

Birchwood GM's PALAY PRESS

Volume 2

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May 2005



OnStar to become standard equipment on all GM vehicles.

OnStar, currently available on more than 50 GM models, is recognized as the automotive industry benchmark for safety, security and information services and has been credited with helping to save scores of lives. OnStar features include alerting emergency services when air bags deploy, assisting authorities in locating stolen vehicles and remotely unlocking doors when keys are left inside.

A Real Story

Martin and Terry Mallard once considered OnStar a "nice luxury" for directions and reservations on their 1,875-mile trips between Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and the southwestern United States. In March 2003, that all changed.

The Mallards were headed for home after spending the night in Medicine Hat, Alberta. "Five minutes down the road, I started having major chest pains and shortage of breath," Martin explains. Fortunately, Terry was driving and she pushed the OnStar emergency button. "We have a cell phone, but we did not know where we were," Martin says. But OnStar did. "With hardly a hitch, the Advisor said, 'Turn the car around and follow my instructions.'" The Advisor also alerted the hospital's emergency room and stayed on the line with the Mallards until they arrived.

The next morning, Martin was airlifted to Calgary for heart surgery, and they headed home a week later. Now recovered, he's grateful. "There was no damage done to my heart because of the rapid treatment I received."

For more info, real life stories, or a demonstration of Onstar go to;

www.onstar.com/canada or call Michael

Palay at 837-5811.

In PURSUIT of the Car of the Year!



We at Birchwood were not surprised that Motoring 2005 awarded the Pursuit Car of the Year over Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla, and others in its class.

The following are excerpts from a recent Canadian Driver Magazine review.

"With all due respect to Pontiac, when I first sat in the driver's seat of the new Pursuit SE with leather, my first thought was "Wow! This can't be a Pontiac!" The interior is decidedly upscale, and yet not overly complicated or busy like some luxury cars.

The driving experience is the most surprising aspect of the new Pursuit. For an economy car, the Pursuit offers a surprisingly refined power train. Its 2.2 litre all aluminum four cylinder engine is relatively vibration-free - smooth at idle, and almost rotary-engine-like under acceleration. The 'Ecotec' engine features counter-rotating balance shafts, twin overhead cams, four valves per cylinder and coil-on-plug ignition.

The body feels very tight, even over sudden bumps and potholes - and that contributes to the quiet cabin and feeling of quality that the car provides. I would venture to guess the Pursuit is one of the quietest cars in its class.

Verdict

A big step up when compared to the Sunfire, the new Pontiac Pursuit is an attractive, well-built small car that compares well to its major competitors. "

Call Michael Palay at 837.5811 to test drive the Pursuit!



Lease rates are as low as \$ 209.00 per month!

Fuel Saving Tips

A little advance planning, a less-aggressive driving style and a well-maintained car can help you get the most out of every litre of fuel.

No matter where you live and what you drive, you can maximize every litre of fuel. Here's how:

Regular Servicing Is Important

Keep your vehicle well maintained with regular servicing to keep it operating at peak efficiency. An inefficient engine—with fouled spark plugs, for example—won't make optimum use of fuel. Be sure the air filter and the fuel filter are clean. Put in new ones if they're not. A new oxygen sensor alone can improve gas mileage by as much as 15 percent, according to AutoZone, a car parts store.

Don't forget little things like the air in your tires. Having tires inflated to the maximum recommended pressure can improve gas mileage by as much as 6 percent, while periodic wheel alignments can help improve fuel economy up to 10 percent, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Clean out that trunk, cargo area or pickup bed. Take out unneeded items that only add weight to your vehicle. Extra weight decreases gas mileage. According to AutoZone, every 200 pounds of unnecessary weight shaves one mile per gallon off your fuel mileage.

Be a Different Driver

Change your driving style. Accelerate gradually, drive smoothly and with care and you could see as much as a 20 percent gain in fuel economy compared with what you'd get with an aggressive driving style, the EPA says. Skip those jackrabbit starts and sudden pedal-to-the-metal maneuvers if you want to save gas. Anticipate stops so you avoid sudden braking, and take a long view of the road ahead, coasting safely to an intersection in front of you where you see traffic stopped.

Don't speed. A car or truck moving at 90 km's an hour can get about 15 percent better fuel economy than the same car going 105 kph. Use your vehicle's navigation system, if you have one, in your travels to new locales. This can save you from getting lost and wasting gas.

Drive Smart

Don't be idle too long. Don't waste fuel by sitting in that drive-thru lane at McDonald's or Tim Horton's. Park and go inside instead. Don't let your vehicle idle as you wait outside the elementary school to pick up your children. Idling uses more fuel than turning the engine off, waiting for your youngsters and then restarting the engine.

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When you're in slow city traffic, keep the air conditioner off, if possible. Roll down the windows and open the air vents to keep you and your riders comfortable. That air conditioner is a burden that uses fuel, and if you're tooling around town, you can see a "very slight" improvement in gas mileage by keeping it turned off, a Mercedes-Benz spokesman said.

Plan Ahead

Combine your errands into one trip, rather than taking multiple trips from home. Organize your stops so they're near each other and so you don't retrace your path. You may even be able to park in one central spot and walk between some of your stops rather than driving and parking at each one. For large gatherings like family reunions and church picnics, organize a carpool.

Plan your trips so you go out during less-congested times of day. When there's less traffic, you're more apt to be able to drive smoothly. Use navigation aids on the Internet or in your vehicle to keep from getting lost—and thus wasting fuel—when you're headed to a new, unknown location.

Weather Effects

Note that road and weather conditions have a role, too, in the fuel economy of your vehicle. Driving into a 20-mph headwind can reduce fuel economy by as much as 6 percent. Driving up a mountain road with a 7 percent grade can cut fuel economy by as much as 25 percent. Driving on gravel and in slush and snow requires a bit more fuel, too.

Please call me at 837-5811 to discuss any vehicle needs.

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"Now you have a friend in the car business"

