

Midway Truck Times

at Turf Paradise

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Travel Tips

The American Automobile Association recommends taking a few minutes before heading out to complete a "mental walk-through" of your upcoming trip.

AAA offers the following tips for a hassle-free travel experience:

- Check your vehicle's fluid levels and make sure the tires, including the spare, are in good condition and properly inflated.
- Have your route well-planned in advance. Keep a map handy.
- Carry emergency items in your car including a flashlight with fresh batteries, blankets, jumper cables and a flare or reflective triangle.
- If driving to a cold-weather destination, travel with an abrasive material such as sand or non-clumping cat litter, an ice scraper and a small shovel.
- Consider traveling with a cellular phone for emergencies.
- Stop every few hours to "re-energize" -- especially if you're traveling with children.
- If you become sleepy while driving, find a safe place to park for a short nap. Caffeine-containing beverages may improve alertness, but only for a short time.



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The Fence

There was a little boy with a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him to hammer a nail in the back fence every time he lost control.

The first day the boy drove 37 nails into the fence. Then it gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive the nails into the fence.



Finally, the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. His father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father led his son to the fence.

"You have done well, but look at the holes in the fence," he said. "When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like the nail holes. You can put a knife in a person and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say 'I'm sorry,' the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one."

Author Unknown.

"The sky's the limit when your heart is in it."



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Failures To Success

- Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper for lacking ideas. He also went bankrupt several times before he built Disneyland.
- When his older brother was killed during WWII, he first withdrew into a shell. Then he began to listen to the radio to ease his pain. Soon he was dreaming about hosting his own radio show. That led Dick Clark to start American Bandstand.
- After Fred Astaire's first screen test, a 1933 memo from the MFM testing director said, "Can't act. Slightly bald. Can dance a little." Astaire kept that memo over the fireplace in his Beverly Hills home.

Reduce Back and Neck Strain

If you ever get a sore back and/or neck while working on the computer, try these helpful tips.

1. Position the monitor at a comfortable level, recommended at a height where the top of the monitor is even with your forehead.
2. Sit in a comfortable, relaxed, and good posture position to help reduce strain.
3. Finally, take breaks often. Get up, walk around, get a drink, and stretch.

Web Site of the Month

Consumer Product Safety Commission: Recalls & Press Releases

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports on product recalls and other safety-related issues.

A full archive of those reports are available here, providing you the ability to look up a recall on products you have or heard were involved in a recall.

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The Dozen Most Wanted

Remember how annoying that black mark was on the living room wall? Or the squealing door hinge? Eventually it goes unnoticed. Too often we adjust to car problems that need attention, too. According to Vehicle Maintenance Council, 4 out of 5 vehicles need maintenance, such as the items listed below.

Is yours one of them?

1. **WORN BRAKE PARTS.** Postponing needed brake service, in addition to being a safety hazard, can escalate the cost of a braking system overhaul.
2. **TIRED WINDSHIELD WIPER BLADES.** Don't wait for a rainy day to replace worn blades.
3. **BURNED OUT LIGHTS.** Can you see and be seen? Check all your lights regularly to be sure.
4. **CLOGGED FILTERS.** Scheduled replacement of air, oil, gas, fuel, transmission and other filters extend car life and improve performance.
5. **WORN SPARK PLUGS.** Worn plugs waste gas and increase exhaust emissions. They also cause the engine to run poorly.
6. **CORRODED BATTERY CABLES.** Corroded cables and a weak battery cause starting trouble. Have battery and charging system checked if the engine turns over slowly.
7. **GLAZED BELTS, ROTTEN HOSES.** A slipping belt can affect engine cooling, alternator, power steering, and air conditioner. Replace worn belts before they let you down. Brittle or rotten cooling system hoses can lead to overheating. Others, such as vacuum and power steering hoses, hinder performance and safety.
8. **NEGLECTED COOLING SYSTEM.** Periodic servicing of the cooling system helps prevent deterioration of radiator and/or heater core.
9. **LEAKING SHOCK ABSORBERS.** Worn shocks or struts affect ride control and shorten tire life.
10. **DAMAGED CV JOINT BOOTS.** These rubber boots protect the critical CV joints that deliver power to your wheels. They should be inspected regularly and replaced as needed.
11. **LEAKING MUFFLER.** Have your car put on a lift occasionally to check the muffler and other parts of the exhaust system.
12. **TIRED TIRES.** Worn tires are dangerous. Proper inflation, alignment and balance will extend tire life.



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- ♦ Inspect engine vacuum hoses
- ♦ Inspect belts, hoses, fuel lines/tank and exhaust system
- ♦ Rotate and balance tires
- ♦ Inspect EGR system
- ♦ Analyze engine emissions
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