

May 1, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Register Online for AAMVA Conferences

- Region IV Conference -- June 1-4 -- Park City, Utah
Conference Web site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=5613> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>
- Region II Conference -- June 21-24 -- Montgomery, Alabama
Conference Web site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6368> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>
- Region I Conference – July 12-15 – Hershey, Pennsylvania
Conference Web Site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/2015-Region-I-Conference-Home/> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>

Region I

Uber Rallies Against Pending New Jersey Regulations

Uber Technologies Inc. held a rally in Secaucus on Monday to protest pending legislation that company officials say, if passed as is, would spell the end of the popular UberX ride-sharing service in New Jersey. The measure, known as Assembly Bill 3765, would require Uber drivers, who have been operating in New Jersey unregulated for about a year and a half, to register with the state Motor Vehicle Commission, meet minimum insurance requirements, get chauffeur endorsements on their drivers' licenses and have criminal background checks done that include fingerprinting. Read the full story at NorthJersey.com.

<http://www.northjersey.com/news/business/uber-holds-secaucus-rally-to-protest-proposed-rules-1.1320315>

VROOM SERVICE: Cuomo Administration Allowing Gov, Top Officials to Add Emergency Sirens to Any Vehicle (New York)

Forget the state police escort, Gov. Cuomo can now drive himself to emergencies in his classic Corvette. The Cuomo administration has quietly changed state regulations to reclassify any "motor vehicle owned

or operated by” the governor and a handful of other top officials as emergency vehicles, allowing them to have flashing red and white emergency lights. Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/cuomo-officials-add-emergency-sirens-vehicle-article-1.2204406>

New York Lawmakers Look to Put the Lid on License Plate Cover Sales

As New York's capital city prepares to join the list of communities with red light cameras, state lawmakers are considering legislation to outlaw the sale of license plate covers that can effectively blind the devices. Widely available in auto parts stores and online, some of the covers are marketed as tools for shielding a motorist's license plate number from traffic cameras. Read the full story at TimesUnion.com.

<http://www.timesunion.com/news/article/NY-lawmakers-look-to-put-the-lid-on-license-plate-6234990.php>

Region II

Uber, Lyft Refuse to Require Driver Fingerprints (Georgia)

Popular ride-hailing firms like Uber and Lyft are fighting lawsuits in Atlanta and other cities from cab drivers, taxi and limousine companies claiming the techno upstarts are siphoning off passengers and profits by skirting regulations that ensure consumer safety. Read the full story at DeseretNews.com.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/765672558/Uber-Lyft-refuse-to-require-driver-fingerprints.html>

Ban on Texting and Driving Awaits Gov. Fallin's Signature (Oklahoma)

Oklahoma is in line to become the 46th in the nation to pass a ban on texting and driving after the state House passed a bill on Wednesday. It now goes to Gov. Mary Fallin, who urged lawmakers in her State of the State speech in February to pass such a ban on composing or reading texts behind the wheel. Fallin spokesman Alex Weintz said the governor is expected to sign the measure into law. Read the full story at SanLuisObispo.com.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2015/04/29/3610417/oklahoma-house-approves-bill-banning.html>

Renew Driver's Licenses Online, Skip the Trip to DPS Office this Summer (Texas)

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is encouraging residents to get ahead of the summer rush at driver license offices across the state by renewing their license or identification card early or online. The summer months tend to be one of the busiest times at driver license offices, and many Texans are eligible to skip the trip to the office completely via online renewal of their license, identification card or change of address at Texas.gov. Read the full story at YourHoustonNew.com.

http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/cleveland/news/renew-driver-s-licenses-online-skip-the-trip-to-dps/article_e9b140c7-9d71-51cc-855a-895c814479cb.html

Region III

Legislation Strengthening Ignition Interlock Program Approved by Senate Committee (Illinois)

Legislation proposed by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White requiring Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Devices (BAIID) to be installed on all vehicles used by DUI offenders was approved today by the Senate Criminal Law Committee. Read the SOS press release.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/home.html>

Manitoba Says it Will Soon Be Easier to Suspend Dangerous Drivers' Licenses

Manitoba is planning new rules to make it easier to suspend the licences of motorists charged with serious driving offences. Justice Minister James Allum says he will introduce a bill during the spring sitting of the legislature that would alert the motor vehicle registrar as soon as a charge is laid. Currently, an alert follows a conviction, which can take months or years. Read the full story at NationalNewsWatch.com.

