

June 12, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

AAMVA's State-to-State Verification Service Goes Live Monday, July 6th!

In order to complete the implementation for the State-to-State Verification Service (S2S), AAMVA will need to bring down CDLIS on Thursday, July 2nd at 8PM ET. Messages to the CDLIS Central Site will be rejected during this time. The transmission of state-to-state messages (messages not going to the CDLIS Central Site) will function normally during the implementation weekend. AAMVA plans to bring the system up in an inquiry-only mode as soon as possible during that weekend. The system will be fully operational again on Monday, July 6th by 6AM ET. All other systems, besides CDLIS, will be up and running during their usual available hours. This includes PDPS. Read complete details here.

<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6776&libID=6751>

Region IV Conference Wraps Up

The 2015 Region IV Conference has come and gone, but it was a great four days of engaging sessions and networking. The Region IV Board, led by President Brad Simpson, joined AAMVA Chair Mark Lowe and AAMVA President & CEO Anne Ferro in welcoming nearly 350 people to Park City, Utah. Attendees also had plenty of opportunities to check in with our industry partners in the exhibit hall to get the latest information on products and solutions. At the awards luncheon, the outstanding work by jurisdictions was recognized (view the full list of award winners).

<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6772&libID=6747> Visit AAMVA's Flickr page <https://flic.kr/s/aHskdbpQsc> for photos from the event. Check back soon -- we are in the process of adding presentations from the event to the AAMVA Web site.

Register Online for AAMVA Conferences

- 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>
- Annual International Conference – August 25-27 – Des Moines, Iowa
Conference Web Site | Register Online

<http://www.aamva.org/2015-AIC-Home/> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>

Region I

Study: Stricter Driving Laws For Teens Help Prevent Drowsy Driving Crashes (Massachusetts)

New research finds that strict driver-licensing laws in Massachusetts have helped to prevent sleep-related crashes and injuries among teenage drivers. In 2007, the state introduced regulations for junior drivers that ordered harsher penalties for unsupervised nighttime driving and required drowsy driving education. Read the full story at Boston.CBSLocal.com.

<http://boston.cbslocal.com/2015/06/09/study-stricter-driving-laws-for-teens-help-prevent-drowsy-driving-crashes/>

Nearly 4K Serial Drunk Drivers in New York Banned for Life

New York state has put nearly 4,000 serial DWI offenders on a one-way street to public transit for life since adopting harsher regulations three years ago, The Post has learned. Read the full story at NYPost.com.

<http://nypost.com/2015/06/08/new-york-revokes-licenses-of-nearly-4000-dwi-offenders/>

Pols Approve DMV Refunds for Military Veterans (New York)

Veterans who wish to have their military service status reflected on their driver's licenses no longer have to pay a fee for the designation, thanks to a rules change. But what about veterans who paid the fee before the change went into effect? Read the full story at BrooklynEagle.com.

<http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/2015/6/8/pols-approve-dmv-refunds-military-veterans>

Adventure License Plates Available For Motorcycle Riders (New York)

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced new adventure license plates for motorcycle drivers. According to the governor's office, the I LOVE NY Adventure Custom Plates series will have nine designs that include hunting, fishing, and parks insignia. Read the full story at MyChamplainValley.com.

<http://www.mychamplainvalley.com/story/d/story/adventure-license-plates-available-for-motorcycle/70091/91-GhUEo5Em2z4RQmuZScg>

Quebec's Highway Code to be Amended to Deal with Apple Watch

Quebec will update the highway safety code this fall to deal specifically with devices such as the Apple Watch. The Surete du Quebec and the Transport Minister don't seem to agree on how the current law applies to the device. Read the full story at Montreal.CTVNews.ca.

<http://montreal.ctvnews.ca/quebec-s-highway-code-to-be-amended-to-deal-with-apple-watch-1.2408275>

Region II

The Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program Encourages Georgians to “Ride to Work” Monday, June 15

The Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program (GMSP) encourages Georgia motorcycle riders to join others from around the world and ride to work on Monday, June 15th. The purpose of the campaign is to help raise awareness of motorcycle safety. Read the full press release.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/newsdetail.aspx?id=380>

New School Bus Safety Measure Could Be On The Way (North Carolina)

The North Carolina State Board of Education is considering a proposal requiring bus drivers to use hand signals at bus stops to help ensure student safety. Read the full story at WNCN.com.

<http://www.wncn.com/story/29253209/new-school-bus-safety-measure-could-be-on-the-way>

North Carolina House Panel Endorses Immigrant Driving Permits to ‘Document the Undocumented’

After hearing qualms from the Highway Patrol and opposition from Gov. Pat McCrory, a House Finance Committee Tuesday approved legislation to identify North Carolina residents who are in the U.S. illegally and allow them to drive legally. Read the full story at CharlotteObserver.com.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article23622610.html>

North Carolina DMV Testing Online Driver License Renewals

The North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles has started implementing the testing phase for online renewals of driver licenses. Officials say the new service will allow customers to save time and complete driver license renewals at their convenience without having to visit a DMV office. Officials are hopeful the new service will reduce wait times at DMV offices throughout the state. Read the full story at WECT.com.

