



Northwest TIRE TALK

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR TIRE, WHEEL & AUTOMOTIVE SPECIALTY PROFESSIONALS
PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY NORTHWEST TIRE DEALERS ASSOCIATION FOR IT'S MEMBERS

DICK NORDNESS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - NORTHWEST TIRE DEALERS ASSOCIATION

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INTERNET SALES TAX BILL

A bipartisan group of US senators reintroduced legislation to apply sales taxes to all Internet purchases. This is a long time goal of many state and local governments, as well as traditional “bricks and mortar” retailers across the country, including tire dealers in Washington State.

The legislation would require online merchants to collect and remit sales taxes to the local authorities where the purchaser lives.

Similar legislation easily passed the Senate, 69-27, last Congress, but stalled in the House due to opposition from the Republican leadership. Passage in the Senate is less likely this time since Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., an opponent of the legislation, is now majority leader.

Proponents nevertheless believe they can still get it through the Senate. Co-sponsors of the legislation include Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill. Mike Enzi, R-Wy., Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D.

Ever since Internet commerce took off in the late 1990’s, traditional retailers have argued that online retailers have an unfair advantage because sales taxes are rarely applied to those purchases. They have allies among state and local government officials who rely on sales taxes for revenue. The National Retail Federation says that lost tax revenue now totals \$25 billion annually.

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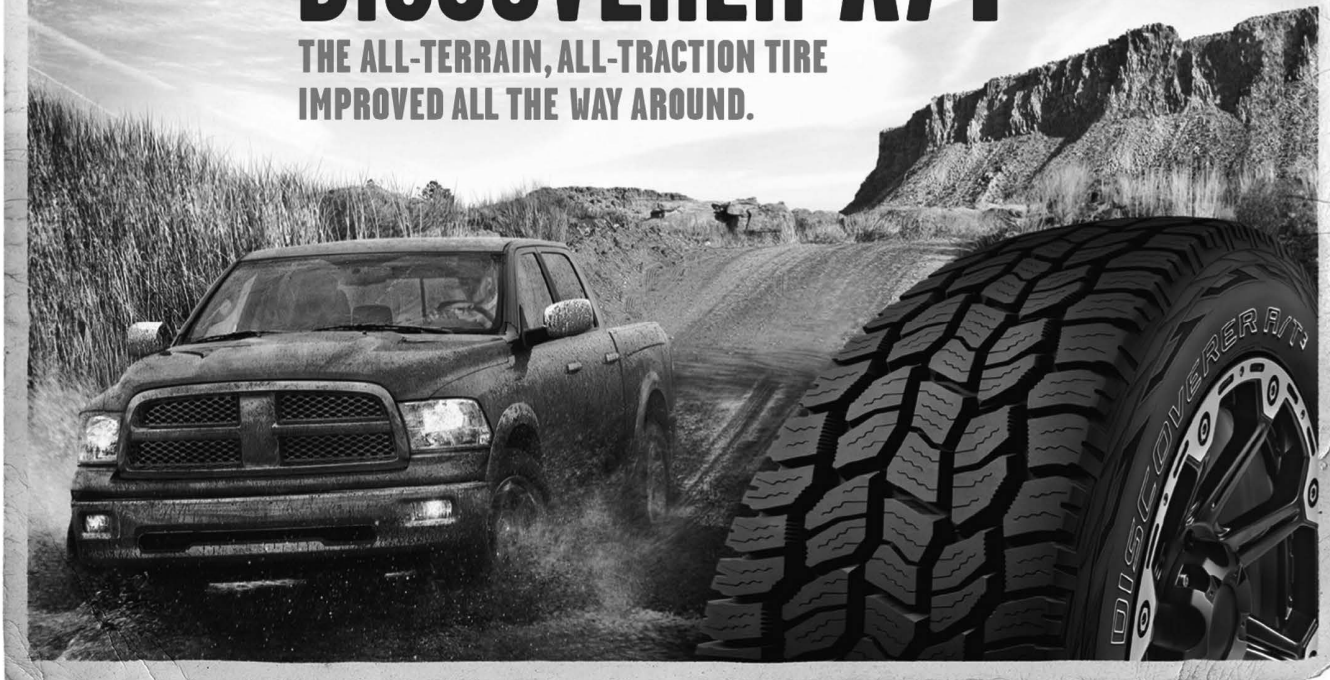
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Their efforts to collect those taxes have been stymied by a 1992 Supreme Court decision that said only Congress could require online levies because the sales were interstate commerce.

Critics charge that the coalition’s “level the playing field” rhetoric is less about fairness and more about raising taxes and stifling competition and that requiring online merchants to navigate the multiple tax rates in every locality would be an unfair burden. The critics note that while taxes are rarely applied to remote online sales, customers often pay shipping and handling costs, which usually erase any tax advantage.

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TIA HANDS-ON FARM TIRE TRAINING

The Tire Industry Association (TIA) has announced the dates for three hands-on Basic Farm Tire Service (FTS) training classes in 2016. The classes, sponsored by Stellar Industries, will be held in Garner, Iowa on June 14-16, July 12 – 14 and August 16 -18 and will run from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day.

