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ATPA Launches Lock, Block & Win!

As the Philadelphia Eagles took to the field this year, the Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) launched their second Eagles-themed public awareness campaign entitled the "Lock, Block & Win Sweepstakes." The online contest is the product of an ongoing partnership between the Eagles and the ATPA, and delivers auto theft-related information to fans who enter the contest. Fans are encouraged to visit www.philadelphiaeagles.com/lock to enter.

Michelle Staton, Executive Director of the ATPA, said that "When you lock your car, you are taking steps to block auto theft. I know it seems simple, but common sense is really your best defense." Beyond the common sense measures, drivers in high-theft areas should consider adding aftermarket alarms, stolen vehicle tracking devices, and fuel kill switches to further protect themselves from auto theft.



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Message from the Executive Director



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In this issue of our newsletter, it is with heavy hearts that we highlight the life of our friend and colleague, Paul Peterson, Esq., Assistant District Attorney with the Lackawanna District Attorney's Office. Paul passed away after suffering a stroke. The ATPA family will greatly miss his dedication, service, and friendship.

Also in this issue, we take time to congratulate Sgt. Douglas Brose for being named the Scott A. Wertz Auto Theft Investigator of the Year. Brose accepted the award during the annual ATPA training conference, held October 22-23, 2008, at the Split Rock Resort and Conference Center in Lake Harmony, PA. We also highlight the recognition Detective Jack Logan with the Philadelphia Police Department received for his cooperative work with the Bensalem Township Police.

Last year, we launched an innovative social marketing partnership with the Philadelphia Eagles designed to educate fans in the southeast region of PA about the simple effective things they can do to protect their vehicles. This fall, we launched our second campaign with the Eagles. We are fortunate to have the ability to reach residents of Philadelphia and the surrounding counties in such a meaningful way.

Recently, the PA Legislature passed House Bill 1742, which is intended to crack down on scrap metal thieves. The ATPA supported the bill in an effort to reduce the number of vehicles and vehicle parts (i.e., catalytic converters) stolen and sold for scrap metal. The new regulations will support law enforcement efforts in the Commonwealth to curb the number of these types of theft.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our readers to resist the temptation to leave your vehicle running unattended in the cold late-fall and winter months ahead. Each year, thieves target unlocked and running unattended vehicles because they are easy to steal. Also, be aware that GPS thefts are on the rise. Always remove your GPS unit and wipe away any trace of a suction cup mark. Thieves notice subtle hints like this that you may have valuables hidden in your car. Also, as you begin your holiday shopping, do not leave presents in your vehicle as they too attract thieves. With these simple tips, together we can reduce auto theft in PA!

Have a safe and happy holiday season,



Michelle L. Staton
Executive Director, Auto Theft Prevention Authority

Mark Your Calendars

National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) Auto Theft Academy

St. Louis, Missouri | For more information, visit www.NICBtraining.org

Mar. 30 - Apr. 2, 2009

North East Chapter, International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (NE-IAATI) Regional Seminar

Buffalo, New York | For more information, visit www.neiaati.org

May 12 - 14, 2009

South East Chapter, IAATI Regional Seminar

Columbia, South Carolina | For more information, visit www.seiaati.org

June 21 -25, 2009

IAATI International Conference

Westminster, Colorado | For more information, visit www.iaati.org

August 10 -14, 2009

Lock, Block & Win, continued from front page

In a press release announcing the campaign, Eagles Senior Vice President of Business Operations Mark Donovan said, "We are happy to be partnering again this year with an organization whose mission is to protect Eagles fans. The PA Auto Theft Prevention Authority helps our fans defend themselves against theft by delivering important information in a unique and entertaining way."

Contestants have the opportunity to win daily, weekly, and at the end of the contest. One grand prize winner will receive a pair of season tickets for the Eagles 2009 season; 50 first place winners will receive two tickets each to a private punt, pass, and kick event with Eagles players; and 10 second place winners will receive a free Lojack stolen vehicle recovery system.

Fans are encouraged to enter everyday. Each time a contestant registers, they have the opportunity to receive bonus entries by answering auto theft- and Eagles-related questions.

Mark Kandrysawtz, Public Information Officer for the ATPA, said, "Fans have really embraced this contest. Many religiously enter everyday – and they're being rewarded for their participation. We have already given away over 35 Eagles prize packs and five pairs of VIP tickets to a home game this season! The ATPA and the Eagles are teaching PA drivers how to protect their vehicles and having fun along the way."

