



The Newsletter of the Montana Traffic Education Association

# MTEA NEWS

Volume 20, Issue 1

Fall 2014

## Do as I say, not as I do? Parents not always the safest drivers, teens report

Parents engage in the same dangerous driving behaviors that they warn their children against, according to data released by Liberty Mutual Insurance and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD).

Liberty Mutual and SADD commissioned ORC International to measure teen driving attitudes and behaviors. The study included focus groups in Philadelphia and Dallas, a national survey of more than 2,500 11th- and 12th-graders, and a survey of 1,000 parents of high school-aged drivers.

Released Aug. 7, the study revealed that parents admitted to talking on a cell phone while driving (86 percent), speeding (80 percent), texting (40 percent), driving after consuming alcohol (34 percent) and driving without a safety belt (21 percent).

Most teens (83 percent) reported that their parents engage in unsafe driving behaviors with them in the car, sometimes at higher rates than their parents admitted—58 percent said they have witnessed their parents texting while driving, and 41 percent have seen their parents drive without a safety belt.

Nearly half of teens (41 percent) said their parents continue unsafe habits even after the teens ask them to stop, according to the survey. — Source: National Safety Council 8/15/14

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**Where in the world is Harold Lair? Enjoying retirement!** In this shot from a video on Off Road Recovery (see Curriculum Module 5.2) Mr. Lair is demonstrating to his students the correct way to return from an off-road emergency. We want to thank Harold for his many years of dedicated and highly professional service to his driver education students and for his involvement on the MTEA Board of Directors, which included a role as our first newsletter editor. Board member Steffani Grogan has stepped up to be MTEA's next newsletter editor. Harold continues his service on MTEA's board and we look forward to seeing him at the 2015 MTEA conference in Great Falls.



### ONE TERRIFIC TRAFFIC EDUCATION TIP:

When approaching a stop sign and the student driver fails to stop in front of the line, he or she must get out of the car and **hug the stop sign**. This teaches observational skills and respect for the traffic signs that exist to keep us safe.

*With thanks to the traffic educators who shared this tip.*

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## MTEA News

This newsletter is published by the Montana Traffic Education Association in the fall, winter, and spring. Mailing address: PO Box 637, Conrad, MT 59425. Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, (406) 278-7856.

MTEA News is mailed to members and active contributor/sustainers. The spring issue is mailed to all traffic educators in Montana to provide annual conference registration information.

To submit an article, photo, or letter to the editor, contact newsletter editor Steffani Grogan at [sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us](mailto:sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us).

## President's Message

Fall is in full swing with all the beautiful bright colors. Some places are even beyond fall with 8+ inches of snow already. And that darned wind! Oh well, we live in Montana—wait five minutes, or go down the road five miles.

Please be careful out on the roads as there are drivers who do the dumbest things. Which gets us to the crux of this message. Please remind students to be defensive drivers and that they have to be the best on the road.

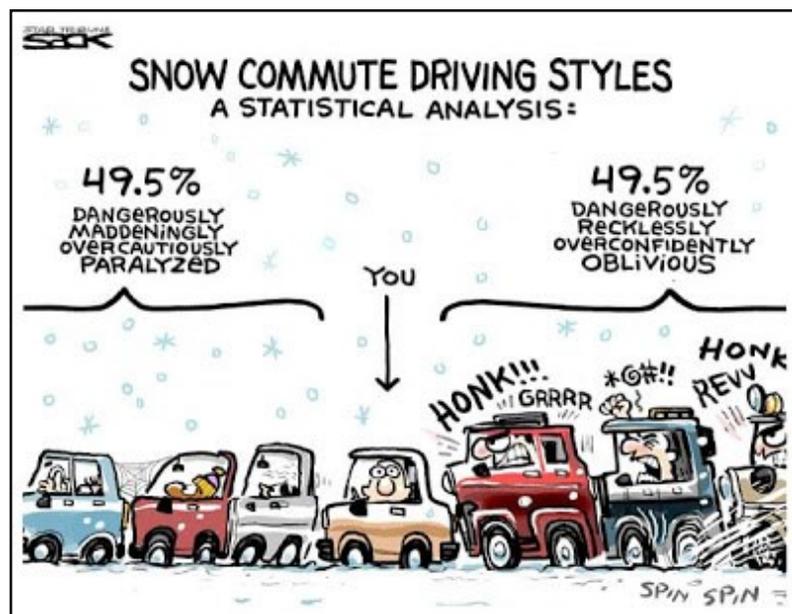
Thanks to all who could make the spring conference in Bozeman. As usual, it was great with lots of informative sessions, excellent speakers and workshop presenters. Yummy meals, a fantastic silent auction, door prizes and giveaways rounded out the conference. Kudos to all who made these things possible.