Basic Farm Tire Service is a minimum skills training and certificate program that outlines and explains the guidelines for servicing farm, agriculture and construction tire and wheel assemblies. Participants will learn step-by-step procedures for demounting, mounting and inflating, single, dual and 3-piece assemblies in addition to service truck operation and liquid ballast installation/removal.

“The response to our hands-on FTS programs has been very good over the past two years and we are excited to be offering the classes again this summer,” said TIA Director of Training Christine Hoogenboom.

For more information on this training please contact Chris at 800-876-8372 ext. 106 or choogenboom@tireindustry.org.

ATS TRAINING TOUR DATES

The Tire Industry Association has announced dates for a number of its Certified Automotive Tire Service (ATS) Instructor Classes for 2016. They are as follows:

- Charlotte – March 1 – 4
- Denver – April 19 – 22
- Baltimore – June 21 – 24
- Denver – October 4 – 6 (women’s only class)

The Certified ATS Instructor Program is a 4-day in-depth classroom and hands-on class that industry professionals must successfully complete in order to return to the dealership to train technicians to prepare them for certification. TIA has used the train-the-trainer approach to train and /or certify more than 100,000 technicians since 1997.

Certified ATS includes safety guidelines and step-by-step procedures for all aspects of passenger and light truck service including wheel installation with the proper torque and tire repair. It also includes a full day of instruction on Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS), so technicians have a thorough understanding of the requirements for the most popular domestic and import vehicles.

For more information on this program contact Chris Hoogenboom at 800-876-8372 ext. 106.

CTS TRAINING COMES TO PORTLAND

The Northwest Tire Dealers Association recently held a Commercial Tire Service (CTS) Certified Training in Portland at the Tire Expo and has plans for a second class in the Portland area in March.

Companies that wish to take technician training to the highest level can participate in the Certified CTS Technician Program (300 Level). This program is designed for experienced employees with at least one year of hands-on experience. Each student who successfully passes the course receives a Certificate, 13 uniform patches, and a 2-year subscription to the bi-monthly publication, Commercial Tire Service Today.

For more information on our CTS training in Portland in March please contact the NWTDA office at 509-948-2433.

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PROUD TO BE A TIRE DEALER

Source: Tire Review

Some of you have been following the Tire Review articles entitled “Proud to be a Tire Dealer” and have seen some people you know, like Dave Snyder of Wasilla, Alaska.

Dave and his wife Judy have been to several of our NWTDA Tire Expo meetings and trade shows. This year they could not make it, but did send their employee Buck Gabel.

Tire Review tells us that “Dave was no stranger to the tire industry. By the time he was 21, he had already worked for three tire shops in upstate New York and later at a shop in California. At age 32, when he and his wife, Judy, were expecting their first child, they decided to take the leap of faith and open their own shop in Wasilla”.

The Tire Review story was very interesting to read, so pick up a copy of the January issue and read ‘ the rest of the story’.

STUDDED TIRE FEE STARTS IN JULY

Washington tire dealers should be aware that a studded tire tax of \$5 per tire goes into effect on July 1, 2016. This tax is on all new studded tires sold in the state. The Department of Revenue will provide information on reporting by May 1.

Oregon tire dealers are expecting to pick up some business this fall from Washington residence as they can save \$75 to \$100 dollars on a set of four studded snow tires when they take a short trip across the state line. The savings includes the cost of sales tax along with the new \$5 per tire tax.

Once again the state is making the tire retailer the tax collector and they may keep 10 percent of the fee for their labors.

The state, according to an article in the Spokesman-Review, is expecting to generate an estimated \$500,000 per year in new revenue. Officials are only guessing at the number of studded tires on the roads, however a report from Oregon estimates that only 4 percent of registered cars last winter were equipped with studded tires, compared to 16 percent in 1995.

SEARS EMPLOYEE KILLED BY EXPLODING TIRE

A Sears employee was killed and a customer was injured at a Sears Auto Center in Sandown, N.H., by an exploding tire, according to local media.

Salem N.H. Police say they believe the employee was leaning over the tire changer, which inflates the tire the same time it mounts the rim and seals it, and was struck in the head when the tire and rim moved up from the explosion.

According to media reports on the initial investigation, the employee was fixing a truck tire.

The employee was transported to Parkland Medical Center and pronounced dead shortly after the explosion, while the injured customer sustained a head injury and was sent to Lawrence General Hospital and airlifted to Boston Medical Center.

Following the accident, Sears issued a statement: “First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers are with the family of our associate, and we send our deepest condolences to them. We also send our thoughts and concerns to our customer who was injured in this tragic accident. We are working closely with local authorities as they investigate this matter”.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration officials and Salem Police are currently investigating the incident.