For more information regarding the Lock, Block & Win Sweepstakes and to read the official rules and regulations, visit www.philadelphiaeagles.com/lock. For more information about auto theft in Pennsylvania, visit www.watchyourcar.org.



Interview and Interrogation Taught at Grantee Conference

Sgt. Douglas Brose, PA State Police, Named Scott A. Wertz Auto Theft Investigator of the Year



(From left to right) Det. David Grandizio - Chester County Detectives, Tpr. Kevin Mills, Tpr. Charles Cusanno, Sgt. Douglas Brose, Officer Joseph Reilly - Bensalem Township Police, Tpr. Charles Wood, Det. Randall Martin - Delaware County Detectives, Tpr. Robert King. Not pictured: Det. Robert Pilcicki



Gregory Harlin, New York State Police (Ret.) and Law Enforcement Coordinator for MAGLOCLEN, delivers one of many engaging stories about his experiences as an interrogation specialist.

“Brose received the award for outstanding investigative and leadership skills, as well as his pursuit and implementation of new technologies.”



Sgt. Douglas Brose of the PA State Police Eastern Task Force is presented the Scott A. Wertz Auto Theft Investigator of the Year Award by Michelle Staton, Executive Director of the ATPA.

The Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) held their annual grantee training conference October 22 - 23, 2008 at the Split Rock Resort and Conference Center in Lake Harmony, PA. Conference goers enjoyed a dinner, award presentation, and a training seminar.

After networking at the conference dinner on the evening of October 22, ATPA grantees watched as Executive Director Michelle Staton presented Sgt. Douglas Brose with the second annual Scott A. Wertz Auto Theft Investigator of the Year Award. Each year, the award is given to one individual for extraordinary service in auto theft investigations and/or prevention and not for those services normally required of their daily duties. The award also serves as a lasting memorial for Officer Scott A. Wertz of the Reading City Police and member of the PA State Police Central Task Force, who was killed in the line of duty in 2006.

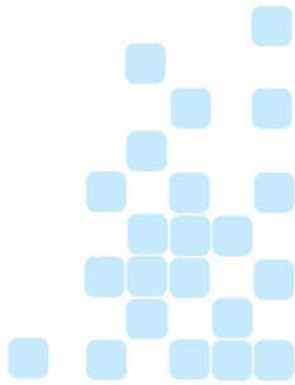
Brose received the award for outstanding investigative and leadership skills, as well as his pursuit and implementation of new technologies. His work led directly to the per-capita distribution of Blackberry devices for task force members. Utilizing these devices, task force members are able to research –

while in the field - vehicle ownership information through various web based databases including NICB. He also laid the ground work to begin the process of incorporating CLEAN and NCIC capability into these devices.

Congratulations Sgt. Brose!

The second day of the conference was devoted to training. Gregory Harlin, New York State Police (Ret.), Law Enforcement Coordinator for MAGLOCLEN, and President and CEO of MURLIN Consultants, delivered a training seminar on interview and interrogation skills. The program, designed to reinforce primary law enforcement skills, was made lively by Harlin’s multimedia presentation, engaging anecdotes, and humorous reflections on his time as an interrogation specialist with the New York State Police.

Harlin retired from the New York State Police as a Senior Investigator assigned as the Bureau of Criminal Investigation Training Coordinator. He is credited with creating numerous training initiatives pertaining to criminal, narcotic, and specialized investigation. Harlin recently presented at the NE-IAATI Regional Seminar, held in Scranton, PA.



The ATPA continually strives to find new ways to combat and prevent auto theft in Pennsylvania. Here are a few note-worthy highlights.

ATPA Highlights

ATPA Says Goodbye to Colleague and Friend, Paul J. Peterson, Esq.



Paul J. Peterson, 54, Assistant District Attorney with the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office (PA), passed away September 5, 2008, at the Community Medical Center in Scranton after suffering a stroke. Paul is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Planning and Administration and of Rutgers, the State University, with a Master of City and Regional Planning Degree. In 1996, Paul received his Juris Doctorate from the Widener University School of Law. He was admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Tax Court. He was employed by the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office in September 2002.