<http://www.wect.com/story/29288219/ncdmv-testing-online-driver-license-renewals>

DMV Asks Cyclists to Share Helmet Selfies on Social Media (Virginia)

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is challenging local cyclists to “Show the World” how Virginia values bike safety. In May, DMV launched a bicycle safety campaign in anticipation of Richmond 2015, a nine-day cycling competition expected to bring 450,000 spectators and 1,000 athletes from all over the world to Central Virginia. The event, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Road World Championships, will take place from September 19-27. Read the full story at NBC29.com.

<http://www.nbc29.com/story/29249118/dmv-asks-cyclists-to-share-helmet-selfies-on-social-media>

Region III

Ohio's Increase in Seniors Spurs Scrutiny of Driver's-License Renewal Laws

Larry Johnson suffered a stroke in 2013 that left him unable to walk, dress himself or speak. But legally, he still could drive a car. Being an insurance man, Johnson knew he wasn't fit to drive. Read the full story at Dispatch.com.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/06/07/ohios-increase-in-seniors-spurs-scrutiny-of-drivers-license-renewal-laws.html>

New Plate Honors Military Who Have Died Outside Combat Zone (Ohio)

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) is now offering a new specialty license plate, Military Sacrifice, to members of the immediate family of a person who died outside a combat zone while serving honorably as a member of any branch of the armed forces. For more information, please visit

http://bmv.ohio.gov/special_plates.stm

Transportation More: Cars Cycling Transportation 3-Foot Rule (Tennessee)

Anyone who has ever ridden a bicycle in traffic knows that scary feeling when a car or truck or bus passes too closely. Now there's a new technology that can potentially help prevent drivers from getting too close to cyclists — and from hitting them. It's called BSMART, and Chattanooga, Tennessee, is the first city in the US, and possibly the world, to test it, the Times Free Press reports. Read the full story at BusinessInsider.com.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/bsmart-technology-prevents-drivers-from-hitting-cyclists-3-foot-rule-2015-6>

Wisconsin DMV Follows New Federal Rules for Truckers

Federal law now requires operators of a commercial vehicle to provide proof of US citizenship or proof of legal temporary status when they apply for an original, renewal, or change of authority to their commercial driver license (CDL) or commercial learner permit (CLP). Read the DOT press release.

www.wisconsindot.gov/news

Region IV

People Can Fight Traffic Tickets Without Paying Fine First, Judicial Council Says (California)

California court leaders voted unanimously Monday to bar courts from charging drivers bail before they can challenge traffic tickets. The emergency rule, adopted by the Judicial Council, takes effect immediately. Courts will have to change their notices to the public to say that no one will be required to pay upfront as a condition of a hearing on a ticket. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-traffic-fines-20150608-story.html>

California Assembly OKs Bills Boosting Voter Rolls At DMV

The California Assembly is advancing bills that would turn prospective drivers into voters. Legislation approved Tuesday would boost California's voter rolls by registering visitors to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Read the full story at CAPRadio.org.

<http://www.capradio.org/articles/2015/06/03/california-assembly-oks-bills-boosting-voter-rolls-at-dmv/>

Last Day in Office for WHP Colonel John Butler (Wyoming)

May 29 was the last day in office for Col. John Butler, administrator and commanding officer of the Wyoming Highway Patrol. Col. Butler has served the State of Wyoming as a member of the Patrol for nearly 30 years. Read the full press release.

<http://www.whp.dot.state.wy.us/news/last-day-in-office-for-whp-colonel-john-butler>

Other News

Google Launches Monthly Self-Driving Car Progress Report

Google has launched a monthly report to round-up progress of its self-driving cars as the technology giant refines its software. The report revealed Google is currently testing 23 self-driving Lexus RX450h 4x4 on public roads, mainly around the Mountain View area in California. It is also testing nine prototypes, which are self-driving on closed test tracks. Read the full story at BusinessCar.Co.UK.news.

<http://www.businesscar.co.uk/news/2015/google-launches-monthly-self-driving-car-progress-report>

NHTSA Pledges Closer Scrutiny of Automakers

Automakers and suppliers can expect tougher data requests and more frequent audits from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the agency said Friday, June 5, as it outlined a plan to prevent safety lapses similar to General Motors' ignition switch crisis of 2014. Read the full story at AutoNews.com.

<http://www.autonews.com/article/20150608/OEM11/150609896/nhtsa-pledges-closer-scrutiny-of-automakers>

Feds Unveil Technology to Create 'World Without Drunk Driving'

Road safety advocates converged on Congress Thursday to promote a new set of blood alcohol sensors that could prevent drivers from operating their vehicles while intoxicated. Read the full story at Time.com.

