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# FLEET FORUM

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
SOUTHEAST SUNBELT REGION

Welcome to the latest edition of the Southeast Sunbelt Region's Fleet Forum. It is designed to provide information on upcoming events and items of interest to GSA Fleet customers.



GSA Federal Supply Services

May 17, 2004

Dear GSA Fleet Customers,

The Federal fleet event of the year is fast approaching, and it's something you don't want to miss. FedFleet 2004 will be held in New York City July 20-22, and will benefit anyone involved with Government vehicles. If your vehicle support comes from GSA Fleet, you will learn about new programs we have that should help you better manage your vehicle fleet and meet your AFV mandates.

FedFleet 2004 will feature three full days of workshops, general sessions and a vendor exposition specifically developed for Federal Fleet Managers. The GSA Office of Vehicle Acquisition and Leasing Services, which includes GSA Fleet and GSA Automotive, will host eleven workshops. In addition, FedFleet will host another 37 workshops. The workshops will cover such topics as basic and advanced fleet manager training, new technologies, safety, professional development, and an array of alternative fuel topics. There are also special sessions for the vehicle manufacturers to discuss their products and instruction on FAST/Fleet Reports.

We have coordinated this event with your national level agency Fleet Manager to provide you with the best possible value for your travel and training dollars. We're bringing together the nation's leading vehicle makers, service providers, and Federal and State fleet managers under one roof. The agenda has been specifically developed to provide the best training possible, plus allow ample time for you to interact with your peers at the national and local levels to share best practices, coordinate vehicle issues, and to discuss solutions to common problems.

Visit the FedFleet 2004 Internet website at [www.fedfleet.org](http://www.fedfleet.org) for a closer look at the agenda and registration details. I look forward to seeing you at this exciting, yet educational, gathering!

Sincerely,

*William F. Webster*

William F. Webster  
Director, GSA Fleet

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On April 1, 1963, eleven Federal agencies agreed to consolidate their 278 Government vehicles into a motor pool system under the General Services Administration. Today, South Carolina/Georgia Coast Fleet Management Center (FMC), serves 277 Federal agencies and manages a fleet of 5,110 vehicles. Their fleet has grown due to the many consolidations acquired over the years, to include the Charleston AFB, SC, Fort Jackson, SC, Fort Gordon, GA. and the Savannah River Site DOE in Aiken, SC. The FMC's ten associates collectively possess 241 years of transportation experience. They are friendly, responsive and knowledgeable and ready to help you with all of your fleet needs. Over the last forty-one years there have been many changes in the way Fleet Management does business, but our goal has always remained the same: to give our customers the best service and value at the least cost to the taxpayers.

**Ron Brooks**  
Fleet Manager  
26 Years of Transportation Experience

**JoAnn Abell**  
Senior FSR  
25 Years of Transportation Experience

**Joseph Marsh**  
Management Support Specialist  
21 Years of Transportation Experience

**Richard Baker**  
FSR  
35 Years of Transportation Experience

**Shon Mitchell**  
Intern  
1 Year of Transportation Experience

**Chuck Adams**  
Senior FSR  
43 yrs

**Ronald Carper**  
FSR  
35 yrs

**Beverly Brown**  
FSR  
6 Years Fleet Service Representative

**Merton Keith**  
FSR  
32 Years Fleet Service Representative

**David Myrick**  
FSR  
16 Years Fleet Service Representative



**Charleston FMC**  
Ron Brooks, Richard Baker, JoAnn Abell, Joseph Marsh, Shon Mitchell



**Ft. Jackson Fleet Office**  
Ronald Carper, Beverly Brown, Chuck Adams



**Savannah River Site Fleet Office**  
David Myrick, Merton Keith

## Great News on Dial-a-Mile!



**C**ustomers with the alpha-numeric tags can now use Dial-a-Mile. Simply dial the toll-free number 1-877-472-3773 and follow the prompts to key in your mileage.

The same format in which you enter the alpha character in your access code is being used to enter the alpha-numeric character for your tags. If you have problems or questions contact your Fleet Service Representative (FSR) and they will be happy to assist you!

