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ATPA & Philadelphia Eagles Educate Fans

Each year, 40% of the Commonwealth's reported auto thefts occur in the Southeast Region of Pennsylvania. As a result, the ATPA has strategically partnered with the Philadelphia Eagles and linebaker Takeo Spikes to present a public education effort in this area, driving home the message that when it comes to auto theft, Common Sense Is Your Best Defense!

As the Philadelphia Eagles began their 75th season, the ATPA launched an online and in-stadium effort that included the Stars and Cars Sweepstakes and 75 Tips for the Tailgater—an interactive presentation of auto theft prevention tips. The contest and prevention tips were hosted at the ATPA's website, watchyourcar.org, and were supported by online advertising on the Eagles' website, philadelphiaeagles.com. The in-stadium elements, produced in cooperation with Jeep, featured dynamic LED and concourse signage, as well as a fully wrapped Jeep Patriot.



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Message from the Chair



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Pennsylvania State Police

Winter is here. For most, that means colder weather. Unfortunately, it also means it is the peak auto theft time of the year. Many drivers warm their cars up in the morning and leave cars running while they run into a convenience store or use an ATM. It only takes three seconds to steal a running vehicle. Don't make your car an easy target.

This winter season, take a few simple steps to protect your car so that you are not left out in the cold. Never leave your vehicle running unattended; always lock your car and take your keys; hide valuables out of plain sight; and use an after-market anti-theft device such as a steering wheel lock.

As the snow falls, the Auto Theft Prevention Authority has been busy planning new and exciting programs and partnerships for 2008. We look forward to continually sharing our successes. Here are a few noteworthy things that kept us busy in the past few months.

The ATPA welcomed their newest staff member, Mark Kandrysawtz, who joined the team as public information officer.

Many ATPA grantees hosted free VINgraving events—while the ATPA continued to offer VINgraving kits, free-of-charge, through their website, watchyourcar.org. Thank you to the Delaware County District Attorney's Office, Lancaster City Police, Pennsylvania State Police Central and Eastern Task Forces and York County District Attorney's for taking an active role in your communities.

The ATPA partnered with the Philadelphia Eagles to launch a public awareness campaign in the southeast region of Pennsylvania.

Also, the ATPA held its annual training conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania. For the first time, insurance industry SIU professionals were invited to join ATPA law enforcement grantees to share information and network.

As you try to stay warm this winter season, remember the simple steps you can take to protect your vehicle from theft. Resolve to make your winter travels smart and safe.

Julia K. Hearthway
Chair, Auto Theft Prevention Authority

MAY 13 - 15, 2008

Mark Your Calendars

Northeast Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (NEIAATI) 36th Annual Training Seminar

The 2008 NEIAATI training seminar will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Scranton, Pennsylvania. The seminar is being co-hosted by the ATPA and the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office.

For more information, visit neiaati.org

SPRING, 2008

Free VINgraving Events

Check out watchyourcar.org for a complete listing of Spring, 2008 free VINgraving events.

Interested in hosting an event? E-mail: mkandrysawtz@watchyourcar.org

Eagles, continued from front page

"Partnering with the Eagles to educate the residents of the Southeast Region of Pennsylvania was a tremendous opportunity for our organization," explained Mark Kandrysawtz, public information officer for the Authority. "We were able to reach so many people and present our auto theft prevention tips in a new, engaging and impactful way."

The focal point of the campaign, a fully interactive microsite, was developed by Harrisburg, Pennsylvania-based creative content firm-andCulture. The site urged contest entrants to explore auto theft prevention tips, such as "Hot wing sauce on your door handle is not an approved anti-theft device" and "Veteran tailgaters know that hiding keys in the car is a ticket to finding an empty spot after the game!"

After entering the contest and checking out auto theft prevention tips, entrants received an email from linebacker Takeo Spikes, thanking them for entering and wishing them luck. The personalized email also urged them to check out theft statistics for the county they live in. Also included was a link to watchyourcar.org, where entrants could request a free VINgraving kit.

Michelle Staton, executive director of the ATPA also enjoyed working with the Eagles and noted that, "Southeastern Pennsylvania continues to be the worst area when it comes to auto theft. Having a trusted partner like the Eagles is a tremendous asset in our effort to educate the public and show them the simple, effective things they can do to protect their car from theft."

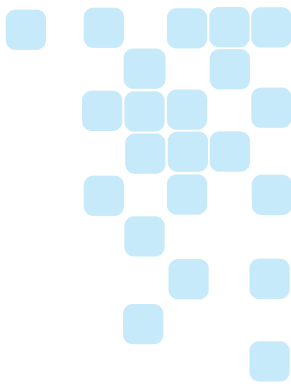
For more information about the ATPA / Philadelphia Eagles partnership, *75 Tips for the Tailgater*, free VINgraving kits and county-by-county theft statistics, go to watchyourcar.org.



The Stars and Cars Sweepstakes microsite hosted by watchyourcar.org.

Insurance Industry Joins ATPA Grantees For Training

Each year, the ATPA hosts a training conference for all of its grantees. This year, their insurance industry counterparts joined in to learn and network.



