



# MTEA NEWS

Newsletter of the Montana Traffic Education Association

VOL. 19, ISSUE 2 – WINTER 2013



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*Class A Position Open*

## President's Message

The New Year is fast approaching and so is our annual Montana Traffic Education conference. Your executive board—with the guidance of past-president Steve Morgan—is busy planning the 2014 spring conference. This is a great learning time for our membership and brings together leaders in traffic education in Montana and surrounding areas. Remember, conference expenses can be paid, at least in part, by the traffic education reimbursement your district receives from the Office of Public Instruction. And, to help us meet our 2014 goal to increase membership by 10 percent, please encourage someone new to MTEA to attend the conference. Annual membership dues are included in the conference registration fee.

In addition to bringing excellent speakers and workshop presenters to one of the best conferences in the state, we honor those individuals whose contributions have gone above and beyond to make their communities and our state a safer place to drive. Please take a moment to submit the name and school district of a colleague who is particularly devoted to the practice of traffic education in Montana and has made a difference in students' lives. Visit [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) and click on Contact Us to send us a note. Your Executive Board will follow through with all the necessary paperwork.

The board met in Helena recently and reviewed some of the new curriculum modules available from the Traffic Education office at the OPI. Check them out at <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd> (click on Montana Teen Driver Curriculum) or email [pborneman@mt.gov](mailto:pborneman@mt.gov) to request a flash drive with the entire curriculum (including tests) mailed to you. The new modules offer embedded videos, student activities, images and diagrams, and have streamlined the presentations to encourage more active learning by students.

I want to end this message by taking a moment to say thank you for a job well done. It takes dedication to teach traffic education. I admire your sincerity and dedication to the youth of our community and the safety of our communities.

*Mike J. "Mick" Davis, MTEA President*

## The Benefits of MTEA Membership

Of the 330 teachers assigned to teach traffic education in Montana, about 200 of them are members of MTEA. We would like to invite the non-member teachers to join their professional association. If you know a teacher who might enjoy the benefits of membership in MTEA, please invite them to become a member. Elementary, secondary, and university teachers and administrators involved with traffic safety education (and other interested persons) 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.

To join or renew, download and complete the membership form available at [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) and mail with your dues to Jim Carroll, MTEA Executive Secretary, MTEA, P.O. Box 637, Conrad, MT 59425.

## PLANNING CONTINUES FOR 2014 MTEA SPRING CONFERENCE

As of this printing, the 2014 spring conference dates and site are not yet confirmed. If you want to be updated right away, please sign up for the OPI's Traffic Education E-News (unless you're already signed up) at <http://opi.mt.gov/Subscriptions/>. We will also post updates to the MTEA and OPI websites when conference details are finalized.

## Items needed for Silent Auction at 2014 MTEA Conference

Our last two silent auctions have been a huge success because of the great gifts donated and your generous support! The proceeds raised will help towards offsetting the costs of future door prizes and auction items. If you would like to donate something to the next silent auction, please bring it to the conference.

## MTEA Recognition: Teacher- and Contributor-of-the-Year Awards

Nomination forms for the MTEA Teacher and Contributor of the Year awards can be filled out online at the MTEA website ([MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org)) or the MTEA link on the OPI Traffic Education website at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd>. Because of the online availability, forms will not be mailed out as in the past. Please seriously consider nominating a fellow teacher and/or supporter of your program.

## Retiring from traffic education?

If you retired last spring or have plans to retire from teaching this year and have been an active member of MTEA, please inform Jim Carroll in writing to the MTEA address or via the Contact Form on the MTEA website: [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org). We would like to honor you at the next spring conference (and keep you as a member of MTEA).

## Teens, Semi-trucks, and the No-Zone

Want your students to see what the No-Zone looks like from a truck driver's point of view? Invite a semi-truck to your next driver education class! Your students can climb into a semi and experience the limited view from the truck's cab. For details, contact Jeff Steeger at 444-4207 or e-mail: [jsteeger@mt.gov](mailto:jsteeger@mt.gov).

