



# WATAI NEWSLETTER

2007 1st Half Issue

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## Spring 2007 Conference

By **Bill Butterfield**

The spring 2007 conference was started by the usual “social hour” of coffee, juice and assorted breakfast pastries. With our belly’s full of Danish and coffee, President Ron Sanders began the day’s event. He thanked everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend this conference. Ron gave us a rundown on the days schedule followed by the introduction of the speaker for the day, Bruno Schmidt. For those of us who attended, Bruno started the morning presentation talking about post impact trajectories and other physics applications to collision investigations. Lunch was catered in, allowing the attendees to sit down and enjoy each others company over a delicious lunch. Bruno Schmidt was brought back up and he continued with his presentation. The conference concluded and those who attended appeared to enjoy the informative presentation. WATAI wishes to say “thank you” to Bothell PD for their hospitality and assistance with this year’s conference. President Ron Sanders presented a plaque to from Bothell PD thanking them for the assistance in the conference and the upcoming training that WATAI is sponsoring.

## 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.

## WATAI Sponsored Training

WATAI was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to present more “first class” training to its members at a reduced rate. The week of May 21<sup>st</sup> brought Greg Russell and Lenny Simpson out to the Northwest once again. Greg and Lenny presented their instruction on Advanced Reconstruction. Although, I was unable to attend the class (someone had to stay home and work the cases), several detectives from the KCSO MARR Unit and fellow WATAI members attended. For those who had the opportunity to attend, they found the class to be extremely informative and the perfect class to “refresh” one’s memory on the principles involving Collision Reconstruction. They also found it to be an excellent precursor before sitting down and taking the ACTAR accreditation test.

Although, one of the two classes that WATAI intended on sponsoring this year had to be cancelled, the WATAI board would like to hear from our members on just what training they would like us to bring to them.

### **In This Issue:**

Spring 2007 Conference  
Membership  
President’s Message  
WATAI Sponsored Training  
Fall 2007 Conference  
WATAI Board needs your help

The WATAI Board understands that a great portion of our membership are law enforcement officers and that in these days of budget crunching, money for training is harder to come by. The WATAI Board would also like to know what “we” can do to make it easier for you and your departments to get you this quality training. The WATAI board will continue to attempt to bring you this type of training at a reduced cost but it must remain fiscally responsible with association’s money. With that said, please contact any of the WATAI Board members with your ideas, thoughts.

## **President’s Message**

Ron Sanders-WATAI President

Greetings fellow WATAI members, as usual the latest edition of our association newsletter has been in limbo waiting for yours truly to get his act together and write the latest installment of the President’s Corner. Once again Bill, I apologize for my tardiness. (Geez, sounds exactly like what I said last time!)

Here are the latest and greatest tidbits of WATAI info:

- The 40-hour Advanced Reconstruction with Excel Applications course sponsored by WATAI, taught by Greg Russell and Lenny Simpson and hosted by Bothell PD was a great success. The course was well attended and well received. We will continue to explore future training opportunities with Greg and Lenny. Each of the courses they have presented for us over the past two or three years have benefited everyone able to attend.
- The ACTAR Test will be administered October 8, 2007 in conjunction with our Fall Conference. The test will begin at 8 AM at the Seattle PD Park 90/5 Complex located at 2203 Airport Way S. I would strongly encourage all Reconstructionists within our esteemed organization who have not yet applied for accreditation with ACTAR to consider doing so as soon as possible and complete the accreditation examination this fall. Please visit the ACTAR website ([www.actar.org](http://www.actar.org)) or contact me with questions regarding the application and examination process.
- The WATAI Fall Conference will be held October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The keynote speaker at the conference will be Wade Bartlett. Those of you who already know Wade can appreciate what a treat it is to get him here in the northwest and leave the safe environs of New Hampshire. Those of you who will be meeting him for the first time this fall will be genuinely impressed. He’s high-octane to be sure. He is well known and well respected by engineers and law enforcement personnel within the collision reconstruction industry. Check out his website at [www.mfes.com](http://www.mfes.com). The focus of the conference will be the Accuracy of Drag Sleds and Proper Application of the Critical Speed Formula. All attendees are encouraged to bring their “devices”, drag sleds or otherwise, used to establish roadway COF /drag factor. Plan on one day of fieldwork and one day of classroom presentations / discussion. Tentative locations for the Fall Conference are in the Bellevue/Redmond area. Look for detailed information on the Fall Conference at our website [www.watai.ws](http://www.watai.ws) soon. In addition to the subject matter listed above, a small portion of our Fall Conference will be set aside for the annual association Business Meeting. The offices of Vice-President, Treasurer plus Board of Directors Positions #1, #3 and #5 are up for election at this meeting. A current member in good standing can fill each of these positions. Please have a say in the direction of our association by voting on matters before the membership and participating in the process to keep the rich tradition of this association alive and vibrant.
- Rusty Haight is coming back to the Seattle area. Not to crash cars this time around, but instead to provide the latest and greatest in CDR information. His company, Collision Safety Institute, will be providing a one-day CDR Technicians course November 5, 2007 and a four-day (that’s right, I said 4-day) CDR Analyst course November 6-9, 2007. The classes will be held at the Seattle PD Park 90/5

Complex located at 2203 Airport Way S. in Seattle. You must register for these courses at the CSI website: [www.collisionsafety.net](http://www.collisionsafety.net). Remember to register early to secure your spot.

Finally I want to take time to recognize a co-laborer and friend, Mel Knittel. Mel has been a member of this organization for several years and a member of its Board of Directors since he was “drafted” into service in the 90’s. At the June 2007 Board of Directors Meeting Mel announced that he would be stepping down as the association’s Treasurer in the immediate future and would not seek reelection to its Board of Directors at the Fall Business Meeting. Knowing Mel as I do, I understand and respect his situation. His responsibilities in life are pulling him in different directions and he’s concerned he would not be able to devote the time necessary to do the job the way he believes it should be done. Mel is a quality individual with a heart of gold. He has committed an untold number of volunteer hours to our organization. The healthy state of this association’s current financial and organizational affairs is directly related to Mel’s personal commitment to dedicated service. The WATAI Board of Directors will be indebted to Mel’s efforts on behalf of the association for the foreseeable future. I encourage each of you to send him a short “thank-you” email or better yet, shake his hand and say “thanks” at the Fall Conference.

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)

That’s all for now, I trust each of you will continue to enjoy the summer months with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Conference.

Sincerely,  
Ron Sanders  
WATAI President

## **Fall 2007 Conference**

The Fall 2007 Conference schedule and logistics is moving along nicely. Wade Bartlett is going to be the guest speaker for the conference. The conference will include a day of skid testing and hands on use of several different devices to measure the coefficient of friction of the road surface. Look to the website and e-mails for more information.

## **WATAI Board needs help**

As stated in the president’s message, current Treasurer Mel Knittel has advised the board of his intention of resigning from the board. If you have ever wanted the opportunity to get involved, now is the time. All of the board positions are voluntary and most if not all of our meetings are held at the KCSO CID office at the Regional Justice Center in Kent. If you are interested in any available position please contact President Ron Sanders or any other board member. If you know someone who would be interested but is just a little too shy to raise his hand, well don’t be bashful at our next general membership meeting at the fall conference. That will be the time to nominate that person.

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