



March
2023

Industry Update

*News and Information for
Northwest Automotive Trade Association
Members*

Welcome Your 2023 Board of Directors

On February 15, new members of the NATA Board of Directors were elected. We are pleased to have representation from mechanical, collision, parts, dismantling and education.



Please welcome:

Ross Bradshaw, Portland Transmission Warehouse - President

Ron Reichen, Precision Body & Paint - Vice President

Jake Hammer, Everett Street Auto Works - Treasurer

Jeff Helget, B&R Auto Wrecking – Secretary

Steve Johnston, All About Automotive - General Director

Alex Crays, CTEC (Career and Technical Education Center) - General Director

Terica Buckner, Hawthorne Auto Clinic - General Director

Ken Moore, Baxter Auto Parts - General Director

Securing Your Customers' Cars

In an issue of "Industry Update" a couple of years ago, we offered one way shops could secure customer cars for after-hours pickup. Using realtor lock boxes secured to their building, customers could gain access to their keys by inputting a custom code. Well, the thieves have ruined that idea now, too.



Tyler's Automotive were victims of thieves who have learned how to quickly gain access to these lockboxes as well as multiple storage facilities in the Tigard area. The police recognized the thieves from video surveillance.

Tyler's has changed their procedure: **No** keys are locked outside the building any longer. **No** keys are hidden. All customers are responsible for picking up their cars during business hours.

Consider your current procedures. This could happen to you.

In-person Tech Training Throughout Oregon



IN PERSON TRAINING

Training for Automotive Service Professionals



NATA is proud to partner with Baxter Auto Parts to bring in-person training from the Carquest Technical Institute to Bend, Portland, and Medford throughout this year – and beyond.

More classes will be added as we move toward 2024. **NATA** members can save hundreds of dollars on the registration subscription.



The classes are each four hours and are held in the evening at each location.

A 1-year subscription to register is \$149 a month for up to six technicians, but NATA or TECHNet members can register for just \$99 per month. Contact NATA or Baxter Auto Parts for member information.

For more details and to register, download the 3-page flier for the location where you will want to attend: [Portland](#), [Bend](#) or [Medford](#).

Portland Roadster Show Is Back

The Portland Roadster Show is back, taking place March 17-19. This year they have added THE TOY BOX, an off-road exhibit. [Click here](#) for more details.

NATA has a limited number of free tickets on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call our office at (503) 253-9898 if you are interested.



Do You Have Any 'Swag' To Donate?

This year's Oregon SkillsUSA State Conference takes place on April 7-8. The Automotive competition happens Friday, April 7, and is hosted by Portland Community College - Sylvania Campus. We have lots of volunteers as well as the great students and staff of PCC to help pull it all together. About 60 students are competing this year. Only two can win. But you can help us ensure none of the students leave empty-handed. NATA Margaret Ragan is collecting swag – hats, pens, t-shirts, keychains, coozies, flashlights, etc. – in any quantity. Please phone our office at (503) 253-9898 or call Margaret's cell at (503) 423-7355.



SCRS Offers Update on 'Blend Study'

The Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS) earlier this year reported that it was having “positive dialogue” with all three estimating system providers regarding refinish blend formulas following an [SCRS study](#) conducted last year. SCRS believes that study



clearly demonstrated that blending takes more time than a full panel refinish, rather than the 50 percent less time allocated in the three estimating systems.

Aaron Schulenburg, executive director of SCRS, said CCC Intelligent Solutions (and Motor Information Systems, which develops the underlying repair data used by the CCC estimating system) have “committed to doing research and replying back to us” by the end of March, and “I think we’re having the same types of positive dialogue with the other two companies.”

“I don’t expect, and I certainly hope that they wouldn’t simply adjust values because any one group said they should,” Schulenburg said. “I would hate to think that any other group might go to them and ask them to lower a value and that they would just do it because they were asked to. What I do think is we provided very meaningful data, very meaningful research, that was conducted impartially, with a lot of different parties that validated how it occurred, and that it provides enough to get them to do what we’ve asked them to do all along: re-evaluate whether 50 percent really reflects” what blending requires.

He encouraged shops to share the blend study with their colleagues in the industry. “Don’t encourage them what to do,” Schulenburg cautioned. “The data speaks for itself. They can make their own informed business decisions. Just share the information.”

He said shops can also ask their sales representatives for the estimating systems they use “what their company is doing to address this.”

'Right to Repair' Bill Reintroduced

Proponents of HR 906 introduced last month in Congress,

say the proposed federal legislation is designed “to ensure consumers have access to data relating to their motor vehicles, critical repair information, and tools, and to provide them choices for the maintenance, service, and repair of their motor vehicles, and for other purposes.”



