



### She's inside

A female voice will remind you to "Please turn off your lights" if you forget — if you have an audible warning system on the 1981 Datsun 810 Maxima.

## Check before you pump

With many Michiganders pumping their own gasoline, there's a need for drivers to take charge of their cars' preventative maintenance before the cold weather stops their cars.

Forty percent of Michigan motorists patronize self-service islands, said Robert Tellier, Automobile Club of Michigan emergency road service manager.

"Although saving pennies at the self-service pump, motorists may be pouring dollars into auto repairs by not following the proper maintenance procedures spelled out in their owner's manuals."

Auto club statistics have traditionally shown that half of all road service calls occur between December and March. Eighty percent of those calls are "can't start," most of which are caused by neglect, not failure of the car.

Nearly three of 10 Michigan drivers will experience a no-start this winter, and 60 percent will have repeated problems.

"Anyone who can drive a car is capable of performing this dozen do-it-yourself items," said Tellier. "The only tools needed are a tire pressure gauge, a screwdriver and a hydrometer to check the strength of antifreeze."

Armed with these tools, the following checks should be made:

- Motor oil level. The oil should be topped and filter replaced according to the car's operating manual.

- Brake fluid level should be within a quarter-inch of the top of the master cylinder. A screwdriver is needed to pry off the clip that holds the cover of the brake fluid chamber.

- Fill the windshield washer reservoir with a good commercial solvent to prevent freezing. Do not dilute unless specified.

• Check the level and strength of antifreeze in the radiator and inspect hoses and connections for leaks. Some cars have overflow tanks where the coolant level can be checked visually. Strength of antifreeze can be checked easily with the hydrometer. Drain, flush and refill the radiator with a 50-50 solution of antifreeze and water for maximum protection from freezing.

• Power steering fluid level can be checked on a dipstick similar to the oil dipstick. To avoid overfilling, add the fluid gradually and test the level several times.

• Hold the carburetor air filter up to the sun or next to a light. If you can't see through it, it's time for replacement.

• Check the automatic transmission fluid with the engine on the passenger side of the car. The car should be parked on a level grade with the engine running.

• Test for fan belt tension and look for fraying or cracking. Press your thumb on the middle of each drive belt. If the belt gives more than a half-inch, tighten it or replace the belt.

• Clean battery terminals and dirty cables with a baking soda and water solution, and check the battery fluid level.

- Turn on all lights and turn signals to make sure they work.

- Check tire pressure with a gauge and inspect tread wear. Don't forget to check the spare.

- Replace worn windshield wipers.

Tellier advised drivers to make these checks on a monthly basis, with the exception of motor oil, which should be checked with every tank of gasoline. Don't depend on an idiot light to warn you of low oil.

### 878 Oldsmobile

1978 Oldsmobile Delta coupe, 4 speed, 100,000 miles. Very good condition. Call after 5 PM. 643-4111

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