

Spring
2006



Swedish Engineering

*exclusive VOLVO
parts and service*

Volume 16, number 2

NEWS

Bob Thompson, remembered

Robert "Bob" Thompson, our friend and colleague, passed away early on the morning of Tuesday the 7th of February at the age of 78. Bob spent the past eleven years as the trusty ride provider for Swedish Engineering, ferrying customers from our shop to their homes.

Master Technician Mark Newbound recalls, "Bob was great with the customers. He would remember every detail of every conversation he had. He was just the friendliest guy." Many customers fondly remember Bob from the countless rides he provided while we repaired their automobiles. He will be missed greatly.



Bob is survived by his wife Callie, his four sons, one daughter, one stepson, thirteen grandchildren, five step grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren.

Thank you all for the calls and letters of support. We are glad to hear from those whose lives were brightened by Bob, it is in these moments and memories that he will live on. There are plans in the works to display a memory board at Swedish Engineering. Feel free to drop by and submit a photo or an anecdote so that others may see how we remembered Bob.

From Joe's Desk

Goodbye Bob, you will always be in our memories.

This spring we are offering many new services for our customers. First and foremost is our free Pick-up and Delivery service!

We also are offering a Fix Your Own Car Club on Saturdays and Sundays where you can rent a stall to work on your vehicle.

Our online parts shopping cart is finished, so be sure to visit our website.

-Joe Meza

Free Pickup and Delivery for your car

If you live or work anywhere within a seven mile radius of Swedish Engineering. We will pickup your car or deliver it to your home or place of business free of charge. We will also bring you a loaner car to use while your car is getting repaired.*
*Only available for those with a \$100 minimum service bill. Loaner cars subject to availability.



In This Issue

- *Swedish Engineering joins the Clean Cities Coalition!
- *Technicians Corner
Know your A/C
- *Staff Profile
Chris Stebbins

Technician profile

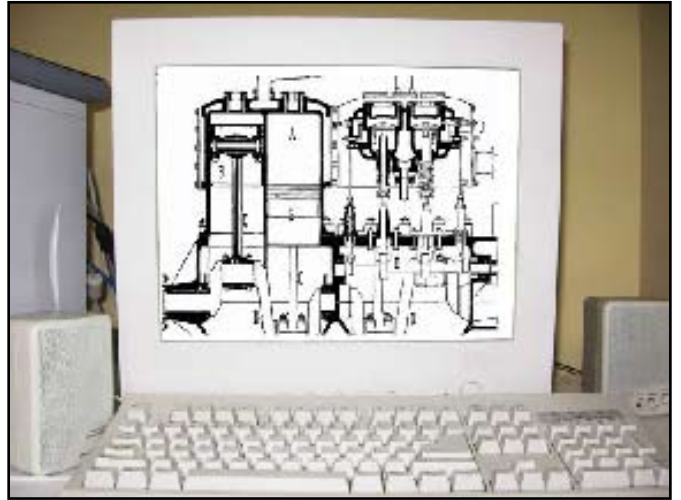
Last issue we announced a new series of staff profiles to come in upcoming newsletters. We want to let you know who is under the hood of your car when you bring it in to Swedish Engineering. We continue this series with Chris Stebbins.

Chris is one of the newest technicians working in our shop. We welcomed Chris onto our staff in August of 2005. He is an ASE certified technician with a specialty in Lexus and Toyota. Chris graduated from Jackson Community College where he received certifications for the repair of Toyota and hybrid



vehicles. He has been working on Toyotas since 1999, honing his expertise at various dealerships and repair facilities before joining our team our Asian Import Repair division.

Chris is a certified Master Motorcycle Technician and loves to ride his bike. He also loves to go boating, snowboarding, hunting, fishing, and many other recreational outdoor activities.



Come Visit Our New
Online Parts Department!

We now have a shopping cart with our entire parts stock available for purchase with just the click of a button!

www.swedishengineering.com

Swedish Engineering Joins Ann Arbor Clean Cities Coalition

Swedish Engineering took another step forward for the environment this month by becoming the newest member of the Ann Arbor Clean Cities Coalition. Clean Cities is one of 80 chapters across the United States that focus on building public and private partnerships to promote alternative fuel vehicles, fuel blends, fuel economy, hybrid vehicles, and idle reduction.

Swedish Engineering has always been devoted to reducing the impact of our cars on the environment, joining Clean Cities is just one more way we can connect with our community to ensure that our business continues to keep in mind the ecological needs of our planet.

