

January 10, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Just Released: Best Practices for the Title and Registration of Reconstructed and Replica Vehicles

AAMVA is proud to announce the release of our newest best practice guide, Best Practices for the Title and Registration of Reconstructed and Replica Vehicles. A companion to last year's release, Best Practices for Rebuilt and Specially Constructed Vehicles (<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=4748>), this document describes the challenges unconventional vehicles present to AAMVA members and suggest best practices for how to title and register the vehicles.

Download the document

(<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=4752&libID=4729>)

Watch the video

(http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1495998820001?bckey=AQ~~,AAABXAM8cgE~,V3HL14nrSB-b6QikcOJYf6_bmUCFHjp8&bctid=3018699385001)

Region I

Thousands of Immigrants Seek Drivers Licenses (Maryland)

Thousands of immigrants living here without legal permission will start the new year demonstrating skills in parallel parking and two-point turns in hopes of becoming licensed drivers in Maryland. Read the full story in The Baltimore Sun.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-undocumented-licenses-20131231,0,998135.story>

Maryland Cities Tell Court Photo Tickets Do Not Need To Be Paid

The Fourth Circuit US Court of Appeals on Monday rejected a due process challenge to Maryland speed camera citations. In the process of arguing their case, however, Maryland localities argued that there are basically no negative consequences if photo ticket recipients decide to toss their citations in the trash. Read the full article at <http://www.thenewspaper.com/news/43/4305.asp>

Cuomo to Add Hunting, Fishing Options on Driver's License (New York)

New Yorkers will soon be able to link hunting and fishing licenses to their driver's license under a plan set to be revealed Wednesday as part of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's State of the State address. Under Cuomo's plan, those who own hunting and fishing permits, a boating safety certificate or certain state park passes will be able to list them on their driver's license, eliminating the need to carry multiple

documents, according to Cuomo administration officials. Read the full story in the Democrat and Chronicle.

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/local/2014/01/05/cuomo-to-add-hunting-fishing-options-on-drivers-license/4332733/>

State Increases Fine for Traffic Violation (Pennsylvania)

Pennsylvania drivers that receive a fine for "Obedience to Traffic Control Devices" will now have to pay a higher fine thanks to changes by the commonwealth. Minersville police Chief Michael Combs said Thursday that Section 3111, "Obedience to Traffic Control Devices," which has been given to drivers as a break for speeding, will now come with a higher cost. Read the full story in the Republican Herald.

<http://republicanherald.com/news/state-increases-fine-for-traffic-violation-1.1612118>

PennDOT Eases Restrictions on Disabled Vets (Pennsylvania)

State Rep. Tina Davis, D-141, on Thursday said PennDOT will make it easier for disabled veterans to obtain severely disabled veteran plates. Read the full story at Bucks County Courier Times.

http://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/news/local/penndot-eases-restrictions-on-disabled-vets/article_41dd121e-a821-5357-a318-36146273d5b9.html

Region II

New Online License Plate Pre-commitment System Goes Live January 1 (Alabama)

If you are an Alabama vehicle owner wishing to pre-order one of the currently-approved new distinctive license plate designs, the Alabama Department of Revenue has some important news for you. Beginning this January, the method for accepting pre-commitments for new distinctive license plate categories, approved by the Legislative Oversight Committee on License Plates (LOC), will change. For more information regarding Alabama's distinctive license plate program, log on to the Motor Vehicle Division's web page at <http://revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/>.

'Rock and Role' License Plate Coming Soon to Bumpers Near You (Arkansas)

You may soon start seeing a new license plate while driving around the Natural State. The new, state-issued license plate is part of the "Rock and Role" branding initiative. Rock and Role was created through a partnership of the Little Rock Air Force Base Community Council, Base Leadership, and congressman Tim Griffin. Read the full story at THV11.com.

<http://www.thv11.com/news/article/293487/2/Rock-and-Role-license-plate-coming-soon-to-bumpers-near-you>

NCDMV Continues Production of New Driver Licenses That Will Reduce Fraud, Better Integrate Technology

The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles is moving forward with production of a new next generation, secure driver license that will reduce the risk of identity theft, better integrate new technology for customer service and comply with the federal Real ID Act of 2005. Read the press release.

<https://apps.ncdot.gov/newsreleases/details.aspx?r=9209>

All-Electric Vehicles Begin Paying Special Fee (North Carolina)

Beginning this month, approximately 1600 all-electric vehicles registered in North Carolina and newly-registered all-electrics are required to pay a \$100 annual fee in addition to other required registration fees. Registration renewals due during January are expected to affect the first 146 vehicles in this group. All-electric vehicles are being billed because they do not otherwise pay taxes for road use and maintenance. Vehicles fueled by gasoline pay for road upkeep through gas taxes metered at each fill-up. Read the DMV press release.

