



# WATAI NEWSLETTER

2006 2nd Half Issue

The official publication of the Washington Association of Technical Accident Investigators

## Fall 2006 Conference

By **Bill Butterfield**

The Fall conference was opened up by President, Ron Sanders. He welcomed all of those who attended and gave us a brief “rundown” of the day’s events.

The first day of the conference was located at the Wild Waves/Enchanted Village facility in Federal Way. The board members and the association members learned just how hard it truly is to actually get two vehicles to hit one another. Although we had several failures and close calls, the crash day was still educational. The crash day did allow some of the presenters the opportunity to obtain some valuable data. The following two days of the conference were held at the council chambers for the City of Federal Way. On behalf of WATAI, we wish to say “Thank You” to the City of Federal Way and to traffic enforcement section of the Federal Way Police Department for their hospitality. Over the next two days, several presenters were allowed the opportunity to “show off” their latest and greatest software programs. On the second day, we held our general membership meeting. At this time, President Ron Sanders announced several upcoming training classes, which will be discussed later in this issue. President Sanders also presented a By-Law change that was recently approved for a vote by the general membership. There was a brief discussion about the By-Law change, followed by a unanimous vote to approve the By-Law change. We also held elections for several Officer and Board of Directors positions. All of the current officers and board members announced their intentions to seek re-election. There were no nominations for any challengers to these positions. All of the incumbents were re-elected for another two year term. The following were re-elected:

President: Ron Sanders  
Secretary: Bill Butterfield  
Sgt. at Arms: Steve Kukuza  
Board Position #2: Syb Hiemstra  
Board Position #4: Jay Moloney

## Membership

Treasurer Mel Knittel gave a “State of the Treasury” during the general membership meeting. At this time we currently have 101 members paid for the 2007 year. Notices have been sent to all unpaid members reminding them of their dues for the 2007 year. As of the day of the meeting, the association had \$8,952.71 in the bank account.

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## Upcoming Training Announcements

1. CDR User's Conference: January 29-31, 2007, Houston, TX. Sponsored by CSI, the ARC Network and Collision Publishing, LLC. Cost: \$575 thru 12/15/06, \$775 afterwards. Register at: <http://www.crashconferences.com/>
2. CDR "Train the Trainer" Conference: February 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, Houston, TX. Sponsored by CSI, The ARC Network, Vetronix/Bosch and Collision Publishing, LLC. Cost: \$400 Class size is VERY limited. Register at: <http://www.crashconferences.com/>
3. ARC-CSI Conference: June 4-7, 2007, Las Vegas, NV. Sponsored by CSI, The ARC Network and Collision Publishing, LLC. For more information check out CSI's website at <http://crashconferences.com/>
4. IPTM will be sponsoring several collision investigation courses in the year 2007. For more information go to: <http://www.iptm.org/>

On the horizon in 2007, look for Bruno Schmidt to be our featured speaker for the 07 Spring Conference and Wade Bartlett to be our featured speaker at our 07 Fall Conference. We've had several inquires from members about the return of Greg Russell and Lenny Simpson to the area for another 40-hour Crush Class. We're working with them to try for a return visit sometime in the late spring. Expect to see a 40-hour Advanced Reconstruction course from them during that time frame as well.

As always our goal is to provide opportunities for our members to experience quality training at an affordable price. If you have ideas for training topics or resources please contact us at [info@watai.ws](mailto:info@watai.ws)

## Human Factors Class

By Bill Butterfield

In September, several members of WATAI attended the Human Factors in Traffic Crash Reconstruction. The class was sponsored by the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission and hosted by Federal Way Police. The class was instructed by Patrick Robbins, an expert in Human Factors. I personally attended this class and I would highly recommend this class to anyone who has the opportunity to attend. The class taught the basis of Paul Olson's Time/Distance study but also explored the errors that can be easily made by eyewitness testimony.

