AAMVA News

Download the App for the 2014 AAMVA International Conference


AAMVA Systems Training for AAMVA Members

AAMVA Systems Training aims to develop education, training and learning opportunities that meet the needs of AAMVA's membership in the use of all the systems and procedures to ensure commercial driver safety and compliance with Federal regulations. All courses are online and are free for AAMVA members. View the course catalogue and register or enroll in a session at http://aamva.intevista.com. If you experience trouble enrolling, or if you would like more information on any of the courses, please send an email to trainer@aamva.org.

Region I

Special License Plate for Cancer Community Members to be Created (Delaware)

A new special license plate, identifying members of the cancer support community, may soon be available. Governor Markell signed House Bill 247 into law Wednesday in Wilmington. Read the full story at WDel.com.

http://www.wdel.com/story.php?id=61692

Christie Signs Law Targeting Texting While Driving (New Jersey)

Gov. Chris Christie has signed legislation that orders the installation of signs throughout New Jersey to remind drivers not to text and drive. The measure, known as "Nikki's Law, is named after Nikki Kellenyi, an 18-year-old Washington Township resident who was killed in an April 2012 vehicle crash. Read the full story at MyFoxTampaBay.com.

http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/story/23141493/christie-signs-law-targeting-texting-while-driving

DMV Launches New App to Fight Drunk Driving (New York)

More than 10,000 people died last year from drunk driving-related crashes in the U.S. STOP-DWI New York has a new app that could help drop that number. The launch of a new mobile app called "Have a
Plan" was announced Thursday. The app encourages people to have a plan to get home safely if they are impaired. It has the ability to pre-load a list of designated drivers, find a taxi and several other helpful tools. Read the full story at WBNG.com.


DMV Permit Practice Tests Available Online (New York)

Teens and other new drivers can now take free online New York DMV Permit Practice Tests through the Newburgh Free Library and Driving-Tests.org. In addition to offering permit practice tests, Driving-Tests.org includes tests on road signs and road situations, tips on getting or renewing your driver's license and information on fines and citations. Read the full story at Recordonline.com.


Region II

Convictions in Case where North Carolina License and Theft Bureau Partnered with State and Federal Agencies

The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles’ License and Theft Bureau teamed with officials from various state and federal agencies to arrest five individuals involved in multiple crimes, including producing and selling false identification documents. Read the full press release.


Region III

Push to Bring Pro-Life License Plate Case to Top Court (Illinois, Wisconsin, et al)

The Thomas More Society filed an amicus brief urging the United States Supreme Court to hear a case involving “Choose Life” license plates, in order to resolve disputes among lower courts over how to treat specialty license plates. Read the full story at OregonFaithReport.com.


Indiana’s New Scooter Rules to Make Roads Safer

Supporters say a new state law tightening Indiana’s rules on motorized scooters should make roads safer and clear up confusion among police agencies about how to regulate them when it takes effect in January. Read the full story at IndyStar.com.

http://www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/2014/08/14/indianas-new-scooter-rules-make-roads-safer/14046227/?utm_campaign=%5B%27FeedBlitzRss%27%5D&utm_content=%5B%27Indiana%5Cxe2
Iowa Now Lets You Design Your Own License Plate

Iowa Department of Transportation officials said Monday Iowans will now be able to design their own license plate online. Officials demonstrated the new system during Gov. Terry Branstad's weekly news conference. Read the full story at KCCI.com.

Kouba Moose on New Critical Habitat License Plate (Minnesota)

Minnesota motorists can support conservation with a new critical habitat license plate featuring moose art by renowned wildlife artist Les Kouba . . . The new moose plate, which displays a never-before-published painting by Kouba, is the eighth critical habitat plate offered. Other plates display the loon, pheasant, chickadee, showy lady's slipper, a fishing scene and white-tailed deer. Read the full story at HomeTownSource.com.

Highway Patrol to Take Over Security in Ferguson (Missouri)

President Obama on Thursday escalated the federal response to the violent protests in Missouri over the shooting death of an unarmed black teenager as state officials tried to de-escalate the crisis, bringing in the highway patrol to take over security from local police. Read the full article in the Washington Post.

South Dakota Law Gives Offenders Lesser Punishment

Drug addicts, thieves and repeat drunken drivers don’t go to prison in South Dakota anymore. Instead, they go to the county jail, and then go on probation. Some go straight to treatment, spend time in drug or courts for driving under the influence, take daily sobriety tests or wear electronic monitoring bracelets. Read the full story at WashingtonTimes.com.
Region IV

‘Pastafarian’ Fights to Wear Colander in B.C. Driver’s Licence Photo (British Columbia)

An unusual religious headwear battle has hit a boiling point in Surrey, B.C., where a “Pastafarian” is fighting for his right to wear a colander in his driver’s licence photo. Read the full story at BC.CTVNews.ca.