Congratulations to MTEA's **2014 Teacher of the Year Jeffrey Bennett** from Clyde Park and **2014 Contributor of the Year Lorrie Mayer** who just retired from many years as the Great Falls traffic education clerk.

What an awesome professional organization! If you don't belong to MTEA and are a driver education teacher or friend of traffic safety, please become a member. We would love to have you join and if you know another teacher who would like to join, please contact Jim Carroll who will send them a membership invitation.

Thank you to all the dedicated traffic education instructors in the classroom and behind-the-wheel. We are making our communities better and a safer place to drive!

~ Diane Prongua, MTEA President (2014-15)



Reprinted with permission from Steve Sack, editorial cartoonist for the Minnesota Star Tribune.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2015  
MTEA-OPI  
Traffic  
Education  
Conference**

**April 26-28, 2015**

**Heritage Inn  
Great Falls, MT**

Great speakers,  
sessions, workshops,  
socializing, and  
networking with other  
traffic education  
professionals.

Registration begins in  
March 2015.

Visit [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org)  
for details.



## Executive Board Meeting Summary

Here's an overview of the last Executive Board meeting held April 28, 2014 in Bozeman:

- Minutes, finances, and correspondence were reviewed.
- Reports from newsletter, awards, OPI, auction, insurance, and scholarships were heard.
- Classification reports were heard.
- Site selection and possible theme for the 2015 conference was discussed.
- Plans for the 2015 Legislative Session were discussed.
- Promoting Traffic Education in our region was discussed.

The next meeting was tentatively planned for early November in Helena. Anyone having items for discussion should contact Diane Prongua, President, or Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, as soon as possible to be included on the agenda.

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## MTEA Membership Benefits

*Invite a colleague to join!*

Do you know a traffic education teacher who might enjoy the benefits of membership in MTEA? Elementary, secondary, and university teachers and administrators involved with traffic safety education can join MTEA. Annual membership dues are \$35, payable to MTEA.

An active full membership includes:

- Annual Traffic Education conference (conference fees are extra) that brings 200 teachers together with experts in the field, opportunities for ongoing professional development, and the latest research and resources for traffic educators.
- Three newsletters per year (Fall, Winter, Spring).
- \$5,000 AD&D/life insurance policy.
- Voting status (board elections, annual awards).
- Eligibility for awards.
- A voice in the ongoing improvement of driver education in Montana through policy and legislative actions.

If you attended the 2014 spring conference in Bozeman your MTEA membership automatically renewed with your conference fee.

Encourage a colleague to join MTEA! Contact Jim Carroll at (406) 278-7856 or send a note via the contact page on [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org). Jim will send an application form and invitation letter to any teachers you identify as a potential members.

Visit MTEA's website: [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org).

## Drunk and Distracted Driving: Using goggles and go-carts to experience distraction safely

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for 15- to 20-year olds. Montana reports the third highest percentage of traffic fatalities involving alcohol. The numbers from the annual Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) show that inexperienced teen drivers not only partake in alcohol but routinely participate in distracting activities while driving.

Traffic education instructor Steffani Grogan looks for teaching tools that challenge the Forsyth driver's education class to experience their limitations behind the wheel of a vehicle without the personal danger.



