

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

YOU CAN'T BUFF AND WAX YOUR WAY TO BETTER MILEAGE

Dear Tom and Ray:

Can you help settle a bet with my dad? He has an SUV, and he frequently goes and gets it buffed and waxed. It runs about \$100 each time. I asked him why he does that. He said because it gives him "better gas mileage." I mean, come on! He says "it is a proven fact." I don't believe him. So my question is: Does it improve your mileage, and is it a proven fact? Thank you for your time. — Ken

RAY: Ken, I think your old man is confusing "a proven fact" with "something he saw on the Internet."

TOM: Or in our column!

RAY: Right. Real "proven facts" have something called "citations" attached to them. A citation tells you which legitimate, scientific paper claims to have proven the fact.

TOM: So if you ask your dad for the citation on his proven fact, I suspect it'll ultimately be traceable to the American Car Wash and Car Wax Association.

RAY: There's no doubt that aerodynamics play a huge role in mileage. But unless your dad is parking his SUV under a tree that's home to, say, pterodactyls that leave large, three-dimensional droppings on his hood, I don't see how washing the vehicle could make any meaningful difference in his mileage.

TOM: While air generally does flow better over a smooth surface, if you look at aerodynamic photographs or videos, you'll see there's a thin layer of air that's "attached" to the vehicle's surface. It's called a boundary layer, and it doesn't really move when air moves around the car.

RAY: So, most small particles of dirt (except for the aforementioned pterodactyl droppings) would be inside that boundary layer and wouldn't change the car's aerodynamics (boundary layer citation: Ludwig Prandtl, Aug. 12, 1904, third International Congress of Mathematicians, Heidelberg, Germany).

TOM: Where'd you find that?

RAY: I saw it on the Internet.

TOM: Well, if it's any consolation, Ken, tell your father he's got the best-looking SUV on the block. And if that makes him happy, he should keep cleaning his car. But if he wants better mileage, he should make his next car something smaller than an SUV.

* * *

Changing your oil regularly is the cheapest insurance you can buy for your car, but how often should you change it? Find out by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website, www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on

kut 90.5
AUSTIN TEXAS

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continued

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consistent with the goals of the Commissioners Court. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all Federal, State, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION FILE NO. 2009-324,841-TV

In the matter of THE BENJAMIN DANIELS TRUST dated May 17, 2005 as amended TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:* Michael Alan Kahl whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE:* An Order Directing Proceeds into Oakland County Missing Legatee's Fund was entered by The Honorable Linda S. Hallmark on September 2, 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. Limited Supervision of the above trust has been granted for the purposes of hearing this matter.

2. Upon the pleadings and testimony taken, it appears that the Trustee of the Benjamin Daniels Trust dated May 17, 2005 has sought, but been unable to communicate with, a specific devisee, Michael Kahl (also known more fully as Michael Alan Kahl), of the above trust, who, it is alleged, refuses to communicate with the Trustee or with other family members of Benjamin Daniels.

2. That the Trustee of the Benjamin Daniels Trust dated May 17, 2005 shall mail a copy of this Order to Michael Kahl, at his last known address, by his regular mail and by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and a copy of this Order, by regular mail, to the other Specific Bequest beneficiaries of the above Trust.

3. That the Trustee of the Benjamin Daniels Trust dated May 17, 2005 shall forthwith have published a copy of this Order in a legal newspaper in Austin, Texas, the last known address of Michael Kahl.

4. That unless Michael Kahl shall contact the Trustee, or Trustee's attorney, by writing or other means allowing for verification of his identity, within 45 days of the date of this Order, then Trustee may distribute his portion of the specific devise contained in the Benjamin Daniels Trust dated May 17, 2005 to the Oakland County Missing Legatee's Fund, along with a copy of this Order, to be held under his name, and Trustee may then complete the administration of this Trust.

5. This Trust is released from continuing supervision upon the entry of this Order.

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motor music

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