

July 10, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

State to State and CDLIS Now Fully Operational

The State Pointer Exchange Services platform (SPEXS), which supports both CDLIS (<http://www.aamva.org/CDLIS/>) and the new State to State (S2S) (<http://www.aamva.org/State-to-State/>) requirements have been fully operational now since Saturday, July 4. From time to time, individual states will upgrade to take benefit of the expanded S2S functionality. The first state coming on board will be Wisconsin. This will occur over the weekend of August 8. Please be aware that regular Central Site availability between the evening of Saturday, August 8th and early morning of Monday, August 10th will be affected. More specifically, there may be periods during which the Central Site is in inquiry-only mode, and there may be periods during which the Central Site is unavailable (over and above the regularly scheduled maintenance window of 2am to 5am on Sunday). Exact details will be shared as soon as they are available. The Central Site should be fully operational again on Monday, August 10th, 5am ET. All other systems will be up and running during their usual available hours. Status and History requests between states should be unaffected by the work at the Central Site, with the exception of inquiries directed to Wisconsin. Wisconsin's availability will be shared with all states as soon as they are finalized.

States that are scheduled to implement CDLIS 5.3.2 during this weekend will still be able to do so. Following Wisconsin, several states are in the process of joining the S2S program between August 2015 and March 2016. AAMVA will provide updates as soon as we have implementation dates from each state. If you have any questions please contact the AAMVA Operations Help Desk at helpdesk@aamva.org.

Register Online for AAMVA Conferences

- 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

Maryland Governor Favors Recall Of Confederate License Plates

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said Thursday that he supports taking some steps to address concerns over the Confederate flag and whether it is a historic symbol or racist reminder, but extreme measures only represented “political correctness run amok.” Read the full story at Baltimore.CBSLocal.com.

<http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2015/07/09/md-governor-confederate-flag-battle-nearing-tipping-point>

Cuomo Teams Up With Avis Vehicle Rentals To Prevent Distracted Driving (New York)

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced a partnership with Avis Budget Group, a major car rental company. He focused on the launch of two public service announcements that emphasizes the dangers of texting and driving, and the fatal consequences it can have on drivers, passengers, pedestrians and bicyclists. Read the full story at RapidNewsNetwork.com.

<http://rapidnewsnetwork.com/cuomo-teams-up-with-avis-vehicle-rentals-to-prevent-distracted-driving/65274/>

DMV's Concert Crackdown (New York)

The state's enforcement of underage drinking regulations at two recent concerts resulted in the arrest of 113 minors and the seizure of 88 counterfeit licenses. According to DMV Deputy Commissioner Thomas Higgins, "underage concertgoers" were apprehended at ID checkpoints at the Darien Lake Performing Arts Center in Genesee County on Thursday, June 18 and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga County on Tuesday, June 23. Read the full story at LegislativeGazette.com.

<http://www.legislativegazette.com/Articles-Top-Stories-c-2015-07-06-92341.113122-DMVs-concert-crackdown.html>

Region II

AAMVA Community Mourns Passing of Friend and Mentor, Maurice Beckham



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Maurice Beckham < <http://cook-walden-capital-parks.tributes.com/dignitymemorial/obituary/Maurice-Beckham-102625107>> on June 29, 2015. He was 82. He is survived by Peggy, his devoted wife of 64 years, their two children, eight grandchildren, an older sister and two older brothers. Maurice was a Master Mason, and longtime member of Onion Creek Lodge #220 in Austin. A Korean War veteran he served with both the U.S. Army 24th Infantry division, and the First Marine division. Maurice was a 38 year veteran of the Texas Department of Public Safety, a Special Texas Ranger, he retired at the rank of Major as the Chief of Administration in 1993. Maurice not only served as Past Region II President and a member of the AAMVA International Board of Directors, but also served on numerous other professional boards, committees and groups. In earlier years, Maurice was a softball pitcher of note, played semi-pro baseball in the old Central Texas League, and coached little league baseball. He performed nationally as a professional humorist, educator, trainer, and was a prominent "After Dinner", Key Note Inspirational speaker, and Entertainer. For the past 20 years Maurice has performed as the Resident Virtuoso on the all-volunteer Austin Steam Train

Association Hill Country Flyer, and other ASTA special excursion trains. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, August 1, 2015 at Cook-Walden Capital Parks Memorial Chapel with a Reception to follow. In Lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Maurice's memory to any of the following: (1) The American Cancer Society, (2) The Texas DPS Historical Museum & Research Center at P.O. Box 141603, Austin, Texas 78714-1603 or to, (3) The Austin Steam' Train Association, 401 E. Whitestone Blvd., Ste C-100, Cedar Park TX 78613.