Conflicting Studies Suggest Cellphone Ban for Drivers May Not Work (California)

California's ban on using hand-held cell phones while driving aims to reduce driver distractions that can lead to fatal road accidents. The policy's premise came into question during a recent study that found no change in accident rates for California during the six months before and after the ban became law. Read the full story at Spectrum.ieee.org.

http://spectrum.ieee.org/cars-that-think/transportation/safety/conflicting-studies-suggest-cellphone-ban-for-drivers-may-not-work

California Pastafarian Wears Pasta Strainer for License Photo

A member of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster (FSM) was allowed to wear her sacred religious head covering, a pasta strainer, for her California driver’s license photo. Read the full story at Patheos.com.


Study Examines Low Seat Belt Usage in Montana

In a car that crashes while traveling at 35 mph, an unrestrained rear-seat passenger can cause as much damage to the driver as a fall from a height of 40 feet onto a hard surface. This is one of the dangers of not using a seat belt that often is overlooked, according to a new paper recently released by Montana KIDS COUNT at the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana. Read the full story at FlatheadBeacon.com.


Hundreds of Vehicles Seized in Saskatchewan Under New Traffic Laws

Hundreds of vehicles have been seized and close to 900 penalties have been handed out for impaired driving since new traffic laws were enacted in Saskatchewan. Read the full story at GlobalNews.ca.
Utah Leading the Mobile-Friendly Government Movement

This year, for the first time, Americans used more mobile devices than PCs to access the Internet. Smartphones and tablets now account for 55 percent of Internet activity, according to the research firm Enders Analysis, and the number of users with mobile devices will only continue to grow. In 2014 alone, smartphone adoption is expected to increase by 19 percent, according to tech market research firm IDC. Read the full story at Governing.com.

Washington Drivers Getting 6-Year Licenses

Starting this month, most Washington drivers renewing their licenses will have an additional year until their next visit to the Department of Licensing as the state transitions from a five-year driver license renewal cycle to a six-year cycle. Read the full article on KVEWTV.com.

Other News

Land Rover Recalls 46,515 SUVs in U.S., Canada for Air Bag Issue

Jaguar Land Rover is recalling 46,515 Land Rover sport utility vehicles in the United States and Canada because the front passenger air bag may not deploy due to a part failure, according to documents filed with U.S. safety regulators. Read the full story at Reuters.com.

Google to Test Riderless Motorcycle?

Google has filed for approval to test a riderless robotic motorcycle, rumor has it. According to dailymail quoting the Sunday Times, Google’s Ron Medford, director of safety for the self-driving car asked the California state government a letter mentioning that the autonomously-driving vehicle technology could include motorcycles and trucks in the future. Read the full story at Autoevolution.com.

US Safety Agency Probes Can-Am Motorcycle Fires


http://www.kvewtv.com/article/2014/aug/12/washington-drivers-getting-6-year-licenses/

http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/us-landrover-recall-idUSKBN0GD12C20140813


New Device Aims to Keep Drivers' Hands on the Wheel

Three Englishmen sit down in an office in Florida and start building an app that will get drivers who text, talk and email to put their phones away and focus on the road. Read the full story at GovTech.com.


Virginia Tech Working on Way to Display Traffic Signs Inside Vehicles

During the Adaptive Stop Yield Study, participants saw a stop sign display on their dashboard as part of traffic instruction, as well as a yield sign. The study seeks to bring traffic signs inside cars that use connected vehicle technology, rather than relying on physical posts signs that can be damaged, aged, or removed. The study, now in a proof of concept, was funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Read the full story at GovTech.com.


Did You Know

ROADS

All this talk about cars, what about roads? Here are some interesting facts I've pulled from online:

- The earliest roads were perhaps built in about 3500 BC in the Middle East.
- Rome built roads to govern their vast empire.
- There are more than four million miles of highways and roads in the U.S alone.
- The most dangerous road in the world is Youngas Road in Bolivia.
- In the U.S., interstate highways that have even numbers run East-West, while those with odd numbers run from North-South.
- Indiana is the state with the most interstate highways.
- The first highway that ran from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast in the U.S. was the Lincoln Highway (Route 30).

Want to learn more? You start with:

- Top 10 Most Dangerous Roads in the World (mostinterestingfacts.blogspot.com) http://mostinterestingfacts.blogspot.com/2012/01/1.html
• 5 Interesting Facts About Roads (on.aol.com)
  http://on.aol.com/video/5-interesting-facts-about-roads-517238261