

# As the wrench turns ...

by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy  
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Whether someone is a first-time car owner or a certified mechanic, the tools and services available at the Auto Skills Development Center will provide the means for them to not only learn a life-long skill, but also save money.

The auto skills center offers its customers a spacious working facility equipped with 17 stalls, four lifts, a well-equipped welding room and a state-of-the-art paint booth.

"The main thrust of our center is focused on self help," said Buddy Ward, NAF technician. "Our goal is to help our customers enjoy the satisfaction of repairing or maintaining their own vehicles."

The center has almost every kind of tool available for car repair. The fee for a regular stall is \$2.50 per hour and the lift costs \$4 per hour with a half hour minimum charge for both.

"I use the center because, whether I'm fixing my brakes or changing my oil, they have the tools as well as knowledgeable technicians that are always available to help," said 2nd Lt. Tom Johnson, 49th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintenance officer and Auto Skills Development Center customer.

The center has four staff members who can assist people with guidance, and they also offer one-on-one teaching assistance for almost any task.

Angel Ramos, paint and body instructor, is planning to offer classes on how to use the paint booth. The paint booth is available for reservations by the half-day or whole day. Hourly rates are available, but can't be reserved. There's a rental fee to use the welding room or paint booth and customers need to buy their own paint.

"People can save up to 25 percent by using our paint facilities versus having it done by a professional," Ramos said.

Holloman members, who don't want to do routine maintenance on their car themselves, can have it done at the center by one of the mechanics.

"We mostly do routine and preventive maintenance here in the shop," said Eric Flanagan, Auto Skills Development center manager. "If something's more extensive, we may have to send people downtown to have it done."

The center can also order parts with same day delivery from a supplier downtown and they offer special order next day delivery on hard-to-find items.

"The biggest advantage of the auto skills center is that people will drive away with a renewed sense of accomplishment because they fixed the problem themselves," Johnson said.

The Auto Skills Development Center is open from 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.



Eric Flanagan removes a fan shroud to access and make repairs to the alternator easier.



Airman 1st Class McCoy Kichar removes his oil drain plug to drain the oil into a disposal container.



Senior Airman Jerel Brown repaints his bike in the paint booth.



Buddy Ward loosens a nut on an alternator.



Brian Whitmore loosens lugnuts on a hub.