

December 12, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Reserve Your Seat for AAMVA's December Webinars

AAMVA is pleased to announce two upcoming webinars that are now open for registration:

1. NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) Training (December 16th at 2:00 PM)

Learn the quick and easy benefits of the NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) Training. The SWI application allows state users to perform instant title verification against NMVTIS using a web browser and an internet connection. The SWI application also has a Help Desk feature that allows state users to make data correction to their Title and Brand data submitted in error. The system also features a hierarchical role base security model that allow state administrators to manage the addition and removal of users in their DMV community. (This webinar is for AAMVA jurisdiction and federal government members only.) Click here to login and register for the webinar.

<http://www.aamva.org/Exclusive-Members-Only-Webinars/?LangType=1033>

2. Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) - A tool for Law Enforcement and DMV Investigators (December 17th at 2:00 PM)

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program provides services and resources that directly impact law enforcement's ability to successfully resolve criminal investigations and prosecute offenders, while providing the critical officer safety event deconfliction to keep the men and women of our law enforcement community safe. (This webinar is for AAMVA jurisdiction and associate members only.) Click here to login and register for the webinar.

<http://www.aamva.org/Exclusive-Members-Only-Webinars/?LangType=1033>

Region I

Veterans Signing Up for Special Maryland Driver's License

More than 17,000 Maryland residents have taken advantage of a Motor Vehicle Administration service that will help military veterans access the benefits they deserve. Read the full story at HeraldMailMedia.com.

http://www.heraldmillmedia.com/news/local/veterans-signing-up-for-special-md-driver-s-license/article_393ea113-0cca-539f-a928-a0e8d2537802.html

Governor Patrick to Seek State Oversight of Uber, Lyft (Massachusetts)

As he prepares to leave office next month, Governor Deval Patrick is making a last-minute push to provide state oversight of Uber and Lyft, the popular ride-sharing services that have faced complaints that they are not subject to the same regulations as traditional taxis. Read the full story at BostonGlobe.com.

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/12/09/governor-patrick-pushes-provide-oversight-ride-sharing-services-lyft-and-uber/a29fXj5gEtDkKDsZHp4HFJ/story.html>

Wyoming County Woman Indicted for Stealing from DMV (New York)

A Wyoming County woman was indicted on December 2nd, 2014 for several charges including one count of Public Corruption. Roxanne Ingles, 59, of Warsaw allegedly stole over \$90,000 between July of 2013 and August of 2014, while working at the NYS Department of Motor Vehicle's Office in Warsaw, NY. Read the full story at WGRZ.com.

<http://www.wgrz.com/story/news/crime/2014/12/09/wyoming-county-roxanne-ingles-indictment/20145037/>

Rhode Island DMV Seeks Approval for New Hires, Pay Raises

In the final days of the Chafee administration, the top administrator of the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles is seeking permission to hire a dozen part-timers and raise pay rates by up to 12.5 percent for dozens of DMV employees, including supervisors and the counter staff they supervise. Read the full article in the Providence Journal.

<http://www.providencejournal.com/news/government/20141203-rhode-island-dmv-seeks-approval-for-new-hires-pay-raises.ece>

Region II

Kentucky's Commercial Vehicle Inspection System Named 'Project of the Year'

Kentucky's innovative use of technology for screening large commercial trucks that pass through the Commonwealth has been named 2014 Project of the Year by the Intelligent Transportation Society of the Midwest. Read the Transportation Cabinet's press release.

<http://migration.kentucky.gov/newsroom/kytc/2014-12-08+KATS+award.htm>

TxDMV Temporary Permits Now Available Online (Texas)

Life just got easier for drivers needing temporary permits from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) for private and commercial vehicles. Texans can now select, pay for and self-issue these permits from the convenience of their computer, tablet or smartphone around the clock. Read the DOT press release.

<http://www.txdmv.gov/txdmv-media>

Region III

Iowa to Launch Smartphone Driver's License

Iowans will soon be able to use a mobile app on their smartphones as their official driver's license issued by the Iowa Department of Transportation. The app, which will be provided to drivers at no additional cost, will be available sometime in 2015, DOT Director Paul Trombino told Gov. Terry Branstad during a state agency budget hearing Monday. Read the full story at [USAToday.com](http://www.usatoday.com).

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2014/12/09/iowa-to-launch-smartphone-drivers-license/20127623/>

Man Pleads Guilty in Missouri to Conspiracy to Sell Fake ID Papers to People in US Illegally

A Mexican national living in Missouri has pleaded guilty in a conspiracy to sell thousands of fake identifications to people who are in the U.S. illegally. Read the full story at [The Republic.com](http://www.therepublic.com).

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/9b32cf139ec34897a759db09ca2d47ca/MO--False-Documents-Plea>

BMV to Accept Credit and Debit Cards Next Year (Ohio)

After their driver's license photos, it's likely the second-largest shock for first-time visitors to Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles offices. "Cash and checks only," the signs behind the counters long have proclaimed. That apparently will change, as the bureau plans to shed the long-time inconvenience. Read the full story at [Dispatch.com](http://www.dispatch.com).

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/12/08/bmv-to-accept-credit-and-debit-cards-next-year.html>

Col. Robert M. Chiamonte | 1920-2014: Leader Helped Shape Ohio State Highway Patrol

Leaders of the State Highway Patrol say no one who came before them had a greater influence on shaping the organization into what it is today than Col. Robert M. Chiamonte. The patrol's Heritage Hall, at its training academy on 17th Avenue, was dedicated in his honor. The patrol's annual Humanitarian Award bears his name. And in the hallways of headquarters, cadets and commanders alike still speak his name with reverence. Read the full story at [Dispatch.com](http://www.dispatch.com).

