



WATAI NEWSLETTER

2005 2nd half Issue

The official publication of the Washington Association of Technical Accident Investigators

Newsletter Information

By William Butterfield

I hope that you found the first installment of the WATAI Newsletter worthwhile. Please don't forget, if you have something that you think would be of value to place within the newsletter than by all means, feel free to forward the information to me.

Spring 2005 Conference

By William Butterfield

Once again, we got together to socialize and get some interesting training on translational yaw. We experienced a new venue for our conference, the Seattle Police Traffic Section Training room. The space was more than adequate and the catered food was a success. We wish to thank the Seattle Police Department for their hospitality and for opening their home to us. Look for us to be using this venue in the future.

Mr. Tom Shelton from California gave a full-day presentation on this topic. Mr. Shelton has a vast experience level within the reconstruction field. He was instrumental in the forming and training of collision reconstruction with the California Highway Patrol. His presentation focused on the "easy" mistakes that can be made when a vehicle is introduced into some sort of rotation. He explained a process where the investigator can "break down" the rotation and obtain a more accurate speed of the vehicle. He explained how the CHP and himself had completed numerous "field trials" of this process and how he was able to show its accuracy.

Membership

Latest figures indicate the total number of members at 177 for 2005. Don't forget about the current contest that was announced at the Spring 2005 Conference. Basically, for every new person that you sponsor as a new member, you will be entered into a drawing for a "FREE" seat for the CDR training in October 2005. The instructor for the training will be Rusty Haight. GOOD LUCK and keep up the recruiting.

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Presidents Corner

By Ron Sanders

Greetings fellow WATAI members. Over the past several weeks I have received several e-mails from Bill Butterfield, each subsequent note more threatening than the previous, reminding me of my promise to contribute a few “words of wisdom” to the latest edition of our association’s electronic newsletter. Bill has once again done an outstanding job of putting things together for the most recent edition and I’ve done nothing but hold his progress back. Sorry Bill!

Last time around I posed a series of questions to readers asking for comments on a myriad of issues related to our association and its future direction, both short and long term. I appreciate the efforts of those who took time to respond to the questioner. The Board of Directors read every response and took to heart each of the contributor’s comments. (If you didn’t reply to the questioner but would like to, please go to our website at www.watai.ws and click on the Newsletter “button”. Select the 1st Qtr 2005 newsletter to locate the questioner, fill it out and email it to us at info@watai.com Your input is important to us.)

Let me stray for a moment.....have you been to the association’s website lately? It has undergone a well-deserved facelift. Scott Baker at the ARC Network worked his “magic”, transforming the site’s main page and various links into an updated user-friendly format. I think it turned out great! Special thanks to Scott and our own Webmaster Troy Orf for the new look!

Back on track now.....Let’s talk about the 2005 Fall Conference October 10th and 11th. By now I’m sure you’ve seen the announcement for the Fall Conference. You’ve no doubt figured out that there is a conference fee, above and beyond the annual membership fee, required for this conference. The Board of Directors deviated from our usual tradition of having the annual membership fee cover the cost of both annual conferences to accommodate what we believe will be a top-level conference this fall. Rusty Haight will be conducting a series of fully instrumented staged crashes at the conference. All data from those crashes will be provided to conference attendees on CD prior to the conclusion of the conference. We are confident the quality of data provided to conference attendees will be similar to that available at the larger out-of-state conferences. Please understand we are in no way trying to undermine the value of attending those conferences. We’re simply offering a regional means of experiencing quality crash testing from a very reputable source (Rusty Haight and crew) first-hand, without forcing members operating on shoe-string budgets to forego this type of training. I am confident the experience will be well worth the \$60 we’re charging WATAI and FARO members (early registration). You won’t want to miss it.

Other items on the WATAI horizon:

1. Collision Safety Institute is conducting a 3-day CDR class in conjunction with the Fall Conference. (Go to their website: www.collisionsafety.net for course details and registration.)
2. Remember the membership contest is still underway. Those who recruit new members are automatically entered into the drawing for one paid admission to the CDR class.
3. We’re looking to conduct testing objectively comparing various data collection methods – specifically total station vs. photogrammetry. I anticipate this project will come together after the Fall Conference and be completed before the Spring Conference scheduled for next May. E-mail me if you are interested in assisting on this project.

4. Speaking of the May 2006 Conference, we're working with Greg Russell and Lenny Simpson (of Excel Spreadsheet fame) to give a "Crush" class primer at a one-day conference. A 40-hour "Crush" class conducted by Greg and Lenny will follow the conference. (Cost to attend the class is pending.)

That's all for now. I trust each of you is enjoying the summer months with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Conference.

Sincerely,
Ron Sanders
WATAI President

WREX 2006

WREX 2006 has a new name. It has been officially named F³T² Expo (Factors, Formulae, Forensic Technology Training) TAARS, which is the main sponsor of the conference has announced a "Call-For-Papers". Please see the below request for further information. For up to date information on the conference please go to www.taars.org/expo06.htm or www.taars.org/schedule.htm .

Send abstract or your completed paper, as an attachment in PDF format, to: papers@taars.org or via snail-mail to: Conrad Dippel, 4722 El Salvador, Houston, Texas 77066

Please include your full name and phone number(s) in the body of your e-mail message.

Papers should follow the generally accepted form of:

- A. Introduction
- B. Description of methodology
- C. Description of data
- D. Description of analysis
- E. Conclusions
- F. References (if any)

For those who are unable to convert their abstract or paper to PDF format, you may submit it in Word for Windows format and it will be converted for you. After conversion, it will be returned, via e-mail, for your final approval before publication.

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline to submit abstracts or papers for consideration is September 15, 2005.

Website

The Website committee, which is chaired by Vice-President Troy Orf has been working hard over the last couple months creating a new fresh look to our website. Not only does the website have a new look but it has been changed to allow for easier browsing. Take a few minutes and check out the changes.

Fall 2005 Conference

The Fall 2005 Conference dates have been set. The conference will be October 10th & 11th. The conference will present Rusty Haight and his band of merry crash testers. The social hour time and classroom portions of the conference will be held at the SPD Traffic Office (same place as the Spring conference). As it currently stands, it looks pretty positive that President Ron Sanders will be able to secure two METRO buses for crash testing purposes. The crash testing sites have not been finalized as of this date (06/23/05) but President Ron Sanders is in negotiations with both the Boeing Corporation and the Port of Seattle for a testing site. An alternative site (Bremerton Raceway) has been secured if a more local site cannot be obtained. SPD has graciously offered our use of a "shuttle bus" to transport conference attendees from the meeting site to the crash testing. Because of the complexity & associated cost to bring this conference together, the association board approved to charge conference attendees a reasonable fee to attend. All current association members are qualified for a reduced fee of \$60.00, which includes lunch. This cost is good until September 15th. Any member who signs up for the conference after this date will be charged a fee of \$90.00, including the lunch. Non-members may attend for a fee of \$100.00 if paying prior to September 15th and \$130.00 after that.

Following the conference Rusty Haight will be putting on a two-day seminar on CDR certification & updates. The class will be held at the CJTC in Burien. Go to CSI's website for more information and registration.

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