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Michael Calkins is manager of Technical Services in the Automotive Engineering and Repair department at AAA's national office in Heathrow, Florida. In that position, he researches and reports on vehicle technologies, automotive industry trends and numerous other topics that affect the car ownership experience. Calkins is also responsible for the expense numbers that appear in AAA's annual *Your Driving Costs* brochure, information that helps motorists make more informed car buying decisions and budget for related expenses. Calkins was previously national manager of AAA's Approved Auto Repair (AAR) program, and before that oversaw a local AAR program at the AAA-affiliated Inland Automobile Association in Washington State.

Calkins has more than 40 years of experience in the automotive industry. Starting as a technician in 1975, he is the author of automotive vocational textbooks, has published hundreds of articles on automotive service and technology, has done extensive research into vehicle driving costs and is frequently interviewed by media regarding these topics. Calkins has an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in auto mechanics, and a BA with a double major in English and religion. He holds current ASE certification as a Master Automobile Technician with additional certification in L1 - Advanced Emission Controls.