



ARIZONA AUTOMOBILE THEFT AUTHORITY

March/April 2004 Newsletter

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority's Second Annual Summit on Vehicle Theft – February 5-6, 2004

On February 5-6, 2004, the AATA hosted its Second Annual Summit on Vehicle Theft, in conjunction with the Arizona Auto Theft Investigators Association (AATIA), at the Scottsdale Radisson Hotel. The two-day Summit was attended by approximately 175 attendees from forty (40) different law enforcement, criminal justice, insurance and state agencies throughout Arizona. Also in attendance were out of state presenters and special guests from California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New York, and North Carolina.



AATA Board Chairman, Michael T. Payne addresses Summit attendees

The Summit included training on vehicle theft related issues along with an AATA Board of Directors meeting, presentations by several grant agencies on best practice approaches to vehicle theft enforcement and prevention, an awards luncheon, and an AATA 2004/2005 grant program workshop. Several exhibitors attended to display and distribute product information to Summit attendees.

The AATA was honored to have several dignitaries and special guest speakers in attendance including Representative Ted Carpenter, Arizona House of Representatives (District 6), Ms. Diane Carlson-Reiss, Field Representative for Congressman J.D. Hayworth, Chief Dennis Donna, Mesa Police Department, Director Dennis Garrett, AZ Department of Public Safety, Chief Harold Hurtt, Phoenix Police Department, Sheriff Ralph Ogden, Yuma County Sheriff's Office, Chief Daniel Schatz, Prescott Valley Police Department, Chief Ralph Tranter, Tempe Police Department, Mr. Ralph Lumpkin, Area 3 Director with the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), Mr. Mark Stowell, also of the NICB, and Mr. Mario Crosswell of OCRA (Oficina Coordinadora de Riesgos Asegurados). Mr. Lumpkin and Mr. Stowell provided opening remarks and valuable information to Summit attendees on current auto theft trends in Arizona, the Nation and the World.



Mr. Mark Stowell, NICB and Ms. Diane Carlson-Reiss, representative for Congressman J.D. Hayworth provide opening remarks.

The Summit was made possible by support from Allstate Insurance Company, State Farm Insurance Company, Mark-N-Gard, Inc., CARFAX Inc., Manheim Auctions, Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona, Locator Technologies, and OCRA.

The AATA also wishes to thank Farmers Insurance Group, Arizona Auto Theft Investigators Association, LoJack Corporation, Safelite Auto Glass, Sheetwise Printing and Promotionals, Skyview Satellite Networks, and Winner International for their donation of raffle items and materials for Summit attendees.

The AATA also wishes to thank Ms. Marybeth Barr, Ms. Janet Shill, Ms. Nancy Temporado, and Ms. Vanessa Moreno for their assistance with Summit preparation and attendee registration.



Volunteers Janet Shill, Nancy Temporado, and Marybeth Barr assist with Summit registration.

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AATA Recognizes 2003 Award Recipients

The AATA's outstanding law enforcement, government and private sector partners were honored at an awards ceremony luncheon as part of the 2nd Annual Summit on Vehicle Theft. The award recipients have all demonstrated outstanding accomplishments and innovative approaches to combating auto theft in the State of Arizona.

The award recipients the AATA proudly recognizes include:



Officer Steve Jones, Mesa Police Department, 2003 Patrol Officer of the Year.



Deputy Jacob Nickell, Pima County Sheriff's Department, 2003 Patrol Officer of the Year.



Officer Steve Norlin, Az. Department of Public Safety, 2003 Patrol Officer of the Year.



Ms. Susan Luder, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, 2003 Prosecutor of the Year.



Ms. Christi Billquist, State Farm Insurance Company, 2003 Special Investigator of the Year.



Detective John Bier, Tempe Police Department, 2003 Task Force Officer of the Year.



Officer Jennifer Miller, Prescott Valley Police Department, 2003 Crime Prevention Specialist of the Year.



Officer Michael Schuh, Oro Valley Police Department, 2003 Watch Your Car Special Recognition of the Year.



Ms. Pat Garner, 2003 Watch Your Car Special Recognition of the Year.



Mr. John Chesbro, 2003 Watch Your Car Special Recognition of the Year.



Mr. Jeff Newman, 2003 Watch Your Car Special Recognition of the Year.



Ms. Suzy Seibert, 2003 Watch Your Car Special Recognition of the Year.



Mr. Art Myer, 2003 AATA Employee of the Year.



Mesa Police Department's Auto Theft Unit, 2003 Law Enforcement Unit of the Year.



Prescott Valley Police Department's Support Services Division, 2003 Public Awareness & Community Education Unit of the Year.



Allstate Insurance Company, 2003 Outstanding Private Sector Partner of the Year.

Farewell to Chief Harold L. Hurtt

Chief Harold Hurtt, longtime AATA Board of Directors Member is resigning his post as Phoenix Police Chief after six years of service. Chief Hurtt is headed to Texas where he has accepted the Chief of Police position with the City of Houston. Chief Hurtt has been a valuable member of the AATA Board since 1998. Thank you to Chief Hurtt for his dedicated service to the AATA Board of Directors – we wish him the best of luck with his new position.