As of early March, the legislation had seven co-sponsors in the House.

To read the text of the bill, [click here](#).

Schools Are the Wave of the Future

We know there is a staffing shortage across all areas of our industry. The way forward **REQUIRES** that we – the automotive business community – become involved in schools at both the secondary and post-secondary level.



Each month we bring you updates and announcements of hiring events, job openings, and other ways you can become involved (see below). Please engage with your local automotive programs. If you need contact information, call our office. At this time, our staff participates on nine advisory boards, facilitates four hiring events, speaks at multiple school events and sponsors the annual Oregon SkillsUSA Automotive Competition.

Here are just some of the opportunities to get involved:

Willamette Career Academy in Salem is holding a mock interview event April 21. [Click here](#) for a flier with more information.

The **Polk County Youth Conference** being held March 22 at Western Oregon University gives high school juniors an opportunity to focus on personal development and career exploration. To register your business for this conference, or for more information, email warren.abby@co.polk.or.us.

Linn-Benton Community College will host “Dyno Days 2023” on May 19 and 20 at the college in Lebanon. [Click here](#) for a flier with more information.

Control Tower is a regional program offered through Willamette Educational Service District. It serves Marion, Polk, and Yamhill County school districts with career-connected learning opportunities. It focuses on connecting education with industry to provide students with chances to explore and prepare for careers while they are in high school.

Control Tower is offering an opportunity for industry partners to become job shadow hosts. Job shadow hosts are added to a regional job board and are on standby for when a student applies for a job shadow with their specific company. They will then coordinate a date with the student and host them for a 2- to 8-hour experience. Partners must provide a safe environment as well as an engaging chance for students to learn about the daily work

routines and requirements for a given career.

This is an excellent opportunity to promote your company and our industry while boosting your engagement with the community. This is also a great entry point into partnering with Control Tower on providing other experiences for students.

Check out the [Job Shadow Guide for Industry Partners](#) for more info on getting started, or contact Cassy Harris, Control Tower Engagement Specialist, at (503) 540-4420 (or email cassy.harris@wesd.org).

Has NATA Quoted Your Health, Dental or Vision Insurance?

Our NATA Health Plan rates are becoming more competitive all the time. Beginning this year, our health insurance plan will include life insurance coverage as well! Call Tere MacNaughton at (503) 253-9898 for quotes or more information.



Internships for Collision Students

NATA was pleased to assist Portland Community College's collision program with a recent student "Portfolio Review" event intended to secure internships for completing students. Margaret Ragan worked closely with DeAnne Hardy, PCC Career & Job Specialist, to recruit employers to spend a half day 'speed interviewing' more than a dozen students. Several NATA members participated and were very impressed with the caliber of students coming out of the program.



Skyline Collision Center



Precision Body & Paint



Coachman Auto Body

Schools have job openings

Clark College in Vancouver has an opening for a part-time lab tech in the Auto Department. The position involves working with the students, supervising lab assignments and some general tasks in the shop.

Hoping to find someone with a flexible schedule. [Click here](#) for details, or contact: Dannie Nordsiden, Manager of Technician Development (360) 992-2566 (office or (360) 907-4053 (cell)



Portland Community College Sylvania Campus has an opening for a part-time Instructor in the Automotive Service Technology Department. [Click here](#) for more details.

Phoenix High School in Phoenix, Oregon, is looking for an Automotive Technology Teacher. [Click here](#) for more information.



CENTRAL OREGON
community college

Central Oregon Community College needs part-time automotive instructors during spring term this year. The school needs at least 2-3 people for spring term and likely moving forward into next year. Spring term

begins April 3 and ends June 15. However, many of our courses are “short courses,” meaning the class will run from 7:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., Monday through Thursday, for four weeks. Some courses are even shorter, 2.5 weeks. Some are longer, spanning the entire 12-week term. So there is flexibility in the schedule for those are currently working in or running shops. [Click here](#) for details, or contact Jared Green, Automotive Instructor, (541) 383-7422.

Clackamas Community College is seeking a full-time automotive Instructor; please [click here](#) (and scroll down to “Automotive Instructor”) for more information or to apply.



Helpful Links To Oregon Agencies

If you're looking for information, help or training from Oregon regulators, here are the links you need:

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) offers training seminars on such topics as wage and hour laws, discipline and discharge, and the latest developments in employment law. Details are available by [clicking here](#).



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites businesses that handle hazardous waste to sign up for a free class covering basic management of such waste. [Click here](#) for more details.

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers classroom workshops and online training. [Click here](#) for current class description and schedule.



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