Learn more about the life of Maurice Beckham. <http://cook-walden-capital-parks.tributes.com/dignitymemorial/obituary/Maurice-Beckham-102625107>

Illegal Commercial Driver's License Conspiracy Exposed (Florida)

United States Attorney A. Lee Bentley, III announces the return of an indictment charging Ellariy Medvednik (48, Oviedo), Natalia Dontsova (49, Oviedo), Adrian Salari (44, Orlando), and Clarence Davis (76, Winter Garden) with conspiracy to aid and abet the unlawful production of Florida driver licenses and commercial driver licenses (“CDLs”). If convicted on all counts, each defendant faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison. Read the full story at FBI.gov.

<https://www.fbi.gov/tampa/press-releases/2015/illegal-commercial-drivers-license-conspiracy-exposed>

Mistake On Driver’s License Labeled Man As Sex Offender (Florida)

A simple mistake on your driver's license, and it could severely change your life, costing you friends, family and even a job. That mistake cost a local man his reputation even within his own family. Read the article on www.actionnewsjax.com.

<http://www.actionnewsjax.com/news/news/local/mistake-drivers-license-labeled-man-sex-offender/nmwRb/>

Confederate Battle Flag Plate Orders Spike; DMV Out of Stock (North Carolina)

A rush for North Carolina-issued license plates bearing the Confederate battle flag has depleted what the state had on hand as Gov. Pat McCrory seeks to end their issuance. Read the full story at [NewsObserver.com](http://www.newsobserver.com).

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article26730076.html>

Transgender People in West Virginia Now Have More Freedom with Driver’s Licenses

Thanks to a new West Virginia law, transgender people now have more rights. The West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles is no longer allowed to tell transgender drivers to remove their makeup, change their clothes or change their appearance in any way in order to take their driver’s license identification photos. Read the full story at [WOWKTV.com](http://www.wowktv.com)

<http://www.wowktv.com/story/29495615/wv-transgenders-now-have-more-freedom-with-drivers-licenses>

Region III

University of Michigan to Test 3D-Printed Autonomous Cars

As 3D printing techniques improve and the push towards autonomous cars grows stronger, it was only a matter of time before the two technologies were combined to create an autonomous 3D-printed car. That's exactly what Local Motors has done, putting together an autonomous car to be tested by the boffins at University of Michigan as part of a 12 month trial. Read the full story in www.gizmag.com.

<http://www.gizmag.com/3d-printed-autonomous-cars/38392/>

Motorcycle Deaths Spike, but Safety Classes Still Poorly Attended (Minnesota)

It's not been a good year for motorcycle enthusiasts in Minnesota. The Associated Press reports that as of July 2, at least 31 motorcyclists have died on the road in Minnesota in 2015. That's more than 18 percent of all traffic deaths so far this year and nearly double the total by this point in 2014. Read the full story at [SouthernMinn.com](http://www.southernminn.com).

http://www.southernminn.com/owatonna_peoples_press/news/article_7601d3ee-de44-533d-bbf1-c500eae34d75.html

Ridesharing Growing Because of Economic, Health and Environmental Benefits (Missouri)

In 2014, RideFinders, the St. Louis region's free rideshare program, helped to eliminate more than 33 million driving miles; reduce more than 1.6 million pounds of vehicle emissions; and remove nearly 4,000 vehicles from the region's roadways. In 2015, RideFinders expects to be even more successful as it works with area employers like Washington University to increase awareness of the benefits of its programs and to dispel some misconceptions held by non-participants. Read the full article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

<http://interact.stltoday.com/pr/business/PR070915121022222>

Camp Aims to Teach Teens Safe Driving (South Dakota)

Teen drivers in Sioux Falls will have the opportunity later this month to attend a free camp focused on safe driving. Read the full article in www.argusleader.com.

<http://www.argusleader.com/story/news/local/2015/07/07/camp-aims-teach-teens-safe-driving/29832981/>

Region IV

Homelessness: California Offers Free ID to Homeless People

As of July 1st, a homeless person, child or youth born in the State of California can get a free certified birth certificate from the county of their birth. And as of January 1, 2016, a homeless person, child or

youth will be able to get a free new or replacement California photo identification card from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Read the full story at HuffingtonPost.com.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christine-schanes/homelessness-california-p_b_7710044.html

New Insurance Rule for Rideshare Drivers and Companies Goes into Effect (California)

The California Department of Insurance is reminding ride-share drivers and companies such as Uber, Lyft and Sidecar that a new law effective July 1 requires them to carry liability insurance coverage. Read the full story at TechWire.net.

<https://www.techwire.net/new-insurance-rules-for-ride-share-drivers-and-companies-goes-into-effect/>

Bill Would Use Electronic Sign System to Curb California's Deadly Hit-and-Run 'Epidemic'

State officials are working to address what they call an epidemic of hit-and-run accidents in Southern California. Their plan calls for using electronic highway signs to send out emergency "yellow alerts" in the area of a serious hit-and-run asking the public for information. Read the full story at SCPR.org.

