



PIT PASS Newsletter

Official Student Monthly Insider

"Specialized Technical Training for the Real World"

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OTC Places 6th in First Ever Demolition Derby



Dedicated OTC staff & students who worked on the derby car for 2 months getting it crash ready.

It was a real mud bath at the Cuyahoga County Fair's Demolition Derby August 14th when OTC's Joe Keene drove the Ohio Tech's first ever entry in the competition. A project months in the making, OTC began work on the car they would literally

drive into the ground back in June when Keene asked Marc Brenner if he would donate a car into the country's biggest demolition derby. Marc agreed to donate a 1992 Ford Crown Victoria that had been used by various OTC employees, and was also used by OTC's security force. The Crown Vic had out lived its usefulness having over 195,000 miles on it, and not even the scrap yard would give much for a car like that, so it became the official derby car. And what good is a story without a Hollywood connection anymore? When scenes from Spiderman 3 were shot in Cleveland, a taxi was crushed in an action scene leaving useable parts, but not a useable car. Surprisingly enough, the engine in OTC's demolition car was from that movie prop. With all the work put in, and such a great story to boot, torrential rains all weekend could not stop the derby from playing out, nor dampen the spirits of the students and staff who supported the project. In the end, OTC's car placed 6th overall out of a pack of 50. Joe also received a trophy for "Best Hit" during the derby. "Driving in the mud was difficult. The tires had no traction, and of course the cars got stuck," said Keene. "The students who came out to the derby to keep the car going displayed absolute dedication. At one point, the car was stuck in a mud pit with a tire that had to be changed, and the jacks were sinking. The students were absolutely drenched and covered in mud, but they got the job done and the car back out on the field." Keene was pleased with the outcome of this derby and has plans for the future. "I already know what to do for next year. I know what to expect, and if I have students as enthusiastic next time, OTC will be unstoppable."



OTC's car #59 stands out despite being covered in mud during the final competition at the derby.



PSI Receives Huge Donation from Kawasaki

Like many educational and training facilities, all automotive and motorcycle schools around the country seek the latest training aids to support programs. Whenever possible donations are always welcome, however, in tough economic times many companies cannot afford to make such generous donations. With this in mind, imagine the excitement Bernie Thompson and Marc Brenner experienced when Kawasaki called and asked, "We are looking to support you with some additional units, can you use them?" Marc and Bernie could not get to California fast enough to take whatever Kawasaki was offering. Over twenty individual units, from ATV's, dirt bikes to Jet Skis, were hauled back to PSI in a semi-truck and two small trailers. "This is huge for us!" Thompson exclaimed. "It's our reputation in the industry that allows this type of generosity to happen for the benefit of our students. Kawasaki was our first and biggest supporter



PSI students look over the dirt bike donated by Kawasaki.

when we started, and continues to come through for us." Some of the newer items include a dirt bike once ridden by Pro AMA rider Shawn Borkenhagen, A Vulcan Voyager 1700, and two mules. Andy Parks, PSI's Head Kawasaki Instructor, is thrilled by the



Students check out the Vulcan 1700 Voyager that will be used in the module for ABS

new equipment. "It's like Christmas Day and you got everything on your wish list," said Parks. "The items are already in the labs and our students are immediately benefitting from the new equipment. The dirt bike is probably the class favorite," says Parks. "There is a lot of aftermarket racing equipment you just don't see everyday, and the students are taking it all in." Interested in the newest additions to PSI's training equipment? Be sure to ask your representative about the donations, or come out to PSI and check them out for yourself.

Rich Evan's Returns to OTC to Kick Off SEMA Project



Rich Evan's explains to OTC students you only get one chance to make the cut.

Every year over 100,000 attendees and 2,000 exhibitors gather to take part in the "largest annual automotive specialty-equipment show on the planet," otherwise known as the annual SEMA show. 2010 was a first for OTC at SEMA. No other technical college was represented, and SEMA was the platform in which the school's partnership with Edelbrock was announced. This year OTC plans on returning to SEMA and displaying a venture quite out of the ordinary. "The idea here is to showcase Suzuki's marine division by turning an SUV into a boat," said Tom King, Director of Training. "This type of project is something we've never attempted before, and I thought we needed a top car builder and master fabricator to help us out, so Rich Evans, of Huntington Beach Bodyworks, was my first call. He agreed to come out for a week to get the project started." The 2010 Suzuki Grand Vitara has already undergone quite a transformation; the rear half of the roof has been removed, the door handles shaved, the moldings filled in and the windshield angled. Participation in the project



The back roof removed, and work is progressing on the fiberglass of the sun deck, complete with a hidden refrigerator.

is open to any and all OTC students, and the unveiling will be held at the SEMA Show, November 1-4th in Las Vegas, Nevada. OTC staff and students have about 45 days to complete the project and haul it across the country. Along with the Grand Vitara project, two PSI students will be building a full size Harley Davidson in 4 days. "We are bringing out the bike in parts, and the students will assemble it live, showcasing their skill and training in our American V-Twin program at PSI," says Bernie Thompson, PSI Campus Director. This has been quite a year for PSI as their students already won acclaim at Sturgis for their impressive custom built chopper. PSI was the



PSI students stand proud next to their custom designed and built chopper displayed at Sturgis in July.

only technical school representing the talents of their students. "Our students went head to head with professional custom bike builders from 80 countries," says Thompson. For information, photos and updates on OTC and PSI's participation in the 2011 SEMA Show, be sure to check us out on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

OTC's Diesel Pull Dog to become a Show Dog



The Pull Dog as it was original built by DT-202 class. It will look much different at the FFA convention in October.

Mostly from discarded parts and left over pieces, Diesel Technology Class 202 built the Pull Dog, their latest large scale project, from the ground up. As its name implies, it was built to pull – over 4,000 pounds at the last attempt. "What

is ironic," says Dave Applegate - OTC Diesel instructor, "is this type of engine was never designed to pull. It is an irrigation engine used mostly in Europe. The fact that it does, is a real testament to the student's design concept and out of the box thinking." Over the past few weeks, the Pull Dog, which had been originally constructed as a simple uncovered frame, has undergone a transformation of sorts. "We are planning on having a larger presence at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis," explained Jordan Brenner, Director of Enrollment. "We thought having this student built diesel vehicle would provide certain magnetism to our booth." While the primitive vehicle itself is impressive with its Cummins engine and large stacks, it was missing a little something. Ohio Tech restoration students were enlisted to fabricate a shell for the pull dog, making it a show dog. "We want this vehicle to be noticed for many reasons, so we thought building a shell and then custom painting it would be one way to attract more attention," said Brenner. "Once a student comes over to see exactly what it is, they will further appreciate it as a 100% student built project." OTC prides itself as a hands-on school, and what better way to showcase that philosophy than touring a vehicle that was created entirely by our students with input and cooperation from multiple programs including welding, restoration and custom paint. Ask your high school representative if the Pull Dog will be at your local FFA gathering, or come see it in Indianapolis October 18-21st.

PSI Students Going to SEMA



Dave Hirz from Colorado, and Stacy Chainey, from Georgia were chosen to attend SEMA.

PSI students Dave Hirz and Stacy Chainey get an all expenses trip to Las Vegas for SEMA in November, but they will work non-stop for 4 days assembling a Harley Davidson motorcycle at the show. "I'm excited to represent PSI and challenged by the timeline," says Hirz.



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