

# CASE Newsletter

California Association for Safety Education Volume XIII, Number 2 - June 2003

## Legislative Update

By Jerry Gaines

Governmental Affairs Representative

**C**ASE has been observing legislation that could impact driver and traffic safety instruction in California. Two key bills under review include SB555 (Flores) and AB1343 (Spitzer).

**SB555** started out as a bill focused on correcting DMV concerns related to traffic violator's schools. The Driving School Association of California asked the author to change the bill to focus on new regulations that would control private secondary schools (and really public secondary schools). They are seeking such legislation to respond to a recent lawsuit that resulted in a court decision favoring private secondary schools (to be free of DMV regulations). At this time the author has decided to drop authorship of this revised bill, noting the special interest focus of DSAC against public as well as private secondary schools. CASE will continue to watch this bill. CASE and CTA would oppose the bill in its amended form if it were to move again in the legislature with a new author.

**AB1343** is designed to address the current situation where a student 15 years old can obtain an instruction permit when enrolled in a classroom driver education/driver training course within the same semester. The amended bill eliminates the "enrollment" rule with one exception (defined in the bill as "integrated driver education and training program" where a student moves back and forth from classroom to behind-the-wheel activity for a minimum of 30 hours of classroom and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction). DMV notes private secondary schools and commercial driving schools have been accelerating instruction using the current regulations on same semester enrollment in driver education and driver training. Students are completing programs in as little as two weeks. The bill requires a teen to be at least 15 years and 6 months old and have completed driver education before being issued an instruction permit. It also permits a physically disabled individual to teach classroom driver education only. The DMV is sponsor of the bill and the Automobile Club of Southern California is in support (ACSC operates an integrated driver education/training program that meets the "integrated" requirement). CASE will continue to watch this bill. CASE is unaware of public high schools that would have trouble with these new regulations.

## President's Message

by John Knippel

Wow! That was a great conference. There was so much to learn from the best in the business. The latest DMV proposals, vehicle dynamics that change what we teach, child safety restraints, what is happening with education in this state and much more. The challenge over the summer and this Fall is how to adapt all of this to our classrooms. How do we do more with less money?

Jim Lewis, twice past president of CASE, is already working on regional workshops to help us all do just that: do more with less. He and the CASE Board believe we must help you to help your parents to help their students and their school boards.

We must do a better job of preparing our students for the driver training phase. With the loss of the funding for Behind The Wheel and the passage of the Graduated Drivers License law, our students go to any source for the training. Some will merely wait until age 18 and do without any professional training. We no longer get to correct them in the simulator or car at our local site. We must do more in the classroom.

Many of the currently credentialed teachers for driver education will be retiring in the next 5 years. If you are in this position, have you looked for a replacement yet? Have you encouraged others to get a credential? The Federal mandate of "No Child Left Behind" will put further pressure on districts to get rid of programs because there are no qualified instructors. Don't let this happen to the most important program in a high school student's life. Good college courses are available with on-line components.

(continued on page 2, column 1)

## President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

This is the year to get deeply involved in CASE. This is the year to run for an office. This is the year for you to make a difference. As the phrase goes "We can not spell success without U". Do not delay. Too many lives are at stake. Remember more lives have been lost on our highways than were ever lost in all the wars we ever fought. Dead Americans can not fight for freedom nor raise great families. Help us keep America safe from within as well as from without. One person always makes a difference. Ask the victims of 9/11 or any parent of a person killed in a car crash. Driver educators save Americans one life at a time.

### DMV Driving Knowledge Tutorial on the Web

The DMV has prepared an excellent interactive online study guide for preparing to take the Driver License written exam(s). Test questions are asked on ten driving-related knowledge areas, similar to those asked on the written exam. Each question has accompanying graphics and illustrations to depict each situation. Instant feedback is provided to the user after answering each question. The tutorial is available at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).

## CASE Corporate Members

Our Corporate Members are a vital asset to our organization. These companies show their support for traffic safety education by participating at our state conferences and providing financial assistance. We appreciate our special relationship and thank them for their outstanding support.

- American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
- A+ Auto & Home Insurance Plus
- Doron Precision Systems, Inc
- Propulsion International, Inc.



## CASE Calendar

**July 27-31, 2003** - 47th ADTSEA Conference, Hilton Charlotte University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina. Online information: <http://adtsea.iup.edu/adtsea>

**April 2004** - 52nd Annual CASE Conference, Palm Springs. The dates for this conference have not yet been finalized. Watch for the dates in the next *CASE Newsletter* or check online at [www.casewebsite.org](http://www.casewebsite.org).

### Road Signs and Pavement Markings Brochures

The U. S. Department of Transportation has developed two new brochures on road signs and pavement markings. *United States Road Symbols Signs* and *United States Pavement Markings* are available by request through Ms. Linda L. Brown ([Linda.L.Brown@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:Linda.L.Brown@fhwa.dot.gov)) of the Office of Transportation Operations.

The website for the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is located at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>. In addition to copies of the latest versions of the MUTCD and the Standard Highway Signs Book, the website contains a "Know Your Signs" quiz that can be useful for educating novice drivers about traffic signs.

### Two-Week Enforcement Effort = 40,000 Seatbelt Citations

CHP officers wrote more than 40,000 seatbelt tickets during the annual maximum enforcement effort that took place the last two weeks of May. Statewide, the number of tickets issued is a 283 percent increase from November's sweep when 10,485 citations were written.