Paul spent many years as the lead prosecutor with the District Attorney's multi-county auto theft task force under a grant from the PA Auto Theft Prevention Authority. Through his work over the last several years as a member of the task force, Paul made every effort to join the fight against in Pennsylvania and beyond. He took his job very seriously and was well respected by the law enforcement community.

Michelle Staton, Executive Director of the ATPA said, "Paul was a fantastic human being that loved life and always had a smile on his face. No matter what the situation, he could make you smile as well. His sense of humor and sheer optimism were beyond compare and his presence will be missed by all who knew him."

Lt. Col. Frank Pawlowski Named Commissioner of the PA State Police

Lt. Col. Frank Pawlowski was confirmed unanimously by the Pennsylvania Senate after Governor Ed Rendell named him acting commissioner of the PA State Police in July. The State Police is a long-standing partner of the ATPA with three regional auto theft task forces in the Commonwealth.

Congratulations Commissioner Pawlowski!



Philadelphia Police Detective Jack Logan Honored by Bensalem

Philadelphia Police Detective Jack Logan of the city's major crimes auto squad, and ATPA grantee, received a letter of recognition and plaque from Bensalem Township for assisting local cops on a carjacking and several truck thefts. Logan was honored during a regular meeting of the township council.

In the News

Potential key to safer teen drivers

Starting next year, Ford Motor Company will roll out a new feature on many 2010 models that can limit teen drivers to 80 mph, using a computer chip in the key.

Parents also have the option of programming the teen's key to limit the audio system's volume, and to sound continuous alerts if the driver doesn't wear a seat belt.

The feature, called "MyKey," will be standard on an unspecified number of Ford models. The company already uses computer chips to prevent thefts. The car won't start unless it recognizes the chip in the key.

The Times Leader

11-year-old driver faces multiple charges

An 11-year-old Cokeburg boy allegedly stole his foster mother's car and led state police on a chase.

State police charged the boy with aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, resisting arrest, fleeing and attempting to elude police and 27 traffic violations.

The boy took the keys to the 1998 Toyota Camry and left the house with his backpack. Police tried to stop the car, but the boy ignored the flashing lights on the marked cruiser and fled.

Observer-Reporter

Report: Two teens steal man's car

Two teenagers were arrested for allegedly stealing a man's car at a Norristown convenience store Sept. 3.

The car's owner told police he left the car idling when he went into the store. The suspects got into his Dodge Intrepid and drove out of the lot. The victim tried to stop the suspects, but was allegedly hit by the vehicle as the car sped out of the store lot.

The suspects were charged with robbery, robbery of a motor vehicle, recklessly endangering another person, theft and conspiracy.

The Times Herald

Thieves find way around security feature

The wireless key remote is integrated into many modern cars. It's a convenience most modern cars have, but police say thieves have found a way to exploit the feature to steal your car.

Criminals are now hiding near cars with a device that can pick up the radio frequency sent between the keyless remote and the car. Police say criminals are targeting expensive vehicles because the equipment needed for high-tech theft is also expensive.

One way to keep your car safe: Lock the door manually, not with the remote.

Eyewitness News 4, KOB New Mexico

Consumer groups sue to implement national title system

Three consumer groups sued Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey in February, asserting the government's failure to carry out the law had jeopardized the safety of consumers.



Under the ruling, insurance companies, salvage yards and junkyards will be required to provide information on vehicles so badly damaged by floods, fires or crashes that they are written off. That information is to go into a national database that consumers can use to avoid being victimized when purchasing used vehicles.

The government did not dispute that it had failed to implement the law. But it argued it could be trusted to implement the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System without court-ordered deadlines.

New York Times

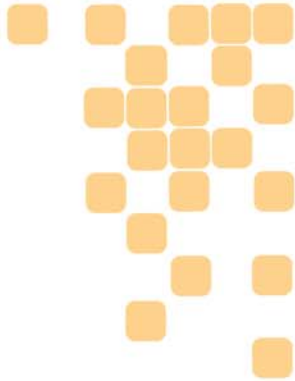
Russian revolution requires quick reaction from car makers

Vehicle manufacturers will need to react quickly to the results of a major car security test in Russia.

Thefts of vehicles in Russia have tripled since 1995, even though vehicle theft in Europe has been declining. There were more than 123,000 thefts reported in 2006. Increasing numbers of Russians are choosing to pay 15-20% of the list price of the vehicle per year for theft insurance.