## OPI's Traffic Ed E-News

If you are not receiving OPI's Traffic Ed E-News, sign up at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Subscriptions/>. As soon as the spring conference dates and site are finalized, the OPI will e-mail an announcement to subscribers.



**Stop speeding before it stops you**

**In 2012, of the 56 speeding-related fatalities in Montana, 10 were young drivers.** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has a Speed Prevention Toolkit which includes tools you can use in the classroom. According to NHTSA, crash data since 1995 shows a continuous increase in the number of deaths and injuries attributed to speed. Despite gains in vehicle safety and passenger protection, thousands of Americans still die each year in speed-related crashes.

Download the kit here:

<http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/CAMPAIGNS/Speed+Prevention/Stop+Speeding+Before+It+Stops+You>



## Executive Board Meeting Summary

On November 10, 2013, the Executive Board met in Helena. Here is a summary of the meeting minutes:

- Minutes and financial reports were reviewed.
- Miscellaneous reports from the Great Falls conference regarding speakers, meals, awards, door prizes, social mixer, accommodations, breakout sessions, and costs were heard.
- A discussion on membership numbers and getting more people to the conference took place.
- A newsletter update was heard.
- A final review of the 2013 of the Great Falls conference took place, including classification reports.
- An update on the selection process for Teacher and Contributor of the Year was heard.
- A discussion on Legislative planning for 2015 took place.
- A discussion on the current insurance coverage program took place relative to costs.
- A memorial scholarship in honor of David Huff, former OPI director, was discussed.
- An OPI report regarding curriculum updates and other matters was heard.
- A discussion on teacher recruitment and the role of MSU-N in that process took place.
- A report on the MTEA website was provided.
- The purchase of door prizes and awards for the conference was approved.
- Plans for the conference silent auction were discussed.
- Board appointments and President-Elect nominations were discussed.
- Future conference sites and dates were looked at. Conference registration fees were approved.
- Planning for the 2014 MTEA conference took place, with various speakers and break-out sessions being planned based on the conference date and location.

The next meeting is set for January 26, 2014, in Helena. Anyone having items for discussion should contact Mick Davis, President, or Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, as soon as possible to be included on the agenda.

## Traffic Education Videos

**Crash Avoidance Technologies:** The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) has several animated videos regarding crash avoidance technologies in vehicles. Check them out at <http://www.youtube.com/iihs>.

Also from IIHS, *Understanding Car Crashes: When Physics Meets Biology* is a video on crash dynamics by Dr. Griff Jones who was one of MTEA's keynote speakers at the 2013 conference. View it on YouTube searching for: "When Physics Meets Biology."



**Bicycles in Traffic:** If you are looking for a good video for teens that addresses bicycles in traffic, scroll down to *Video #4: Sharing the Road* at the Pennsylvania DOT web site: <http://www.justdrivepa.org/traffic-safety-information-center/bicycle-and-pedestrian-safety/>

## Teaching Traffic Education in Montana

As many of you know, traffic education teachers are needed in Montana. Some are planning to retire within a few years and many districts need to expand their existing programs to meet increasing demand. One way to recruit new traffic education teachers is for districts to encourage a currently employed educator to obtain the required training so they can be approved to teach traffic education at their school..

In just a few weeks from late spring to early-summer, a Montana educator can receive enough training at MSU-Northern to begin teaching traffic education in mid-summer. Many of the required courses can be completed online, while others require only two weeks attendance at the Havre campus. Initial approval from the OPI Traffic Education Office is based on the completion of at least 8 required traffic safety education credits, a valid Montana educator's license, and an acceptable driving record.

To learn more about the requirements to begin teaching traffic education, renewing your approval, and information related to the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP), visit the OPI's Traffic Education page: Teaching Traffic Education. You will find links to MSU-Northern and other helpful FAQs related to teaching traffic education in Montana.

## Pacific NW Traffic Safety Education Conference – March 7-9, 2014

For those interested in attending the 2014 Pacific Northwest TSE conference in Portland, OR, the dates are March 7-9. Our leadership team has travelled to this excellent conference in the past. For more details, visit with Harold Lair or Mick Davis. Or visit <http://www.wou.edu/provost/extprogram/tse2014conference.php>.

