Tire Manufacturing Dates

Since most of us do not put many miles on our show cars and trucks, we tend to pay little attention to our tires. Club member, Dennis McBee submitted this valuable information.

This year I was driving my 1970 Mustang and I experienced a separation of the tread from the tire. When the tread separated from the cords, part of it started banging against the inner fender well taking out the front Marker Light, bent the inner fender in the front and back. Part of the tread came completely off the tire. It also extended the fender out past the front door. All of the sheet metal damage had to be straightened out and the expense of buying a new Marker Light was $78.00.

The point here is that, it is recommended that your tires be replaced every 5 or 6 years. After examining the date code on my BF Goodrich Tires, I found they were manufactured 41st week of 1990. Yes that's right, the tires were 25 years old (See the attached picture of the tire).

The tires were on the car when I purchased it in 2011. The tires looked like they had plenty of tread and seemed to be in good condition with no age cracks etc. in the side walls that you would expect to find with a car sitting out in the sun over time.

I never knew that there was a manufacturing date code embedded in the side wall of the tire. So it never occurred to me to check the manufacturing date on the tires.

I have attached an article from TireRack (below) that explains how to read the manufacturing date code embedded in the side wall of your tires. I found this to be interesting and informative. Perhaps the club members already know and understand the date codes, but for those of us that do not, I have attached the article. I also have included the website source as an FYI.

Dennis McBee

Reprinted from TireRack www.tirerack.com

When it comes to determining the age of a tire, it is easy to identify when a tire was manufactured by reading its Tire Identification Number (often referred to as the tire's serial number). Unlike vehicle identification numbers (VINs) and the serial numbers used on many other consumer goods (which identify one specific item), Tire Identification Numbers are really batch codes that identify the week and year the tire was produced. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) requires that Tire Identification Numbers be a combination of the letters DOT, followed by ten, eleven or twelve letters and/or numbers that identify the manufacturing location, tire size and manufacturer's code, along with the week and year the tire was manufactured.

In the example
DOT U2LL LMLR 5107

DOT U2LL LMLR 5107 Manufactured during the **51st** week of the year

DOT U2LL LMLR 5107 Manufactured during 20**07**