

April 4, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Webinar: CDL Workshop Follow Up - State Success Stories

Join us on **Wednesday, April 9th at 1:00 PM (EST)** for the CDL Workshop Follow Up – State Success Stories webinar. Due to time constraints at the February CDL Workshop in Houston, a few jurisdiction presentations did not occur. Presenters have graciously agreed to provide their presentations via AAMVA Webinar series, so that their colleagues from other jurisdictions can benefit from their lessons learned and best practices. <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/693005809>

Upcoming AAMVA Events

Get all the details on these upcoming events:

- Region IV Conference (June 2-5) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-IV-Landing-Page/>
- Region II Conference (June 22-26) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-II-Landing-Page/>

Make your hotel and travel arrangements and register online today!

Region I

Didn't Pay a Toll? Enforcers May Track You Across State Lines (Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire)

New England drivers who speed through toll plazas in neighboring states without paying are in for a rude surprise. Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire have agreed to crack down on their own residents who frequently blow off tolls in the other states. The 3-year-old arrangement has yielded only modest amounts of money, but it is being hailed as a model for interstate cooperation as electronic tolling spreads across the country. Read the full story at UnionLeader.com.

<http://www.unionleader.com/article/20140402/NEWS09/140409902>

Deputy Secretary of State, Patty Morneault, honored with an Above and Beyond Award by the Maine Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

On March 31, 2014, the Maine Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, honored Deputy Secretary of State, Patty Morneault, with an Above and Beyond Award in recognition of extraordinary support to, Daniel Henry, Business Manager for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and a Lieutenant Maine Army National Guardsman. Read the press release.

<http://www.maine.gov/sos/news/2014/aboveandbeyondaward.html>

Bureau of Motor Vehicle Employees, David Lachance and Marc Theberge, honored with Patriotic Employers Award by the Maine Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

On March 31, 2014, the Maine Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, honored David Lachance, Director of Administrative Services, and Marc Theberge, Business Services Manager with an Patriotic Employers award in recognition of extraordinary support to, Daniel Henry, Business Manager for the Bureau and a Lieutenant Maine Army National Guardsman. Read the press release.

<http://www.maine.gov/sos/news/2014/patrioticemployersaward.html>

State Budget Includes Texting While Driving (New York)

The New York State budget will include legislation on tougher texting while driving laws. If approved, people under the age of 21 convicted of using any handheld electronic device behind the wheel could lose their license for 120 days. If that person is caught again, they license is suspended for a full year. Read the story on-line at News10.com.

<http://www.news10.com/story/25121058/state-budget-includes-texting-while-driving>

21 More Charged With Cheating On Commercial Driver's License Tests (New York)

An investigation into suspected cheating on New York state tests for licenses to drive such sensitive vehicles as school buses and hazardous-materials trucks has ensnared almost two dozen more people after 19 arrests in September. Read the full story at CBSLocal.com.

<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2014/04/02/21-more-charged-with-cheating-on-commercial-drivers-license-tests/>

Emergency Vehicles to Get New 'Red Letter' License Plates (New York)

The familiar color scheme of New York State license plates will soon change for emergency vehicles. Governor Andrew Cuomo announced on Thursday they will soon have red letters. The new plates will also have an "EM" sticker to help identify them. Read the full story at WNYT.com.

http://wnyt.com/article/stories/s3386190.shtml?cat=10114&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Bill to Increase Organ Donation (Pennsylvania)

More than 117,000 people nationally, are waiting for an organ transplant. April is National Donate Life Month, and Pennsylvania State Senator Don White (R, 41st District) is doing his part to help increase awareness for organ donation. Sen. White has tried to increase awareness before, because of his personal experience with organ donation . . . he has proposed Senate Bills 1305 and 1306 to increase awareness. Read the full story at WeAreCentralPA.com.

<http://www.wearecentralpa.com/story/d/story/bill-to-increase-organ-donation/23084/GC7THktx4U2wauYxtAEAHw>

Region II

New Law Will Put Breath Testing Device in DUI Offenders' Vehicles (Alabama)

A new Alabama law will make it harder for you to get on the road if you have had a DUI, including first-time offenders . . . Rep. Allen Farley, who co-authored the bill, says everyone convicted of drunk driving will pay \$75 a month for the first four months after their conviction. This money will help build up the fund. Those in need of assistance will then be required to pay only 50% of the cost. Read the full story at WFXG.com.

