



Utah

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP**

NATIONAL: 28,500,000

UTAH: 50,123

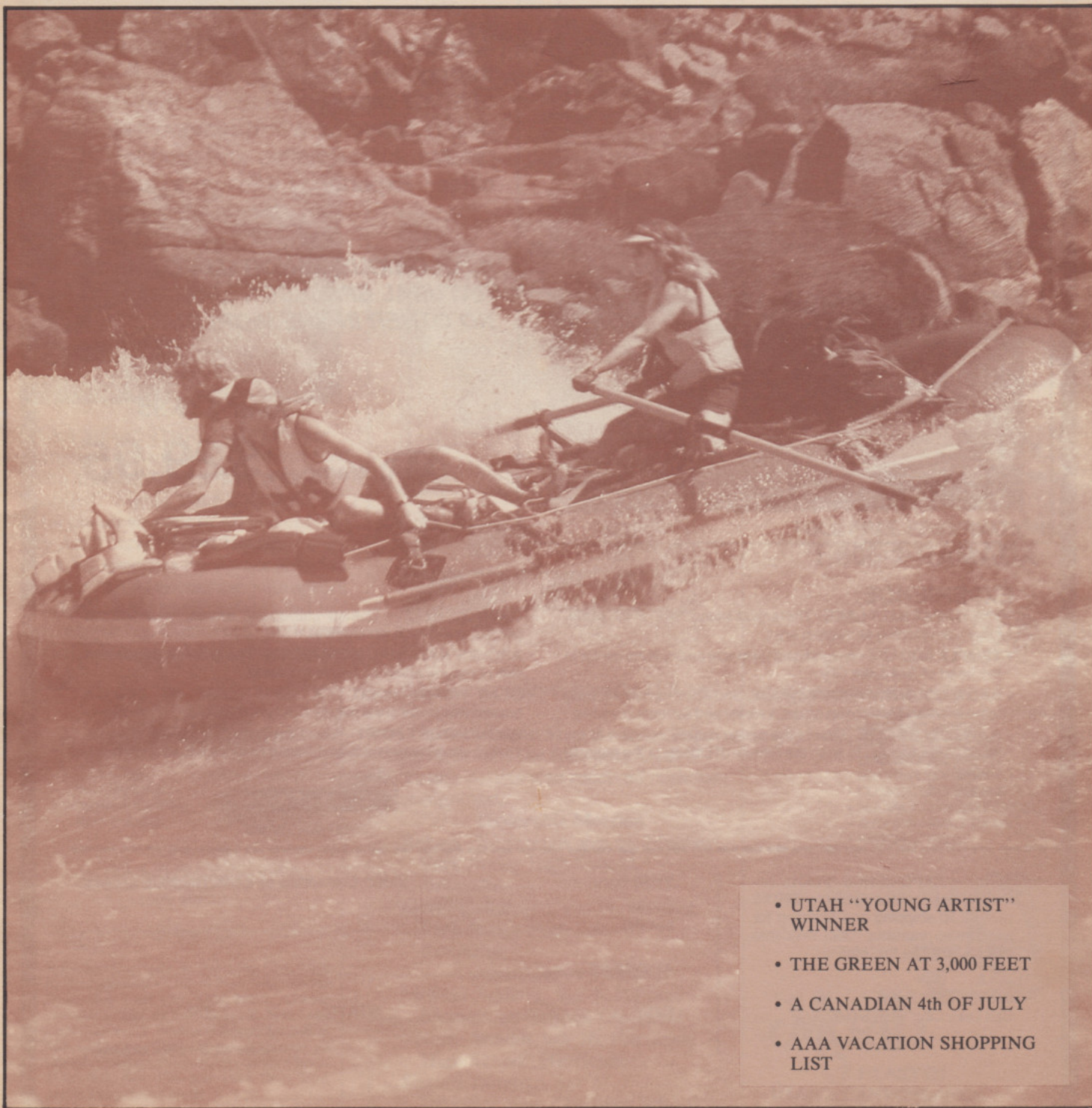
AAA Plus: 19,560

SERVING UTAH SINCE 1919

# MOTORIST

VOL. X NO. 2

SPRING 1987



- UTAH "YOUNG ARTIST" WINNER
- THE GREEN AT 3,000 FEET
- A CANADIAN 4th OF JULY
- AAA VACATION SHOPPING LIST



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE NEW 65 MPH SPEED LIMIT

**Q. If I increase my speed from 55 to 65, what will be the effect on my car's gasoline consumption?**

**A.** You can expect to use 12 to 24 percent more fuel driving at 65 mph than you would driving the same road at 55 mph. Expressed in a different way, your gasoline mileage (miles-per-gallon) will drop by anywhere from 11 to 19 percent. (The increase in fuel consumption does not correspond precisely with the decrease in gasoline mileage because of the mathematical formulas used to derive the figures.)