<https://apps.ncdot.gov/newsreleases/details.aspx?r=9212>

Texas Attempting to Ban Texting While Driving (Again)

By an almost 2-1 margin, the Texas House of Representatives has passed a bill banning texting while driving. The goal of the new bill, and like all other distracted driving legislation, is to try and reduce the amount of individuals being seriously injured or killed as the result of a driver paying attention to their phone instead of the road. If approved, Texas would join 39 other states with similar distracted driving laws. Read the full story at DistractedDriverAccidents.com.

<http://distracteddriveraccidents.com/texas-attempting-ban-texting-driving-again/>

Bill Would Require More Testing for Older Drivers in Virginia

State Sen. Jeff McWaters has filed a bill that would require older Virginia drivers to test more often to renew their licenses. The bill would lower the age to 75 from 80 for mandatory in-person license renewal with a vision test, and require anyone 75 or older to renew every five years rather than the current eight-year mandate. It also would provide for a course in crash prevention for older drivers and make that course an option in levying sentences for driving offenses. Read the full story at HamptonRoads.com.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2014/01/bill-would-require-more-testing-older-drivers-va>

Region III

Fuel Tax Increase Unlikely, Iowa Leaders Say

A fuel tax increase is “unlikely” to come out of this year’s General Assembly, Gov. Terry Branstad said Wednesday in a sentiment echoed by the top lawmakers in the Iowa Legislature. Read the full story in the Muscatine Journal.

http://muscatinejournal.com/news/state-and-regional/fuel-tax-increase-unlikely-iowa-leaders-say/article_2da61c38-94b3-52dc-ab7c-43fdfdc13774.html

Extreme Cold Temperatures Result in Changes for Trucking Industry (Wisconsin)

Due to the extreme cold weather, the Wisconsin Departments of Transportation (WisDOT) and Administration (DOA) have determined an energy emergency exists and effective immediately, have authorized motor carriers to transport overweight loads of energy resources such as fuel and oil, along with milk commodities. Read the DMV press release.

http://www.dot.state.wi.us/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_4402.html_786229440.html

Region IV

Hike in California 'Car Tax' Would Raise Up to \$4 Billion

A proposed ballot measure to more than double California's vehicle license fee would raise \$3 billion to \$4 billion annually for state and local transportation programs, according to estimates by the Legislative Analyst's Office. Read the full story in the Sacramento Bee.

<http://blogs.sacbee.com/capitolalertlatest/2014/01/proposed-hike-in-california-car-tax-would-raise-3-billion-to-4-billion.html>

DMV Gears up to Issue Driver's Licenses to Unauthorized Immigrants Next Year (California)

People wait in line outside a California Department of Motor Vehicles office in Los Angeles on February 13, 2009. The agency is taking on a big task this year: Preparing special driver's licenses that unauthorized immigrants may begin applying for next January 1. The proposed state budget addresses a very big task that the California DMV is taking on this year: preparing to issue special driver's licenses that unauthorized immigrants may begin applying for next January 1. Read the full story at KPPC Southern California Public Radio.

<http://www.scpr.org/blogs/multiamerican/2014/01/09/15566/dmv-gears-up-to-issue-driver-s-license-to-unauthor/>

New Veteran Designation on Montana Driver Licenses Now Available

Veterans now have the option of adding a "Veteran" designation to the front of their driver licenses or identification cards as of January 1, the Montana Department of Justice and the Montana Veterans Affairs Division announced today. Read the DOJ press release.

<https://doj.mt.gov/2014/01/new-veteran-designation-on-montana-driver-licenses-now-available/>

DAC Traffic is Steady for DMV; Failure Rate Above Average for Written Test (Nevada)

After three days of the state's new Driver Authorization Card (DAC) program the early returns show traffic has been brisk and the failure rate above average, according to DMV officials. Read the DMV press release.

<http://www.dmvnv.com/news/14003-DAC-traffic-steady.htm>

DMV Issues 549 Driving Authorization Cards in First Week (Nevada)

A total of 549 Nevadans have been issued driver authorization cards in the first week of the new law creating the program, the Department of Motor Vehicles reported Thursday. Another 281 learner's permits have also been issued under the new law, which allows Nevada residents who are not U.S. citizens to legally drive on state roads. Read the full story at ReviewJournal.com.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/nevada-dmv-issues-549-driving-authorization-cards-first-week>

Santa Fe Lawmaker Pushes for Ban on Texting on Road (New Mexico)

Maybe the fifth time will be the charm for a bill banning texting while driving in New Mexico. Sen. Peter Wirth, D-Santa Fe, has pre-filed Senate Bill 19 to prohibit people from reading or typing on smartphones, iPads or any other handheld device while they are driving. It is the fifth year some version of the "don't text and drive" bill has been introduced by various lawmakers at the state Legislature. Read the full story in the Santa Fe New Mexican.