Swedish Engineering already supported sustain-

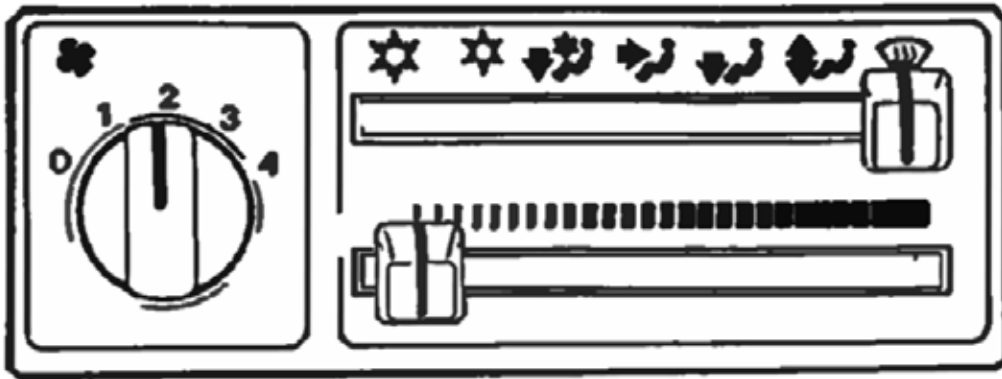
ability in several ways prior to joining Ann Arbor Clean Cities. We recycle all of our used oil in high efficiency waste oil furnaces which we heat our shop with! We also recycle all of our antifreeze, scrap metal, and paper. We are one of the first (if not the first) independent automotive facility in Ann Arbor to have specially trained technicians for hybrid maintenance and repair. We also hope to begin a Washtenaw County Hybrid Owners Association, contact us for details.

As you can see, we have overcome some of the obstacles to making auto repair environmentally sustainable. We still have a long way to go, but meeting with other local nonprofits and governmental organizations at Ann Arbor Clean Cities will help us reach these goals.

Technician's Corner with Tom O'Connor

It has been a warm winter and if the weather trends continue there is one system you will want working in your car come June: air conditioning. I thought it would be appropriate to explain where all that wonderful cool air comes from. Although the air conditioner is made up of many components there are really four primary pieces, the compressor, the evaporator, the condenser and the refrigerant. Both the condenser and the evaporator are a series of tubes wound back and forth with fins on them.

The process begins when the compressor driven by the engine pumps the refrigerant under very high pressure into the tubes of the condenser mounted just behind the car's grill where it is cooled to a liquid and radiates out heat. Then it moves to the evaporator located below and behind the dashboard. As the refrigerant enters the evaporator it instantly expands, changing from a high-pressure liquid to a low-pressure gas. Like magic, you've got that wonderful cold air. The refrigerant then carries the heat absorbed from the interior of the car back to the



compressor and then begins the cycle again. Although my explanation was very basic, air conditioners are complex high stress systems, usually repaired and maintained by licensed professionals.

The most common failure in air conditioners is loss of refrigerant through leaks. Some loss is normal over an extended period of time and results in a gradual decline in performance. Cars that need to be recharged every spring have a significant leak that needs to be attended to. Most, if not all, Volvo 850s and the early S/V 70s have a significant leak originating from the evaporator. In the past we have topped these leakers up every spring. By now many are leaking so badly that they are completely empty by the end of the winter. We cannot fill some of these systems anymore, those using R-12 refrigerant. R-12 has been discontinued for use in A/C systems since 1995 for

environmental reasons, though a few air conditioners out there still use it. R-12 is a greenhouse gas and also leads to the depletion of the ozone layer. Most auto A/C systems now use

the refrigerant R-134a which also is a known greenhouse gas though not destructive to the ozone layer. So we are also unable to refill R-134a into leaky systems. Doing so may increase global warming and would compromise our licensing as certified A/C technicians. So keep that A/C system healthy for everyone's sake.

Mention this article for \$10 off your next A/C purchase.

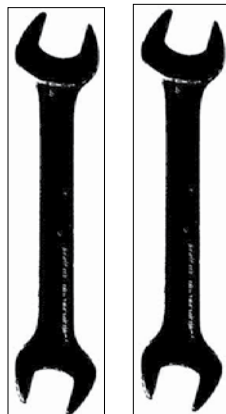
Fix Your Own Car Club

Club Membership allows you access to:

- an indoor, climate controlled stall
- a hoist
- pressurized air
- ALLDATA diagnostic computer system

Rates:

Annual Membership Fee: \$50
Hourly bay rental: \$15



please provide your own tools

Perfect for hobbyists, auto students, shadetree mechanics, do-it-yourselfers, and any other self motivated and curious automobilers.

669 State Circle

734-660-2533

Hours:

Saturday 8 am - 5 pm

Sunday 8 am - 5 pm

15% OFF

Monthly Service Specials

April

Exhaust

May

Air
Conditioning

June

Heating &
Ventilation

**Swedish
Engineering**
*exclusive volvo
parts and service*

669 State Circle
Ann Arbor, MI, 48108

**Swedish
Engineering**
*exclusive volvo
parts and service*

734-761-1081
www.swedishengineering.com

Ann Arbor Tire



734-213-0478
www.asianimportrepair.com

**Asian
Import
Repair**
a breath of fresh AIR

734-213-1159
www.annarbortire.com

Monday-Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

669 State Circle
Ann Arbor, MI, 48108