**Q. I have a small car. How will driving at 65 mph affect the engine and other mechanical components?**

**A.** As long as the car is properly maintained, driving at 65 mph will not have a significant effect on your car's engine and other mechanical components. For most cars, engine speeds increase no more than about 500 rpm from 55 to 65. The car's engine speed is measured in rpms, or revolutions per minute.

The exception may be when a small car is used to pull a trailer. A car's engine and transmission work harder when towing a trailer, and some small cars are working to their capacity when pulling a trailer at 55 mph. Exceeding that speed limit might cause the engine and transmission to

overheat, resulting in premature wear. The best advice is to follow recommendations in the owner's manual on towing a trailer. Do not exceed recommended weight or speed limits.

One item often ignored by drivers is tire air pressure. Many drivers unwittingly drive with too little air in their tires. At low speeds the effect may be premature tire wear. At high speeds overheating can occur resulting in tire failure.

At 55 or 65 mph, proper tire pressure is especially important. When driving at highway speeds for more than an hour, tires should be inflated to the maximum recommended pressure as noted on the sidewall of the tire. Many car manufacturers now suggest that the tires on their new cars be inflated to the maximum for both city and highway driving.

AAA also recommends against driving mobile homes faster than 55 mph, regardless of the speed limit. Although some mobile homes are able to reach speeds of 65, driving them at that speed for a prolonged period puts an undue strain on the engine and transmission.

**Q. What safety measures should drivers take when traveling at the new speed?**

**A.** Although drivers should always look ahead to anticipate traffic problems, it becomes even more important to do so at 65 mph. The main reason for this is the increased stopping distance of a car traveling at 65 mph compared to 55 mph.

A car in reasonably good condition traveling at 55 mph on a dry road takes between 230 and 275 feet to stop, including driver reaction time. At 65 mph the stopping distance ranges from 300 to 355 feet. That's a significant increase in stopping distance.

AAA has always recommended that highway drivers keep an interval of 2 seconds driving time between themselves and cars in front of them. At 65 mph, AAA recommends that drivers increase this "safety gap" to at least 3 seconds. An easy way to measure this gap is to let a car ahead of you pass a road marker, then count 3 seconds. Your car should not pass the same marker before the 3 are up.

As in all driving situations, regardless of the speed, AAA urges drivers to follow common-sense rules of the road. Drivers should constantly plan "escape" routes for their vehicles in case an emergency situation develops.


**Q. How much time will I really save driving at 65 mph instead of 55 mph?**

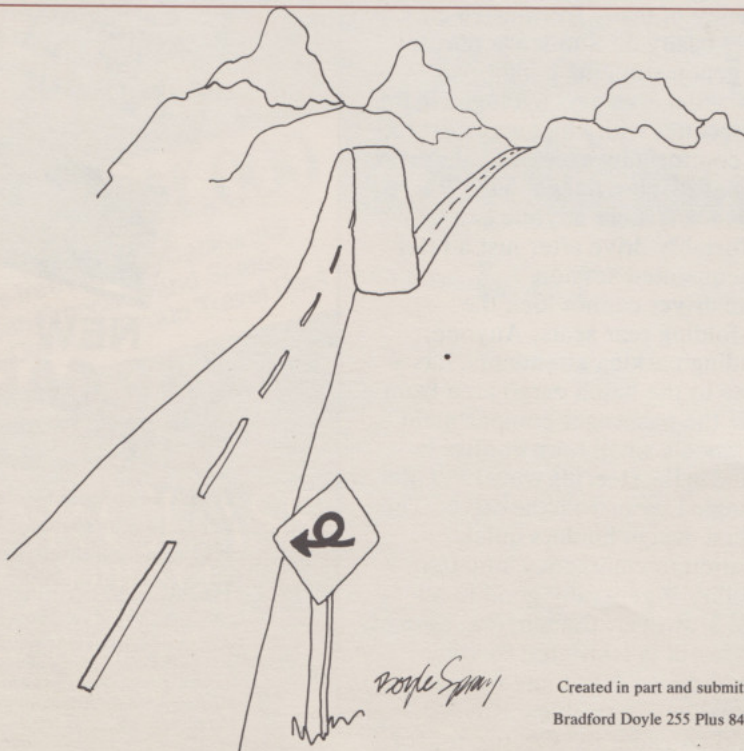
**A.** Not as much as you might expect. An increase of 10 mph in the speed limit doesn't mean you'll gain 10 miles every hour you drive at 65 instead of 55. All drivers take breaks. And few can maintain a constant speed. In addition, driving faster is more stressful and fatiguing, so you may find yourself getting more tired when driving 65 mph. In reality, drivers putting in an 8-hour day on the road at 65 mph can expect to cover about 40 more miles than if they were driving at 55.

**Q. What states have raised their highway speed limit to 65?**

**A.** As of April 28, the following states have raised the speed limit on their rural interstates to 65 mph: Arkansas, Colorado, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Vermont, West Virginia.

**Q. How do I know if the highway I am traveling on has a speed limit of 65?**

**A.** Unless the highway is posted at 65, assume the speed is still 55. 



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