

# George Witt Service

## Honda/Acura/Toyota/Lexus/Scion Specialists

Also servicing Subaru, Nissan, Mazda and Hyundai



# Newsletter



“For Special People Who Love Their Cars”

October 2014

Page 1

### It's a Report Card

The new telematics device we've been taking about is a report card. A report card is a scoring tool that students should be proud to work on and eager to share.

Accident data shows that the odds of an accident among teen drivers go up 100% for each additional passenger (that's right, at 5 passengers, it's a 500% greater risk). Measuring events of hard braking, hard acceleration and speeding are great ways to monitor the development of teen judgment.

This little device is similar to what insurance companies are marketing. Teens can suffer serious momentary lapses of judgment. Using this device as a coaching tool might be a good way to help them (or you) develop safe driving habits for life.

### Not Everything Has to Be Fixed

It's only normal to fear "the list" of issues found on your vehicle. The truth is, many of them are not fatal and some may be of no real concern at all. A leaking steering rack sounds expensive, but the issue is, how bad is it? If you can go between oil changes without adding fluid, it's not even considered a leak, despite how it may look. It doesn't need to be fixed now and maybe not ever.

We believe we should report what we see. We also consider it our obligation to prioritize it for you so you can determine what's best for your own personal transportation needs.

### Another Ramsey Story

Financial expert Dave Ramsey is famous for counseling people on wise money management and we agree. He says when you pay off your car, keep making payments into a savings account. You'll be able to pay cash for your next car and avoid borrowing money.

*“Using this device as a coaching tool might be a good way to help them (or you) develop safe driving habits for life”*

This is exactly what Dedee did. She's been our customer for 20 years and long ago bought a new 99 Accord. She came to see us recently for advice. She had \$25,000 saved up for a new car! Her 99 had 220,000 miles on it, looked and drove like new and had never let her down.

We helped her find a 3-year-old Accord for a great deal and she has a lot of money left over. We'll help you buy a car, we'll help you sell your car. Or, we'll help you keep the car that you love. We are a total transportation solution. Dedee's maint/repair costs were only 6¢/mile.

### Amazing Quality

We all make mistakes and none of us are perfect.

During the month of August, our technicians Sal and Katy had zero errors and no mistakes made. They are both very focused on doing it right the first time.

Part of this is from our scheduling. We let the techs determine the order in which they work on jobs and they alone decide when the job is finished. Pride in work is a wonder-

ful thing.

### Delta's Bike Wins

There was a very cool "Rustemberfest" hot rod show in Iowa recently and Delta's custom '67 Harley won a trophy.



Her Dad had this bike for years and gave it to her. She took it all apart and rebuilt the whole thing herself. Every little piece on it is very representative of her special persona. It's easy to see the painstaking love in the details.

She's been in the auto business for years and really understands vehicles and the special feelings a person might develop for their own vehicle. She's another example of people who care about customers. Call her soon and let her work for you and your own best interests.

402.434.6961

www.georgewitt.com

### Car Quiz

1. Y or N—A weak battery can disable your air bags.
2. Y or N—Cars designed to use premium fuel can run just fine on regular. The computer adjusts for it.
3. Y or N—After driving in stop and go traffic, it's a good idea to let your engine run a minute or so at idle to cool it down before turning it off.
4. Y or N—Slushy feel on acceleration, hard boom when shifting into reverse and very loud vibration at idle are all signs of impending transmission trouble.

### Answers to Quiz

1. Yep—It's not unusual when testing for an air bag malfunction light to find a computer code stored for "low battery voltage". Your car not only has a computer, it has a whole network of them. Like your office, your car can have computer problems, software problems and network problems, too.

A battery can crank the starter and still be weak enough to cause serious voltage surges in the system. This can cause premature wear on a lot of things. Don't let your nerves be one of them.

The auto industry wants to use testing as a means to determine when a battery should be replaced. Our statistical analysis shows battery replacement on a time basis is more effective at preventing premature failures.

Battery glitches can be serious and buying a battery isn't all that much money. This whole issue really comes down to your threshold of adventure. ☺

2. Nope—While the system does adjust for it, this was designed to get you home from Bassett, NE, when there is no premium for sale. The octane rating is based upon the compression ratio and the car needs what it needs.

While it will start and run on the wrong fuel, it's not a good idea to push the issue. Bad things can happen. Don't buy your mechanic a bigger boat on purpose.

Unless you just love them, then maybe buy cookies? ☺

3. Yep—Stop and go driving conditions can result in some hot spots from inefficient cooling. An oil company study found that engine temperatures can rise substantially right after shut-off. This can cook the oil left in some places in the cylinder head and reduce the life of the oil in the affected areas by half.