Easier.com "The free news & classifieds web site"

PA Lawmakers Crack Down on Scrap Thieves



In October, PA Lawmakers passed House Bill No. 1742 in an effort to crack down on the theft of vehicles, vehicle parts (i.e., catalytic converters), manhole covers, and other metal items to be sold for scrap.

The Associated Press reported that recyclers and processors are doing brisk business with metal prices skyrocketing because of demand in developing countries and a tight economy here. Now that the bill has been signed by Governor Rendell, scrap metal dealers will have to keep records identifying people who sell them more than \$100 worth of scrap. Also, certain types of transactions will be restricted. For example, dealers will be required to buy new construction materials and beer kegs from businesses, not individuals

selling these materials.

The bill was written by State Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski (D-Luzerne) and Senator Sean Logan (D-Plum). In a joint press release following the passage of the bill, Logan noted that, "This legislation helps police officers investigate scrap metal theft while imposing common sense accountability requirements on scrap metal businesses." Pashinski added, "From cemeteries to city streets state-wide, scrap metal theft is becoming a worsening problem."

The ATPA officially supported the bill, along with utility associations, the PA State Police, the DA's Association, the Automobile Association, the Builders Association, and the Chiefs of Police Association, just to name a few.

Law Enforcement and Insurance Claims/SIU Professionals: Order Free Training Videos

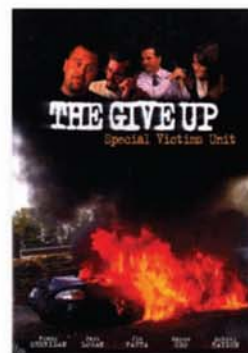
The ATPA offers two training videos relating to owner give-ups. "The Give Up" is tailored for law enforcement professionals, while "The Give Up: Special Victims Unit" is for insurance claims/SIU Professionals. Both videos come with related reference material.

Both videos and additional copies of the reference materials are available free-of-charge by calling the ATPA at: 888-777-ATPA.



"The Give Up"

A training video designed for law enforcement professionals, "The Give Up," reviews the basics for spotting and investigating owner give-ups.



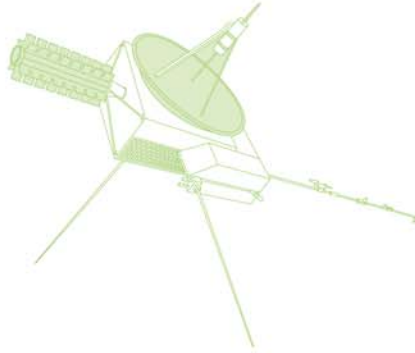
"The Give Up: Special Victims Unit"

A training video designed for insurance claims personnel and special investigative units, "The Give Up: Special Victims Unit" reviews the basics for spotting and investigating owner give-ups from the insurance company's point of view.

THE AUTHORITY'S GRANTEES

Allegheny County District Attorney's Office
Delaware County District Attorney's Office
Erie Bureau of Police
Good Shepherd Mediation Program
Harrisburg Bureau of Police
Lancaster City Police
Lehigh County District Attorney's Office
Northeast Regional Task Force
Pennsylvania Anti-Car Theft Committee (PACT)
Pennsylvania State Police Auto Theft Unit (Central Region)
Pennsylvania State Police Auto Theft Unit (Eastern Region)
Pennsylvania State Police Auto Theft Unit (Western Region)
Philadelphia District Attorney's Office
Philadelphia Police Department
Pittsburgh Police Department Auto Squad
York County District Attorney's Office

We've gone electronic.



The ATPA offers electronic distribution of this newsletter.*

E-mail us at
newsletter@watchyourcar.org
to receive your electronic copy.

*The ATPA will continue print distribution of this newsletter.

THE AUTHORITY

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Phone: 717.591.7097
Media Inquires:
717.443.1025
Fax: 717.591.9046
Toll Free:
1.888.777.ATPA
www.watchyourcar.org

Staff

Michelle L. Staton,
Executive Director

Christine E. Cassel,
Grant Assistant

Mark D. Kandrysawtz,
Public Information Officer

Lt. Joseph L. Datesman
(retired), Training
Instructor

Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority
2 Kacey Court, Suite 102
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