Cpl. Dane Colyer of the PA State Police, Michelle Staton, Executive Director of the ATPA and George Dishner of Bristol West Insurance Company discuss auto theft trends at the evening reception.

Each year, the ATPA hosts a training conference for its grantees. This year, their insurance industry counterparts joined in to learn and network. The conference, titled “Auto Theft in the 21st Century,” held at the Hershey Lodge, in Hershey, Pennsylvania, featured two days of training and an evening reception. The first day was geared towards insurance industry special investigative teams and the second day was specifically for law enforcement. Both sessions included a hands-on portion. The groups were able to network and discuss auto theft trends during an evening reception.

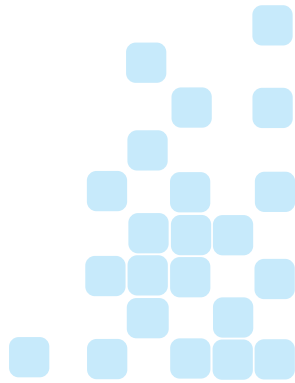
Both training days were presented by Mike Bender of Bender Enterprises. When asked why she chose this speaker, Michelle Staton, Executive Director of the ATPA, said, “We asked Mike to lead the training sessions this year because of his expertise in anti-theft devices and emerging technologies. Law enforcement and industry investigators alike need to know that as anti-theft technologies change, thieves are finding ways to defeat the latest and greatest devices out there.”

To reinforce the need for collaborative learning, Bob Jagoe and Chris McDonald, both from the Baltimore Regional Auto Theft Task Force (RATT), were invited by the ATPA to contribute to both the training and hands-on sessions. Their assistance improved the quality of the training seminar and provided valuable insight into how auto theft in Pennsylvania reaches beyond the borders of the state.



Tpr. Steve Myers of the PA State Police demonstrates an anti-theft device during the hands-on training session.

Training continued on Pg. 7



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

In-Person Auto Theft Reporting Makes a Difference

In an effort to more effectively detect fraudulent auto theft reports, the Pittsburgh City Police initiated the procedure of sending a police officer out to take all auto theft reports instead of taking the reports over the phone. The Philadelphia Police Department has reinstated their in-person auto theft reporting program after accepting only phone reports between January and April of 2007 due to an increase in thefts during that time frame. In both cases, the procedure enhances their ability to detect an owner give-up over a legitimate auto theft report.

Reading City Update

The ATPA has reported on the increased efforts in Reading City. With the cooperation of the Mayor's Office and other regional officials, the Pennsylvania State Police Central Task Force and Reading City Auto Theft Unit have driven total thefts down by 35%. For the first time in six years, Reading City will ring in the new year with fewer auto thefts than the year before!

ATPA Staff Shares Information With International Group

The ATPA staff traveled to Arizona to participate in the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators annual conference. Joined by investigators and administrators from across the United States and abroad, the staff shared information about training, new technology, grant allocation, communication strategies and prevention programs.

VINgraving Protects At-Risk Vehicles

VINgraving, the process of chemically etching vehicle identification numbers on auto glass, has become a staple of the ATPA's prevention outreach programs and is provided to the public at free events co-hosted by ATPA grantees. The Delaware County District Attorney's Office, Lancaster City Police, Pennsylvania State Police Central and Eastern Task Forces and the York County District Attorney's Office all sponsored free events this past fall.

The ATPA offers free VINgraving kits year-round and a calendar of free community events on their website, watchyourcar.org.

ATPA Welcomes Newest Staff Member

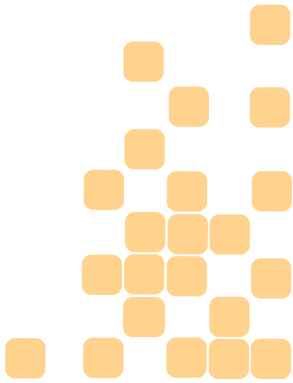
Mark Kandrysawtz joined the ATPA staff in June, 2007 as their public information officer. In this role, Kandrysawtz is responsible for the development and implementation of prevention and awareness campaigns, external communications programs and public relations.

Before joining the ATPA, Kandrysawtz had worked on campaigns for the ATPA while at Harrisburg-based advertising agency, Neiman Group. While at Neiman, the breadth of his experience ranged from social marketing campaigns for the Commonwealth's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to consumer campaigns for a regional furniture retailer Just Cabinets to non-profit

communications for the M.S. Hershey Foundation.

After leaving Neiman, Kandrysawtz managed a diverse group of clients at York-based marketing firm, DIO.

Kandrysawtz is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and is pursuing a masters degree in business administration from Penn State.



In the News

Carjackers on hunt for luxury SUVs

The FBI is trying to break up African carjacking rings that prey on suburbanites with luxury SUVs and quickly ship the vehicles abroad.

The crimes reached a harrowing climax when three men from Sierra Leone carjacked two women hours apart—one whom grabbed the offenders' gun long enough to free her 7-year-old daughter from the back seat.