<http://www.wfxg.com/story/25152353/new-law-will-put-breath-testing-device-in-dui-offenders-vehicles>

Bill Could Raise Florida Speed Limit to 75 mph

. . . Highway safety advocates say that if the Florida Legislature passes a bill that would allow the state to raise the speed limit to 75 mph there could be more crashes, injuries and deaths. The bill's supporters say people are already driving that fast and the speed limit should reflect reality -- and would actually be safer. Read the full story at Bradeton.com.

www.bradenton.com/2014/03/31/5076816/bill-could-raise-florida-speed.html#storylink=cpy

Vehicle Owners Set To Benefit From Fee Reduction (Florida)

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles applauds Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature for reducing annual motor vehicle registration fees that allow Floridians to keep more of their money in their own pockets. Under legislation signed into law today by Gov. Scott, vehicle owners in Florida will save millions annually on their registration fees which are set to decrease beginning September 1st. Read the DHSMV press release.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/news/pdfs/PRO40214Fees.pdf>

Mississippi House Rejects Texting-While-Driving Ban

The state House says it's OK, so Mississippi drivers can text away. House members killed a texting-while-driving ban Wednesday night on a voice vote in the closing minutes of the 2014 Legislature. Read the full story at JacksonFreePress.com.

<http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2014/apr/04/miss-house-rejects-texting-while-driving-ban/>

Man Arrested for Making Terroristic Threats at DMV (Texas)

A Copperas Cove man was arrested Monday morning after showing up to a local DMV and making terroristic threats. According to police, the incident happened around 8:38 a.m. at the Texas

Department of Public Safety Driver's License Office, located at 201 South 2nd Street. Officers were told a man with a gun was making threats. Officers arrived moments after the call came in, and the man was taken into custody. The suspect was found to be unarmed, and there were no injuries reported on scene. Read the full story at KWKT.com.

<http://www.kwkt.com/news/man-arrested-making-terroristic-threats-dmv>

Region III

Ohio Legislative Panel Set To Vote On Controversial 'Enhanced' Driver's Licenses

State lawmakers are mulling a controversial proposal allowing Ohio to issue “enhanced” driver’s licenses and identification cards. Supporters say the enhanced licenses, which include a radio chip and barcode, will allow Ohioans to quickly cross into Canada and Mexico without needing a passport or other paperwork. Some civil liberties advocates, however, worry that the government and criminals could exploit the licenses. Read the full story at Cleveland.com.

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/04/ohio_legislative_panel_set_to.html

Ohio Senate OKs Deal Allowing 3 Tesla Dealerships

A bitter struggle over Tesla Motors’ bid to operate three stores in Ohio moved closer to an end yesterday with a 32-0 vote by the Ohio Senate. Senate Bill 260 now heads to the Ohio House, where swift approval is expected as a result of a compromise between Tesla, an electric-car manufacturer, and the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association. Under terms of a deal worked out last month, Tesla will be permitted to open a store in Cleveland and can continue operating stores at Easton and in Cincinnati. No other stores will be allowed. Read the full story in the Columbus Dispatch.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/04/02/senate-approves-compromise-allowing-3-tesla-dealerships.html>

Region IV

Study Strives to Predict Senior’s Driving Safety (British Columbia)

With the number of seniors in B.C. expected to climb to well over a million in the next decade, researchers are working on a better way to screen senior drivers to make sure they’re still safe behind the wheel. A total of 928 seniors in five Canadian cities are taking part in the ‘Candrive’ national research project to help develop a better way for doctors to screen older drivers to see if they’re still fit to hold a licence. Read the full story at CTVNews.com.

<http://bc.ctvnews.ca/study-strives-to-predict-senior-s-driving-safety-1.1757941>

Feds Support Hawaii Driver's License Lawsuit

The U.S. Department of Justice is supporting a lawsuit alleging Hawaii discriminates against those who struggle with English by making it too difficult to obtain a driver's license. Allegations in the lawsuit are sufficient to proceed with a discrimination claim, and the court should deny the state's motion to dismiss the case, the Justice Department said in court documents filed Thursday. Read the full story at ABCNews.go.com.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/feds-support-hawaii-drivers-license-lawsuit-23105074>

DMV explains rules of the road for undocumented seeking licenses

A presentation at the Mexican Consulate office introduced some 200 residents, most of whom live in the country without legal residency, to the work and study it might take to earn a driver's license under a new law. Read the full article in the Orange County Register.

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/mata-608336-driver-new.html?page=1>

Federal Lawsuit Charges ISP Targeted Innocent Traveler with Colorado Plates for Unwarranted Drug Search (Idaho)

A federal lawsuit against the Idaho State Police charges that officers profiled, pulled over, harassed, detained and searched a Washington man simply for driving across the Oregon line into Idaho on the freeway – because he had Colorado plates. Officers insisted the man must be carrying marijuana, but extensive searches of his vehicle found nothing illegal. Read the full story at Spokesman.com.

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/boise/2014/mar/30/federal-lawsuit-charges-isp-targeted-innocent-traveler-colo-plates-unwarranted-drug-search/>

Ontario Program Offers \$1M for Autonomous Vehicle Technology

Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) has launched a \$1-million program designed to develop autonomous and connected vehicle technologies in the province. Launched on behalf of the provincial transportation and research and innovation, the program will provide cash to projects that will improve traffic flow and safety of Ontario's roads. The program's goal is to bring business and academia together to develop innovations in the burgeoning connected and autonomous vehicle technology streams with high potential for commercialization. Read the full story at CanPlastics.com.