The study found that when vehicles were left to run from 1 to 3 minutes prior to shut-off, this prolonged the life of the oil. So, collect your things on arrival and turn the engine off last. We now offer a new "high heat" oil.

4. Nope—In the case of a car we fixed recently, it was just a worn out hydraulic motor mount. Reading the repair order incited dreams of a large repair bill. This had gone a long time, based on how it looked. The fix was easy and not a lot of money. So, don't be fearful of things that happen to your car. Get it in sooner and avoid damage that may result from putting it off.

### Back From the Dark Side?

A long lost customer returned recently with a sad story. She'd purchased a car that we don't service, had trouble with the whole experience and was now returning home (her words) to our shop, with a car we do service. She said she was afraid of what we might say. We're just here to give great service to every person who wants it and we don't pass judgment on any person for any reason. We fix cars and we help people with car issues.

C'mon back, everyone is welcome.

### Low Fuel Light?

How low can you go? Great question. It really depends on the car. I've had cars where the light didn't come on until there was just over a gallon left (technically, that's fumes) and another where there was nearly 4 gallons left, a car crying wolf, if you ask me.

First, look up the capacity of the gas tank in the owner's manual. Fill it up when it gets close and do the math, then you'll know how much gas was left.

For those who have trouble with math, put a gas can in the trunk and drive it until it quits. ☺

### Mickey's Magnificent Buffet

Cold weather means Mickey Mouse and his whole family are looking for warmer places to live. None better than a nice, toasty car, just arrived home.

Even more inviting is the free buffet of bird seed and/or pet food in the garage. Gnaw through the bag and it's all-you-can-eat. Added value for the blanket or insulation that can be chewed up and brought in for bedding.

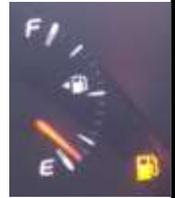
Every year, we fix a lot of rodent damage. Take the Yosemite Sam approach and get the food into metal containers and the bedding material up off the floor, where it can't be reached. If you're lucky, they'll go next door and leave you alone. If not, call us, we serve eviction notices.

### Fall Flush Time

For years, Fall meant flushing out the cooling system and putting in new anti-freeze. Those days are gone.

Today's Extra Long Life coolants from Honda and Toyota are specially designed to last 5 years or 60,000 miles and last 100K new from the factory. They put down a barrier of protection that even helps the radiator hoses go nearly forever.

Only a quart of "non-factory" brands added over time, during oil changes for example, can destroy its ability to work. If it's time to replace it, we've got it. It's all we've ever used. Protect your investment and keep using the good stuff.



## What's With the New Oils?

Yes, times have changed, oil standards and ratings have changed, so we're leading the way, again.

First, the term "synthetic", due to a court case ruling, has been rendered to be not highly significant any longer. There are different quality base stocks, then there are vastly different additive packages.

Here's the deal—"Good", conventional oil is the same 4 month/4,000 mile oil we've always had. It's OK in some cases and better than nearly anything else you'll get in conventional oil. It meets basic oil ratings. We dropped the price to give you competitive choices.

"Better" is a very high quality synthetic with normal additive packages. It won't last any longer, nor is it rated any better than our conventional oil. It's value is in resisting heat damage, and it's outstanding at that. If you load your car, drive hard or drive heavy, this is your motor oil. It won't break down under heat like conventional oil. This is our new offering.

"Best" is the same extremely high quality synthetic oil we've been using. It meets very tough European standards for extended drain intervals and resists heat better than anything.

This oil is ideal for twice a year service, preventing oil seal leakage, protecting piston rings and helping engines last without developing oil usage issues.

## Shocking News on Electric Cars

Cold temperatures reduce battery power. Also, since no heat is produced by running the car, consider how much power will be used to run the heater. This could cut the effective distance in half. So, the range of a car rated for 80 miles might only go 40. (Maybe you'll need an extra space heater to stay warm).

## Honda Charges Ahead

News from Honda is that they have made advancements in electrical capacitors to replace batteries in their hydrogen car. Batteries store electricity using chemical processes. The easiest way to explain a capacitor is that it stores power mechanically. The current runs into the device and is then trapped. Capacitors can be recharged very fast and last longer.

## Windy Dilemma

While the wind is free, electrical power from it isn't free. The wind is inconsistent and if it's too strong, the generators shut down. You can't store power from wind energy and that's the real problem.

Until now—very resourceful people are creating vast, man-made caverns that can hold pressurized air for use when the wind stops. So, excess power generated by the wind can be used to compress air in huge underground caverns, which stores the energy. The cavern's energy is tapped when needed and runs turbines for power when demanded. Very innovative.