A shootout with police ensued that night when the robbers drove the second stolen vehicle into a stakeout, officials said. A long list of charges were filed against the three suspects.

The Easton Express-Times / The Philadelphia Police Dept.

Carjack suspects face U.S. charges

The three West African men accused in two suburban carjackings last month will face federal charges and, if convicted, stiffer penalties, authorities said.

The federal charges for the three will carry a 35-year mandatory sentence for armed carjacking. The state charges would have carried a minimum of five years. The charges in Montgomery and Delaware Counties will soon be withdrawn and replaced by federal charges.

Area police are coordinating their investigations to see whether any of the carjackings are related. Groups that have been found to be operating in the area typically ship the stolen cars to Africa.

The Philadelphia Inquirer / The Philadelphia Police Dept.

Stop thief! OnStar could soon halt stolen cars

Say some clown steals your car from the parking deck at work. If it's equipped with General Motors' OnStar service, he could be in for a big surprise and you could get a little revenge—and even see your car again.

Starting with 20 models for 2009, the service will be able to slowly halt a car that is reported stolen, and the radio may even speak up and tell the thief to pull over because police are watching.

If it spreads, the technology could make dangerous police chases a thing of the past.

The Allentown Morning Call

"I was the perfect target"

Nancy Robinson Masters never thought she would be a victim. But on a sweaty Saturday afternoon in an airport parking lot, she was carjacked, in broad daylight.

A carjacking can occur anywhere, but parking complexes are the perfect crime scene because strangers pass each other without a second thought. Pay full attention to and pick up on subtle clues that may tip you off.

Planning ahead is the best way to protect yourself from a potentially violent, even deadly confrontation. Park in a well-lit high-traffic area and avoid parking next to large, obtrusive objects, such as vans or garbage bins, that would provide cover for criminals to attack.

The Harrisburg Patriot-News



Scott A. Wertz Auto Theft Investigator of the Year Award



The first annual Scott A. Wertz Auto Theft Investigator of the Year Award was presented to Officer Malcolm "Mick" Eddinger of the Reading City Police.

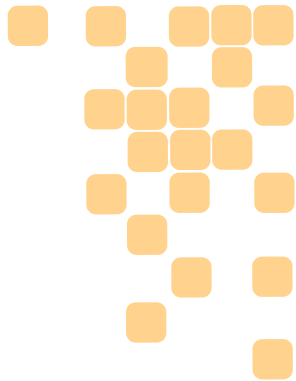
This year, the ATPA presented the first-ever Scott A. Wertz Auto Theft Investigator of the Year Award to Officer Malcolm Eddinger of the Reading City Police Department. The award is presented annually to a member of one of the funded units and has been established in memory of Officer Scott A. Wertz who was a member of the ATPA family until his untimely death in August 2006.

Officer Wertz was an officer with the Reading City Police Department and was assigned to the Pennsylvania State Police's Central Auto Theft Task Force. While working an auto theft detail in Reading City, Officer Wertz was shot and killed. The award is intended to serve as a continual testimony to honor Officer Wertz's bravery and his outstanding service in auto theft investigations

and prevention. This award serves as recognition for achievements beyond the regular duties required of a police officer.

Officer Eddinger was Officer Wertz's task force partner and received the award for providing tremendous support for Officer Wertz's family, returning to work with determination and grace, training a new partner and contributing to the first annual reduction of auto theft in Reading City in six years!

Officer Eddinger accepted the award at the ATPA's annual training conference in front of his law enforcement peers, department supervisors and ATPA staff.



Training continued from pg. 4



Mike Bender leads a training session and demonstrates how electronic systems can be compromised.

All conference attendees participated in the following training sessions:

- Auto Theft Trends
- Keyless Entry, Smart Keys, Transponders & Immobilizers
- How Systems Can be Compromised
- Certain Thefts Leave Certain Clues
- Vehicle Component Parts Contain Investigative Clues
- Alternative Vehicle Identification
- Internet Insights & Issues
- Global Trends Effect United States Trends

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
of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Anti-Car Theft
Committee (PACT)

Pennsylvania State Police Auto Theft
Unit (Central Region)

Pennsylvania State Police Auto
Theft Unit (Eastern Region)

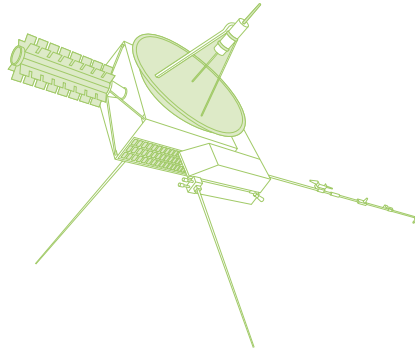
Pennsylvania State Police Auto
Theft Unit (Western Region)

Philadelphia District Attorney's Office

Pittsburgh Police Department
Auto Squad

York County District Attorney's Office

We're going electronic.



The ATPA will begin electronic distribution of this
newsletter with the Spring 2008 issue.*

E-mail us at

newsletter@watchyourcar.org
to receive your electronic copy.

*The ATPA will continue print distribution of this newsletter.

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