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/santa-fe-lawmaker-pushes-for-ban-on-texting-on-road/article_72caf90f-5638-5405-bf7a-017963099520.html

Legislator Wants to Ban Wearing of Google Glass While Driving (Wyoming)

State Sen. Floyd Esquibel says he's trying to get one step ahead of technology with his bill to ban use of Google Glass while driving. The legislation pre-filed by the Cheyenne Democrat targets a computing device that is worn like glasses and projects visual images. Esquibel said he decided to sponsor the bill after reading articles about the product. Read the full story at Trib.com.

http://trib.com/business/wyoming-legislator-floyd-esquibel-wants-to-ban-wearing-of-google/article_ba74df63-86e2-5578-bf97-f6cdf4358d9f.html

Other News

New IIHS Report on Impaired Driving Trends and Crashes

IIHS released a new report that examines the apparent disconnect between data from roadside surveys that show less alcohol-impaired driving, while at the same time the percentage of drunk drivers involved in fatal crashes has stayed relatively constant. Characteristics of impaired drivers, such as their tendency not to buckle up, may offer an explanation and suggest potential countermeasures. Download the report. (<http://www.iihs.org/iihs/sr>) The full research paper is also available on the IIHS Web site at www.iihs.org.

License Plates from Wyoming and Hawaii Are America's Favorites, Says Survey

America's most attractive license plate comes from Wyoming, a new CarInsurance.com survey finds. Wyoming's top-scoring plate features a silhouetted cowboy on a bucking bronco. CarInsurance.com asked 2,000 licensed drivers from all corners of the country which standard-issue license plates they liked most and least, choosing five of each. Voting continues at <http://www.carinsurance.com/best-and-worst-license-plates.aspx>. Read the full story at CarInsurance.com.

<http://www.carinsurance.com/Articles/favorite-license-plates.aspx>.

Odometer Fraud Scam Costing Consumers Billions

A scam involving car odometers is costing consumers billions of dollars nationwide, including right here in North Carolina. Those are the findings of a recent report from Carfax. Read the full story at WNCN.com.

<http://www.wncn.com/story/24369284/odometer-fraud-scam-costing-consumers-billions>

New MADD Report Reveals Improvement on Drunk Driving Reform Nationwide

Today, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) released Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving: 2014 Report to the Nation, an update of MADD's Campaign advocacy efforts. The report provides an overview of legislative accomplishments, highlights state-by-state drunk driving reform, and provides a glimpse of what is on the horizon. Read the full story at PRWeb.com.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2014/01/prweb11474564.htm>

Did You Know

Interesting Facts in the Automotive World

Count De Dion's automobile may not be a car by modern definition, but it is the oldest surviving automobile in existence. It was built in France in 1884 and was sold at an auction in 2011 for \$4.6 million.

In France it is mandatory for every car driver to carry a breathalyser with him or her.

At any point in time an average of 1 billion cars are in use (working condition) in the world. That's approximately 1/7th of the global population.

The first death caused due to a motor car accident was in the year 1896. 44 year old Mrs Bridget Driscoll from Croydon, Surrey was hit by a car being driven by Mrs Bridget Driscoll, while she was crossing the road. However, the first person to die in car due to a road accident was Henry Hale Bliss on 14 September 1899 in New York City.

The first automobile accident was in 1769; the damaged vehicle is still preserved in the Conservatoire Nationale des Arts et Metiers in Paris.

The Dashboard was originally a piece of wood attached to the front of a horse-drawn carriage that would prevent mud from splattering the driver as the horse galloped.

The height of the world's lowest street-legal car is 19 inches. The 'Flatmobile' was built by Perry Watkins from Buckinghamshire.

The first coin-operated parking meter was installed in Oklahoma City in 1935.

Hong Kong is the city with the most Rolls Royce's per capita. Hong Kong has historically been the city which has had the maximum number of luxury cars per capita in the world. In fact, the city-state of Hong Kong is considered to be the largest metropolis for luxury goods and status symbols in the world.

First Steering Wheel: In 1898 the Panhard et Levassor cars came equipped as standard with steering wheels. The idea caught on and similar systems sparked across the world. By 1899, the steering wheel arrived in the US, where Packard introduced the steering wheel on one of its models. By the time the Model T arrived, the steering wheel was an essential part of the car.

First Speeding Ticket: Among the firsts was a speeding ticket issued in Dayton Ohio to Harry Myers while driving on West Third Street. His infraction was going twelve miles per hour. The year was 1904.

The first traffic lights were installed on December 10th, 1868 to control the traffic in front of the British Houses of Parliament in London.

These and more interesting facts can be found online at:

<http://yourcarangel.com/2013/08/12-amazing-car-facts-you-never-knew/#sthash.bWmlrRXs.dpuf>

<http://autos.yahoo.com/news/50-quirky-car-facts-blow-mind-infographic-185340026.html>

<http://www.drivespark.com/off-beat/amazing-car-facts-from-around-the-world-005643.html>