



# ***The Wrench***

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**Publication of the Illinois Fire Apparatus Mechanics Association**

May, 2002

## **The 2002 Seminar was a great Success!**

Excellent! All seminar attendees were kept busy from morning to evening. Not one class had poor reviews. Classes that will return next year will be the ones with great reviews. Such as Class 1 multiplexing, Wabco Air Brakes. Detroit, Allison, and International will be back to keep us updated.

A special thanks to the aerial instructors that brought their apparatus for hands on classes. We also thank Waterous for making a special trip with their training trailer and Jeff Swanson for putting it all together. Having the apparatus and Waterous trailer made our first ever open house evening a huge success.

Talking with the new attendees, we found that they were unaware of our annual training seminar. So IFAMA is going to do an aggressive advertising campaign next year to increase individual and corporate membership. Unlike many state apparatus technician organizations that are funded by the fire service (such as the Fire Marshal Office), our organization is funded entirely by membership dues, training fees, and sponsors. Your paid membership is very important to us. IFAMA thanks everybody for their support.

Plans for the coming year: Training throughout the year in the Chicago land area, and quarterly business meetings.

The Seminar next year: Mark it on your calendar now! Budget it now! March 16<sup>th</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003. The cost will be the same as last year. \$355.00 for 5 days of classes. This fee also includes membership dues. The hotel cost is still being negotiated at the time of this printing, but should remain about the same. Since the open house was such a success, the education committee is tossing around the idea of making Tuesday night a vender night with food and soft drinks served. Let us know what you think and please supply us with a list of your vendors that would be interested. It would make a great evening.

## **IFAMA Quarterly business meeting**

The quarterly meeting will be held on June 19th at 7pm at Naperville Station 3. The station is at Diehl road and Washington Road.

## **IFAMA 2003 Seminar/Workshops Tentative Classes**

- Aerial Ladder Service Testing
- Class 1 Hands-on Advance Electrical-Multiplexing
- Waterous Hands-on Service and Repair
- Basic Electrical
- Advanced Electrical
- Ambulance Electrical
- Ambulance Design and Specification
- Safety Lane Inspection
- Allison Transmission PM & Troubleshooting
- Ambulance and Fire Apparatus Air Conditioning
- Diesel Cooling Systems
- Elkhart Swing out valves

- Federal Signal Lighting and Siren (NFPA 1901 Standards review)
- ON-Broad Foam systems (Retrofit)
- Basic Diesel PM and Repair
- DDEC Theory and Hands-on Troubleshooting
- Ford Power Stroke Engine
- Diesel Injector Service and Repair
- Computer Classes for EVT's – Basic –Advanced – Databases
- Engine Test Equipment
- EVT F2 Apparatus and Design and PM Test Preparation & Tutoring
- EVT Testing Sunday and Friday

## Upcoming Training

All IFAMA members are invited to the monthly Midwest Parts & Service Association Meeting on May 7, 2002 at Ramada Inn, 300 Frontage Rd. Burr Ridge, IL. The sponsor is Freeway Ford-Sterling and the subject is **Chicago Rawhide Seals**. There will be door prizes, give-aways and dinner. The cost is \$15.00 and starts at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30.

**IFAMA has reserved a table at the Emissions Forum on June 4, 2002.** The Illinois Trucking Association and Midwest Parts & Service Association is hosting this informative meeting. They will review the EPA standards that are taking effect on October 1, 2002. Speakers will include experts from Cummins, Chevron Texaco, Panway, ExxonMobil Corp, Mack Trucks, International, and Caterpillar. Doors open at 5 pm, Meeting starts at 5:45 promptly at the Ramada Inn in Burr Ridge. Cost is \$25 per person. Dinner will be served. There are only 10 spots for us, first come, first served. Make reservations with Terry at (630) 567-9215.