## 2014 ADTSEA Summer Conference

The 2014 ADTSEA (American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association) conference will be held July 13-16 at the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel (near the airport) in Wichita, Kansas. 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 your national organization.



## Montana DRIVE Summer Workshops

Registration for the 2014 Summer Workshops will open the first week of February. For

an e-mail reminder, sign up for an e-mail reminder at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Subscriptions/>

Adult one-day workshops are \$315, with \$10 off if registered by March 5, 2014. Teen workshops are \$280, or \$80 if the teen submits a State Farm scholarship application to the OPI. Visit <http://www.montanadrive.mt.gov> for details.

## OPI's Traffic Education Office offers wealth of information for your program

If you want the latest traffic education resources and research, need to submit required forms to run your Traffic Education Program, or want to renew your approval to teach traffic education in Montana, visit the OPI's Traffic Education web site at:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd>. You can also download updated curriculum modules, read our Traffic Education Newsletter (or sign up to receive them via e-mail), or review the approved and scheduled TE programs around Montana.

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

Hopefully, you are using *Keep Encouraging Young Driver Safety* (KEYS) materials in your program. KEYS is a great resource to create more parent/student involvement in your program. 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).

## MONTANA ROAD & WEATHER REPORTS / WEB CAMS



Are you interested in seeing up-to-date road conditions throughout Montana? The Montana Department of Transportation has several roadway cameras placed throughout the state that can be accessed here:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/weather/rwis.shtml>. Images are updated every 30 minutes. This site includes a Google map and other camera sites across Montana along with road report data.

For up-to-date road and weather reports, call **1-800-226-7623**, again updated every 30 minutes or when major changes occur. Something relatively new is the nationwide travel information network. Although not all states participate, many in our geographic region do. By dialing 511 on your phone and entering the location, you can receive site-specific reports on road and weather conditions in the Mountain west Region.

## MDT's Mobile App for Smart Phones

MDT's Mobile App is now available! Search for **MDT Mobile** or **MDT Traveler Info** in Google play, the App Store or on Amazon and download the MDT application to receive road condition information on your phone. The Android version of the app can also be downloaded on MDT's website at:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/mobile.shtml>

**Don't have Android or iOS?** Use the online content at <http://roadreport.mdt.mt.gov/travinfomobile/> and get the latest road condition information.



## Fran's Findings

The holiday season brings sparkling lights, celebrations and gatherings with families

and friends. Anticipating a warm welcome, we travel on icy and snowy roads. Our students rely on you for the skills and knowledge to drive in challenging conditions. Experience matters and integrating your teaching with GDL-supervised practice is making a difference for our young teen drivers. (See chart in this issue showing Teen Driver Crashes since GDL implemented in 2006.)

The traffic education curriculum update continues to improve with the excellent work of Montana teachers and Rich Hanson. The newest revised modules are Rural and Highway Driving, Urban Driving, and soon Adverse Conditions. The updated list of modules is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

You can download the modules and all accompanying materials at <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd/>. You can also request the entire curriculum on a flash drive. We will be distributing new 8GB flash drives with all updated modules to teachers attending the spring MTEA conference.

To better reflect the changes in the curriculum modules, we have

also redesigned and revised the Traffic Education Curriculum Guide, which is an essential companion to the curriculum (and any curriculum or text book you choose). The complexity of driving is reflected in Montana's standards and requirements for driver education which forms the foundation to teach novice drivers.

The Curriculum Guide now includes the in-car lessons, which have been in the behind-the-wheel resources since 2006. The 45 Essential Knowledge and Skills topics are described along with the seven module categories. One of the few changes you'll find in this guide is a word change in Topic 32. The constant cell phone connectedness of teens prompted the change from *reducing* to *managing* driver distractions.

Driven to Distraction research (American Academy of Pediatrics, April 29, 2012) has found even *anticipating* a call or text message may contribute to crashes. We are starting next on the Deadly D's modules and welcome your ideas and activities for engaging teens in distracted driving discussions. With your permission, we will incorporate your lessons and resources into the update and credit you accordingly.

