t go out that way, not because of his driving but all the other idiots out there and unexpected weather.

To sum it up, Darrell was a model for being a great automotive educator and leader in his field. Many have already said, and I heartily agree, that he will be missed but never forgotten. We should remember and celebrate our opportunities to share in his life. ***Wayne Olson***

Few instructors have as many positive vibes around them. Darrell seemed to have the best of everything when it came to family, faith, and career. I still remember him running around during his Alaska conference trying to hold it all together. With everything NOT going well, he still managed a smile and a joke. His giving back to NACAT was always first class, with this year being no different. With the conference host needing some help, who stepped up - Darrell.

When I asked him what was going on, he just said, "the crew needed some help". He was one in a million and will be missed by all of the NACAT family. Our industry lost a real leader and a true friend. I know we all feel the loss personally but he would have wanted us to go on professionally with a smile on our face, and a bit of Darrell in our hearts. I am confident that he is in a better place and I will keep him in my thoughts and prayers. ***Al Santini***

While I had met Darrell prior to NACAT 2007, it was on the Queen Mary that I really got to know him. While I was working the desk all week, Darrell was our runner. He started the week with a new pair of tennis shoes and they looked years old by the end of the week.

Whatever we asked he did with a smile and lots of energy and enthusiasm. I don't know how many miles he walked or ran that week, but it was huge.

I will remember his "Hey Buddy" phrase as he put his hand on my shoulder.

I am sure he is with GOD and doing whatever needs to be done and wearing a smile on his face!

It puts into perspective how precious life is and that we better see each new day as a blessing. ***Rick Escalambre***

I first met Darrell Deeter at the 1999 NACAT Conference in Charleston, South Carolina. After spending more time with him several of us in the NACAT leadership encouraged him to run for the NACAT Board. He was not much of a politician and didn't get a seat on the Board on the first try. He did the next year. That is when we really got to know Darrell, and he was a genuine asset to the Board.

Several times he offered to host a NACAT conference at his school in Seward, Alaska. His offer was not accepted until 2003 when we ran out of options. It had been assumed that our members could not swing the travel to Alaska, but, when the question was put to the membership, there was a very positive response and the Board finally agreed. The result was one of the most enjoyable and skillfully managed conferences NACAT ever had. It put NACAT on the map. According to Ron Weiner, President of ASE and our closing speaker, "No organization but NACAT could have a successful conference in a small remote town in Alaska." Later on, Darrell moved to California and was a major team member in another landmark event for NACAT: the 2007 NACAT Conference in Long Beach hosted by the California Automotive Teachers organization. Darrell continued to serve NACAT in many volunteer ways and we persuaded him to come back on the Board in 2011.

He was a valuable contributor to our most recent conference in Tyler, Texas. In addition to all of his contributions to NACAT, he was a very good friend and we spoke often between meetings. His sound reasoning, can-do attitude, and never ending support for NACAT and its members will certainly be missed. Lynda and I were personally rewarded when he took us up on our request that he visit the NACAT world headquarters, in our home, on his travels back from the 2010 conference. It was the first time we were able to enjoy his fellowship without the stress of meetings and schedules. NACAT was honored to be able to recognize Darrell for all of his many contributions when he was awarded the annual NACAT MVP award, NACAT's highest achievement recognition. His wife, Beth, told me that it was one of the best days of his life. All of NACAT and the automotive education profession have lost one of its strongest allies. He will be missed for a long time. **Dan Perrin**

The automotive industry and NACAT have lost a "Great One" with Darrell leaving us so soon.

The Lord must have a special plan to make use of such an enthusiastic and dedicated person. There will not likely be much "rest" if Darrell has anything to say in the matter, but we all hope there will be lots of "peace".

Our prayers go out to Beth and the family, and to all those nearest and dearest to him. **Ron and Jean Brown.**

I met Darrell Deeter in 1999 at my first NACAT Conference hosted by Trident Technical College and Dan Perrin in Charleston, SC. I will never forget him RUNNING to the stage to accept nomination to the NACAT board. Darrell and I served together from 2002 until I succeeded him as President in the fall of 2009. During the 2 years that I was in that position, he would call every month or so to ask, "Hey buddy. How's it going? Is there anything I can help you with?" And often there was. Darrell was always there for me.

Darrell was a strong advocate of making board decisions that respected the members' investment in NACAT. He always asked us to stay within our means. NACAT members everywhere should celebrate Darrell's leadership skills especially those that he willingly passed on to others within the organization.

Because of his genuine concern, willingness to help, and his dedication to automotive instructors everywhere Darrell was my first choice for the NACAT MVP Award in 2010. I will always regret that I couldn't attend that NACAT conference and missed the opportunity to personally deliver that much deserved award to him.

I got several "Hey buddy" calls from Darrell over the years telling me that he would be coming into Bellingham, WA on a motorcycle ride. Of course, our door was always open to him so after a meal and a good night's rest he was off the following morning on the next leg of his trip. He loved to ride, even after hitting a Caribou while returning from the 2004 NACAT conference in Crystal Lake, IL. Darrell won that one.

One of my favorite memories of Darrell is that he could "rest his eyes" in a meeting on a regular basis. I'd quietly say, "Darrell" and he would answer back with his eyes still closed, "Just resting my eyes." Darrell's passing deeply saddens me. I will miss him very much. **Jeff Curtis**



What You Need to Know

To Elevate and Unite Automotive Professionals, and Give Them Voice

SB 750 VETOED
by Governor Brown Today!

Great News! SB 750 was vetoed by Governor this afternoon. Thanks to all the ASCCA members that worked countless hours on this bill. Your lobbying efforts did make a difference. See link below for veto message.

http://gov.ca.gov/docs/SB_750_Veto_Message.pdf

Background

ASCCA had previously reported that SB 750 passed the legislature and was headed to Governor Brown for signature or Veto.

ASCCA's message was received by Governor Brown. Our members did a great job of communicating how detrimental this bill will be to our industry and that it would limit consumer choice. Our talking points include;

- SB 750 is not just about keys - it's also about the right to repair. Future BMW models will have diagnostic and repair information embedded in the key (immobilizer). If we cannot get access to this information, we will not be able to properly diagnose or repair the car and the customer will be forced to go to the new car dealership, even when our customer would like to have his/her car repaired at our shop.
- SB 750 provides a special treatment to BMW without any justification. All other car manufacturers must comply with the law, which requires manufacturers to provide information through a secure and safe process. Why is BMW getting special treatment?
- SB 750 harms consumers by leaving them stranded when they lose their keys. All other vehicle manufacturers have a safe system to allow locksmiths/repair shops to provide a replacement key within hours. BMW replacement keys would have to come from Germany thus requiring consumers to have their cars towed and stranded for days while waiting for a replacement key.

The bill was an anti-small business bill that would have set a precedent for other auto manufacturers to limit access to technology needed by independent auto repair shops to conduct their businesses.

It's a bill that was also anti-consumer, as it would have forced consumers to seek auto repairs through dealerships, whose services are often more expensive.

GREAT JOB ASCCA!

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The CAT Newsletter is always looking for technical articles and advertisements! The deadline for submitting articles and ads is March 15th for the spring issue and September 15th for the fall issue. Articles should be submitted in Word. It is preferred that ads be submitted in JPEG or EPS formats, PDF will work but sometimes the text is distorted once it is placed into the newsletter. The cost and sizes for advertisements can be found on our Website.

**For additional information about the California Automotive Teachers' organization,
future conferences, job announcements, training opportunities, and much more:**

visit our WEBSITE at

www.calautoteachers.com

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