

August 29, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

2014 Annual International Conference Closes: Relive the Experience Online

The AAMVA Annual International Conference (AIC) came to a close in Dover, Delaware, on Wednesday, August 27. The conference may be over, but you can still experience the event through pictures on AAMVA's Flickr page (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/aamva/>). Presentation downloads (<http://www.aamva.org/2014-AIC-Download-Center/>) will also soon be available on AAMVA's Web site. Thanks to all attendees and staff for pulling off another successful AIC. We hope you'll join us next year in Des Moines, Indiana!

Region I

New Jersey Lawmaker Considering Measure to Extend Red Light Cameras

New Jersey's unpopular red light camera program is set to expire in December unless lawmakers agree to extend the five-year pilot program. Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon wants to let the cameras fade into oblivion. The Republican from Monmouth County joined Sen. Michael Doherty, another ardent red light camera opponent, in March for Pohatcong Township Mayor James Kern III's announcement that the township wouldn't renew a contract for its red light cameras. Read the full story at LehighValleyLive.com.

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/breaking-news/index.ssf/2014/08/new_jersey_assemblyman_consider.html#incart_river

Are EZ-ID License Plates heading to Pennsylvania?

Seventy percent of all crimes involve a motor vehicle - and remembering license plate numbers can be tricky for witnesses. A Pennsylvania lawmaker has a solution. They're called EZ-ID license plates, and instead of numbers they incorporate symbols, like stars or hearts, and only four characters. Read the full story at ABC27.com.

<http://www.abc27.com/story/26399269/are-ez-id-license-plates-heading-to-pennsylvania>

Rhode Island Launches Hybrid-Electric License Plates For EMT Safety

Hybrid and electrified cars may be good for the environment, but they can pose a danger to first responders. EMTs, police officers, and other rescue workers could be electrocuted if the high-voltage cables in a wrecked vehicle are damaged or exposed. That's why Rhode Island plans to issue special license plates that identify a vehicle as an electric car or plug-in hybrid. Read the full story at GreenCarReports.com.

http://www.greencarreports.com/news/1094018_rhode-island-launches-hybrid-electric-license-plates-for-emt-safety

Region II

Driver Services Commissioner Announces Testing Exemptions for Military: Approved Motorcycle Safety Course Satisfies Testing Requirement (Georgia)

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell has announced a new customer service for active/former military service members and their dependents requesting a motorcycle license. These customers may exempt the written and road skills testing for a motorcycle endorsement -- if they have successfully completed a safety course based on the Motor Safety Foundation (MSF) curriculums offered by the U.S. Department of Defense or branch of the U.S. military. Read the press release.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/newsdetail.aspx?id=356>

Region III

Vehicle Renewal Sticker Receipt Legislation Signed Into Law (Illinois)

Legislation proposed by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White to allow a printed receipt from the Secretary of State to serve temporarily as the vehicle renewal sticker was signed into law by the governor. The law takes effect Jan. 1, 2015. Read the SOS press release.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/2014/august/140827d1.pdf>

Wisconsin State Patrol Marks Its 75th Anniversary Sept. 1

Governor Scott Walker has proclaimed September as the Wisconsin State Patrol 75th Anniversary Month. On September 1, 1939, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Motor Vehicle Department's Inspection and Enforcement Division, which would grow and evolve into the State Patrol. Read the DOT press release.

<http://www.dot.wi.gov/statepatrol/anniversary/docs/gov-proclamation-sept-2014.pdf>

"Alcohol Detection Bracelets' to be Tried in Some Drunk Driving Cases in Appleton (Wisconsin)

Outagamie County is about to use alcohol detection bracelets to keep tabs on repeat drunk drivers in a special treatment court. The Appleton Post-Crescent says two community foundations have put up \$14,000 to buy five bracelets which detect alcohol levels through the wearers' skin every half-hour. Read the full story at WSAU.com.

<http://wsau.com/news/articles/2014/aug/25/alcohol-detection-bracelets-to-be-tried-in-some-drunk-driving-cases-in-appleton/>

Region IV

British Columbia Mulls 5.2 per cent Insurance Hike for Vehicle Owners

Accidents linked to distracted driving have prompted the B.C. Crown corporation that sells vehicle insurance to seek a 5.2-per-cent increase to basic rates that could add about \$36 a year to customers' bills. Read the full story at [TheGlobeandMail.com](http://www.theglobeandmail.com).

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/icbc-applies-to-raise-vehicle-insurance-rates/article20206558/>

California Will Regulate Ride-Share Companies

Lawmakers, Gov. Jerry Brown and ride-sharing companies have reached a deal on California legislation upping insurance requirements for the emerging companies such as Lyft and Uber. Read the full story at [SacBee.com](http://www.sacbee.com).

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/08/27/6658915/ride-sharing-companies.html>

Inmate ID Cards Bill Passes Senate (California)

A bill aimed at giving recently released inmates a toehold in society worked its way through the California Senate on Tuesday, according to a release from Assemblyman Mark Stone's office. Read the full story in [TheCalifornian.com](http://www.thecalifornian.com).