The Drunk Buster goggles, purchased with a Maternal Child Health Grant (MCHG) from Rosebud County Health Department,

paired with two Berg Pedal Karts, obtained with a Community Foundation Grant, fit this need. Contact the local county health nurse for requirements for the MCHG. Funds are given every year for projects that deal with child safety. The Drunk Buster goggles come in various packs, but Grogan obtained a unit of six for \$499. Sleep deprivation and cannabis goggles recently became available at [www.drunkbusters.com](http://www.drunkbusters.com).

Commercial pedal karts were purchased for \$650 from Berg's of Idaho toy store (<http://shop.bergidaho.com>). While timed, students pedal through a teacher-constructed course normally, then repeat the course under the influence of the goggles, and then try again while texting. Drivers start in control and can see that any of the risk-taking behaviors do affect the drive.

The karts open up other lesson possibilities. Cones can be placed to simulate a curve for the students to "drive" the correct lane positions in the turns.

Teens are also able to create two-lane highway passing scenarios on the sidewalks of the school. Correct hand turn signals are given, the passing kart pulls into lane position two for a better view of the roadway, while the other kart maneuvers to lane position three to open the line of site.

When driving groups venture out to safely pass, the instructor can focus on individual skills as the explanation for the overall process has been modeled on the karts. Hopefully, the knowledge from the pedal drives translates into more aware drivers.



For more information, contact Forsyth High School traffic education teacher Steffani Grogan at e-mail: [sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us](mailto:sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us).

CLUCK, CLUCK,  
BUCKLE UP.

(That would make more sense if I were a chicken.)

Buckle your seatbelt and arrive safely this Thanksgiving Day.

## Retiring from traffic education?

If you retired last spring or have plans to retire from education this year and have been an active MTEA member, please notify Jim Carroll via mail or e-mail. We would like to honor you at the next spring conference and keep you as a member.

MTEA has an application process to help in recognizing years of service and contributions to MTEA. The form will not be mailed as in the past, as it is now available on the MTEA website or the MTEA link on the OPI Traffic Education website. If you want the form mailed to you, let us know. Please return all forms back to the MTEA office.

### *New 150-day rule for retirees who want to continue teaching traffic education.*

If your retirement is based on a termination date of January 1, 2014 or later, you must wait 150 calendar days before you can return to work as a working retiree in a TRS reportable position. The 150 calendar day break begins on the first day following your termination.

To comply with IRS public pension qualification standards, an unmistakable interval of time between a member's retirement and their return to work as a retired member is necessary. The break-in-service requirement applies to all TRS members, including members employed by the University System.

For more information, visit the Teacher's Retirement System website: <http://trs.mt.gov/> or call (406) 444-3134 (toll-free: 1-866-600-4045).



Budweiser's new video, *Friends are Waiting*, is a positive and heartwarming message about drinking responsibly. Watch it at <http://www.MTEAOnline.org>.



Powered by  State Farm®

Seventeen high schools across Montana registered to participate in State Farm's 2014 **Celebrate My Drive** program, which focuses on positive messages and safe driving choices.

Between October 15-24 2014, people were asked to make safe driving commitments for a registered high school. The 100 high schools with the most commitments will win some pretty amazing prizes, with the two top schools winning grand prize concerts.

For more information, visit <http://www.celebratemydrive.com>

## CHOP releases report on critical teen driver safety errors

Recent injury research from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) on critical safety errors of learner teen drivers described these driving performance errors:

- Disobeying traffic signs and signals
- Managing intersections
- Turning into oncoming traffic
- Glancing away from the roadway

"Ideally driver training and supervised practice during the learner permit phase would be focused on the critical safety-relevant errors that teens are likely to make so that teens enter the intermediate license phase with better tactical driving skills."

Tactical is not just a military term. It involves adroit planning aiming at an end beyond the immediate action with clever or skillful use of the hands and mind. Situational awareness is another essential skill.

Visit <http://injury-research.chop.edu>.