Midway Truck Parts, one of our sponsors, is offering IFAMA members to attend their **Heavy-Duty Truck Cab A/C Clinic**. Cost is \$20. per person and includes dinner. The dinner/class starts at 5:30. The one night class will be held at four different locations and dates as follows:

- May 13, 2002 Midway Truck Parts, 101 W. ISSERT Dr. Kankakee, IL
- May 14, 2002 Midway Truck Parts, 19622 97<sup>th</sup> Av. Mokena, IL
- May 15, 2002 Ripples Restaurant, 8025 S. Cass Av. Darien, IL
- May 16, 2002 Midway Best Western, 1600 Oakton Street, Elk Grove Village, IL

For registration, contact your Midway dealer, or fax a request to Terry at (630) 810-9597 with the location that you would like to attend and your fax number.

## Goodyear re-calls Ambulance tires

Goodyear has determined that some of the LT245/75R16 Load Range E tires used on ambulances have experienced tread separations. Free replacement of eligible tires extends through September 30, 2002.

This re-call is for ambulance tires only.

If you have the tires with the size and load range listed below, and the brand name listed on the chart below, check the side wall if it reads "TREAD 4 PLIES (2 POLYESTER CORD + 2 STEEL CORD)," Then your tires should be replaced.

The Goodyear question hot-line number is 1-866-797-8993.

The following is a table of tire brands effected by the recall:

Goodyear Wrangler Goodyear Workhorse Goodyear tracker Kelly Safari Big O Arahoe Big O Big Foot Big O sun Valley Country Square Embassy Radial Hoosier Radial	Ironman Land Rover Landair Landquest Pamelli Jones Path Trac Pathinder Pathmax Pos-I-Traction Radial trac Power King	Range Runner Roadeo Boots Rough Rider Sentry Super Sport Trail Boss Trail Climber Trail Cutter Trail Finder Trail Handler	Trail Rebel Trail Trac Trailboss Turbo-Tech Ultra Tech USA Sport Wild Country Wild Sprit Wild Track Winston Winner
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## **Will that 5-year coolant last 5 years? Will “fill for life” last a lifetime?**

There have been reports that the extended coolant/anti-freeze is not going the distance. A check of coolant condition on emergency equipment is a must at every PM. Coolant mix (50-50), nitrite (SCA's) levels, and acidity must be checked. Test strips are available from your manufacturer. The coolant should be tested for its acidic or alkaline content, either of which is corrosive to the system. A litmus paper test can be used to detect either condition. If the coolant becomes acidic, it tends to develop an electrical charge. The coolant system will act like a battery. This can be destructive to all nonferrous metals, such as aluminum parts, head gaskets, radiators, and the all mighty water-pump.

The Automotive Engine Rebuilders Association offers a good way to test for acidity with the use of a Digital Voltmeter. Connect the voltmeter between the ground battery terminal and the coolant at the radiator cap, so that you can read the residual voltage that the coolant is creating. If the voltage is more than .10 volt, the coolant system must be serviced. Sometimes several flushings are necessary to drop the voltage. Remember: When in doubt, throw it out.

If the condition returns, check for combustion gases entering the coolant system.

Extended Life (NOAT) coolants are not recommended for refill on Diesel Engines by many manufacturers. Problems have been documented that affect silicone seals, aluminum radiator failures, plugging of radiators and other cooling system problems. For example, Penray has “suspended its development of competitive NOAT technologies in light of this very serious situation”.

**Note:** *Extended-life, carboxylic acid inhibited coolant such as “Peak® Extended Life” antifreeze/coolant is factory installed in some light-duty vehicles. These coolants are dyed orange. NEVER MIX orange coolants with other types. Engine damage may result. Consult and follow the recommendations of the coolant manufacturer.*

## **Federal Signal SW model switch control box**

FS has sold this control box for years and many an EVT has changed burned up switches. The small red switches are only rated at 10 amps even though 20 amp fuses have been installed. Federal Signal has just issued a bulletin to change all fuses to 10 amps on all units.