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2016 NWTDA TIRE EXPO



Six Robbles ready for the opening



Jason Pea at the Wheel World booth



Denny Brisbane visits the Wheel Mart booth



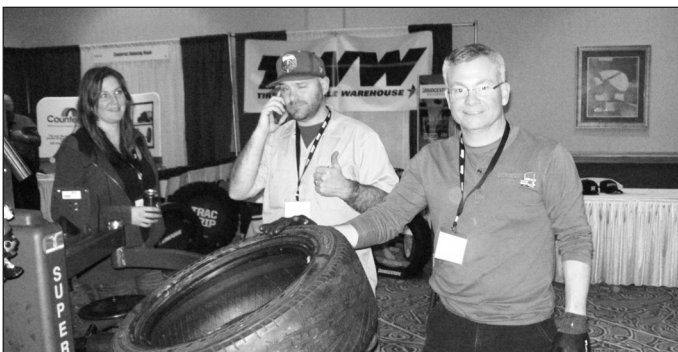
Sam Cooke at the Federated booth



Rick Mustion at the Northwest booth



Scott Reeves at the Snap-on booth

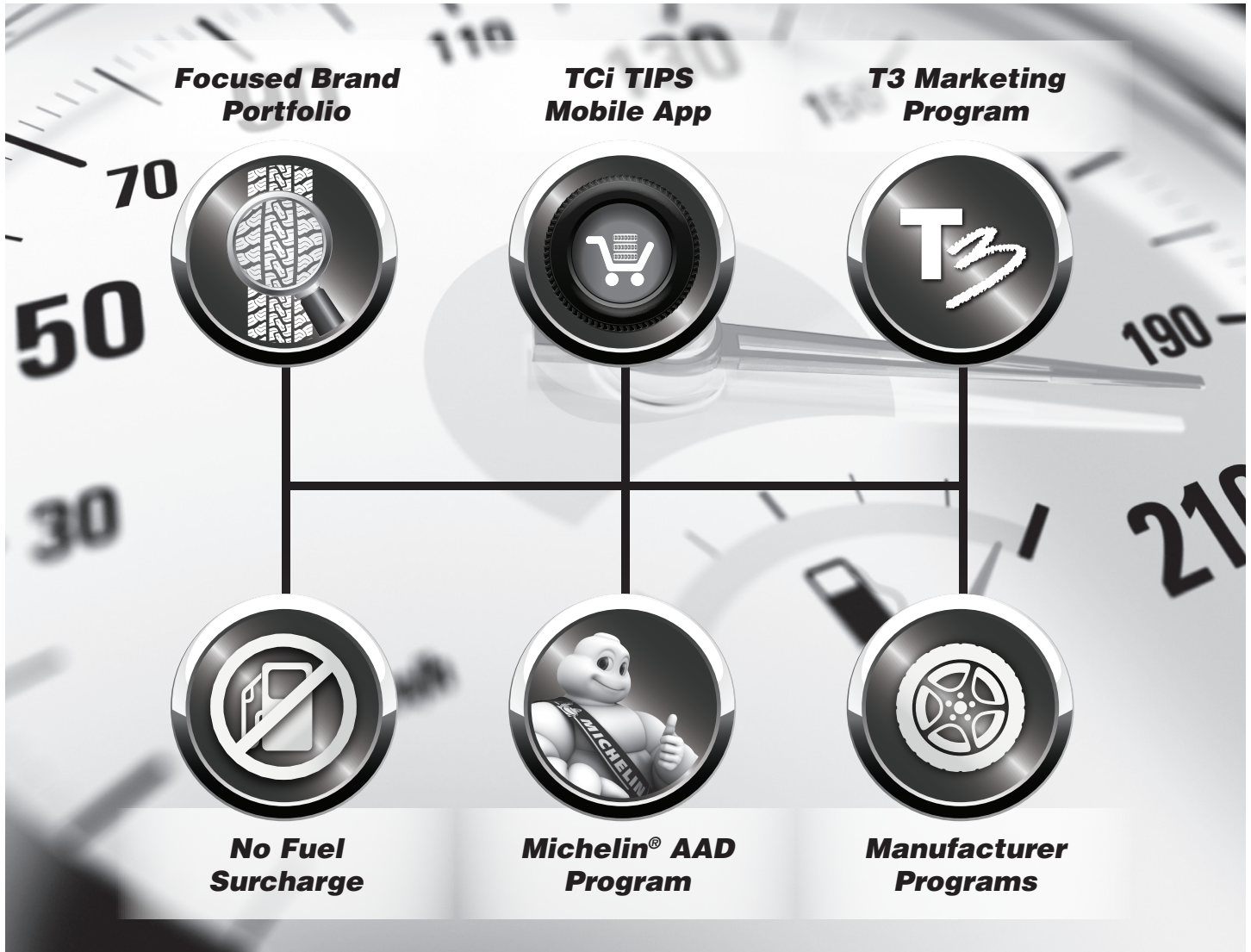


David Newton at the Evergreen booth



Thad Dolyniuk and Carter Sandahl at the ATD booth

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OTR training & service truck operations



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Hands-on OTR training



Michelin Tire Essentials class



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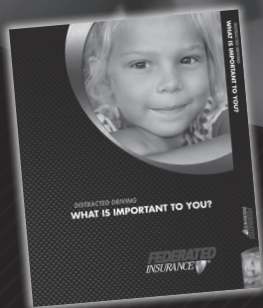
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