

# Your Auto Connection

## How to Drive in L.A.

Russ Powell, CAIA

- You must first learn to pronounce the city's name—it's L.A.
- The morning rush hour is from 5 a.m. to noon. The evening rush hour is from noon to 7 p.m. Friday's rush hour starts on Thursday morning.
- The minimum acceptable speed on most freeways is 85 mph. On the 105 or 110, your speed is expected to match the highway number. Anything less is "wussy."
- Cars/trucks with the loudest muffler go first at a four-way stop; the trucks with the biggest tires go second. Cell phone-talking moms ALWAYS have the right of way.
- Road construction is permanent and continuous in all of L.A. and Orange counties. Detour barrels are moved around for your entertainment pleasure during the middle of the night to make the next day's driving a bit more exciting.
- MapQuest does not work here—none of the roads are where they say they are or go where they say they do and all the freeway off and on ramps are moved each night.
- Do not try to estimate travel time—just leave Monday afternoon for Tuesday appointments, by noon Thursday for Friday, and right after church on Sunday for anything on Monday morning.
- Why is the L.A. freeway called the 405? Because no matter where you are going, it takes 4 or 5 hours to get there!

\*Source: CAIA, Oct. 2007

## Steven Heyl Appraisal

### Green Is Gaining In Popularity

The first full-size hybrid SUV on the market won the "Green Car of the Year" award at this year's Los Angeles Auto Show.

The 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid from General Motors Corp. beat out the Chevrolet Malibu, the Mazda Tribute, the Nissan Altima, and the Saturn Aura hybrids to take home the prize, sponsored by Green Car Journal, a California-based trade magazine.

The hybrid system used in the SUV was developed by GM jointly with BMW AG, Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz, and Chrysler.

AutoWeek's Mark Vaughn states that without looking at the dash display, it would be difficult to tell this hybrid SUV was a hybrid at all. The hybrid SUV can run on battery power for two miles at 32 mph, and can cruise on 4 cylinders at 80 mph.

The hybrid has two modes: the first allows the SUV to move on just electric power, just engine power, or a combination of both, while the second provides electric power to the V-8 engine. The second mode can also run on just 4 cylinders with a cylinder deactivation option.

Aerodynamic improvements also help to make the EPA city mileage increase by 40%. The Tahoe Hybrid gets 21 miles per gallon in the city, which



Photo: [www.hybridcars.co.uk](http://www.hybridcars.co.uk)

is the same as a Toyota Camry sedan, and 22 mpg on the highway.

The Green Car of the Year award comes at a time when GM has been facing criticism for getting rid of the all-electric EV1. But Bob Lutz, vice chairman and product chief at GM, believes that GM is showing progress in improving its fuel efficiency overall.

GM plans to introduce hybrid models of the Cadillac Escalade and the Silverado pickup as well. It is expected to go on sale in early 2008.

\*Source: AutoWeek, Sept. 3, 2007/ Reuters

### Insurance Agent Receives \$1.5 Million From Fraudulent Coverage

Gurjeet Singh (aka George Singh), of Los Angeles, was convicted of two counts of fraud and sentenced to serve one year and one day in federal prison.

Singh's company, Monika Insurance Services, in West Hollywood was contracted to provide liability coverage for about 100 Prime Time Shuttle fleet vans. Singh provided drivers with fraudulent insurance ID cards, under the pretense they were

from legitimate insurance companies, for over two years. He received more than \$1.5 million in premium payments from Prime Time Shuttle.

As a result, 11 victims suffered medial expenses and property damage resulted in at least \$163,000 in unpaid losses. Singh was also ordered to pay \$169,979,79 in restitution.

\*Source: California Department of Insurance, Sept. 24, 2007

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*"The Personal Touch"*

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*We are committed to helping our clients and to going above and beyond what is necessary to do so. We are committed to excellence in everything we do.*

*We must think creatively, continuously improve, and pursue new ideas to achieve uncommon breakthroughs.*

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**As we continue to provide our services to you over the holidays, some exciting transformations will be happening here at Steven Heyl Appraisal.**

**Keep an eye out for our next newsletter. That's when we'll tell you exactly what we're changing! (Hint: It's not our service, our product, or our methodology.)**

## Tell Us What You Think!

Here at Steven Heyl Appraisal, we are trying to come up with innovative ways to keep in touch with you, our customers. You've just spent a few minutes perusing our newest technique, and hopefully you've enjoyed what you've seen.

It's our goal to not only assist you with valuations, but to keep you informed on issues and trends within the automobile industry.

We also want to have some fun! That's why in every issue, you'll see some type of joke (see the first page), or just something to chew on throughout your day (check out the column on the right). Who said work can't include a little play?

So let us know what you think! If you want to see more or different types of stories in our newsletter, let us know.

Email us, call us, fax us - whatever way to contact us is easiest for you, do it! We want our newsletter to be a tool that assists you and your business, but we can only do that with your input.

## Just for Fun

Here's a little flashback to 1967...

*A national study requested by the Automobile Manufacturers Association predicted that automatic highways would be in use by 1975. According to the study, "prototype systems already exist that would permit automated steering and spacing control of automobiles on freeway type roads...Such systems may be in used by 1975, will permit cars to travel bumper-to-bumper at speeds up to 150 mph."*

Obviously this study wasn't accurate in its timeframe. But what do you think? Is it possible that one day our cars will be completely driver-less and our freeways will be automated?

\*Source: AutoWeek, Oct. 1, 2007



Automated highways by 1975?