

AAPEX 2019

WHAT DRIVES YOU



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AAPEXSHOW.COM

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MIKE BAILEY

Car Doctor

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

What do you and your company do? We are an auto service center. We work on everything. I am the owner and lead technician.

How long have you been in your position, business? I've been a technician for 34 years and a shop owner for 23 years.

How many employees are at your business? Four.

What are the main challenges to running your business and doing your job? My challenges are really based more on my knowledge of the industry and how we are going to deal with what's coming down the pike in the next 10 years, such as ride sharing, telematics, electric vehicles and autonomous cars. We typically are not privy to the car manufacturers' changes for about a year. Once released, because of warranty programs, we don't see the vehicles for another two years or so.

How long have you been coming to AAPEX? My first time was in 2005. I try to make it every other year.

What do you like about AAPEX? It gives me a 30,000 foot view of the industry - the ability to really get an idea of how large the industry is. We have a tendency to not see beyond the horizon. Going to AAPEX gives me a different perspective on the industry.

What are you looking forward to this year at AAPEX? Education and parts acquisition are critical. I'm also interested in talking with vendors providing parts to these new electrical vehicles and parts not available to independent shops. I look forward to talking one on one with vendors to really wrap my head around how the parts manufacturers are viewing some of the new initiatives that are coming out in the next three to five years.

What would you tell someone about AAPEX who has never been? Be prepared to see the industry in a way that you have never seen it before. Have an open mind on how the world market plays into our individual market. Wear very comfortable shoes and do not get in a hurry.

What was your first car? Opel Manta 1973.

Favorite car part? Carbureator. I know it's gone, but from my generation, I saw it as a way to understand the fuel system, fuel deliver and calibration.