<http://www.canplastics.com/news/ontario-program-offers-1m-for-autonomous-vehicle-technology/1002987637/?&er=NA>

Bill: Remove Barrier to Electric Car Charging Stations in Utah

A proposed tweak in state law could go a long way toward making electric vehicles, which typically travel no more than 80 miles between charges, a more practical option for Utah drivers. Under current law, Utahns who drive electric vehicles (EV) long distances away from home depend on the good will of employers and retailers who install charging equipment for them to use for free. Read the full story at SLTrib.com.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57648533-90/electric-charging-vehicles-vehicle.html.csp>

Other News

Highway Code must outline safety features of today's new cars, say driving instructors (EU)

The Highway Code needs to be updated to emphasise the importance of safety innovations in today's new cars, according to Britain's driving instructors. Electronic Stability Control has been compulsory on all cars sold in the EU since 2011, but there is currently no mention of ESC in the UK Highway Code . . . Hybrid and electric vehicles are also completely omitted from the Highway Code but nearly two thirds of ADIs (64%) reckon learner drivers should be questioned on them. Read the full article on Fleet.Directory.co.uk.

<http://www.fleetdirectory.co.uk/news/highway-code-must-outline-safety-features-of-todays-new-cars-say-driving-instructors/>

New App Designed to Help People Suspected of DUI

One of the latest smartphone apps is causing controversy -- with police worried it could end up being used for the wrong reasons. An Iowa law firm created the "Oh Crap App" to help people suspected of driving drunk. It lists basic legal rights, has a blood alcohol calculator, and an emergency "Oh Crap" button for when a driver is actually being stopped. Read the full story at WSLs.com.

<http://www.wsls.com/story/25114477/new-app-designed-to-help-people-suspected-of-dui>

Did You Know

American Muscle Cars

I have seen many friends and colleagues pull out their smartphones and scroll through their images to brag about their kids or pets. (I do it all the time!) But, did you know there are people that go through the same routine when you get them talking about their beloved cars? (Maybe you're one of them?) I know the owner of a body shop who does a lot of restoration work, and he most certainly is one of those people. Catch him at home, and he'll actually bring out photo albums full of the cars that he's restored and done custom work on.

Later this month I'll be accompanying him on a visit to the Carlisle Car Sweep Meet and Corral in Pennsylvania. In preparation for this trip, I figured I'd do some research on American muscle cars. This is some of what I've learned:

- By definition Muscle cars are normal production models built to put that manufacturers hottest engine and performance options to make them into street legal drag racers.

- Considered by some to be the first real muscle car, the 1949 Oldsmobile Rocket 88 carried a 303 cubic-inch V-8 that produced only 135 horses.
- 1964 the first of the classic muscle cars--the Pontiac GTO--was introduced.
- The 1965 Mustang racked up over 22,000 sales its first day and one million sales in its first two years. The pony car class that the Ford Mustang helped create is the only class of muscle car that still exists today. The Ford Torino also falls in this category.
- In 1967 General Motors finally launched its entry into the high performance pony car segment introducing the Chevrolet Camaro. Although available with a mediocre six cylinder for volume sales, the Camaro could be equipped with several V8s and a myriad of performance options.
- The 1967 Shelby Mustangs used Mercury Cougar tail lamps, but the 1968 models used lamps from the '66 Ford Thunderbird.
- Actor James Garner raced a beefed-up 1970 Olds 442 in the NORRA Mexico 1000 (a precursor to the Baja 1000), where it won second in class. The Goodyear Grabber, as it was known, was built by legendary Baja-race-vehicle guru Vic Hickey and sponsored by Goodyear tires.
- There is no production 1983 Corvette. Although 1982 was the last year for the third-generation Corvette, Chevy decided to wait until the 1984 model year to launch the all-new car. In fact, every 1983 Corvette prototype was destroyed, except one: a white car that now lives at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Ky.
- In 2012, Steve McQueen's 1968 Ford GT40 sold at auction for \$11 million—a record for an American car on the auction block.

Want to learn more?

10 Surprising Facts About American Muscle Cars (Popular Mechanics)

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/cars/news/vintage-speed/10-surprising-facts-about-american-muscle-cars#slide-1>

Muscle Car History (Muscle Car Facts)

<http://www.musclecarfacts.com/classic-car-articles/33-muscle-car-history>

Get-in2's Muscle Car Classics (<http://www.get-in2.com/musclecars/>)

Fast n' Loud Facts (Discovery.com)

<http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/fast-n-loud/fast-facts.htm>