## Changes to the North Carolina Fleet Service Representatives

**I**n an effort to streamline operations and provide better service to you, the North Carolina FMC has made several changes in the locations of their Fleet Service Representatives.

Here's how to reach them:

**Fort Bragg FMC**  
 Henry Scott  
 910-436-4764

Carolyn Newman  
 910-436-7089

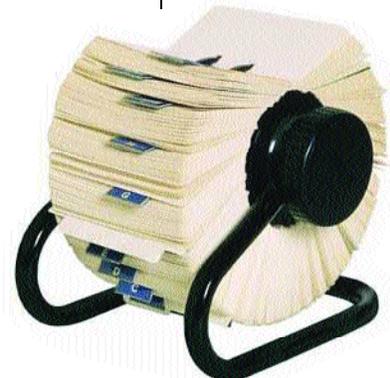
Richard Bonfanti  
 910-436-7087

David Kringel  
 910-436-9625

**Camp Lejeune Fleet Office**  
 Donnie Collins  
 910-451-2698

Chuck Wood  
 910-451-3720

**Charlotte Fleet Office**  
 Michael Williams  
 704-344-6101



**P**lease share this newsletter with your co-workers.

# Upcoming Vehicle Auctions

**D**on't miss your chance to attend a Region 4 GSA Fleet vehicle auction! Our seven auction facilities and upcoming auction dates are listed to the right. This is your opportunity to purchase GSA Fleet vehicles that are sold by public auction. The auction offers a great mixture of sedans, light/heavy trucks, vans and specialty vehicles ready to purchase!

Please visit the GSA Fleet website for more detailed information:  
<http://autoauctions.gsa.gov>

**Atlanta Auto Auction:**  
 Atlanta, GA  
 July 21, Aug 18, Sep 15,  
 Oct 20

**Aycock Auto Auction:**  
 Kenly, NC  
 July 1, Aug 5, Sep 2, Oct 7

**Chattanooga Auto Auction:**  
 Chattanooga, TN  
 July 13, Aug 10, Sep 14,  
 Oct 12

**Gulf States Auto Auction:**  
 Pensacola, FL  
 July 6, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5

**Orlando Auto Auction:**  
 Orlando, FL  
 July 17, Aug 14, Sep 18,  
 Oct 16

**Rawls Auto Auction:**  
 Leesville, SC  
 July 27, Aug 17, Sep 21,  
 Oct 19

**Rea Brothers Mid-South Auction:**  
 Jackson, MS  
 July 1, Aug 5, Sep 2, Oct 7

## Alternative Fueled Vehicles Involved in Accidents

**Reminder:** All GSA Fleet vehicles that operate with compressed natural gas (CNG) must have the CNG system inspected after accident repairs are complete to ensure the integrity of the CNG system.



**T**ires on SUV's and other light trucks are three times more likely to blow out than those on other passenger vehicles, prompting the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to issue more stringent tire performance requirements. The new standards, which will apply to nearly all new

tires for use on vehicles weighing up to 10,000 pounds, include additional requirements for high speed, endurance and low pressure performance.

**It is estimated that 5 to 11 percent of tires on the road today do not meet these standards. Once the standards are met they**

**expect to see a noticeable reduction on both deaths and injuries related to tire failure. Scheduled to take effect June 1, 2007, the new standards represent the first major changes in tire performance requirements in more than 30 years.**

**New AMC Technicians**



**Janine Cormier** comes to GSA Fleet as a recent graduate

of Clayton College & State University where she earned her Bachelor's of Business Administration with concentrations in Management and Logistics. Janine has over 10 years experience in the transportation industry as a dispatcher and, most recently, as an import agent. Janine joined Fleet in February 2004 at the AMC in Ft. Gillem, GA. She is handling accidents in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, PA, and Buffalo, NY.



**Brian Lafleur** comes to GSA Fleet as a recent graduate

of Macon State College where he earned his Associate degree in Information Technology. Brian retired from the Air Force in 2004 after a 20 year career as a Transportation Specialist. He has experience working in vehicle accidents, maintenance repairs, and fleet management operations. He is handling accidents in New Jersey and Waltham, MA.