<http://www.nationalnewswatch.com/2015/04/28/manitoba-says-it-will-soon-be-easier-to-suspend-dangerous-drivers-licences/#.VULn2Nh0yUk>

Colonel Ron Replogle Retires As Patrol Superintendent (Missouri)

Colonel Ron Replogle retires as Missouri State Highway Patrol superintendent effective May 1, 2015. Colonel Replogle is a 31-year veteran of the Patrol, and served as its 21st superintendent for the past five years. Read the MSHP press release.

<http://notes.mshp.dps.mo.gov/si01/si01p001.nsf/9300de8f24f618a68625729800536892/5ca5c1e04871511e86257e370057f13f?OpenDocument>

Colonel J. Bret Johnson Sworn Into Office (Missouri)

Colonel J. Bret Johnson, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, was sworn in at 10:30 a.m. on May 1, 2015, in his hometown of Unionville, MO, at the Putnam County Courthouse. The Honorable Gary Dial, First Circuit Court, administered the Oath of Office to the new colonel. The ceremony included a reflection on the Patrol's 84-year history and remarks by the new colonel. Read the full press release.

<http://notes.mshp.dps.mo.gov/si01/si01p001.nsf/9300de8f24f618a68625729800536892/4fb83a902551dac086257e38003e83e3?OpenDocument>

Rising Speed Limits Spur Safety Concerns (Wisconsin)

Wisconsin state Rep. Paul Tittl drives his Toyota Prius 140 miles from his home district to the state Capitol in Madison every week. Usually, he keeps up with the fast-moving traffic on the highway. But one day, he decided to lower the pace and drive at the maximum speed allowed — 65 mph. Read the full story at LacrosseTribune.com.

http://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/rising-speed-limits-spur-safety-concerns/article_f23dadd8-64da-5057-8f44-d21ce1aa931a.html

Region IV

ADOT Expands Privatization of Driver's Licenses (Arizona)

The state is making driver's licenses available at four new privately owned businesses across Arizona as part of an effort by the Arizona Department of Transportation to privatize some of its services. The program makes driver's licenses more accessible — but also more expensive. Read the full story at AZCentral.com.

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2015/04/29/arizona-adot-expands-privatization-drivers-licenses/26558043/>

Arizona Seeks Waiver on Secure Driver's License Expects Rejection

State officials are taking the first steps to ensure Arizonans are not denied access to commercial flights next year: Asking the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for a waiver for Arizona residents from a requirement that they have a special secure license to board. Read the full story at Tucson.com.

http://tucson.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/arizona-seeks-waiver-to-create-its-own-secure-drivers/article_39be1f14-174a-5e5e-b815-9fd97285ed.html

Smog Check Exemption Bill Proposed in California For Classic Rides

Classic-car owners yearning to take their rides out for a spin in California may get their chance again if a new legislation gets passed. Legislation A.B. 550 was introduced last week in the sunshine state that could allow owners of older-cars to pay a fee instead of having to worry about passing the state's smog test. Read the full story at AutoWorldNews.com.

<http://www.autoworldnews.com/articles/14424/20150427/smog-check-exemption-bill-proposed-in-california-for-classic-rides.htm>

California Motor Voter Bill Speeds Forward

A bill that could potentially boost California's voter rolls by millions of people cleared two key hurdles at the Capitol this week. The California New Motor Voter Act won approval from Assembly committees on transportation and elections. Read the full story at UTSanDiego.com.

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/apr/29/sacramento-motor-voter-bill-lorena-gonzalez/>

Bill Banning Left-Lane Loitering Passes Oregon House

A bill that would ban drivers from hogging the left lane along Oregon highways has passed the House and is en route to the Senate. HB 3414 would only allow driving in the left lane of highways if you're preparing to make a left turn, passing another car, following traffic control devices or in the midst of an emergency response. Read the full story at KBOI2.com.

<http://www.kboi2.com/news/local/left-lane-hogging-house-senate-oregon-highway-passing-301599231.html>

Other News

ATA Presents Congress With its Approach to Improving Truck Safety

In testimony Wednesday before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Highway and Transit Subcommittee, the American Trucking Associations (ATA) said continued improvement in truck safety needs new strategies to better address the primary causes of highway crashes. Read the full story at TruckingNewsOnline.com.

