

# CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc

## OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

### PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

AUGUST 31, 2010

*Several of our State Legislators are on summer recess and therefore there is not much new activity in the various states. The following state bills are not laws at this time. They have recently been introduced and are under consideration by the respective states.*

*More and more states are using unmarked police vehicles to nab speeders. About 15 to 20% of Iowa State Patrol's cars are unmarked. Not only are the unmarked police cars used on highways in several states, many cities are also using unmarked patrol cars to catch speeders.*

*Several states have began using a new type of traffic signal that makes it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. It is called HAWK- High-intensity Activated Cross Walk. It allows people to cross a busy road either at an intersection without a standard traffic signal or in the middle of a long stretch of road. The signal stays dark until a*

*pedestrian or bicyclist wants to cross. They press a button, and the overhead signals flash yellow lights, followed by a solid yellow and a solid red, stopping traffic so the person can cross. The light was developed by city traffic engineers in Tucson and is currently in use in several states, such as Delaware, Georgia, Minnesota, Virginia and Arizona. (Info from article by Mike Chalmers, USA TODAY newspaper)*

## **ALABAMA**

*Effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, off-road vehicles will be banned from Little River Canyon National Preserve. Park Superintendent John Bundy said officials will begin enforcing federal regulations prohibiting the use of off-road vehicles and all-terrain vehicles on roads in the preserve.*

## **ALASKA**

*The Alaska Marine Highway System has plans to add a second ferry to its service to Bellingham Washington next summer, spokesman Roger Wetherell said. Ferry service between Bellingham and southeast Alaska has been cut in recent years to save money.*

## **COLORADO**

*Adding a temporary eastbound lane to interstate 70 would cut driving time from ski resorts to Denver by about half, according to initial results of a study commissioned by the state Department of Transportation. It found using a reversible “zipper” lane on winter Sundays would cut the drive from Silver Plume to El Rancho from 91 minutes to 46 minutes.*

## **CONNECTICUT**

*Hanging an object from a car’s rearview mirror is acceptable under a state law as long as it doesn’t distract or impede the view, the state Supreme Court has ruled. The 4-3 decision upholds rulings that sided with Gregory Cyrus, who was pulled over in Danielson in 2006*

*when a trooper spotted a cross hanging from a chain on his rearview mirror*

## **ILLINOIS**

*The Coles County Board gave the ok to a contract for work that will continue improvements to the road accessing the county's newest interstate 57 interchange. The work will be on County Highway 18 from Illinois 130 and about three miles west of the state highway. Highway 18 connects with the interstate about two miles north of Matton.*

## **IOWA**

*State highway officials are planning to install more median barriers along the interstate system. That includes a stretch of interstate 80 in Jasper county, where seven people were killed and 6 others injured in two head-on crashes in mid August. The agency also plans to install barriers on interstate 380 in Cedar Rapids.*

*The state is considering more traffic cameras to catch speeders. Iowa is one of 10 states and the District of Columbia using the cameras to snap pictures of speeding vehicles, tracking owners through a computer database and mailing citations.*

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

### **HB 4871**

*This bill creates a vehicle registration classification for street rods, custom vehicles, replicas and specially constructed vehicles and has been passed by the Massachusetts General Court and sent to the governor for his signature. The bill was a version of SEMA-model legislation.*

## **NEBRASKA**

*Budget cuts that have reduced the number of state troopers are leaving stretches of interstate 80 unpatrolled for longer periods than in the past. Kimball County Sheriff Harry Gillway said his deputies are being asked to help out the State Patrol more, and that the stretch of interstate 80 in his area now sometimes goes without patrols for eight hours or more.*

## **NEW JERSEY**

*The state is considering replacing its free roadside assistance program with a private company that would charge to change a tire or charge a battery. The Emergency Service Patrol, with a team of 90 drivers was created in 1994 to keep lanes clear and reduce congestion. Privatizing the service could free up as much as \$12 million annually.*