## KEYS Parent/Teen Homework packets available from MSU-Northern

The parent/student homework assignments—*Keep Encouraging Young Driver Safety* (KEYS)—are a great addition to the work you're doing to actively engage parents in their child's driver education. If you want to obtain copies (printed at cost for \$3.00/packet) to give to parents at your Parent Meeting, download the MSU-N order form here: <http://www.msun.edu/distance/pdfs/traffic/KEYS%20Order%20Form.pdf> or call Randy Bachmeier at (800) 662-6132 x3730 or e-mail: [rbachmeier@msun.edu](mailto:rbachmeier@msun.edu).



## 2015 ADTSEA Summer Conference



The 2015 ADTSEA (American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association)

conference will be held **July 12-15** at the Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown Hotel in Raleigh, NC.

Check out the ADTSEA website at <http://www.adtsea.org> for more details about registration, room rates, and tentative agenda.

Remember, MTEA has a scholarship program that will provide up to \$300 per person to offset conference costs. If you can't attend, at least consider joining ADTSEA, your national organization.



## Plan Ahead for the 2015 Legislature

The 2015 legislative session is coming up and MTEA will be there, with the help of our

lobbyist Jane Hamman, pushing for additional funding for traffic education programs.

This mid-term election season is a good time to chat with your state representative and senator about their positions on traffic education and safety issues and about your own local traffic education program.

For up-to-date information on the Montana State Legislature, visit [www.sos.mt.gov/elections](http://www.sos.mt.gov/elections). Click on the box for "2014 General Election Results," then click on Legislative and scroll down to find your county.

MTEAOnline.org also has a page devoted to legislative issues and how to stay informed and get involved. More to come in the winter newsletter.

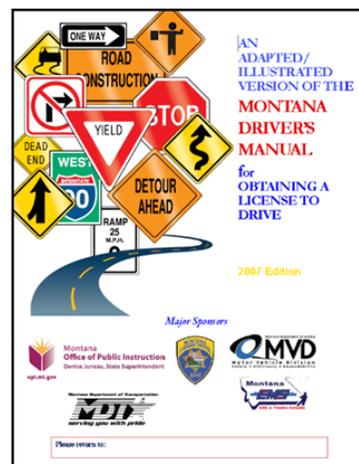
## *The Montana Roundabout: OPI's TRAFFIC EDUCATION NEWSLETTER*

The *Montana Roundabout* is the Traffic Education Office's Fall 2014 Newsletter, likely to be an annual publication. The four-page newsletter was mailed in September to every Montana school district operating a traffic education program.

To read the *Montana Roundabout*, visit the OPI's Traffic Education page and click on the link in the What's New box. <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd>.

## OPI's Traffic Education Office *Teen Driver Safety E-News*

If you are not receiving OPI's Traffic Ed E-News, sign up at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Subscriptions/>. You'll be kept informed about curriculum updates, grants and contests, professional development and training opportunities, MTEA events, OPI program requirements, and the latest research and useful resources for traffic education.



**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS** to review and suggest changes for an upcoming revision of the *Adapted Illustrated Montana Driver's Manual*.

Please contact Fran Penner-Ray at [fpenner-ray@mt.gov](mailto:fpenner-ray@mt.gov) or call (406) 444-4396 to volunteer!

## Fran's Findings



Montana  
Office of Public Instruction  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov



### Montana Teen Driver Safety Day is October 21, 2014

Change is in the wind with golden leaves and the dimming light of shorter days. We had calm winds and clear days as I traveled Highway 2 with newly retired traffic educator Harold Lair. We reviewed four traffic education programs along the Hi line in large and small schools. One teacher installed the new TE curriculum on the school computer network so he could access it from any classroom. I heard about duck foot plows and the girl who doubled her speed on a practice drive - from 5 mph to 10 mph. We found dedicated teachers, community support, and thoughtful insight into city and rural challenges. There are more than a few good ideas to share, which is why the roundtable discussions have become so popular at our MTEA conferences.

