

Total Tucson

Industry Heads to Sunny Arizona for Auto Glass Conference

The National Auto Glass Conference will bring the industry together February 11-13, 2008, in sunny Tucson. While the conference is held annually, this year it is without a trade show and will be comprised of seminars only and is designed as more of a management conference than in years past.

The conference will be held at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa.

A welcome reception and golf tournament will open the conference on February 11.

What's Happening

Donald Ableson, president of Ableson Consulting LLC and a General Motors retiree, will open the educational portion of the event on February 12 with a keynote speech, "Glass Industry Evolution to Satisfy Changing Automotive Requirements."

Ableson will explore several of the most important trends developing in the auto glass segment and will take questions from the audience as part of his speech.

Breakout sessions to give attendees a chance to interact one-on-one will follow with two topics from which to choose, "Technology Advances at the Shop Level" or "Change and Diversify: Options for Increasing Sales and Profits." The former will be moderated by Joel Timmons, president of Profitable Glass Solutions and glassBYTEs.com's newest blogger, and the latter will be moderated by Richard Voreis, chief executive officer for Consulting Collaborative.

Lunch will follow, and will be accompanied by a session by Jeff Dietrich, senior analyst, who will offer an auto glass

industry economic forecast. Dietrich spoke at the 2007 conference as well and will touch on his predictions from that speech, while also taking a look at what 2008 may hold.

More breakout sessions will follow, including "Auto Glass: New Advances in Quality and Safety" by Charles Turiello, director of quality assurance and safety for Diamond Glass, and "Managing a New Generation of Workers/Professionals." The speaker for the second session had not yet been determined at press time.

A panel discussion called "Green is Good—Environmental Responsibility" will complete the day. The panel will include Doug Linderer, president of Go-Glass Corp.; Dave Burns, president of Ray Sands Glass; Mike Boyle, president of Glasweld Systems, Inc.; and Patrick Farrell, vice President of corporate responsibility and communications for Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

This panel's four participants will discuss how practicing environmental responsibility can be good business and will attempt to help attendees gain new insights into how the green movement is affecting our industry.

Day Two

The second and final day of the conference, February 13, will kick off with a presentation by Safelite Auto Glass's Glen Moses, director of technical and quality programs. Moses' presentation, entitled "Automotive Glazings: Updated Vehicles and Technical Parts for '08," will take a look at the latest technical advances in the auto glass business and what's to come in 2008.

Next, Ronald Adler, president of Laurdan Associates

Schedule at a Glance

Monday, February 11

- 9 a.m.- 7 p.m. Registration Open
- 12:30 p.m. National Auto Glass Annual Golf Classic
- 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Welcome Reception

Tuesday, February 12

- 8 a.m.- 9 a.m. Nondenominational Prayer Meeting
- 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. Registration Open
- 9 a.m. Opening Session with Keynote Address: Glass Industry Evolution to Satisfy Changing Automotive Requirements
- 10:45 a.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- Noon Lunch and Learn: Auto Glass Industry Economic Forecast

- 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- 3:45 p.m. – 5 p.m. Panel Discussion: “Green is Good”— Environmental Responsibility

Wednesday, February 13

- 8:30a.m. – 5 p.m. Registration Open
- 9 a.m. Automotive Glazings: Updated Vehicles and Technical Parts for '08
- 10:30 a.m. Human Resources Audit: How Does Your Company Stack Up?
- Noon Industry Awards Luncheon
- 2 p.m. Second Annual Benchmark Study Results
- 3:15 p.m. Panel Discussion: State of the Industry Revisited
- 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Closing Reception

ABRA's Mitch Becker (right) and SIKA's Carl Tompkins (below) spoke at last year's auto glass conference in Orlando, Fla.



Inc., will hold a session called “Human Resources Audit: How Does Your Company Stack Up?”

Adler will offer a step-by-step examination of common employment practices and will identify the red flags that can tip off legal problems for a business.

John Brandt, president of MPI, will follow with the results of the association's Second Annual Benchmark Study of NGA membership.

Next, Mark Dawson, president of Glass Doctor, John Webb, president of Deals Auto Glass Service Inc., Rich Harrison, chief operating officer and senior vice president for Belron US, Paul Heinauer, president of Glasspro Inc., and Wes Topping, chairman of Belron Inc., will lead a panel discussion on “The State of the Industry Revisited.”

The panelists will lead a discussion about what surprised them about the past year and what they foresee for the future ahead.

A closing reception will follow this discussion as the conference comes to an end. ■