**MCC CORNER**

**G**SA Fleet vehicles have scheduled preventive maintenance in accordance with the manufactures recommendations. This preventive maintenance includes scheduled oil changes, checking tires, brakes, and other safety items. When requested by GSA Fleet, please have your vehicle's preventive maintenance performed as soon as possible to avoid mechanical failures and ensure warranty coverage.

All GSA Fleet vehicles carry a factory warranty. The basic warranty on sedans, light trucks, and minivans is 3 years or 36 thousand miles. When in doubt about the warranty on your

particular vehicle, contact the Maintenance Control Center at 888-622-6344.

With fuel prices increasing, it is important to be aware of some basic fuel efficiency tips. Check the air pressure in your tires. Information concerning proper air pressure can be found on the side of each tire. Fuel your vehicle in the mornings or late evenings to avoid fuel expansion. Plan your trips to include multiple errands in one trip. Every person can make a difference, whether it is performing scheduled preventive maintenance, being aware of vehicle warranties, or striving for fuel efficiency.

**AMC CORNER**

**T**he Accident Management Center receives numerous calls from insurance companies and agency contacts concerning accidents between privately owned vehicles and government owned vehicles. Below is the scoop on this from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). 41 CFR Ch. 101-39.405

**Claims against the Government**

(a) Whenever a fleet management system vehicle is involved in an accident resulting in damage to the property of, or injury to, a third party, and the third party asserts a claim against the Government based on the alleged negligence of the vehicle operator (acting within the scope of his

or her duties), it shall be the responsibility of the agency employing the person who was operating the fleet management system vehicle at the time of the accident to make every effort to settle the claim administratively to the extent that the agency is empowered to do so under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. 2672. It shall be the further responsibility of the agency, in the event that administrative settlement cannot be effected, to prepare completely, from an administrative standpoint, the Government's defense of the claim and thereafter to transmit the complete case, through appropriate agency channels, to the Department of Justice.

# Helpful Driving Tips

**Gasoline prices are at record highs. Here are tips to help you save at the pump.**

**Drive gently.**

Reduce your breaking and quick acceleration. Cars use the least amount of gas when they maintain a reasonable speed. Use cruise control whenever possible. Also, driving at slower speeds saves gas, which is all the more reason to do so.

**Lighten up.**

Remove all extra weight from your car that you do not absolutely need. While carrying around the golf clubs in the back might be a source of discussion on "need", cars carrying extra weight use more gas.



**Minimize air conditioning use.**

When possible, close the windows and use the vents to bring in outside air.

**Combine errands into one trip.**

It sounds like a no-brainer, but think of the miles (and gas!) you could save by stopping by the store on the way home from work instead of heading back out.

**Car pool.**

If you and a co-worker trade off on who drives which day or week, you can both save gas and money.

**Drive Sensibly.**

Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gas. It can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town. Sensible driving is also safer for you and others, so you may save more than gas money.

## Car Trivia

**1. Who were America's first gasoline-powered commercial car manufacturers?**

- A. Charles & Frank Duryea
- B. Rene Panhard & Emile Levassor
- C. Gottlieb Daimler & Wilhelm Maybach
- D. Henry Ford & Company

**2. Which was the first U.S. state to pass a law requiring all cars to have license plates?**

- A. New Jersey
- B. Massachusetts
- C. New York
- D. Pennsylvania

**3. Who did NOT have a car related innovation named after them?**

- A. Rudolf
- B. Henry Ford
- C. Karl Benz
- D. Robert Anderson

**4. What did Charles Kettering invent?**

- A. Brakes
- B. Electrical Ignition
- C. Air Bags
- D. Seat Belts

**5. Who made buying a car affordable?**

- A. Henry Ford
- B. John Lambert
- C. Rudolf Diesel
- D. Karl Benz

**6. What was the first automobile to be mass produced in America?**

- A. Ford
- B. Oldsmobile
- C. Cadillac
- D. Dodge

Answers: 1. A 2. C 3. D 4. B 5. A 6. B

# Women Inventors in the Automotive Industry

## New Fleet Associate

**Michael Johns** assumed the duties of Acquisition and Remarketing Team Leader in the Atlanta GSA Fleet Regional Office in April 2004. Michael comes to GSA after two years as a Security Manager with the Transportation Security Administration in Oregon. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2002 after a 23 year career in Transportation and Military Intelligence.



