

**Just below is an account of one of my recent roadside assists (February 25, 2017, in Texas) – followed by analysis of how the deputy, a great guy who had stayed on scene to help, could have been even more helpful if he had had my training.**

While driving on Texas Highway 30 from Shiro following the ceremony to scatter my deceased friend's ashes, I passed an old Mercedes with flat left front tire and a Grimes County sheriff deputy's car behind it – both facing the direction I had come from. Someone was unloading stuff from the Mercedes' trunk. Since this looked more like a disabled vehicle than a criminal stop, I did a U-turn and approached the two vehicles. A guy in his late 20's, Carlos, waved me over, asking whether I had a 4-way lug wrench since the lug nuts on his wheel were too tight. I handed him my 4-way and walked back to meet the deputy, Mike Bewley. Carlos had used Bewley's hydraulic jack to elevate the car before loosening the flat tire wheel's lug bolts – not a good idea since once the flat tire is off the ground, trying to loosen the bolts almost always causes the wheel to turn, preventing removal of the bolts. So Bewley lowered the car. Carlos then told me that the 4-way wouldn't work since all its heads were too large for the car's lug bolts. Most German cars use 17 mm lug bolts, not lug nuts; so I fished out a 17 mm socket, breaker bar and a short extension bar and assembled them, handing the tool to Carlos. He loosened the bolts, jacked up the car, and removed the flat tire. The M-B's full-sized spare had zero psi pressure, so my 12-volt compressor reflat it. As Carlos mounted his spare I spoke with Deputy Bewley about my initiative to get law enforcement agencies to encourage officers to perform simple safe, quick tire changes when they are not performing higher priority traditional tasks – all with the bigger agenda to improve police-community relations.

Deputy Bewley seemed very interested as I described the new video I was sending to law enforcement agencies and associations nation-wide. He wanted to buy a copy of my book; so did Carlos, but all Carlos had was a couple of \$100 bills (and I had little change). So Bewley paid me on the spot in cash for two copies, for Carlos and himself; he told me he would read it right away. I suggested Bewley go to my website and find the page on Roadside Assists by Law Enforcement Officers. Here is a link where anyone can find the video, my list of tips and equipment and a pricing schedule for multi-copy book buys: <https://roadsidesurvival.com/roadside-assisting-by-law-enforcement-officers/>

After Carlos finished mounting the spare he departed the scene following mega-thank-you's; Deputy Bewley stuck around for about ten minutes as we discussed my plan. Then he got a call to intercept a speeder, so he departed.

Comments: Deputy Bewley, by his account, is an experienced tire changer; however, he:

- 1) Watched Carlos jack up his car before the lug nuts were loosened
- 2) Did not have tools to lend Carlos: either a 4-way lug wrench or a cheater bar to gain sufficient leverage to loosen the car's lug bolts
- 3) Was unaware that Mercedes and several other European cars use 17 mm bolts to secure rims to vehicle wheels. If I had not provided a 17 mm socket the tire would never have gotten changed.
- 4) Did not have an air compressor to reflat the flat spare tire.

**So, I cite this as a perfect example of an excellent sheriff's deputy who was willing to help Carlos, but he lacked training and equipment to complete the assist. He would have been prepared if he had had my training!**

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