



THE LEAF

SPRING 2009

2009 ANNUAL SSA CONVENTION WASHINGTON D.C. FROM OCTOBER 8-11



Hotel Information

The Convention is set to take place at the Hyatt Crystal City at Ronald Reagan National Airport from October 8 -11, 2009. The address for the hotel is 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway - Arlington, VA. To find

out specific information about the hotel please visit their website—<http://crystalcity.hyatt.com>. There is only 3.5 miles / 7 minutes between the hotel and the center of Washington D.C.

Airport Information

There are two airports that can be used to get to Washington D.C.: Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA) and Washington Dulles Airport (IAD).

Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA) is located 2.14 miles / 6 minutes from the Hyatt Crystal City. Complimentary shuttle service is provided by the Hyatt to and from the airport. Airlines serving Reagan National are Air Canada, Air Canada Jazz, AirTran, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, American Connection, Continental Airlines, Delta, Frontier, Midwest Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Spirit Airlines, United Airlines and US Airways.

Washington Dulles Airport (IAD) is located 30.54 miles / 41 minutes from the Hyatt Crystal City. There are 33 airlines serving Washington Dulles. Many of the airlines specifically provide international flights. Airlines providing domestic flights to and from Dulles are American Airlines, American Connection, Continental Airlines, Delta, jetBlue, Northwest Airlines, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, US Airways and Virgin America.

Note: Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) is located 40.36 miles / 55 minutes from the Hyatt Crystal City, and is a second hub Southwest Airlines.

The Attractions

If one thing is certain it is that Washington D.C. is full of attractions for all age groups.

Museums

- The Capital Mall Museum Tour
- National Air & Space Museum
- National Museum of American History
- National Museum of the American Indian
- National Museum of Natural History
- International Spy Museum
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Art Museums

- Freer Gallery of Art
- Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
- National Gallery of Art, East & West Buildings
- National Museum of African Art

Cultural & Historical Sites

- White House
- J. Edgar Hoover Federal Bureau of Investigation Building
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Tomb of the Unknowns
- Mount Vernon
- Gunston Hall

Memorials & Museums

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
- Emancipation Statue
- Jefferson Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- National WWII Memorial
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Washington Monument

Championship Golf Courses

- Greendale Golf Course (12 miles from the Hyatt)
- Reston Golf Course (30 miles from the Hyatt)

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Information on the General Sessions and the Break-out Sessions will be included in the next edition of The Leaf.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the beginning of spring! It was a doozy of a winter for most of the country. It is great that we can finally invite warm weather, green grass, budding trees and blooming flowers .

We have the dates for the SSA Convention finalized. It will be October 8-11, 2009 in Washington D.C. We now need your help in preparing and planning for the 3 day convention. We need your suggestions for training sessions. We want to make this convention fun and (most importantly) BENEFICIAL for SSA members. That means we want to include training sessions that are wanted by the members themselves. So please e-mail or call Kelly Holliday or Bill Wade with suggestions.

Also don't forget about the 2009 SSA membership dues. A form for the dues has been included in this mailing. Please make sure to send in your dues as soon as possible. We thank you for your continued support of SSA!

Sincerely,

Mike Holdaway

NEEDED = TRAINING SUGGESTIONS

We need to hear from you. What kind of training would like to see and participate in at the 2009 SSA Convention? Please send all suggestions to either kholliday@wade-partners.com or to bwade@wade-partners.com

ACOFAS ANNOUNCES HYDRALIC BRAKE, ABS AND COMPUTER DIAGNOSTICS TRAINING PROGRAM

ACOFAS, the American Council of Frame and Alignment Specialists, at the annual business meeting announced the 2009 Technician Training Clinic schedule and course content.

The first clinic for this year will be held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina June 8th and 9th. Monday morning ARVINMERITOR instructors will provide instruction on class 5, 6 & 7 truck and bus Hydraulic Brake systems. Monday afternoon they will cover Hydraulic Brake ABS Diagnostics and Maintenance. On Tuesday instructors from Noregon Systems will be discussing and demonstrating the computer diagnostics needed for maintaining the trucks of today. The computer diagnostics will involve the Chassis, Engine, and Transmission computers as well as the Emissions, Road Control, Crash Avoidance, and ABS computer systems.

