

LTS Conference 2005 “Shed Some Light on This”

-”This was amazing! I enjoyed dealing with the LTS group. Thanks for your hospitality. High caliber trainers. Very professional educational center. Next year won’t come soon enough!”

-”Great conference and networking as always. Super facility and vendors. Great door prizes and giveaways. Greatest instructors on earth!”

-”Thank you for putting on such a fantastic event. I look forward to attending future events.”

These are just a few comments from the attendees at this year’s LTS Conference. What a great weekend! The training center was awesome, the vendors were top-notch, the weather was absolutely beautiful and to top it off, we had some of the best instructors in the country. After taking a year off, we were under the gun to make sure that this year’s conference was better than ever. After hearing all of the comments from the attendees and vendors, we have decided to once again make the LTS Conference an **annual event**.

The weekend actually started on Thursday evening with a cookout and open house at the LTS shop. Over 100 people attended and had a chance to look around the shop and visit with old friends. Friday morning was registration and sign-in and the conference officially kicked-off at 12:30 with an introduction by Jim Linder. During the introduction, he talked about the past conferences, the growth of the LTS fuel injection business and the new FSR sales rep. program (see the Jan. 2005 newsletter). Then he recognized past conference speakers and introduced the LTS staff. He made special recognition of Peggy, our office manager, who is in her 10th year with LTS! It was at this point that he failed to recognize 2 of our employees who have also been with us for 10 years! Sorry guys!

Randy Dillman and Mike McFarland have also been with LTS for ten years plus as well. Sorry guys, it was just overlooked in the moment! Randy has been one of our instructors and class developers for over 10 years, traveling with Jim and helping LTS each and every step of the way. Mike McFarland also started out doing some classes and became our internet webmaster and has helped with our development as well. Again, thanks guys for the effort! LTS wouldn’t be what it is today without you. We are looking forward to another ten years!

LTS Conference 2005

“Shed Some Light on This” (Cont. from front page)

After introductions were finished, Jim introduced the first speaker: Scot Manna. Scot taught for us last year at our “Tech Day” and did a really great job and we were looking forward to using him again for a much larger crowd at the conference. As expected, he did a fine job with the tough subject of PCM programming on the Big 3. He presented a lot of information in a short amount of time, but he did such a good job with his handout that anyone who sat through the class will be able to look back through the handout later and remember what was said. When Scot was finished, there was a short break and then Randy Dillman took the stage and tackled the topic of reprogramming with J2534 tools. Randy gave a straight-forward approach to J2534 programming taken from his own experiences. As expected, there was no sugar-coating in his class, just real-world examples of the good, the bad and the ugly side of this latest method of programming. After Randy’s class, it was time for dinner and trade show. The trade show was bigger and better than ever this year. A complete list of vendors and sponsor’s from this year’s conference will be posted on our website. The show finally closed around 9pm and everyone headed back to the hotels. Hospitality rooms were open at the Comfort and Wingate Inns so there was plenty of opportunity to network with other technicians.

Saturday morning’s classes started bright and early at 8am with Wayne Colonna of ATSG (Automatic Transmission Service Group). Wayne’s class called “Transmission Insights” was full of common driveability problems that many times get blamed on the transmission. Every year when we ask the group what types of classes they would like to attend, this is on the top of the list. We were very fortunate that Wayne was available to teach this year and we are hoping to have him back next year for “Transmission Insights, part 2!” After Wayne’s class was over, the vendors were open again until lunchtime. After lunch, it was time to “sit down, shut up and hang on!” John Anello took the stage with his class titled, “Diagnostic Approach”. His animated teaching style kept everyone’s attention, and kept them laughing. Not only did he teach us about his approach to certain problems, but we learned lots of new phrases like, “DUDE!” and “bink, bink, bink!”. In one word, John’s class was definitely “unforgettable!” Vendors opened once again after John’s class and after dinner it was time for the evening’s entertainment and door prize giveaways.

This year for Saturday night’s entertainment, we had 4 lucky contestants who competed in the “Technician Challenge”. Jeff Masterman of Standard Motor Products spent many hours of his own time putting the questions and answers together for the competition. Chuck Mehozonek, also of Standard Motor Products, traveled along with Jeff to be the Master of Ceremonies for the night. The 4 lucky contestants were:

Bill Knox of Lincoln Technical Institute in Indianapolis, IN
Ray Stucker of Ray’s Automotive in Hanover, IN
Matt Fanslow of Sandstrom Auto & Truck in Cannon Falls, MN
Larry Daniel of Stealth Auto Tech in Chicago, IL

And what GRAND PRIZES did the lucky contestants compete for this year? Some of the biggest and best prizes you’ll find at any show in the country!

