

June 20, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Presentations from Region IV Conference Are Now Online

If you missed a session at the 2014 Region IV Conference in Vancouver, or if you missed the whole event altogether, you're in luck! Most of the presentations that were given at the conference are now available online on the Region IV Conference Downloads page. Access it anytime from the Downloads button on the homepage of AAMVA's Web site, or by going to <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-IV-Conference-Downloads/>.

Early Bird Registration for Annual International Conference Ends July 17th

Take advantage of AAMVA's early bird registration rate for the 2014 Annual International Conference. Get registered today and take part in this year's exciting conference at the splendid Dover Downs Hotel & Casino in Dover, Delaware. Visit www.aamva.org/2014-AIC-Landing-Page/.

Register for Regional Conferences

Register now to join us for our 2014 Regional Conferences. Still ahead, Region II meets from June 22-25 in Biloxi, Mississippi, and Region I meets from July 27-30 in Toronto, Ontario. Visit the upcoming events section of AAMVA's website to register! <http://www.aamva.org/EventsEducation/Upcoming-Events/>

Region I

U.S. City Thinks Having Pedestrians Carry Flags Will Keep Them Safe (Connecticut)

Pedestrians in one Connecticut city might get around a bit more safely, if they don't mind crossing the street carrying a bright yellow flag. The city of Bridgeport has started leaving the flags at each end of one downtown crosswalk in an effort to cut down on the number of people hit while crossing the street. The idea behind the program is simple: Drivers are more likely to see—and yield to—pedestrians carrying the flags, which make it abundantly obvious that the person is about to cross the street. Similar efforts have been made, with varying levels of success, in cities around the country, most often on busy arterials that don't always have traffic lights or crossing signals. Read the full story at Wired.com.

<http://www.wired.com/2014/06/bridgeport-pedestrian-flags/>

Lawmakers OK Limited License for Drunken Drivers (New Hampshire)

New Hampshire's House and Senate have voted to authorize a limited driver's license for first-time drunken drivers to go to work, medical treatment, school or other locations approved by a judge. They voted Wednesday to send the bill to the governor. The license must be suspended for 45 days before applying for limited driving privileges. Read the full story at SFGate.com.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/crime/article/Lawmakers-OK-limited-license-for-drunken-drivers-5528368.php>

Fines Could Lead to License Suspension (Pennsylvania)

If you don't pay fines owed to Pennsylvania, your license may soon be suspended. On Wednesday the Senate Transportation Committee approved a bill that would suspend a person's license if they don't pay any fines within a 15 day window. Read the full story at WeareCentralPA.com.

<http://www.wearecentralpa.com/story/d/story/fines-could-lead-to-license-suspension/24083/3LfqoWYisESyYgyBPHQDYA>

Region II

Driver Services Continues Outreach to GA Commercial Drivers With Past Due Federal Medical Certifications

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell says that over ninety percent of Georgia's licensed commercial drivers have complied with new Federal medical certification requirements. The Agency is attempting to reach the remaining 25,283 non-compliant drivers with a final notice – providing sixty days to submit information to DDS or face disqualification and cancellation of their commercial driving privileges. Read the full press release.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/newsdetail.aspx?id=349>

KYTC Graduated Driver License Course Now Offered Online

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has announced an online version of the Graduated Driver License course for teaching safe driving techniques to beginning drivers. The online program represents a fourth option for completing the course, which is required before a learner's permit can be replaced with an unrestricted driver's license. Read the KYTC press release.

<http://migration.kentucky.gov/newsroom/kytc/2014-06-12+Graduated+Driver+License+course+online.htm>

NC Supreme Court Strikes Down Chapel Hill's Cellphone Law

The North Carolina Supreme Court has struck down the state's first local ordinance banning people from using cellphones while driving. The high court on Thursday ruled unanimously that state laws regulate highways and roads and that prohibits the town of Chapel Hill's enforcement of the cellphone ban. The court also struck down parts of a separate town ordinance regulating towing. Judges said the town could not cap towing fees or prevent towing companies from passing credit card fees on to consumers. Read the full story at NewsObserver.com.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/06/12/3930570/nc-supreme-court-strikes-down.html?sp=/99/102/>

Debit, Credit Card Machines Bring Quicker Vehicle Transactions (North Carolina)

In another effort to make NCDMV visits shorter and more efficient, the acceptance of credit and debit cards at the state's license plate agencies and state registration offices has brought an easier, quicker way to pay registration renewals and vehicle property taxes. Read the DMV press release.