<http://www.truckingnewsonline.com/news/ata-presents-congress-with-its-approach-to-improving-truck-safety/>

Ford Recalls 600K Vehicles as NHTSA Ramps up Scrutiny

Ford issued four new recalls today -- involving almost 600,000 vehicles in North America -- in a week where safety officials are expressing concern over whether recalls are issued and vehicles fixed in a timely manner. Ford's latest recalls include about 520,000 vehicles to fix steering gear bolts as well as smaller actions to address parking lights, fuel pumps and heat shields. Read the full story at USAToday.com.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/cars/2015/04/29/ford-nhtsa-recalls/26578013/>

Ford Recalls 389,585 Cars for Doors That Fly Open

Ford is recalling 389,585 late-model Ford Fiestas, Fusions and Lincoln MKZ sedans because of faulty latches that can allow the doors to fly open while the car is being driven. Ford says the problem was limited to certain models built at its plant in Mexico. It says a part called the pawl spring tab can break, which results in doors that can't be latched. The unlatching problem can occur while the car is being driven. Read the full story at 13WMAZ.com.

<http://www.13wmaz.com/story/news/2015/04/27/ford-recalls-389585-cars-for-doors-that-fly-open/26450171/>

Did You Know

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Spring is in the air, and motorcycles are hitting the roads to take advantage of the warmer weather. Other drivers on the roads should be alert and be ready to share the road safely the increasing number of riders on the roads. Motorcycle riders should be ready for anything by reviewing some of the following safety tips:

- Don't buy more bike than you can handle.
- Hone your skills. Learn the basics, as well as advanced techniques, such as how to perform evasive emergency maneuvers.
- Wear a helmet. Riders without a helmet are 40 percent more likely to suffer a fatal head injury in a crash and are three times more likely to suffer brain injuries, than those with helmets.
- Wear the right gear. For maximum protection, go for a leather or other reinforced jacket, gloves, full pants, and over-the-ankle footwear, even in summer.
- Be defensive. Keep an eye out for cars suddenly changing lanes or pulling out from side streets. And don't tailgate.
- Before each ride, do a quick walk-around to make sure your lights, horn, and directional signals are working properly. Check the chain, belt, or shaft and the brakes. And inspect the tires for wear and make sure they're set at the proper pressure.

GROUP RIDES come with their own set of unique safety precautions that all riders should be aware of:

- Be organized, trust experience, and leave room.
- Use the Staggered Formation. The Leader should be an experienced rider **who uses good judgement.**
- Understand how group riding can be unsafe.
- Always be ready to adapt your formation if visibility suddenly decreases or you head into a series of tight curves.
- Ride prepared. At least one rider in each group should have a first-aid kit and full tool kit, and all riders should carry a cell phone, so the group is prepared for any problem that they might encounter.
- Always communicate : Learn the hand signals
- Take plenty of breaks.
- Keep your least experienced rider in mind.

As you can imagine, there's a lot of valuable information out there on what you should know before participating in a group ride, and how to keep the ride safe and enjoyable. Do your research before embarking on a group riding adventure!

- 10 motorcycle safety tips for new riders: Expert advice for first-time and returning riders (ConsumerReports.org) <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/2013/04/10-motorcycle-safety-tips-for-new-riders/index.htm>
- Group Riding Etiquette (Edgar Snyder & Associates) <https://www.edgarsnyder.com/motorcycle-accidents/motorcycle-advice/group-riding-etiquette.html>

- Quick Tips: MSF's Guide to Group Riding (MSF-USA.org) http://www.msf-usa.org/downloads/Group_Ride.pdf
- MSF Guide to Group Riding (video) <https://youtu.be/erpkyD7SMfw>
- 8 Rules for Group Motorcycle Riding (esurance.com) <https://www.esurance.com/info/motorcycle/8-rules-for-group-motorcycle-riding>
- Group Riding Guidelines for Street Bikes (msgroup.org) <http://www.msgroup.org/GroupRidingGuide.aspx>
- Group Motorcycle Riding (motorcyclebasics.com) <http://www.motorcyclebasics.com/group-riding.html>