<http://time.com/3911054/feds-drunk-driving-sensors/>

Many Newly Licensed Drivers Don't Know How To Drive

Passing the state driver's licensing test does not always mean new drivers have the critical skills they need to drive safely. In fact, for all new drivers, regardless of their age, crash risk is highest immediately following licensure, and driver errors due to inexperience and lack of skill cause the majority of these crashes. For teens in the US this is particularly critical: Motor vehicle crashes remain the number one cause of death. Read the full story at KHQ.com.

<http://www.khq.com/story/29265647/many-newly-licensed-drivers-dont-know-how-to-drive>

Uber Continues To Finance Its Drivers With New Gas Credit Card

Ride-hailing service Uber already connects its drivers, even those with bad or no credit, with car loans. Now drivers can also get an Uber credit card. Read the full story at Forbes.com.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ellenhuet/2015/06/09/uber-driver-gas-credit-card-fuel-mastercard/>

Tesla's Elon Musk Expects Self-Driving Cars in Three Years

Elon Musk told shareholders Tuesday that he thinks fully self-driving versions of his electric cars could come to market in about three years. He said the first version of the "autopilot," which assists drivers with steering, is due to the first batch of customers in about a month. Musk says he has been personally testing the systems in a Model S electric car. Read the full story at USAToday.com.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/cars/2015/06/09/elon-musk-tesla-self-driving/28766805/>

How Car Companies Are Combatting Texting While Driving

Distracted driving continues to be a major problem on the roads. Smartphones ping and buzz, drawing drivers' attention away from what's in front of them. A recent reminder of this came last week, when police in Tennessee said that the driver in a December school bus crash had been texting at the wheel. Three people were killed in that incident, including two elementary school students. Read the full story at HuffingtonPost.com

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/how-car-companies-are-combatting-texting-while-driving_55771263e4b0317a2afd3fdc

Uber Drivers Win Arbitration Ruling

A U.S. district judge has rejected on-demand transportation company Uber's bid to enforce arbitration agreements on its drivers, clearing the way for a driver lawsuit to go ahead. Read the full story at EEdition2.LATimes.com.

<http://eedition2.latimes.com/Olive/ODE/LATimes2/LandingPage/LandingPage.aspx?href=TEFULzlwMTUvMDYvMTE.&pageno=MzA.&entity=QXlwMzAwNQ..&view=ZW50aXR5>

Consumer Groups Seek Probe into CarMax Sales of Unrepaired Recalled Cars

Consumer groups want California to review CarMax practice of selling used cars with unrepaired recalls. Two consumer groups have asked California's attorney general and the Department of Motor Vehicles to investigate the sales practices of used car giant CarMax. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-hy-carmax-recalled-car-sales-20150610-story.html>

Tipping Point in Transit

One sunny morning a few weeks ago, I slipped into the inviting cockpit of a Mercedes-Benz S550 sedan, a ride equipped with massaging front seats, reclining back seats, a heads-up display worthy of a fighter jet and more speakers than a political convention. At \$136,000, this was a car fit for a rap star or a European Union functionary, of which I am neither (yet). Read the full story at Bits.Blogs.NYTimes.com.

<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/06/10/tipping-point-in-transit/?mwrsm=Email>

Did You Know

College-Bound Drivers

After graduation comes the next phase...the move. One of the biggest considerations that need to be made is whether or not the student will have a vehicle while at college. Parents and students should do their research about the costs associated with a student driver, and the potential savings associated with the student driver leaving the car with the parents.

Here is some information I dug up online:

- Lots of times auto insurance customers can receive a discount on their auto policies if the student is 100 or more miles away from home without the car.
- Students should be smart about where and how they park the car, and make sure the car they bring to college includes some anti-theft or security features.
- A firm rule to have: Don't lend your car to friends or classmates.
- Get good grades as it could get up to a 20% discount depending on the insurance carrier.
- Students should be aware of basic services their car may need (oil changes, tire rotations, etc.), because this will prevent costly repairs as a result of neglecting to maintain the vehicle.

- Have a roadside emergency provider: Always be prepared in the event of a breakdown. Anyone in the car that has a AAA card is eligible for help – regardless of if that student owns a vehicle or not.

Find these and more tips online at:

- A warning for college-bound drivers (NJ1015.com) <http://nj1015.com/a-warning-for-college-bound-drivers/?trackback=tsmclip>
- College Students and Car Insurance (Quotewizard.com) <http://quotewizard.com/auto-insurance/college-students-and-car-insurance>
- Tips for Parents of College Students to Avoid Liability (cohenjaffe.com) <https://www.cohenjaffe.com/resources/tips-parents-college-students-avoid-liability/>
- Car maintenance important for college-bound kids (AAA on YouTube) <https://youtu.be/fzD7yYtpAMY>