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PIT PASSES

CHRONICLE



Helping the Troops, One Box at a Time

OTC's DT 209 class has a real American Hero in it. At the age of twelve, Dylan DiSilva began collecting food, clothing, and other items for American military troops who were stationed overseas. Originally, care packages were limited to those troops from his hometown of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Dylan and his family started out packing boxes for just six soldiers. Now, seven years later, Dylan, his family, as well as the entire Cape Cod community pack and ship thousands of care packages to troops overseas who live all over the United States. To date, over 11,000 boxes have been shipped to grateful men and women serving in all branches of the military. "It started out small," says DiSilva, "and then grew into something so much bigger than Cape Cod. We get requests from families who can't afford to send care packages, and individual names from military chaplains and commanders who know of soldiers who don't receive any mail at all. These are the ones we want to reach out to and give something back." On November 21st, over 300 volunteers came together in the small town of Bourne, Massachusetts to pack 2,000 care packages. Dylan was unable to be there, but kept in touch with his parent's texting and calling to make sure everything was done just right. Dylan says, "two thousand boxes was our goal this year. We got them all packed, but we are about \$4,000 short of the money needed to ship them. We have about 300 boxes left and each box costs anywhere from \$12



Dylan DiSilva, OTC's Diesel Technology student

to \$15 depending on its weight." Some of the items included in each box are: food, gum, socks, bug spray, sun screen, magazines, toothpaste, and deodorant. Dylan was recently featured on local TV pleading his cause, and OTC's owner, Marc Brenner has agreed to match any money donated from northeast, Ohio. "I am a veteran myself, and I support all men and women who make the sacrifice to serve our country," says Brenner, "We are fortunate to have Dylan here as a student, and will support him any way we can." If you want to read more about Dylan and his campaign, go to www.capecod4thetroops.com. Any donations will be accepted at OTC and forwarded onto Dylan's non-profit group for future shipments to those men and women serving active military duty overseas.



Matco Tools Signs 5 Year Deal with OTC

Matco Tools has been OTC's exclusive tool provider since 2001, and recently agreed to a new five year deal that includes supplying each student with their own individual tool bag. "Each program has a specific number and type of tools students will need," says Tom King, Director of Training, "with this new partnership we wanted to make sure each student is equipped with the tools they need to be successful." Students get to keep the tools once they



Fluke scopes like these cost about \$3,500 each.

graduate, and OTC's President, Marc Brenner still personally gives each graduate a tool voucher to use in the store to buy additional items. OTC instructors will also get a new tool box filled with \$8,000 of Matco Tools to make sure tools are not an issue during lab time. "Instructors will be responsible for their tools just as the students are," says King. Along with the student tool bags and instructor boxes, Matco has added a Tool Crib for more expensive, specialty tools. "It would be financially prohibitive to give each automotive student a \$3,000 scope or scanner", says Anthony Kruczek, OTC's Matco Tool Store Manager, "even in a dealership there are specialized tools that are too expensive for each technician to own. The techs get those tools from the Service Manager based on need. With the addition of the Matco Tool Crib, students can check out the specialized tools, use them in lab, and return them when their daily tasks are completed," says Kruczek, "with the addition of the Tool Crib we are able to offer OTC students more exposure to the specialty tool market". The tool crib is located next to the Matco Tool store inside OTC.





OTC's Custom Suzuki Project Debuts at SEMA

OTC returned to SEMA in Las Vegas for our second year, and continued the excitement we generated last year within the automotive specialty market community.

"Last year we had the restored Edelbrock 57 Chevy that drew a lot of attention," says Tom King, Director of Training, "this year we brought back the now completed Chevy, and a Suzuki Grand Vitara SUV that looked more like a boat than a car."



The unusual looking Suzuki got lots of attention from the half-million visitors at the November show.

OTC teamed up with Suzuki and Rich Evans, of Huntington Beach Bodyworks, to create a one of a kind vehicle that turned more than a few heads in the direction of OTC's booth. It's not every day you see a car with an outboard motor attached to the back of it. "There were so many industry magazine writers and editors who came over to see what it was", says King, "I couldn't be more pleased with the work we displayed, and I'm looking forward to what OTC has planned for next year."



OTC's Pat Downey, PSI's Ron Radeke & OTC Custom Painter Pete Gonzales pose with 2 PSI students at the SEMA show.

Along with the Suzuki, the OTC booth had 2 PSI students who assembled a Harley Davidson Motorcycle, while it was being custom painted. Bernie Thompson, PSI Campus Director, also attended SEMA and was happy with the finished bike. "It takes a lot of skill and concentration to put an entire motorcycle together.

There are thousands of pieces to keep track of. This project took a little more coordination as the students had to navigate around custom painters Pat Downey and Pete Gonzales to get everything in place at the right time." The Suzuki is on display in the OTC automotive lab, and the Harley is on PSI's main floor by the American V-Twin lab. The Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) is a trade association that consists of a diverse group of manufacturers, distributors, retailers, publishing companies, auto restorers, street rod builders, restylers, car clubs, race teams and more. OTC is the only school who



A New Home for Custom Paint & Graphics

It has been eagerly anticipated for months by both instructors, and students: the completion of the new custom paint and graphics lab. The wait is finally over as construction is now complete, and all that is left to do is move everything over into the new space. Pat Downey, Director of OTC's Custom Paint Program is very excited, "this new lab will be so much nicer for our students. Not only is it almost three times the size of our current lab, but it has an abundance of natural light – which makes a huge difference when getting creative with paint colors and designs." OTC also added a special ventilation system to vacuum out the paint clouds that gather when many students are airbrushing at the same time. "Even though we use a non-toxic, water based paint in our program, the paint clouds that collect can really fog up a room quickly. Having all of that ventilated out quickly from the lab will make everyone more comfortable, and be able to paint longer," says Downey. Once custom paint vacates the space they are currently using, construction can then begin on the new Edelbrock Performance Academy. OTC's Director of Training, Tom King hopes to have the Academy up and running by March 1st. "We never know exactly how long a construction project will take as there are always issues that come up we didn't anticipate," says King, "constructing and completing the Edelbrock Academy is now my top priority."



Custom Paint Director Pat Downey is excited to be moving to a bigger space.

Buick Super 8 is Newest Restoration Project at OTC

It's not everyday someone calls the school and offers up a gem of a classic car – for free. Well, it happened in November when John Palcisko got a call from a man in Chicago with family ties in Ohio. Two other schools wanted the car, but he knew of OTC's reputation in the restoration industry and asked if OTC would be interested in his 1940 Buick Super 8. What's the catch? Come to Chicago and pick it up. The man had owned the car for over 20 years, with plans to have it restored.



The 1940 Buick is a true gem and a great addition to OTC's Classic Car Collection.

The time and money never materialized to complete the restoration, and he soon realized the car was rotting away. The 1940's Buick design, took a different turn than most of its competition. With fuller grilles having horizontal bars, the headlamps were set-back into the fenders, hoods that opened much differently, and more space throughout provided a different choice for consumers. Most Buicks of this time came with dual carburetors as standard options.

The early Super Series 50 were powered by an in-line eight-cylinder engine and was distinguished by its three chrome ventiports on the sides of the hood. The term 'Super' was placed on the front fenders.