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2015/07/06/52852/california-looks-to-curb-deadly-hit-and-run-epidem/>

DMV Rolls Out New Timesaving Appointment System (California)

Customers making an online appointment at the California Department of Motor Vehicles can now search multiple field offices simultaneously for available dates and times. Read the full story at TechWire.net.

<https://www.techwire.net/dmv-rolls-out-new-timesaving-appointment-system/>

Lawmaker Puts Brakes on Motorcycle Lane-Splitting Bill (California)

California legislation that would make it clear that motorcyclists can split lanes of traffic has been tabled for the year, several weeks after it passed the Assembly with bipartisan support. Read the full story at SacBee.com.

http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article26620264.html#emlInl=Morning_Newsletter#storylink=cpy

DMV Adding New Employees to Ease Crunch at Offices (Nevada)

Faced with crowded offices and wait times averaging close to two hours; the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) hired 93 new technicians and supervisors on July 1 and is now training them to serve the public. Read the full story at DMVNV.com.

<http://www.dmvnv.com/news/index.htm>

Utah Using Playful Road Signs to Encourage Safety

Utah highway drivers may do a double take this summer when they look up and read what's on the digital signs overhead. "Turn signals: The original text message" is one message in a summer program aimed at encouraging safe driving. "That seatbelt looks good on you" and "Steering wheel: Not a hands free device" are others. Read the full story at TheSpectrum.com.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/news/local/2015/07/06/utah-using-playful-road-signs-encourage-safety/29798877/>

Other News

NHTSA Proposes Rule to Curb Substandard Motorcycle Helmets

A motorcyclist is thirty times more likely to experience a fatal crash than an automobile passenger. Although total motor vehicle fatalities have decreased by 15% from 1994 to 2012, even as driving has increased, motorcycle fatalities have more than doubled over the same time period, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Read the full story at RegBlog.org.

<http://www.regblog.org/2015/07/02/medeiros-nhtsa-motorcycle-helmets/>

GM to Offer Teen Driver Tracking to Parents

GM has announced that it will be offering a way for parents to track their teens' driving behavior in order to help cut down on accidents. In the U.S., the fatal crash rate per mile driven for 16- to 19-year-olds is nearly three times the rate for drivers ages 20 and over, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Read the full story at ComputerWorld.com.

<http://www.computerworld.com/article/2943860/emerging-technology/gm-to-offer-teen-driver-tracking-to-parents.html>

Honda Recalls 4.5 Million More Vehicles Over Takata Airbags

Honda on Thursday announced another multimillion-vehicle recall to replace airbags supplied by Takata, this time targeting 4.5 million vehicles in Japan and other markets outside North America. Read the full story at NYTimes.com.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/10/business/honda-recalls-millions-more-vehicles.html? r=0>

Did You Know

TIRES...THERE'S MORE TO THEM THAN YOU MAY THINK

To be honest, I never really gave much thought to tires, beyond comparing prices and writing down the string of numbers on the side of the tires when it's time to replace them. I also know that the onslaught of summer heat means you need to pay special attention to your tires.

So I decided to do a little digging around and found some pretty interesting information--all about tires! For example:

- Tires are not just a piece of rubber slapped onto a rim. Looking at the anatomy of a tire, you see that it is actually made up of several different components: treads, sidewall, body plies (some may also have cap plies), inner liner, steel belts, bead bundle, and some tires have what's called an edge cover.
- Sipes are tiny void areas cut into the tire which increases flexibility, reduces the heat buildup in the tire as you drive, and reduces shear stress. Siped tires perform much better than their non-siped brethren in snow, ice, mud and similar such circumstances. However, they show worse breaking distances on both dry and wet pavement.
- A tread lug is the part of the tire that contacts the pavement and provides traction. The combined tread lugs that are in contact with the pavement at any given time are called the "footprint".
- The typical tire size system will appear as a string of letters and numbers such as: P215/70R16 100S. This string of letters and numbers actually contains 7 different pieces of information. For example, the 'R' designation states the tire is of radial construction. Other construction types are rare for modern passenger car use and may include 'D' for bias ply construction and 'B' for belted tires.
- When thinking about your winter wheels, it's recommended that you downsize your tires. A smaller and narrower tire has better grip and performance in snow or ice. This is both because the smaller tire cuts through snow more effectively, and because the weight of the car is pressing on a more focused set of contact patches.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Find out more interesting facts and tips online:

- How Tires Work (howstuffworks.com) <http://auto.howstuffworks.com/tire1.htm>
- Tire Facts and Safety Tips (todayifoundout.com) <http://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2012/09/tire-facts-and-tire-safety-tips/>
- Car Tire Sizes Explained: What The Numbers and Letters on Your Tires Mean (autobytel.com) <http://www.autobytel.com/car-ownership/maintenance-repair/car-tire-sizes-explained-what-the-numbers-and-letters-on-your-tires-mean-105706/>
- Why You Should Downsize Your Winter Wheels (tires.about.com) http://tires.about.com/od/understanding_tires/a/Why-You-Should-Downsize-Your-Winter-Wheels.htm