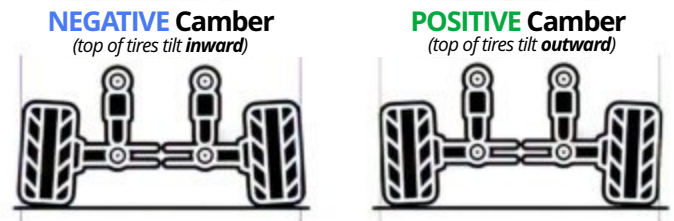


Golf cart suspensions. It doesn't sound very exciting but if you have an issue with the suspension of your golf cart it can cause lots of problems. Some underlying things that you won't notice immediately and others you'll have a problem driving your cart at all. Let's cover the basics of your suspension and those pesky components that can be troublesome. Knowing what to watch for can save you some cash and time without your beloved cart. Most carts have the standard leaf springs on the rear and factory bushings, and shocks. On the front you have front shocks, ball joints, control arms and more. There are even carts out there with more components similar to your automobile like independent suspension now. All work in sync and depending on your use they can take a toll quicker than other carts.

If you have an older cart, chances are some of your components are or will be needing replacement. Most carts can get by with replacing bushings and an alignment to your cart. For others you may need new leaf springs or shocks and more. Let's cover some tell tale signs that you may have an issue with your cart.

If you look at the front of your cart and your tires are pointing inward from the top you have an alignment issue and some suspension issues. Could be as simple as having a local shop perform an alignment and problem solved. Could be something more so get that checked out. Putting that off will cause premature tire wear and that can get more expensive. Inspect your tires secondly to make sure they aren't wearing on the outside or the inside or possibly both. If that is the case that is another sign of front-end issues.



If bushings need replacing, I recommend using rubber bushings over polyurethane. Why do you ask yourself? Because chemicals like oil, grease and others can cause polyurethane to break down and deteriorate quicker than normal.

How about shocks? Depending on the owner some may want a newer shock to soften the ride. Others may want a stiffer ride and changing out the rear leaf springs to a heavy-duty set will stiffen up your ride. Most of you might not notice a difference if your cart is riding differently and



others might. We can go down the proverbial rabbit hole of suspension and all the parts, not to mention adding a lift to a golf cart or even lowering it. If you start hearing clunking noises or grinding when turning you have an issue.



So, I suggest whether your cart is new or getting a little long in the tooth and you want to enjoy riding and playing 18 or maybe you enjoy riding the neighborhood or food truck Friday. I suggest you have your cart checked out once a year. If the bushings are bad and your cart needs new ones, change them. If the tires are getting bald on one side or leaning things have progressed and are getting worse. Most golf cart shops keep parts on hand for most carts and if not, they can order them relatively quickly and have your cart back to you. Enjoy the ride and hope to see you out soon enjoying the cart life.

Continued





- With John Poluga
for The Magnolia News



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