

## **Freedom at Its Best.....4<sup>th</sup> of July**

**(Baseball... apple pie... and... Chevrolet)**

**by Bob Kocher**

A couple days ago, I washed and checked over my favorite car and took a little ride to make sure everything seemed okay. As often happens, I started talking to Bill, that's my car. And as he sometimes does, he talked back to me.

Since Bill has been with me for many years and has over 200,000 miles on the odometer, I consider him one of my best friends. "Car Bob," (that's what he calls me) he said, "What is all the fuss about something called the Fourth of July I keep hearing about? Is there something special about that date?" " Bill, it's our country's birthday; it's Independence Day." "Oh," he said, "how old is our country?" I then proceeded to tell him that our country is 236 years old and the holiday stands for freedom and the spirit of independence. It's as American as baseball, apple pie, and Chevrolets.

"Bill, I'm so glad you are a living, breathing entity and a good friend. I enjoy the fact that we talk a great deal as we drive. Thinking about it, I couldn't get along without you," I said.

"You know, Bill, freedom and independence is the way. It's great to live in a country where you can buy the car you like and drive it anywhere you like. A country with streets and roads that go everywhere, lots of filling stations and parts stores. There are plenty of

new car dealers and used car lots everywhere. I am so glad we have laws that make cars as safe as possible. And there are the great salvage graveyards for that old faithful friend to go to when it's over. This is some of what the Forth of July is all about," I said.

Bill continued, "When are we going to have a national holiday for cars?" "Okay, Bill," I said, "what's your point?" "Car Bob," he said, "you're telling me that the Fourth of July is recognized as Independence Day? I say the greatest symbol of independence is the car. Also the car is over a hundred years old. And my ancestors—the buggy, the cart, the wagon, and the wheel—are much older than this country."

Finally Bill said to me, "What I want is a national car holiday weekend during which I and all other cars could have our freedom and independence for just one weekend." I laughed a little to myself, but I couldn't resist taking the bait. "Go ahead, Bill, tell me what you would do as a car with freedom and independence."

He went on, "You know how they always predict the number of accidents that will occur each holiday weekend and how extra highway patrol have to work to take care of all the accidents? We the cars would change all of that if we had our day. First, no cars would roll one foot if we were not totally safe to drive. Next, if any driver would try to drink and drive, we would not start our engines. Then, if our drivers would try to break any traffic laws, all four tires would go flat, even if they are Run-Flat tires!"

“Wow,” I said, “anything else?” “Yes, you know the little black boxes with the beepers and the blinking lights? Well, if a driver tried to use one to break the speed limit, his car battery would go dead, and no new batteries would be sold on our holiday weekend.”

“Sounds like some great ideas, Bill, is that all?” “No,” he said, “we would remind drivers to drive safely all of the rest of the year, take good care of us, keep us running well, change our oil when needed, and never drive on unsafe under inflated tires or with bad brakes.”

Just then I turned up the driveway to Car Bob’s Garage, so I thanked Bill for his thoughts. Maybe sometime we’ll have a new national holiday called Car Day. Enjoy your car and the freedom it provides. Meantime have a great Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and drive safely.