**P**rior to the manufacture of Henry Ford's Model A, Mary Anderson was granted her first patent for a window cleaning device in November of 1903. Her invention could clean snow, rain, or sleet from a windshield by using a handle inside the car. Her goal was to improve driver vision during stormy weather — Mary Anderson invented the windshield wiper.

she invented a swinging arm device with a rubber blade that was operated by the driver from within the vehicle via a lever. The windshield wipers became standard equipment on all American cars by 1916.

The automobile gave women ample opportunity for invention. In 1923, of the 345 inventions listed under "Transportation" in the Women's Bureau Bulletin No.28, about half were related to automobiles and another 25 concerned traffic signals and turn indicators. Among these inventions — a carburetor, a clutch mechanism, an electric engine starter, and a starting mechanism.

During a trip to New York City, Mary Anderson noticed that streetcar drivers had to open the windows of their cars when it rained in order to see, as a solution

During the 1930s, Helen Blair Bartlett developed new insulations for spark plugs. A geologist by training, her knowledge of petrology and mineralogy was critical in the development of innovative uses of alumina ceramics.

Another woman inventor named Charlotte Bridgwood invented the first automatic windshield wiper. Charlotte Bridgwood, president of the Bridgwood Manufacturing Company of New York, patented her electric roller-based windshield wiper called the "Storm Windshield Cleaner" in 1917. However, her product was not a commercial success.

# The History of Window Stickers

**D**id you ever wonder why new vehicles have window stickers? Many people think they are meant to show your neighbors that you bought a new car, or to annoy you with the glue residue on the window, but this is not the case.

In March of 1958, Senator Michael Monroney, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Automobile Marketing Practices, proposed a bill that would take the mystery out of new car prices. This bill required every automobile manufacturer to attach a label to the window of each new vehicle, which would show the manufacturer's suggested retail price, transport methods, freight charges, and accessory prices. This would be the first time in twenty years that a consumer could walk into an automobile dealership and find an itemized, accurate price tag on a new vehicle.



Prior to the proposal, there was often a large discrepancy between the showroom price and the actual price of the new vehicle. The fact was that existing price tags did not tell the full story. Most customer-quoted prices were for "stripped-down" models and did not include additions for preparation charges, freight charges, federal, state, and local taxes, or optional factory-installed equipment requested by the purchaser.

On July 7, 1958, Monroney's bill became law. Beginning on September 1, 1958, every automobile manufacturer was required to securely affix a label to the window of the vehicle, disclosing information concerning the vehicle and its price. Any manufacturer who failed to comply, could be levied a fine of not more than \$1000 and/or imprisonment of not more than one year.

Once enacted, the law increased both dealer morale and auto sales. Customers grew more confident in their ability to make an informed decision and get the best deal possible. This law was instrumental in brightening industry-wide automobile sales during that time, by increasing consumer confidence.

## DRIVING FACTS

### Air Bags

An airbag moves up to 4500 mph within a second when triggered. The bag inflates within 40 milliseconds of a crash (.4 seconds).

### Red Light Running

Red-light running is a large problem associated with road rage. Drivers are going into intersections several seconds after the light changes to red, causing an estimated 260,000 crashes and 750 fatalities every year. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, fatal crashes at traffic signals have increased by 19% since 1992. And during that same time period, red-light-running crashes increased 15%. These increased crashes have far outpaced the 6% increase of all other fatal crashes during the same time period.

### Speeding

Speeding is not wise for safety reasons, but this is especially so for short trips. When making the comparison between going 70 mph instead of 60, you save 43 seconds on a 5-mile trip, 86 seconds on a 10-mile trip, and 2 minutes and 9 seconds on a 15 mile trip.