Here are a few of the best practices picked up from our tour of the Hi Line:

- **Gravel Roads:** The six hours of BTW included a gravel road route plan with potholes and a 90-degree turn. Stomping on the brake was suggested to demonstrate ABS brake action.
- **Toy Cars:** A string attached to a toy car demonstrated line of sight and targeting through a curve or turn. Students engaged in team work to construct paper roundabouts for toy cars after a discussion about roundabout pavement markings. The teacher used the Module 2.3 slides and added the link to Missouri's YouTube video "All About a Roundabout": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0RcTWEBtYM>.
- **Scheduling:** We have 33 schools offering driver education during the school day, sometimes with driving scheduled during the last period. The extended learning through a semester-long program helps students develop safe driving skills and habits. One school is considering offering a November to January session after football season.

**MBI Youth Days:** We are including peer-to-peer traffic safety with the Montana Behavioral Institute (MBI) leadership and community service focus. *Empower Your Drive* is the theme for the 2014 MBI Youth Days and it was rewarding to attend the MBI Youth Days event in Great Falls on October 5.

The Montana Department of Transportation's **Vision Zero MT Challenge** hopes to bring crash injuries and fatalities down to zero. We are making progress with driver education and GDL-supervised practice, but there are miles to go to develop better driving skills, and improve habits and behaviors leading to safer driving. Visit the MDT's Plan2Live web site for great videos and teaching tools for the classroom: <http://plan2live.mt.gov/>.

**Forming good habits behind the wheel.** Beeps and chimes in our vehicles are required by law, but people don't always heed their warnings. I'm intrigued with Nir Eyal—a blogger, researcher, and author of *Hooked: How to Build Habit-Forming Products*. He has interesting things to say about the importance of choice when making good decisions. If a person feels they *have* to do something, rather than *wanting* to do it, they're less likely to do it. We can take this simple advice and emphasize the power of making good choices. Deciding to buckle up and drive undistracted can become habitual, especially if the driver feels in control of their decisions. Learn more about the intersection of technology and psychology at the blog, [NirandFar.com](http://NirandFar.com).

**Educating Young Drivers on Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Webinar:** I found this webinar to be well presented and useful. I encourage you to visit <http://www.adtsea.com> and listen to the October 1 presentation.

*It is an honor to work with thoughtful and talented traffic educators around the great State of Montana. Thank you for your dedication and service to Montana families and communities.*

~ Fran Penner-Ray, Traffic Education Director, Montana Office of Public Instruction



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## SAVE THE DATE! April 26-28, 2015 2015 Montana Traffic Education Conference!



The annual spring conference has been scheduled at the Best Western Heritage Inn in Great Falls on April 26-28, 2015. Preconference workshops on the Saturday and Sunday morning prior to the conference may be scheduled as well. Remember, the cost of attending the conference is considered an allowable expense for local traffic program expenses under OPI guidelines.

Look for more information on room rates and conference schedule in upcoming newsletters and on the MTEA and OPI websites. Visit <http://www.MTEAOnline.org> or <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd> for details.

- **Calling all Door Prizes! You can help ...** Did you know that MTEA budgets money, mostly from the proceeds from our 50/50 drawings, for the purchase of door prizes? Because we have several drawings (and winners) throughout the conference, we can always use more door prizes. Consider asking at least one business in your community if they would donate something as a door prize. Bring it with you when you arrive. We will add it to the collection and offer it up during one of the many opportunities to win a prize.
- **Teacher and Contributor of the Year Awards**—Nomination forms for the MTEA Teacher and Contributor of the Year awards can be downloaded at the MTEA website or the MTEA link on the OPI Traffic Education website. Forms will not be mailed out unless you are unable to access the Internet. Contact MTEA if you need forms mailed to you. Please consider nominating a fellow teacher and/or supporter of your program for the 2015 awards.
- **Silent Auction**—Our last two silent auctions at the conference have been a huge success because of the great gifts donated and your generous support. The proceeds raised will help fund the David Huff Scholarship and offset the cost of future door prizes and auction items. If you would like to donate something to the MTEA silent auction, bring it to the conference. And thanks for your support!