## Interstate Battery Installed \$99 +tax

Interstate is a vendor for Honda and Toyota and is the #1 selling brand in North America. Not available for Prius, special offer ends 11/14/14.

## Oil Change Rebate! \$7 on "Good" and "Better" grades of motor oil.

**\$15 on "Best" grade of motor oil.** This is a mail-in rebate. We'll mail it for you. You'll get back a certificate good for either \$7 or \$15 off your next oil change here at our shop. *Manufacturer's rebate ends for sure 10/31/14. Great deal on oil!*

## 3% Cash Discount Coupon

We are delighted to encourage those who strive to stick to a budget and pay cash for things. Simply present this coupon for a 3% discount when you pay by cash (U.S. currency) or paper check. Offer ends 11/26/14. No cash with red dye on it out of a bank bag, please.

## "Good" Conventional Oil Change Service.

**\$34.50+ Tax**  
Parts & labor incl.

A premium conventional motor oil loaded with additional additives that meet the car maker's specifications for 5W20 and 5W30 oil. Not available for 0W20. The inspection list is the same, only the oil is different. Up to 5 quarts. Coupon expires 11/26/14. Regular price \$37.00 Call and make an appointment and we'll perform this service while you wait. Enjoy free WiFi and great magazines to read. However, there is a limit of 12 Twinkies per visit.

## "Better" Oil Change Service

**\$46.50+ Tax**  
Parts & labor incl.

**4-month, 4,000-mile oil change.** Ideal to use with oil monitor, get car checked 3 times a year. Same service as below, this is a high temperature synthetic oil. Ends 11/26/14. For best protection, change the oil when the monitor reads "20% oil life remaining". **No extra charge for 0W20 oil.** Regular \$49. Good only with coupon. We're very sorry that there is no "environmental fee or hazardous waste fee". I guess you only pay what we advertise. Feel free to write a note of complaint on the back of a 5-dollar bill.

## "The Best" Premium Synthetic Oil

**\$75.50+ Tax**  
Parts & labor incl.

**6-month, 8,000-mile oil change.** Includes oil filter and motor oil specially rated for long-life service. Includes a multi-point inspection by a Technician who knows your car. This oil protects your engine better than any other oil, regardless of drain interval. Up to 5 quarts, additional oil extra charge. Some trucks more. Regular price \$78.00. Ends 11/26/14. **Good only with Coupon** Go ahead, be rebellious and don't "present coupon at time of order". Just spring it on us after we've done the bill. We can take it. The world has enough rules already.

George Witt Service 402-434-6961

**\$20 Wittbucks for Repairs of \$100 or more. For more serious repairs, we'll give you \$50 for \$500 or more.**

Here's the deal. This is NOT good for maintenance items, like a timing belt (even if it broke), or anything on a maintenance schedule. Use this for brakes, suspension, blower motors and things that are generally broken. Not good on tires. Offer ends 11/14/14. Push it, pull it or drag it—we'll fix it. ☺ One of these per visit.



**A Battery's cry for help!**

This is a Lexus 84-month battery that's only 48 mos. old. The corrosion on the cables is eating up expensive parts and signaling the battery is on its last leg. The "months of guarantee" is set by the Marketing dept., not Engineering. Buy a 48-month battery, replace it at 36 months for best results. Clean cables reduce repairs.



7am-5pm Mon-Thurs & Fri 7am- 4pm

© George Witt Service, Inc. 2014 All Rights Reserved

**402-434-6961**

**Newsletter for Owners of Select Asian Cars**

George Witt Service, Inc. (Since 1995)  
"We help protect you and your transportation investment"  
3341 N. 35th St. (2 blocks north of Cornhusker)  
Lincoln NE 68504-1559

**Prsrt Std**  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 1359  
Lincoln NE



**What Could Possibly Go Wrong?**

We do things because we've always done them. Repeatedly clicking the gas pump to get that last little bit into the tank is one of these things. I mean, who can resist? Who among us has never dripped gas on the paint?

New evaporative emission systems can be seriously damaged by doing this. (Bad for you, good for us). Meant to handle vapor, liquid messes up the works. A quick click to make sure is OK, don't make it a mission.



**I don't care what they say**, E15 doesn't work in your car, unless it's a flex-fuel. The car makers say no, so it doesn't matter what the fuel vendors say. Use E10 and be happy.

E-Mail: [service@georgewitt.com](mailto:service@georgewitt.com)



**New Oil Change choices**

**Special manufacturer's rebates on oil changes of \$7 to \$15!**

**Battery Sale**

**Great car tips—How low can you go? Help setting priorities Driving for only 6¢ a mile on repairs and maintenance.**

Our Car Quiz and much more inside.