ACOFAS has maintained the cost for the training programs to \$150 for ACOFAS members, \$200 for members of SSA, HDDA, CVSN and NTHECC. Non-members may register for these classes for \$300. The attendees will be staying at the Wingate Inn at 125 South Main Street in Winston-Salem. For more information or to register, logon to the website at www.acofas.com or contact: Tony Porretta at 215-634-6413 or truckframeman@aol.com - Gordon Botts at 815-482-4255 or gbotts@bottswelding.com

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIVITY UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION BASED ON BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Deduction for Taxes on Vehicles and Interest on Vehicle Loans

The bill provides two deductions for new passenger cars and light trucks up to 8500lbs GVW purchased between Nov. 12, 2008 and Jan. 1, 2010. The first is a deduction for the state or local sales or excise taxes paid on the purchase price of the vehicle. The second is a deduction for the interest paid on any loan taken whether or not the individual itemizes taxes or not. For the tax deduction, the amount of the deduction is limited to the first \$49,500 of the vehicle price and for the interest deduction, the amount is limited to the interest on indebtedness of \$49,500. The amount of each deduction is also reduced for individuals with modified adjusted gross incomes over \$125,000.

Investment Incentives

The bill continued two tax provisions which are designed to stimulate purchase of new equipment by businesses. During 2008, instead of having to depreciate the total cost of capital equipment over time, businesses were allowed to immediately deduct half the cost of the equipment in the year it was acquired and put to use. In addition, small businesses could write off up to \$250,000 of the total cost of capital expenditures (increased from \$125,000) subject to certain limitations. Both these provisions will now also apply to capital expenditures made in 2009.

Climate Change Legislation

Reductions required in new vehicles are likely to be in the form of increased CAFÉ, i.e., mileage standards, for automobiles and trucks. For used vehicles, increased scrappage or fleet replacement programs are likely. In addition, for diesel vehicles, a retrofit to a cleaner diesel technology may be required.

Scrappage Bills

Congress has begun to look at vehicle scrappage as an economic stimulant and to promote the purchase of new cars. Companion bills (S247 introduced by Senator Diane Feinstein and HR 520 introduced by Representative Steve Isreal) titled the "Accelerated Retirement of Inefficient Vehicles Act of 2009" would authorize money to pay for the scrapping of certain older automobiles.

While these bills do not affect heavy duty vehicles directly, they could be the precursor to legislation to mandate retirement of older vehicles from trucking, construction and farming fleets. With heavy duty companies, such as Caterpillar, experiencing steep sales declines as a result of the recession, they could lobby to have the same type of scrappage legislation applied to heavy duty.

Fleet Replacement Programs

While similar to scrappage programs, fleet replacement programs are different in several ways. First, while scrappage programs are usually voluntary, fleet replacement programs are not. They usually require that a fleet of vehicles meet certain emissions quality standards which become more stringent over time.

To meet the more stringent requirements, the fleet owner may either retrofit its older vehicles to reduce their emissions (if that is possible) or replace older vehicles with cleaner new ones.

Funds are usually provided through federal grants or state fee programs to assist the fleet owner in converting old vehicles or purchasing new ones. It is likely that any climate change bill will include some fleet replacement element.

EPA Heavy Duty OBD Rule

In December, 2008, EPA released its final OBD regulation for large heavy-duty on-road vehicles. Most parts of the rule will take effect for model year 2010 vehicles but some of the provisions regarding access to the manufacturers diagnostic and scan tools do not take effect until the 2013 model year.