<https://apps.ncdot.gov/newsreleases/details.aspx?r=9982>

South Carolina Teen Forced to Remove Makeup Before Taking License Photo at DMV

An Upstate teenager was told to take off his makeup before he was allowed to get his picture taken at the DMV. However, the 16-year-old said he was not in disguise. He was dressed as who he is. Read the full story at Fox43.com.

<http://fox43.com/2014/06/17/sc-teen-forced-to-remove-makeup-before-taking-license-photo-at-dmv/#axzz34ubS2k7y>

Region III

Manitoba Public Insurance raising awareness about cycling safety – nearly 250 injured yearly

It's cycling season – and Manitoba's public auto insurer, in partnership with the city of Winnipeg, is raising awareness about cyclists and motorists safely sharing the road. Read the press release.

<http://www.mpi.mb.ca/en/Newsroom/News-Releases/Pages/nr2014june12.aspx>

ExpressSOS.com tops five million transactions

The Michigan Secretary of State's online services at ExpressSOS.com, which provides 24/7 access to the most-popular services, recently marked its five millionth successful transaction, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson announced today. Read the press release.

http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1640_61055-330730--,00.html

Region IV

Arizona's Redesigned Driver License, New Process Now Effective

Effective today (June 16), the newly designed Arizona driver license – and a new process to get it – are now in place. The Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division has expanded the central credential issuance process to all offices statewide, meaning that customers visiting a Motor Vehicle Division or Authorized Third Party office to obtain a new driver license or identification card will leave with a temporary credential. The permanent license or identification card will be mailed to the customer and received within 15 days. Read the DOT press release.

<http://azdot.gov/media/News>

DMV Bribes Put Unsafe Drivers on Streets (California)

It wasn't long after the new manager started her job at the El Cajon branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles that she noticed something was wrong. The passing scores for driver tests just weren't adding up. The written test and the driving test aren't usually given the same day. So, how could drivers be passing both tests just minutes apart? It turns out they weren't. Many of those drivers hadn't even taken the tests. Read the full story at UTSanDiego.com.

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/jun/15/tp-dmv-bribes-put-unsafe-drivers-on-streets/>

2 Investigates: Odometer Rollback Bust Caught on Camera (California)

Investigators with the California Department of Motor Vehicles say a used car dealership in Antioch is suspected of rolling back the mileage on so many cars, it's turned into one of the largest single odometer fraud cases agents can remember. Read the full story at KTVU.com.

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/news/local/2-investigates-odometer-rollback-bust-caught-camer/ngMLW/>

UberX, Lyft Reject Latest California Regulation Push

In recent weeks, the Legislature and commission have pushed several proposals that are attracting support from a litany of interested stakeholders – but ride-sharing firms, the primary targets of new regulations, reject nearly all of the proposed rules. Read the full story at GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/transportation/UberX-Lyft-Reject-Latest-California-Regulation-Push.html>

ITD Warns of Vehicle Registration Renewal Phone Scam (Idaho)

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is warning of a recent telephone scam involving vehicle-registration renewals and reminds its customers that renewal notifications are made only by mail. ITD has received complaints from concerned citizens of a caller claiming to be from the department, advising that their vehicle registration needs to be renewed. Read the ITD press release.

http://itd.idaho.gov/transporter/2014/050914_Trans/050914_PhoneScam.html

DMV Rolls Out New Clean Air Campaign (Nevada)

Nevada's DMV recently rolled out its new clean air advertising campaign, Smog Spotters. The campaign, featuring radio, online and Pandora ads, is designed to encourage Nevada residents to report polluting vehicles. "We have taken a fresh approach to our clean air program with new branding and messaging," said DMV Director Troy Dillard. "Keeping Nevada's air clean is a responsibility that falls to each of us and that's the objective of the Smog Spotter program," he added. Read the DMV press release.