I suggest you test all loads with an amp-meter before changing fuses. Any loads less than 8 amps would be okay, install the 10-amp fuse. Any larger loads may be rewired through Switch #1 that has a 40-amp relay. For other loads that are over 8 amps, I would rewire the circuit with a relay, so that you turn the high amp switch into a low amp switch. For information on how to wire the relays send a request by fax to Terry Eckert (630) 810-9597.

## **Troubleshooting Intermittent Flashing Strobe Tubes**

Brian at Fleet Safety is sharing this information he received from Sho-Me™.

Strobe power supplies are designed with a special feature that shuts down the circuit when arcing or a short occurs. These power supplies produce up to 450 volts DC. At this voltage even a small amount of moisture can cause arcing or a short – resulting in intermittent flashing.

To determine if a strobe tube or cable is causing a problem, unplug each cable, one at a time. (Remember to wait 5 minutes after shutting off the power supply) If one strobe tube or cable is the source of the problem, all others should flash correctly when the defective one is unplugged.

Follow these steps to check for moisture:

1. Turn off the power supply. Wait for at least 5 minutes for capacitors to discharge.
2. Unplug each connector, both at the power supply and at the strobe tube. Look for moisture or corrosion. (Any green film is evidence of moisture)
3. If any evidence of moisture is present, dry and clean thoroughly. Before re-connecting, you may want to use some dielectric grease on the connectors.
4. Re-connect all cables and strobe tubes.
5. Turn power supply on and check.

\*\*If Moisture is a constant problem, use of waterproof connectors is recommended.

## IFAMA SPONSORS

Thanks to Mike Mustard for aggressively pursuing various vendors to be our sponsors. The following list represents the vendors that have paid a sponsorship fee to our organization. Thanks Mike, your efforts have paid off! Let's all think about these vendors next time we are looking for one. Let's support them like they are supporting us.