The most pertinent parts of the rule are that:

- i. To ensure that repairs can be properly and economically performed and that aftermarket and rebuilt parts function properly with OBD system, vehicle manufacturers must provide service technicians with information necessary to repair parts which control emissions or are associated with the engine system. However, information deemed by the manufacturer to be a trade secret may still be withheld. Information related to the transmission system is not covered by the rule.
- ii. All required OBD information for heavy duty vehicles must be made available on an accessible Internet web site.
- iii. Prior to 2013, aftermarket entities will have the right to purchase an OEM's emissions-related diagnostic tools, but only if those tools are made available to the manufacturer's dealers or authorized service networks.
- iv. Starting in 2013, the OEM's will have to make available to the aftermarket all enhanced diagnostic, recalibration and reconfiguration tools available to their franchised dealers or authorized service networks. However, if the manufacturer requires that its dealers receive training before they can purchase the tool, it can require that aftermarket facilities undergo similar training before they can purchase the tool.
- v. In 2013, the OEMs will also have to provide generic tool manufacturers with the data stream and bi-directional control information used in the OEMs' proprietary tools so that the generic manufacturers can incorporate this information into their tools.

While most of the rule was what we were expecting, the engine manufacturers did talk the EPA staff into adding language which would appear to void the emissions warranty for any vehicle or engine that was not serviced by the manufacturer or its dealers, i.e., serviced by the aftermarket. This language clearly violates the Clean Air Act and APRA has brought it to the attention of the EPA staff. They have acknowledged that they did not intend that result and will issue a clarifying letter and an amendment to the regulation to correct the problem. However, it may be necessary to file an appeal in court to protect aftermarket rights.



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About Service Specialists Association

Service Specialists Association was founded in 1981 and includes over 300 independent truck repair facilities across North America. With the help of supplier members, SSA offers technical, business and industry information and sponsors benefit programs throughout the year, including the SSA Annual Convention.

SSA's most important goal is to provide a forum for business improvement dialogue and a networking opportunity for member shops and associate supplier members. Shop members and associate supplier members are listed on our website

www.truckservice.org.

We welcome independent truck repair facilities to join our "family" of like-minded professionals to enjoy networking and solutions to business and technical problems.

NEWS AND NOTES

"WORKHORSES OF YESTERYEAR" CALENDARS

We have received several calls from members inquiring about the calendars usually put out by SSA. This year we will not be doing this. But we have found a company who produces the calendars at a decent price if you would like to do it independently this year. The company is called PrintGlobe: The Printing Superstore. Their website is www.printglobe.com, and the SKU for this particular calendar is 1857.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 18-20: American Truck Dealers (ATD) 2009 Convention & Expo: Moving America at The Gaylord National Hotel & Conference Center, Washington D.C.
- April 26-29: 2009 NATSO Day on Capital Hill in Washington D.C.
- May 28-30: American Truck Historical Society National Convention & Antique Truck Show at John Hunt Park in Huntsville, AL
- June 25-27: Great West Truck Show in Las Vegas, NV
- August 20-22: Great American Trucking Show in Dallas, TX
- Sept. 12-16: CVSNA Aftermarket Distribution Summit in Amelia Island, FL
- Sept. 14-17: TMC 2009 Fall Meeting & National Technician Skills Competition at the Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh, NC
- **Oct. 8-11: SSA 2009 Convention at the Hyatt Crystal City**

CONVENTION OUTLINE

Wednesday October 7, 2009:

- Early Arrivals = No Planned SSA Activities

Thursday October 8, 2009:

- Morning: General Session
- Afternoon: SSA Golf Scramble
- Evening: Opening Reception

Friday October 9, 2009:

- Morning: General Session
- Afternoon: Breakout Educational Sessions
- Evening: Reception and LaMouse 500

Saturday October 10, 2009:

- Morning: Roundtable Discussions
- Morning: One on One for Suppliers and Repair Shops
- Afternoon: Tour for Members and Guests
- Evening: Closing Reception
- Evening: Banquet and Awards

Sunday October 11, 2009:

- Departures

Note: This is a rough outline. A more detailed convention schedule will be released in the next edition of The Leaf.