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

*A judge has ruled that prosecutors cannot revive charges against more than 30 people whose DUI charges were dismissed as part of a ticket fixing case in which four defense attorneys and a prosecutor pleaded guilty. Johnson County officials argued that the cases were improperly dismissed with the signature of an assistant prosecutor who had resigned.*

*The city of Raleigh is gearing up for expanded use of plug-in electric cars by making it easier for homeowners to get permits to get a permit for rechargers. The streamlined procedure will take just one hour. Recharging an electric car puts a heavy load demand on electrical wiring and could require upgrades for a 220-volt outlet, which cuts recharging time from 20 hours to 8.*

## **OHIO**

*Governor Strickland's administration wants trucks carrying international shipping containers loaded with grain or any other product to be raised from 80,000 pounds to 94,000 pounds. The Ohio Farm Bureau said other states already have higher weight limits,*

*leaving Ohio at a competitive disadvantage. Critics said the added weight would further damage the roads.*

## **RHODE ISLAND**

*The state has its first electric car refueling station, now the state needs some electric cars on the road. The \$10,000 Charge-Point electric recharging opened on August 25<sup>th</sup> in the parking lot of Cardi's Furniture Superstore. Peter Cardi said the company is working ahead of the curve because more electric cars will be in use in the near future.*

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

*Drivers might be able to buy a license plate with the words "I believe" and three crosses. Nine months after a federal judge barred the state from making plates with the religious message, Attorney General Henry McMaster said a similar plate designed by a non profit group is legal. The plate under review at the Department of Motor Vehicles reads [www.IBELIEVEsc.net](http://www.IBELIEVEsc.net) along the top.*

## **TEXAS**

*Administrators at school districts now have a faster way to check the safety records of bus drivers. The Department of Public Safety unveiled a website that allows districts to instantly review bus drivers records, instead of having to rely on the mail to get information.*

*A toll both will be set up to collect \$5 fees from non-residents when the Texas City, Texas dike, which was damaged by Hurricane Ike, reopens in a few weeks. Mayor Matt Doyle said the city's plan includes free access for residents who display a window sticker on their vehicles.*

## **UTAH**

*A gas station for natural gas vehicles will open in Naples around the first week of September. The station will be the fourth public natural gas station to open in the state this year. It has taken two years of work to open the station. The funding comes from Questar Western Petroleum, a federal grant and the Utah Clean Cities Coalition.*

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

*Highway officials say that motorists could pay up to \$4 in tolls to help finance the upgrade of U.S. 35. State highway engineering director George Bailey said without the tolls, the Division of Highways couldn't complete the project.*

# **whatsuup here and there**

## **BIG, BIG TRAFFIC JAM !!!!**

*In northern China there was a 60 mile long traffic jam. The jam was triggered by road construction and may take up to three weeks to clear up. One of the days, trucks moved less than a mile on the worst section. Chinese TV said that some vehicles had not moved for five days. There has been no reports of violent road rage and the main complaint heard from drivers was about villagers on bicycles making a killing selling boxed lunches, bottled water to drink and heated water for noodles. There were no portable toilets set up along the highway, leaving only two apparent options, like to a service area or into the fields. The traffic jam started about the middle of August.*

*According to USA Today newspaper, the most deadly days on the highways that resulted in deaths from 2004 to 2008 were: July 4<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup> and Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. They are ranked 1 thru 4 in according to the number of deaths on each day.*

*Some residents of the Kanawha Valley in West Virginia are unhappy with the blue color scheme selected for the Fort Hill Bridge on*

*interstate 64 in Kanawha County. Residents chose the color in a poll by the Division of Highways.*

*Dog lovers, beware. Taking man's best friend for a ride could be risky.*

*Nearly 60% of dog owners have driven while distracted by their pets as passengers, according to a new survey by auto club AAA. Only 17%, about one in 6 – ever use animal restraints such as harnesses and pet vehicle seats, which can prevent pets from being a distraction and protect them and other occupants in a crash, the survey finds.*

*Larry Becker*

