

Improving Fuel Efficiency

By Brett Frazee, *Enterprise Fleet Management*

Never-ending fluctuations in fuel and diesel prices make it challenging for companies with medium-size fleets to control costs. But, while those who oversee fleet operations within their companies may have no control over crude oil prices, state environmental regulations or sales tax on fuel pumps, there are steps that can help keep fuel costs at a manageable level.

A number of factors contribute to how efficiently a vehicle uses fuel, including tires, wheel alignment and inflation pressure, as well as aerodynamics, speed and load. In addition, ambient air temperature, weather conditions, road surfaces (gravel, asphalt, concrete) and terrain (flat, hilly or mountainous) are environmental factors that are impossible to control, but have a direct impact on fuel consumption.

Drivers also impact fuel efficiency more than many people realize. For example, aggressive drivers, "jackrabbit" starts and sudden braking can negate many of the gains obtained from investments in fuel-efficient engines and tires, aerodynamic devices or synthetic lubricants. In addition, driving at 55 mph rather than 65 mph can improve fuel mileage about 15 percent.

And many drivers may be surprised to know that they can optimize fuel economy on the highway by putting the car into overdrive because using the transmission's highest gear allows the engine to run at a lower level of revolutions per minute, which uses less energy.

Also, some of the most popular beliefs can actually be counterproductive. For example, although drivers may think that driving in the summer with open windows instead of using air conditioning helps conserve fuel, the reality is that at speeds over 40 mph opening the windows can create resistance or "drag", which actually reduces the car's normal fuel mileage. Many drivers also believe it can be more fuel efficient to let an engine idle rather than turning it off and restarting it when making quick deliveries or sitting in a traffic jam. The reality is that idling uses more fuel.

Fleet managers agree there are simple things businesses can do to help keep fuel costs down. Driving wisely and maintaining vehicles on a routine basis go a long way toward improving mileage and increasing efficiencies. They also recommend talking to company drivers about driving habits because it can make a big difference in the long run.

Member News

Balfour Beatty Construction announced the promotion of Sean DeMartino to President of their Florida Division, which has principle offices in Orlando and Plantation.

DeMartino joined Balfour Beatty Construction in 1993 as Project Engineer. In 2002, he was promoted to vice president in charge of Florida's hospitality division and earned another promotion to senior vice president in 2006.

ENR Southeast magazine announced that **ANF Group** was awarded Best Healthcare Project for the New Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood. ANF Group completed construction on the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in July of 2011. This 170,000 sq. ft. Hospital is the first free standing children's hospital in Broward County.

The Hospital will apply for Gold Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Certification, as it is designed to include environmentally friendly features that improve performance and efficiency in the use of water, energy and other resources.

Link Construction Group, Inc. officially broke ground on Phase II of the Hialeah Park Racetrack & Casino Expansion Project. Congressman Mario Diaz Balart, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Esteban Bovo and City of Hialeah Mayor Carlos Hernandez attended the event.

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Sean DeMartino



INSIDE:

Pictures of Scholarship Pool Tourney

Building Visions, Whatever Shape or Size

Each month Construction FOCUS features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by Kaufman Lynn, Inc., will be held on Thursday, November 17, 7:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites - Boca Raton off Yamato Road.

Carr Builders was established last year by Co-

Founders Richard K. Carr and Robert D. Schnurman, who have both been active in the Florida construction industry since 1972. Their extensive history in the industry includes mixed use market rate housing, senior living facilities, and affordable

Carr Builders

Building your Future as a team

housing through agencies such as FHFA and HUD. Prior to opening Carr Builders, Rick and Bob completed over 30,000 residential units as well as several million square feet of construction including parking facilities, warehouses, retail and office buildings, and educational centers. The main objective of the company is to help build their

clients' visions, whatever shape and size the dream may be.

Some of the company's key people consist of President Richard K. Carr, Executive VP Robert D. Schnurman, Senior Superintendent Jared Ringeman and Executive Administrator Rita Foglio. With strong emphasis on communication and teamwork, every team member takes ownership of the project and in turn assures the greatest possible result. "Our continued success will always be guided by our focus on our customers, our construction staff, subcontractors, and suppliers. We believe in the worth of all people and treat all clients, employees, and others associated with us with dignity and respect," explains Rick.

They provide a wide range of services which include

preliminary budgeting, pre-construction consulting services, site analysis, estimating, scheduling, value engineering, fast track construction, and design assist for cost and value. The shell construction aspect of the business includes reinforced wet concrete and post tension slabs and decks, tunnel form systems, the Hambro floor joist system, pre-cast joists, hollow core slabs, and twin tee construction as well as structural steel and tilt-wall panel construction.

"The recent economic slowdown seems to be looked at as an obstacle to many builders, but we look at it as an opportunity for development and therefore a bright future for us and our construction industry", states Carr. Carr Builders is currently working on an eighteen building exterior renovation on Fort Lauderdale Beach called the Oceanage Project, as well as the Beach Roast Bake and Coffee shop located in Pompano Beach. They have also taken a role with the Sample-McDougald House in Pompano Beach by assisting in the community effort to provide a city park surrounding one of the original settlers' homes. The new park was named Centennial Park and is located alongside the Pompano Airpark.

Carr Builders just recently joined CASF this past month and are excited to renew their relationship and start taking advantage of its endless opportunities. Carr Builders is located at 651 NE 27th Street, Suite A, Pompano Beach, FL 33064. For more information, call 954-941-2525 or visit www.CarrBuilders.net.

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Construction Focus is the official publication of the Construction Association of South Florida. Article suggestions and submissions for publication consideration should be forwarded to the Executive Vice President.

Pool Tournament Raises over \$17k for Scholarships

Each year for the past 20-years the Construction Association of South Florida has provided funds for two scholarships to students pursuing a post-secondary degree in construction related studies. One for a student at University of Florida's School of Building and Construction and one for a student at Florida International's Department of Construction Management. An endowed scholarship at FIU was fully funded two years ago and the endowed scholarship at U of F has three years remaining to fulfill CASF's commitment. Scholarships are awarded annually based on academic merit, financial need and the desire to continue their construction career in South Florida.

These scholarships are made possible through the participation and generous support of members during the annual scholarship fund raising events.



First-Place Winners are Ron Beach & Rob Melrose of the Proietto/Pro-Tech Team



Second Place Winners are Adam Fortner and Pierre Palmieri of John Moriarty & Assoc. of Fla.



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CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA

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ROUTE TO:

October Bar-B-Que at Hugh's Culinary

October 5, 2011