<http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2014/08/26/inmate-cards-bill-passes-senate/14647265/>

DMV Sting Operation Is Response to I-Team Report (California)

In a gesture intended to put parking cheaters on notice, DMV agents ticketed dozens of drivers accused of using disabled placards to snag prime parking spaces, even though the placards were not issued to them or anyone in the car. The DMV sting operation comes in response to an NBC4 I-Team investigation which caught cheaters using placards belonging to friends and relatives, including a child, a deceased relative and a disabled sibling, in two different parts of the Los Angeles area. Read the full story at [NBCLosAngeles.com](http://www.nbclosangeles.com).

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/series/parking-cheaters/DMV-Sting-Operation-Is-Response-to-I-Team-Report-272962471.html>

Idaho's 80 mph Brings More Speeding, More Tickets

One month ago, the Idaho Transportation Department increased the speed limit on rural stretches of interstates 84, 86 and 15. Some drivers have been eager to drive 80 mph, even inching the needle up a little higher, but other drivers are not comfortable with the higher speed, according to Idaho State Police. Read the full story at IdahoStatesman.com.

http://www.idahostatesman.com/2014/08/28/3344943_idahos-80-mph-brings-more-speeding.html?sp=/99/1687/&rh=1

Other News

FMCSA Improves Uniformity of Inspection Violation Data in Systems

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announces the implementation of changes to State and Federal data systems that will allow States to reflect the results of adjudicated citations related to roadside inspection violation data collected in the Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS). The policy on recording results of adjudicated citations in FMCSA data systems only applies to citations issued during roadside inspections occurring on or after August 23, 2014. Read the full press release.

http://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/whats_new.aspx

New Study on Distracted Teen Driving Out

There is an important message to get out as teens are heading back to school. A new report from the Governor's Highway Safety Association looks at the problem of distracted teen drivers. The report highlights two dozen state programs that either examine tougher laws to fight this problem or note educational programs that help bring this message to young drivers and their parents. Read the full story at MyTwintiers.com.

<http://www.mytwintiers.com/story/d/story/new-study-on-distracted-teen-driving-out/28122/fqAFy5r-ykKzPpLIBtD7Cg>

Little Change in Alcohol Related Fatalities in Last 13 Years

New National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data shows very little progress in the battle of driving while drunk fatalities over the last 13 years. Since 1999 about 160,000 persons were killed in alcohol related fatalities as the percentage of alcohol related fatalities increased from 30% to 31%, and the percent of drivers that were DUI increased to 21%. Read the full story at PR.com.

<http://www.pr.com/press-release/577995>

Study: Texas the Fastest State in the U.S.

A new study ranking states based on their highest posted speed limit puts Texas in the top spot at 85 mph. The Lone Star State is the most extreme example of a national trend toward higher and higher speed limits over the last few decades, according to the study, which was published by the nonprofit Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA). Read the full story at RoadsBridges.com.

<http://www.roadsbridges.com/traffic-management-study-texas-fastest-state-us>

Did You Know

DRIVERLESS CARS

- The first driverless car achieved a maximum speed of 20 miles-per-hour and was built by Tsukuba Mechanical Engineering Laboratory in 1977.
- The Mercedes Benz robot van built during the 1980s achieved a full speed of 60 miles-per-hour using vision guidance.
- Autonomous driving on natural terrain using sensors was achieved in 1987 by HRL Laboratories on an Autonomous Land Vehicle (ALV) funded by DARPA.
- In 1995, Mercedes Benz team achieved a 95% autonomous driving on a trip of 1600 km in Europe.
- The systems that are just starting to be used now or in the near future are: stability and traction control; pre-accident systems; improved cruise control; self-parking systems.
- According to some, widespread use of autonomous cars will reduce the number of traffic fatalities, because the leading cause of all traffic accidents is human error.
- Robotic cars will be able to react instantly to the moving traffic ahead with closer distances to each other, and this will create a much more efficient and continuous flow of traffic, which will increase highway capacities, even in packed situations.
- As the cars will be driving themselves, the responsibility and liability picture will look a little different. For example, in case of a car accident for instance, the liability will belong to whoever is responsible for not maintaining the software and the mechanical condition of the responsible car according to the laws and regulations.
- Google hopes that robotic cars will one day halve the number of road fatalities, cut energy consumption, fit more densely onto crowded roads and free commuters for more productive activities

Learn more online:

- Driverless Cars (Tech-FAQ) <http://www.tech-faq.com/driverless-car.html>
- An in Depth Analysis of Autonomous Cars (AutonomousCars.com) <http://www.autonomouscars.com/>
- Why Bayes Rules: The History of a Formula That Drives Modern Life (Scientific American) <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-bayes-rules/>
- Who Is at Fault When a Driverless Car Gets in an Accident? (Citylab.com) <http://www.citylab.com/tech/2014/04/who-fault-when-driverless-car-gets-accident/8983/>
- Autonomous Vehicles Information Library (AAMVA) <http://www.aamva.org/Autonomous-Vehicle-Information-Library/>