<http://www.dmvnv.com/news/14008-smog-spotter.htm>

New Saskatchewan Motorcycle Laws in Effect

New motorcycle laws have taken effect in Saskatchewan. Riders in the motorcycle graduated driver licensing (MGDL) program must now display a placard on their motorcycle plate. Learner riders have to display a red "L" while novice 1 and 2 riders are required to display a green "N". Another change is the hours MGDL learners can ride. Riding is not allowed from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise. Read the full story at GlobalNews.ca.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1402372/new-saskatchewan-motorcycle-laws-in-effect/>

Law Allowing Motorcyclists to Run Red Lights Goes into Effect (Washington)

Some motorcycle riders have had the experience of pulling up to a stop light and waiting and waiting for the light to change because sensors for cars and trucks failed to detect the motorcycle. Read the full story at KREM.com.

<http://www.krem.com/news/263084331.html>

Other News

DMV.com Study: Millennials Desire a Digital DMV

DMV.com, a guide for the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and driving-related issues, released a study detailing the preferences of younger generations regarding DMV services. The goal of the study was to look at what future generations want from their DMV, and to examine if those wants are feasible. Read the full story at DigitalJournal.com.

<http://digitaljournal.com/pr/1992050>

Harley-Davidson Introduces Electric Motorcycle

Harley-Davidson will unveil its first electric motorcycle next week, and President Matt Levatich said he expects the company known for its big touring bikes and iconic brand to become a leader in developing technology and standards for electric vehicles. Read the full story at WashingtonPost.com.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/harley-davidson-introduces-electric-motorcycle/2014/06/19/8bfe0242-f7a9-11e3-8118-eae4d5b48c7d_story.html

Senators Propose 12-Cent Gas Tax Increase

Two senators unveiled a bipartisan plan Wednesday to raise federal gasoline and diesel taxes for the first time in more than two decades, pitching the proposal as a solution to Congress' struggle to pay for highway and transit programs. Read the full story in the Idaho Statesman.

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/2014/06/18/3240905/senators-propose-12-cent-per-gal.html?sp=/99/103/>

Tesla is Now Most Important Automaker in World, Morgan Stanley Says

Could Tesla Motors be the world's most important car company? Morgan Stanley Research analyst Adam Jonas makes that argument in a new report to investors. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-hy-tesla-most-important-automaker-20140620-story.html>

Did You Know

TIRES...THERE'S MORE TO THEM THAN YOU MAY THINK

To be honest, I never really gave much thought to tires, beyond comparing prices and writing down the string of numbers on the side of the tires when it's time to replace them. I also know that the onslaught of summer heat means you need to pay special attention to your tires.

So I decided to do a little digging around and found some pretty interesting information--all about tires! For example:

- Tires are not just a piece of rubber slapped onto a rim. Looking at the anatomy of a tire, you see that it is actually made up of several different components: treads, sidewall, body plies (some may also have cap plies), inner liner, steel belts, bead bundle, and some tires have what's called an edge cover.
- Sipes are tiny void areas cut into the tire which increases flexibility, reduces the heat buildup in the tire as you drive, and reduces shear stress. Siped tires perform much better than their non-siped brethren in snow, ice, mud and similar such circumstances. However, they show worse breaking distances on both dry and wet pavement.
- A tread lug is the part of the tire that contacts the pavement and provides traction. The combined tread lugs that are in contact with the pavement at any given time are called the "footprint".
- The typical tire size system will appear as a string of letters and numbers such as: P215/70R16 100S. This string of letters and numbers actually contains 7 different pieces of information. For example, the 'R' designation states the tire is of radial construction. Other construction types are rare for modern passenger car use and may include 'D' for bias ply construction and 'B' for belted tires.
- When thinking about your winter wheels, it's recommended that you downsize your tires. A smaller and narrower tire has better grip and performance in snow or ice. This is both because the smaller tire cuts through snow more effectively, and because the weight of the car is pressing on a more focused set of contact patches.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Find out more interesting facts and tips online:

- How Tires Work (howstuffworks.com) <http://auto.howstuffworks.com/tire1.htm>
- Tire Facts and Safety Tips (todayifoundout.com) <http://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2012/09/tire-facts-and-tire-safety-tips/>

- Car Tire Sizes Explained: What The Numbers and Letters on Your Tires Mean (autobytel.com)
<http://www.autobytel.com/car-ownership/maintenance-repair/car-tire-sizes-explained-what-the-numbers-and-letters-on-your-tires-mean-105706/>
- Why You Should Downsize Your Winter Wheels (tires.about.com)
http://tires.about.com/od/understanding_tires/a/Why-You-Should-Downsize-Your-Winter-Wheels.htm