A new color 5200 Vetronix scope donated by Vetronix Corp, a
PICO 4-channel scope donated by Go-Analyze-It.com and Craig Schoenberger
Actia Passthru J2534 device donated by CODA Products and Bob Halfman
Guru school donated by Linder Technical Services

When all was said and done, Matt Fanslow won the challenge and had his pick of the top prizes. The group found out later that Matt had borrowed a “lucky” LTS shirt from his buddy, Dan Baumhardt. Apparently it was the same shirt that Dan wore when he competed (and won) a similar competition during an Auto Value show earlier in the year. I also hear now that the shirt will make its way to Las Vegas in November with Ryan Kooiman who will be competing in the BP Ultimate Mechanic Contest during Industry Week.

Sunday morning once again started at 8am with a short one-hour class session with Scot Manna. Scot's class was a brief introduction on the new GM DOD (Displacement on Demand) system. Scot packed a ton of information into a short time frame with lots of great pictures and some scope captures. After a quick break, John Thornton took over to finish out the morning with his class session on "Diagnosing BUS Communications". As always, John did a fabulous job of covering the topic from top to bottom with tons of pictures, scope captures, wiring diagrams and a great manual to take home and study. We always like to end on a high note and I think everyone would agree, any class that John does is one you don't want to miss!

As we mentioned before, the LTS Conference will once again become an ANNUAL event, so mark your calendars now and plan to join us next year on the weekend of September 8-10, 2006. Randy Dillman, Scot Manna, John Thornton and Wayne Colonna have already said they will return next year, so we're sure it will be another rock and roll event! DON'T MISS IT!

And now for the THANK YOU's.....

Special Thanks to Vetronix for donating their new color 5200 labscope as a grand prize for the technician challenge! Vetronix has come through for us every year by donating awesome prizes and also taking part in our trade show. They are strong supporters not only of LTS, but of the automotive aftermarket and we enjoy working with them and hope to continue our relationship for many years to come. For more information on Vetronix products, go to: www.vetronix.com or call 1-800-321-4889.



Special Thanks to Craig Schoenberger at go-analyze-it.com for donating a complete 4-channel PICO scope kit as a grand prize for the technician challenge! Craig is a past Guru attendee and recently worked with us during our very first PICO Guru school that was held earlier this year. Craig also offers other types of tools and equipment for the automotive aftermarket and offers good deals to past LTS Guru's. To get in touch with Craig, call: (800) 591-2796 or e-mail at: craig@cragtech.com



Special Thanks to Bob Halfman of CODA Products for donating the Actia J2534 passthru device. Bob has been a huge supporter of LTS for many years as well as a great friend. Bob offers many unique diagnostic tools that are extremely useful in the driveability world. The CODA fuel pressure and volume meter and the CODA emission gas analysis software are two of the products that Bob offers that are popular with driveability techs. For more information on Bob's products, you can contact him directly at: 815-741-8963 or e-mail at: coda-1@comcast.net



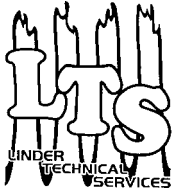
Thanks to all of our vendors and sponsors! I think everyone who attended the conference would agree that we have some of the best vendors in the country and they are a big part of making our yearly conference such a huge success. We hope that you will consider these vendors when making purchases as they are not only supporters of the automotive aftermarket, but supporters of the necessary technical training that we try to provide.

Last but not least, thank you to everyone who attended this year's conference. It was an awesome group to deal with. We're looking forward to seeing each and every one of you next year! Look for conference pictures to be available on our website soon....

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Bonneville Update

I'm sure many of you are wondering how we did with our 1949 Ford Truck at the Salt Flats in Bonneville this year. Greg and Stan were set to leave the conference early on Sunday morning to start driving out to Bonneville with the truck in a trailer. Well, as luck would have it, the Bonneville Salt Flats and World of Speed event was rained out. After having our 1949 Ford ground up restoration project consume me for almost a year, (both dollar -wise and time-wise) I don't really know if I am disappointed or somewhat relieved? Maybe both. At least now we have another year to test and work out all the little gremlins that may have been a problem for us this year.

The XF (flathead engine)/PP (production pickup) record is still 101 mph and we have tested our truck at speeds well above that already here in Indianapolis. Yes, it's hard to find a 3-4 mile stretch of road where you can "safely" run over 100mph, but it can be done! The "bump steer" on a truck that old is quite exciting at those speeds I must say! By next year we should be well above that speed with some new engine changes and more testing. Check out our web site at www.gasolinealleyshops.org for more info as the year goes on. We have a couple of killer flathead engines in the works including a Hilborn injected big cube engine at 312 ci. (Huge for a flathead)

—Jim Linder, *The Injector "Guru"*