Recent Nebraska research on young driver crashes that occurred one and two years after driver licensing found: "Driver Education has a significant impact on reducing risk and increasing traffic safety for teen drivers."

This conclusion is from Duane F. Shell's University of Nebraska study (2011) on *Differential Impact of Driver Education and Driving Log Methods for obtaining Provisional Driving Licenses on Crashes and Citations in the First Two Years of Driving*. The research conclusions found "consistent reductions in all indicators in favor of Driver Education: Crashes, Injury or Fatal Crashes, Traffic Citations, and Alcohol Related Citations."

One of David Huff's initiatives a decade ago was to research and improve driver education as part of a systems approach to increasing traffic safety. He served on the Transportation Research Board in Washington DC. His vision of reducing crashes for our young drivers is still an inspiration.



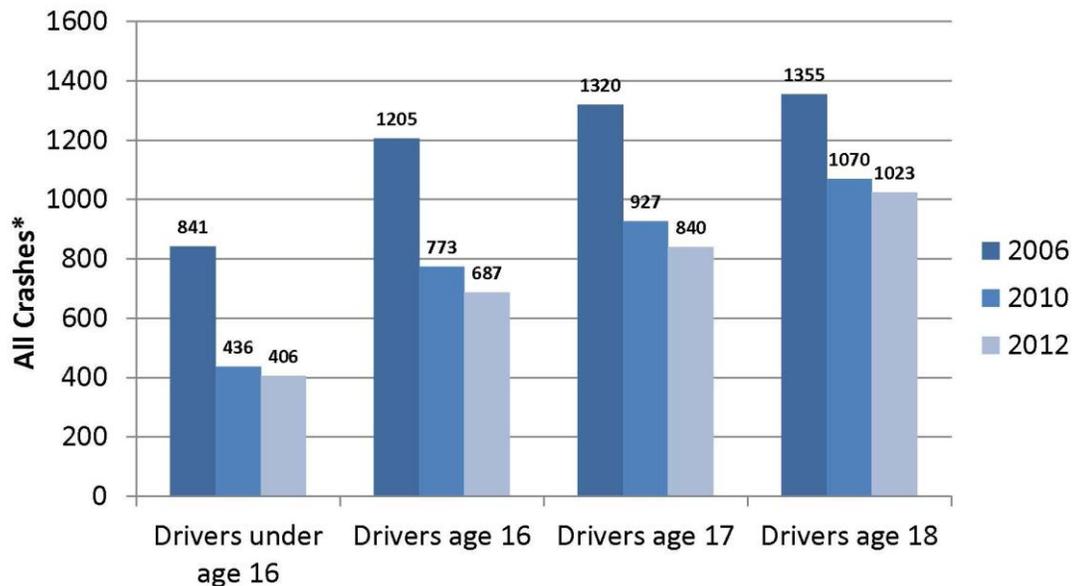
*It is an honor to work with thoughtful and talented traffic educators around the great state of Montana. Thank you for your dedication and service to Montana families and communities. I hope your holiday season is filled with joy and safe travels.*

