

Mary Jean,

Just thought I drop you a e-mail congratulating you & your team on a great article in *Mustang Times*, "Magic Skyway." To a Jersey boy who attended the NY World's Fair several times, this article brought back great memories. I can remember standing on the tramway watching the approaching cars, hoping the timing was right to board a Mustang. Well, the answer was never! But the ride was exciting just riding in a convertible.

I now own a red & white 66 convertible. I am a number-one fan of first generation Mustangs. So, keep the nostalgic articles coming.

Thanks again for the Great Article.
Mike Santasieri

Mike,

We were all excited when the article on the Skyway Mustangs arrived at our office. The article was well written, entertaining, and I'm sure it brought back memories for many of us.

-mj

Mary Jean,

After reading your "Why Use Nitrogen" sidebar article in the October issue, I felt compelled to write. I have been a Mustang owner since 1976. I have also spent quite a lot of time on motorcycles. It is with them that I learned about meticulous maintenance and pre-ride inspections. That said, I have tried using pure Nitrogen in the past. I have never been able to document a measurable improvement from it. I think the statements made in your article are misleading.

Nitrogen molecules are very similar in "size" to Oxygen molecules. However, Oxygen molecules will permeate butyl

rubber (the lining in most tires) faster than Nitrogen. The rate of loss is nowhere near six times as stated in the article.

If the Oxygen (21 percent of the "air") were to leak out to the point the tire needed air added you would be putting in a mix of replacement air that is 78% Nitrogen. After just a few of these refills you would be at or close to the purity levels you mention in the article. You would have a tire filled with Nitrogen and would have spent NO money on it.

The only way Nitrogen can be connected to improved handling and fuel efficiency is due to proper inflation. Checking tire pressure should be done regularly no matter what you fill your tires with. It is an excellent way to catch a slow leak before finding it on the road!

I have mounted and dismantled my own tires for many years. I have never seen the inside of a tire show any wear/ degrading from air being used in them. Claims of extended tire life just don't add up. Unless you go back to the fact that properly inflated tires last longer. No matter what is used to pressurize them.

I think of lot of the theories about Nitrogen in vehicle tires started out in the Aircraft industry and automobile racing. Race car crews at the top levels of racing use Nitrogen in their tires for a couple main reasons. One is that in the extreme heat a race tire deals with Nitrogen has a slightly lower expansion rate for the same heat gain. That means the tire pressures do not rise as much at peak heat input. Easier to keep the car consistant. The other reason is that they already have an important use of Nitrogen-to power the air tools used in tire changes. They can lug around a bottle of compressed Nitrogen that may have a few thousand pounds of pressure in it.

No compressors to lug around and it is also a ready source to fill/adjust tire pressure. The aircraft industry uses Nitrogen for safety reasons. Under braking during landing the internal tire temperature can raise to a level that can and has started a fire in the tire. This has caused crashes. With pure Nitrogen the tire cannot burn from the inside. Also, some aircraft tires have very high inflation levels. Higher than some "air" compressors operate at. Since maintenance crews already have the high pressure Nitrogen on their trucks (for accumulator service) it is a perfect source to air tires with.

I am including a link to an article I think you will find informative on the subject.

http://mywebpages.comcast.net/pres-tondrake/N2_for_tires_FAQ.htm

I want to thank you for your hard work promoting the Mustang hobby and the MCA. When I lived in WV I started the West Virginia Mustang/ Ford Performance club and was a MCA club! That was in the 80's and I put a lot of work into it. When we moved the club did not last long. So I know what it takes on a personal level to keep the ball rolling.

Please do not take this e-mail as anything but a bit of info trying to show my side of the Nitrogen debate. Absolutely nothing personal.

Thank you,
Terry Hinkle

We would like to hear what's on your mind.

Send your letters via e-mail to:

editor@mustangtimes.org

or via USPS to:

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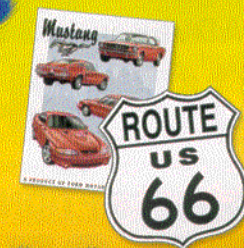
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