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Sergeant Joe Brosius, Tempe Police Department, appointed to AATA Board of Directors

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority is pleased to announce that Governor Napolitano appointed Sergeant Joe Brosius, Tempe Police Department, to the AATA Board of Directors on January 19, 2004. Sergeant Brosius occupies the second public member position on the AATA Board. He brings over thirty years of law enforcement experience, with seventeen of those years in the area of vehicle theft investigation.



Sergeant Joe Brosius, Tempe Police Department.

Robert Carter Olson, Pinal County Attorney, appointed to AATA Board of Directors

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Robert Carter Olson, Pinal County Attorney to the AATA Board of Directors. Governor Napolitano made Mr. Olson's appointment on February 27, 2004. Mr. Olson occupies the second County Attorney position on the AATA Board, representing a county with a population of five hundred thousand or less. Mr. Olson has served as the Pinal County Attorney since 1996. His office was one of the first counties to embrace the concept of Vertical Prosecution of vehicle theft cases and has been extremely supportive of the AATA's Vertical Prosecution Grant Program since its inception in 2000.

Meet the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority Board of Directors – Dean C. Butler, Farmers Insurance Group

Mr. Dean Butler has been a member of the AATA Board of Directors since January 5, 2001. He occupies one of two insurance industry positions on the Board, appointed by the Governor of Arizona.

Mr. Butler is the Marketing Support Manager with the Farmers Insurance Phoenix Service Center and has over 25 years of experience in the insurance industry. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the AATA's Public Awareness Subcommittee.

Thank you, Mr. Butler for your continued support and dedication to the AATA as we continue our efforts in combating vehicle theft in the State of Arizona.



Mr. Dean C. Butler, Farmers Insurance Group



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www.azwatchyourcar.com

Taking Car Thieves For A Ride

In October 2002, the AATA began issuing grant funds to Chandler, Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe Police Departments to develop Bait Vehicle Programs within their jurisdictions. Features of the bait car include: a silent alarm to police dispatch upon entry of or movement of the vehicle, a Global Positioning System (GPS) to track the car, audio and video recording of the person(s) inside the car, a remote kill switch to turn off the car, and remote door locks. The vehicle can be shut down at the discretion of law enforcement, eliminating the potential of police pursuits.

The idea is simple – equip a fleet of police bait cars with technology using computers, satellites and tracking devices, which notifies police when the vehicle has been entered. The vehicles are deployed in high auto theft target areas then wait for a signal to be transmitted notifying police so they can catch the thieves in the act. Similar programs in Minneapolis and other cities have resulted in

significant decreases in auto theft rates. Last year, additional grants were awarded to the Gilbert, Glendale, Kingman, Peoria, Surprise, and Tucson police departments to develop their own Bait Car Programs.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE NICB AND THE FOLLOWING INSURANCE COMPANIES THAT HAVE DONATED VEHICLES FOR THIS PROGRAM:

Allstate • American Family • Chubb
Country Mutual • Farmers • Geico
Infinity • Liberty Mutual • Progressive
State Farm • Titan • USAA

To date, at least 56 people have been arrested statewide on charges of stealing or attempting to steal a vehicle.

Thank you to Sergeant Joe Brosius, Tempe Police Department, Sergeant Tom Macari, Scottsdale Police Department, and Sergeant Dave Mauser, Mesa Police Department for their leadership in getting Arizona's Bait

Vehicle Program off the ground. These three individuals, with the assistance of their agencies and staff have demonstrated tremendous support and dedication to this valuable program.

2004 AATA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

April 16, 2004

AATA Grant Programs

June 25, 2004

Review of Agency Operational Plan

August 20, 2004

Audit Report

December 10, 2004

1. Election of Board Officers
2. Appointment of Board Subcommittee Assignments
3. Legislative Issues

All meetings begin at 10:00 AM at the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority. Above dates and agenda items are subject to change up to 24 hours in advance of the meeting. All meetings are posted in compliance with §A.R.S. 38-431.02.

Janet Napolitano
Governor

AATA Board

Chairman

Mr. Michael Payne
State Farm Insurance Company

Vice Chairman

Sheriff Ralph E. Ogden
Yuma County Sheriff

Sheriff Joseph Arpaio
Maricopa County Sheriff

Sergeant Joe Brosius
Tempe Police Department

Mr. Dean C. Butler
Farmers Insurance Group

Director Dennis Garrett
Department of Public Safety

Chief Sherry Kiyler
Chandler Police Department

Robert Carter Olson
Pinal County Attorney

Ms. Ellen Poole
Public Member

The Honorable Richard M. Romley
Maricopa County Attorney

Chief Daniel G. Sharp
Oro Valley Police Department

Director Stacey K. Stanton
Department of Transportation
Motor Vehicle Division

AATA Staff

Mikel Longman
Executive Director

Paul Boelhauf
Administrative Services Officer

Ann Armstrong
Public Information Officer

Arthur Myer
Fiscal Services Specialist

John Rares Almasan
Program and Project Specialist

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