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/12/09/leader-helped-shape-highway-patrol.html>

Region IV

Waiting Period After Flunking Arizona Driver License Test Extended

The Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division has extended the waiting period for driver's license test retakes. Read the full story at [AZFamily.com](http://www.azfamily.com).

<http://www.azfamily.com/news/MVD-extends-waiting-period-for-drivers-license-test-retakes-285126371.html>

Next Step for Undocumented California Drivers: Insurance

Starting Jan. 1, unauthorized immigrants can get California driver's licenses, but before they can register their vehicles they'll need one more, pricier item -- auto insurance. Read the full story at ORegister.com.

<http://www.oregister.com/articles/insurance-644565-drivers-state.html>

California: Bill Would Impose Modest Regulation On License Plate Spying

California state senator proposes to hold accountable the public and private agencies that use automated license plate readers. Police departments around the country have deployed automatic license plate readers (ALPR or ANPR in Europe) with little or no public debate about their use. Read the full story at TheNewspaper.com.

<http://www.thenewspaper.com/news/45/4587.asp>

Uber Sued Over Unlawful Business Practices; Lyft Settles (California)

Los Angeles and San Francisco district attorneys filed a consumer protection lawsuit against Uber on Tuesday, alleging that the popular ride-hailing company misleads consumers about the service's safety, overcharges them and thumbs its nose at the law. Read the full story at GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/transportation/Uber-Sued-Over-Unlawful-Business-Practices-Lyft-Settles.html>

Portland Sues Uber Alleging Illegal Operations (Oregon)

Portland is suing Uber, claiming the ride-sharing service is operating illegally in the city. Portland officials previously told Uber Technologies the city wouldn't change its regulations to allow the San Francisco-based company to operate within its city limits. Uber went ahead anyhow, launching without permission at 5 p.m. Friday. Read the full story at USAToday.com.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2014/12/08/portland-sues-uber-for-illegal-operations/20117155/>

Saskatchewan Government Introduces Changes for Commercial Vehicle Seizures

The Saskatchewan government is changing legislation governing commercial vehicle seizures in the province. The proposed change will make it less complicated for business owners to have seized vehicles released due to employee's driving behaviour. Read the full story at GlobalNews.ca

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1710439/sask-government-introduces-changes-for-commercial-vehicle-seizures/>

State Reports Fewer Crashes, Better Compliance with 80 mph Speed Limit (Utah)

Highway crashes have dropped annually on some stretches of Interstate 15 in Utah since that state raised the speed limit to 80 mph in late 2008, studies show. Idaho and Wyoming followed suit and increased their top speeds on portions of interstate highways to 80 mph last July. They are waiting until their laws are in effect for a full year before analyzing the impacts. Read the full story at Missoulian.com.

http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/utah-drivers-comply-with-mph-speed-limit-better-than/article_6dbcac62-987b-5efd-bd07-e9f184fed58.html

New Laws Eliminate Seven-Year Plate Replacement and Add a Fee to Fund Ferries (Washington)

The Department of Licensing (DOL) will soon stop requiring vehicle owners to replace their license plates every seven years and will begin collecting new ferry vessel replacement fees when vehicle-related transactions are processed by DOL or county vehicle licensing offices. Read the DOL press release.

<http://www.dol.wa.gov/about/news/archives/index.html>

Other News

New Vehicle Merges Motorcycle, Convertible, ATV



The new Polaris Slingshot is a potential answer to the question, “What would Batman drive?” This three-wheel vehicle with two bucket seats looks like it belongs on a racetrack or in a comic book, but it is street legal. Read the full story at Dispatch.com.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/business/2014/12/06/new-vehicle-merges-motorcycle-convertible-atv.html>

Honda Adds 2.6M Vehicles to Air Bag Repair List

Honda plans to replace the driver's air bag inflators on 2.6 million more vehicles as it expands repairs to the entire U.S. The Japanese automaker is the only company to comply with demand from the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to do repairs nationwide. Honda says it's doing so to address customer concerns. Read the full story at McDowellNews.com.

http://www.mcdowellnews.com/news/business/ap/honda-adds-m-vehicles-to-air-bag-repair-list/article_18d62230-0e6c-5d4e-9e7f-be9c294b9cc0.html

Mazda Expands Airbag Recall to Nationwide

Mazda is expanding its U.S. recall for Takata air bags that may explode to the entire country, following Japanese rival Honda in the decision. Read the full story at Chron.com.

<http://www.chron.com/news/world/article/Mazda-expands-US-air-bag-recall-to-nationwide-5946994.php>

Nissan Recalls 470K Vehicles for Fuel Leak Problem

Nissan is recalling about 470,000 cars and SUVs worldwide to fix a problem that can cause fuel leaks. In the U.S., the recall covers about 134,000 vehicles with direct fuel injection engines. That includes Nissan's Juke SUV from the 2012 through 2014 model years, and the Infiniti M56 and QX56 from 2012 and 2013. Also affected are Infiniti QX70 and QX80 SUVs from 2014 and 2015. Read the full story at ABCNews.go.com.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/nissan-recalls-470k-vehicles-fuel-leak-problem-27467098>

Studies Show Mixed Results of Increased Interstate Speed Limits (Idaho, Utah, Wyoming)

Highway crashes have dropped annually on some stretches of Interstate 15 in Utah since that state raised the speed limit to 80 mph in late 2008, studies show. Idaho and Wyoming followed suit and increased their top speeds on portions of interstate highways to 80 mph last July. They are waiting until their laws are in effect for a full year before analyzing the impacts. Read the full story at RavalliRepublic.com.

http://ravallirepublic.com/news/local/article_98572c56-7d93-11e4-9122-5763ca2f9cf1.html

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/>