

Veggie News

PrairieFire BioFuels

Join the Board!

PrairieFire BioFuels Cooperative Needs You!

In September five board of directors' (BOD) seats will open up. We are looking for members who are excited to help the coop grow, who have new, innovative ideas, with business-management or marketing backgrounds, or who are knowledgeable in shop operations.

Board of Directors members typically put in about two hours of time per week on meetings, projects, and discussions.

Directors are expected to join one of four committees that meet

outside of the large group to deal with specific duties.

Current committees include the executive, operations, internal communications, and external communications committees. The BOD is made up of nine members, with two year term commitments. Elections will be held in September, at our annual membership meeting.

If interested, please leave a note at the office, or email pfbfinfo@gmail.com for more info. We will send out official questionnaires in August.

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Issue 5

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Elsbett Sale

We have been in contact with Elsbett, trying to persuade them to run a promotion on single-tank kits for VW TDIs. Elsbett responded that if we could guarantee a "large number" of kit purchases, they would give us a price "below \$700 US dollars".

This would work out to around \$2000 a kit for VW TDIs through the 2003 models. That is a savings of nearly \$1400 for kits. Note: this sale is only available for VW TDIs 1996-2003. Models after that require additional parts and labor that are not part of the sale.

My question is how many out there would have an interest in committing to a conversion, given this massive savings.

If you are interested, respond and let me know. Please include your make and model of car. Thanks!

Volunteer!

Hello BioFuels Enthusiasts. Now that summer is winding down, it's a great time to get involved with the educational non-profit cousin of PFBF. We formed last fall with the help of several dedicated PFBF members. PFBFEF is a 501c3 non-profit which focuses on education and outreach regarding biofuels and other non-petroleum fuel options.

PFBFEF board members and volunteers are working on a number of projects, but need help to keep the momentum and develop the organization. There are lots of ways to get involved. If you can see yourself devoting an hour or 2 each month in one or more of the following ways, please drop us a line!

- Grant Research & Grant Writing
- Event Planning & Event Volunteer
- Educational Materials Development
- Administrative Work
- Volunteer Coordination
- Community Involvement

Email us: info@pfbfef.org
Thanks!

I am Juan Carrera

I am Juan Carrera. I am a new transplant to Madison! I am 23 years old and hail from Kenosha, WI.

I am a certified automotive technician and full-time student. I love reading, learning, fabricating, and trying new things (especially new beer!).

I hope to be very involved in this community and look forward to meeting all the new faces around

here. I am interested in alternative, sustainable power production.

I have an environmentally conscious outlook. However, I must confess a profound adoration for loud, fast things. They're fun!

Brake Special!

To welcome Juan on-board, we are offering a special on brake jobs (one of his specialties). We are reducing our parts mark-up such that it will save members approximately \$40 for a two-axle brake job. Stop in or call today to schedule an appointment!

Lift Arrival!

Through some very generous donations by two outside organizations and one very satisfied member, PrairieFire BioFuels has been able to purchase and install a mechanical lift. This will vastly improve our mechanics' ability to complete jobs in a high-quality, efficient, and timely manner.

A huge thanks must go out to the donors that made this a reality. We

offer you our heartfelt gratitude. They have should their support for the coop in the greatest means possible! Thank you!

Stop in today and see the lift in action! Then schedule your work in the shop!



Membership Extensions

The board discussed our fueling situation, and we feel it is appropriate to extend the membership length of loyal members due to our recent inability to offer the fuel that we all want available.

Therefore, if you have renewed your membership on or after March 1st, you will have an automatic membership extension starting on the date that fueling begins. If, for example, you renewed on March 1st for one year, and fueling begins on September 1st, you will not need to renew until September 1st, 2010.

Thank you for your support! Please continue to show your support by using our shop services.

Five Reasons to Use Your Shop

It may have been a while since some of you have seen or used our shop. Many things have changed, so let me give you five reasons you should call and schedule an appointment today.

1) Larger space: The new location allows us to work on many vehicle types we could not easily work on before: Sprinter Vans, Trucks, Buses, conversions for farm machinery & commercial vehicles, including fleets. But you don't need to own a large vehicle to see the benefits in the new space. We can also house more cars, and with three mechanics on-hand more cars can move through quickly.

2) Lift & increased speed and efficiency: The lift is installed and operational. This means that jobs previously requiring working on the ground can now be done in the air--easily saving time on any job. This could easily equate to a half-hour savings on a brake or suspension job.

3) Experienced and honest mechanics: Our mechanics' knowledge base grows every day, and they have experience with many quirks and intricacies related to VWs and Mercedes. Additionally, we offer the only mechanics nearby knowledgeable in vegetable oil kit installations. Our mechanics only fix what needs to be fixed, and they will work to save you money on repairs by telling you what is crucial to do and what can be deferred until later.

4) Rates & Hours billed: Our rates for members are about \$15 per hour less than most of the comparable shops in the area. Additionally, we bill the actual hours spent on a job, not the rates a book claims a job should take. That means mass savings for our customers over the competitors.

5) Environmental Stewardship through support for the business: by using our shop, you are ensuring that the business stays intact, meaning we can work to educate the public on alternative energy options and we can build the capital necessary to build the fueling infrastructure and begin selling biodiesel and waste vegetable oil again.

Today is the day to reconnect to your coop!

Stop in or call and make an appointment to use the shop. There are openings available next week.

PrairieFire BioFuels Coop & Education
Foundation

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Fueling - A Light in the Darkness

For months, fueling has been stalled by the fire department. To say it briefly, there are a lot of issues with our location, and if we had it to do over again we would not choose this location. The fire department was skeptical, to say the least, on okaying a fueling operation at that location. Thus, the stall has been due to back and forth discussions between us and the fire department.

However, last Friday Mike Clark and I were able to meet at our location with all the important players related to fuel at one time. This was the magical meeting we have needed, but been unable to set up, for months now. Basically, the right words were said by us, the state representative, and the building inspector that got the fire department on board with what we would like to do with fueling. WE ARE CLOSE!

What's left? We submitted a final proposal to the fire department on Wednesday. They should have it turned around for us by Monday or Tuesday--record time. The state will then have it approved in a week. So, we should have fueling approval by August 11th.

What then? Two big things: First, we need to find funds to cover all the expenses relating to installation, and the board must approve the financial expenditure. Then, it is simply a matter of the tank installer putting it on his schedule. It will take about three days for installation.

When? Best case scenario--mid-August. Very possible by September first. I cannot emphasize enough that this is closer than we have been in a long time. But, the best part is...

What will fueling look like? The new plans include storage of 3000 gallons of biodiesel and 1000 gallons of vegetable on-site. This means we will never be out of fuel, and we will be able to purchase fuel at a much lower price point. Additionally, the new plan could allow for 24/7 fueling through a swipe card feature. Finally, we found out that we are actually licensed to carry fuel blends up to a certain point. We have not worked out the exact figures yet, but it looks like we may be able to carry B50 and V30 in the winter months. That means no more/ less fuel blending. We can be your one stop for fuel 24/7!

PFBF is a member-owned cooperative creating access and building infrastructure to support viable, sustainable alternative fuels sources and usage.

PFBFEF's mission is to encourage environmental stewardship and empower the public with education about the availability and potential of non-petroleum-based fuels.