## Guest Article

KINETIC ENERGY PRESS ANNOUNCES PUBLICATION OF MAJOR NEW TEXTBOOK ON RECONSTRUCTION OF TRAFFIC COLLISIONS AT INTERSECTIONS INVOLVING SIGNAL LIGHTS

Most individuals involved in accident reconstruction or traffic crash litigation know how frustrating it can be to gather all the information needed for a detailed analysis of traffic signals information associated with a given collision. The complexity of such a situation can be overwhelming, especially since a thorough analysis requires technical expertise, system specification details, and knowledge of timing phases related to signals operation. Compiling all the needed data can take days or weeks, providing that one really knows where to look and who to ask for required information!

**Not anymore, though! *Accident Reconstruction at Traffic Signal Intersections*, by Daren Marceau, P.E. of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., ISBN 978-0-9716634-3-5, is the new book release from Kinetic Energy Press that will answer your questions when you really need to know something important about traffic signals as they relate to crash investigation.**

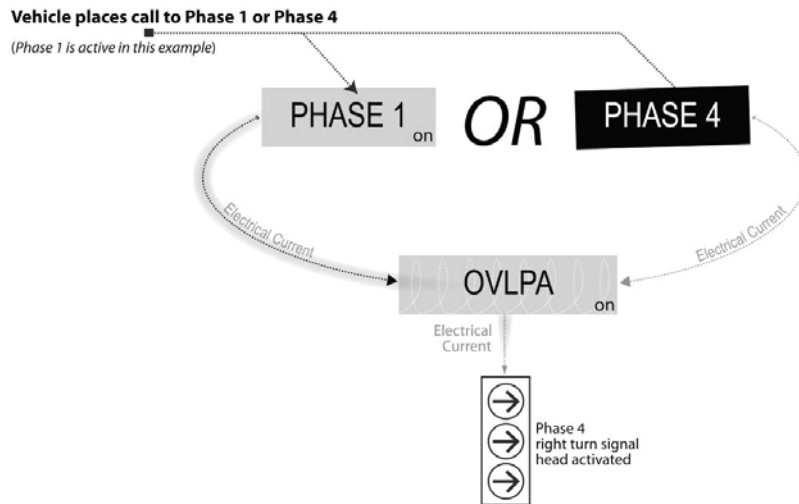
**This is an indispensable book for anyone involved in crash investigation or litigation. It has it all – detailed photos and charts in crystal clear resolution illustrating precisely what is important in traffic signal analysis – plus a complete guide to forensic reconstruction of accidents involving traffic signal issues. Not to mention numerous case studies illustrating how a successful analysis of traffic signals can be accomplished!**

**Mr. Marceau's list of topics is impressive:**

- **Introduction and Traffic Engineering Basics**
- **Detailed Discussion of Traffic Signals, Controllers, Phasing, and Design**
- **Traffic Signal Timing**
- **Vehicle and Pedestrian Detection**
- **Signal Preemption**
- **Signal Systems**
- **Video Detection at Signals**
- **Traffic Signals Agencies and Staff**
- **Accident Reconstruction at Traffic Signals**
- **Detailed Case Study and Application**
- **Glossary with Detailed Index**

**The two sample exhibits below, taken from *Accident Reconstruction at Traffic Signal Intersections*, demonstrate how clearly the book uses its lavish illustrations to assist the reader in capturing important information.**





When considering the amazing detail presented in the photographs and charts, this book is easily worth its cost just on the basis of its illustrations alone! Any expert or attorney needing to convince a judge or jury of the value of traffic signal evidence will find the illustrations in this textbook invaluable as a handy reference.

As always, Kinetic Energy Press provides quality technical books at significant savings due to its choice of CD-ROM as the primary publishing media. Cost for the CD-ROM version of this book (with full color illustrations!) is an amazing \$39.99 U.S. with free shipping and handling (USA and Canada orders only). If desired, a printed copy of the book on high-quality paper and with a comb binding can be included with the CD-ROM version for a total of \$49.99 with free shipping and handling to USA and Canadian addresses.

Order your copy today at [www.kineticenergypress.com](http://www.kineticenergypress.com)!

Contact Us At:  
 Washington Association of Technical Accident Investigators  
 W.A.T.A.I.  
 P.O. Box 70211  
 Bellevue, WA 98005  
[info@watai.ws](mailto:info@watai.ws)