<p><b>C. E. Niehoff &amp; Co.</b></p> <p>2021 Lee Street Evanston, IL 60202 Contact: Dennis Litchenstine Phone: 847-4921242</p>	<p><b>Certified Fleet Services, Inc.</b></p> <p>560 N. Michigan Street Elmhurst, IL 60126 Contact: Steve Wilde Phone: 630-279-8083</p>	<p><b>Downers Grove Auto Parts</b></p> <p>901 Ogden Avenue Downers Grove, IL 60515 Contact: George Willer Phone: 630-969-0969</p>
<p><b>Fleet Safety Service</b></p> <p>P. O. Box 649 Naperville, IL 60566 Contact: Brian S. Ucilla Phone: 630-527-1341</p>	<p><b>Global Fire Equipment Inc.</b></p> <p>401 Peoria Street Washington, IL 61571 Contact: Jack Petrone Phone: 800-322-8402</p>	<p><b>Inland Detroit Diesel-Allison</b></p> <p>210 Alexandra Way Carol Stream, IL 60188 Contact: Sal Mangialomini Phone: 630-871-1111</p>
<p><b>Kane Co. Flea Market</b></p> <p>P. O. Box 549 St. Charles, IL 60174 Contact: Pat Robinson Phone: 630-377-2252</p>	<p><b>Lawson Products</b></p> <p>2350 W. Pinehurst Boulevard Addison, IL 60101-6112 Contact: Joe Nauman Phone: 630-553-6432</p>	<p><b>Mid-America Truck and Equipment Co.</b></p> <p>625 South Route 83 Elmhurst, IL 60126 Contact: Phone: 630-834-7300</p>
<p><b>Midway Truck Parts</b></p> <p>7400 West 87th Street Bridgeview, IL 60455 Contact: Roger Egglund Phone: 847-741-1101</p>	<p><b>Midwest Aerial Inspection</b></p> <p>2350 University Green Bay, WI 54302 Contact: Donald Paschen Phone: 414-469-7144</p>	<p><b>Spring Align of Joliet</b></p> <p>809 South Larkin Rockdale, IL 60436 Contact: Paul Offerman Phone: 815-729-0359</p>
<p><b>P &amp; G Keene</b></p> <p>1202 E. Washington Ave. East Peoria, IL 61611 Contact: Jim Patterson Phone: 309-694-3800</p>	<p><b>P &amp; G Keene</b></p> <p>8432 South Beloit Bridgeview, IL 60455 Contact: Sam Castiglione Phone: 708-430-5770</p>	<p><b>P &amp; G Keene</b></p> <p>110 Foster Avenue Bensenville, IL 60106 Contact: Jim Wright Phone: 630-787-2434</p>
<p><b>Spring Align of Palatine</b></p> <p>2312 Rand Road Palatine, IL 60074 Contact: Phone: 847-934-1525</p>	<p><b>SCBAS Inc.</b></p> <p>403 Peoria St. Washington, IL 60571 Contact: Ken Means Phone: 800-747-7442</p>	<p><b>Van Nay LLC</b></p> <p>P. O. Box 17 South Elgin, IL 60177 Contact: Darrel "Duke" Van Eck Phone: 847-931-7899</p>
<p><b>City of Aurora</b></p> <p>720 N. Broadway Aurora, IL Contact: Joe Hopp Phone: 630-801-5230</p>	<p><b>W. W. Darley</b></p> <p>2000 Anson Drive Melrose Park, IL 60160 Contact: Bill Darley Phone: 800-323-0244</p>	<p><b>Air Cleaning Specialists, Inc.</b></p> <p>Contact: Joe Viola Phone: 773-637-0730 Ext. 13</p>
<p><b>Wholesale Direct Inc.</b></p> <p>2759 Washington Blvd. Bellwood, IL 60104 Contact: Mike Greenberg Phone: 708-493-2000</p>	<p><b>Freeway Ford-Sterling Truck Sales</b></p> <p>8445 45th St. Lyons, IL 60534 Contact: Larry Polas Phone: 708-504-1456</p>	<p><b>Drummond America</b></p> <p>600 Corporate Woods Vernon Hills, IL 60061 Contact: Stan Fontara Phone: 847-913-9313</p>

## Membership

Membership is valid from March 1, 2002 – February 28, 2003. If you have did not attend the March 2002 Seminar or have not paid your dues yet, please fill out the attached form and remit with your check for \$40 to IFAMA. Your membership fee will allow you to keep receiving this newsletter. Thank you for your support.

## Our Website is up and running!

Our website is up and running. Next years seminar tentative classes are already on it. Some of the pages are still under construction, but Teri should have them ready soon. Check it out and let us know what you think. You can also let us know what else you would like to see on the site.

[www.IFAMA.net](http://www.IFAMA.net)

## 2002-2003 Board Members

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For Corporate Sponsorship information, make your request by Fax: (630) 377-4986  
e-mail [mmustard@ci.st-charles.il.us](mailto:mmustard@ci.st-charles.il.us)

or contact:  
Mike Mustard  
(630) 377-4413

### Contact Us:

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Fax (630) 810-9597  
e-mail: [IFAMA@aol.com](mailto:IFAMA@aol.com)  
Web page <http://www.ifama.net/>

**EVT Testing**  
**National Testing Date**  
**June 1, 2002**

Registration deadline May 11, 2002  
Call (847) 426-4075  
[www.evtcc.org](http://www.evtcc.org)



**ILLINOIS FIRE APPARATUS  
MECHANICS ASSOCIATION  
2002 Membership Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company or Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief or Supervisor Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dept. Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dept. City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daytime Phone:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax #** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**E Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

All confirmation and some mailings will be sent by fax or e-mail.  
This membership is effective from March '02 until March '03.

**Annual Membership Dues**      **\$40.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check**      **or**      **PO #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Remit to IFAMA, c/o Terry Eckert, 6001 Ross Dr. Woodridge, IL. 60517**  
(Make checks payable to IFAMA)