Fran Penner-Ray, OPI Traffic Education Director

Module/Lesson Plan	Time estimated minutes	Sequence	In-Car Lesson	KEYS Homework
<b>DRIVER ED ADMINISTRATION</b>				
<b>BEHIND-THE-WHEEL</b>	6 hours required	Integrated and concurrent	6 hours required on no less than 6 days and up to 12 hours of observation	
<b>1. OVERVIEW GDL AND PARENT MEETING</b>				
GDL and Parent Meeting Overview KEYS Parent and Teen Homework		1		Intro
<b>2. VEHICLE CONTROL</b>				
2.1 Preparing to Drive 2013	60-90	2		1. Vehicle Safety Equipment
2.2 Basic Control 2013	120-180	3	1 – Start, Steer, Stop	
2.3 Traffic Control and Laws 2013	60	4	2 – Intersections and Turns	2. Laws and Courtesy
<b>3. VISION and MANAGING SPACES</b>				
3.1 Strategies for Vision Control 2012	30-60	5		3. Vision, Balance, Judgment
3.2 Managing Time/Space 2013	120-180	6	3 – Yield, Search LOS/POT	
3.3 Mixing with Traffic 2013	90-120	7	4 – Find, Solve, Control	4. Adverse Driving Conditions
3.4 Sharing the Road 2012	60	8	5 – Turnabouts and Parking	
3.5 Limited Spaces 2013	60-90	9	6 – Manage Space and Stops	
<b>4. RURAL, URBAN and HIGHWAY DRIVING</b>				
4.1 Natural Laws 2013	60 - 120	10		
4.2 Hills/Curves 2013	60-90	11	7 - Curves and Hills	
4.3 Urban Driving	60	12	8 – Complex traffic and speed	
4.4 Rural & Highway Driving 2013	60	13	9 - Passing	
<b>5. MANAGING DRIVING RISKS</b>				
5.1 Adverse Conditions	45-60	14	10 - Lane Changing	
5.2 Emergencies	60	15	11 – Manage Zones	
5.3 Protecting Occupants 2013		after Mod 2		
5.4 Managing Risk Vehicle/Roadway Design	30-60			
<b>6. DEADLY D's</b>				
6.1 Distractions 6.2 Drugs and Alcohol 2012 6.3 Drowsy 6.4 Dangerous Emotions - Road Rage	180	after Mod 5		
<b>7. DRIVER LICENSE and TRIP PLANNING</b>				
7.1 Owning Vehicle/Trip Planning	60	after mod 6		5.Supervised Practice and Safe Driving
7.2 Driver License / Assessment	90	after mod 6	12- Skills Assessment (ideally with parent/guardian)	
<b>TE Resources – Tests, Videos and Extras</b>				

The Montana Traffic Education Curriculum is online at [www.opi.mt.gov/programs/drivered](http://www.opi.mt.gov/programs/drivered) without the tests. Downloading times may vary depending on Internet connection speed. Some files, especially the PowerPoint presentations, are very large and might take up to an hour to download. Contact OPI if you wish to have these resources mailed to you on a jump drive.

## Teen Driver Crashes since Montana GDL implemented in 2006



*Montana Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) MCA 61-5-132 effective July 2006*

\*MDT Data includes all teen fatal, injury and property damage crashes

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### **TEEN CRASHES ARE DOWN IN MONTANA SINCE 2006 – THE YEAR GDL WENT INTO EFFECT**

The data shows that teen driver crashes have decreased since the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) law went into effect in Montana in 2006.

Introducing teens gradually to the responsibilities of driving solo and emphasizing parent/guardian supervision and guidance has been key to reducing teen driver crashes.

For details on the GDL (to share with students and their parents) visit the OPI's GDL website at <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd/GDL.html> or the Motor Vehicle Division's website at <https://doj.mt.gov/driving/driver-licensing/#graduateddriverlicensing>.



**Montana Traffic Education Association**  
**PO Box 637**  
**Conrad, MT 59425**

## **ARE YOU READY FOR MONTANA'S WINTER?**



Old car driving through snow 3 miles  
from Browning, Montana.  
Source: MDT

The Montana Department of Transportation has an excellent Winter Driving Checklist that includes links to their Winter Survival Guide, information on snow tires, and what you should include in an Emergency Travel Kit.

Visit: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/safety/docs/emergency-travel-kit.pdf>

### **MDT's Winter Driving Checklist**

- Read the [Winter Survival Guide](#).
- Allow extra time to get to your destination.
- Clean off your car. Keep windows, mirrors and lights clear of snow and ice.
- Always buckle up.
- Slow down in poor visibility conditions.
- Maintain a safe distance behind other vehicles.
- Expect ice on bridges and in shady spots.
- Don't pass snowplows or spreaders unless it's absolutely necessary.
- Prepare your vehicle for winter driving at the start of the season.
- Check to be sure all four tires are in good condition.
- Don't wait until the last minute to get [snow tires](#) mounted.
- Keep an [emergency travel kit](#) in your car.