## CASE Newsletter

Published by the California Association for Safety Education

**Richard Mikulik, Editor**  
25 Shelbourne Place  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
Fax: (650) 349-7850

E-mail: [rmikulik@casewebsite.org](mailto:rmikulik@casewebsite.org)

CASE Web Site:  
<http://www.casewebsite.org>

## CASE Officers

**John Knippel, President**  
18121 Rose Ave.  
Bloomington, CA 92316  
(909) 877-2484  
e-mail: [macbeverly@aol.com](mailto:macbeverly@aol.com)

**Craig Dill, Past President**  
2209 Atrisco Circle  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
(916) 925-2991

**Ben Visnick, President-Elect**  
3280 Jordan Rd.  
Oakland, CA 94602  
(510) 336-9839  
e-mail: [benvisnick@mindspring.com](mailto:benvisnick@mindspring.com)

**Bill Corliss, 1st Vice President**  
14883 Ave. 312  
Visalia, CA 93292  
(559) 798-1938  
e-mail: [bags42@aol.com](mailto:bags42@aol.com)

**James Lewis, 2nd Vice President**  
2303 Teasley St.  
La Crescenta, CA 91214  
(818) 957-5264  
e-mail: [jlewis1118@aol.com](mailto:jlewis1118@aol.com)

**Larry Terrill, North Region Rep.**  
470-980 Wingfield Rd.  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 257-4220  
e-mail: [terrill@onemain.com](mailto:terrill@onemain.com)

**Larry Woodruff, South Region Rep.**  
3608 York Circle  
La Verne, CA 91750  
(909) 593-0563  
e-mail: [law561@aol.com](mailto:law561@aol.com)

## NTSB Urges Cell Phone Ban for Novice Drivers

### California Cell Phone Legislation Clears Assembly

In early June the National Transportation Safety Board urged all states to prohibit inexperienced drivers from using cell phones behind the wheel.

New Jersey and Maine have passed laws prohibiting those with learner's permits from using cell phones or other wireless devices while driving. The NTSB said it wants the 48 other states to adopt similar laws. Joseph Osterman, director of the NTSB's Office of Traffic Safety, said, "We think that inexperienced drivers should do nothing more than concentrate on the driving task."

The recommendation comes as California lawmakers are addressing the problem of cell phone use by drivers. AB45 (Simitian) would require motorists to use hands-free devices while making cell phone calls. The bill was approved by the Assembly at the end of May and as of June 24 was in the Senate Transportation Committee. Governor Davis has taken no position on the measure. If it becomes law, AB45 would take effect January 1, 2005.

The bill had languished in the Assembly for more than two years without reaching a floor vote. However, a CHP study conducted last year found cell phone use to be a leading cause of accidents involving distracted drivers. The results of that study contributed to the bill finally squeaking through.



During the first six months of 2002, the CHP linked cell phone use to 611 — or 11 percent — of the 5,677 collisions caused by inattention, according to the study ordered by the Legislature.

If AB45 becomes law, California will follow New York in prohibiting any driver from using a cell phone without a hands-free device. The practice is already outlawed in 39 countries throughout the world.

Violators would face a \$20 fine for a first offense and \$50 for subsequent offenses.

# Great Simulators



Only  
**\$350**  
Per month\*\*

\*\*Lease Rate WAC

- Fully Interactive
- Over 400 Exercises
- Complete Curriculum Provided
- Crash Avoidance, Night, Rain, Fog
  - Portable, Rugged Design
- 5-Speed and Auto Transmissions
- 1 and 3 Screen Versions Available
- Doubles as a Computer Workstation
  - Web and Network Ready
  - Backed by Over 25 Years Experience



Only  
**\$180**  
Per month\*\*

## Great Prices!

**800.843.4764**

[www.simulatorsystems.com](http://www.simulatorsystems.com)



Simulator Systems International

TULSA

ATLANTA

PHOENIX

# 51st Annual CASE Conference



Past CASE presidents Larry Terrill, Richard Schroer, Jim Lewis, current president John Knippel, and past president Jerry Gaines



Dr. Terry Kline, Eastern Kentucky State University. Dr. Kline was a presenter at two conference sessions.



Bill Lee receiving the Cecil Zaun Award from John Knippel for his outstanding leadership and service to CASE



The CASE Board of Directors met Thursday evening before the conference.



# “Accelerating the Learning Curve”



John Knippel and students from Bloomington High School during the “Student-Led Lessons” presentation.

## Special Thanks to Our Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors

Automobile Club of Southern California  
American Automobile Association  
Bloomington High School Key Club  
California Educational Creations  
Cingular Wireless  
Division 36 of Kiwanis International  
Doron Precision Systems, Inc.  
The Elliott Method  
General Motors Corporation  
Glencoe/McGraw Hill  
Kiwanis Club of Colton  
Kiwanis Club of Cooley Ranch  
Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino  
Kiwanis Club of Redlands Evening  
Kiwanis Club of La Sierra  
Lou’s Locks, Safes and Garage Doors  
Raydon Corporation  
SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.  
Simulator Systems International, Inc.  
State Farm Insurance



Larry Terrill, CTA President Wayne Johnson, John Knippel, and Larry Woodruff



Part of the group of 27 that took a spectacular ride on the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway.



## The Right Questions—Part Two

by John Knippel  
CASE President

**A**re we asking the right questions to truly make driver education a valuable component of traffic safety? In the previous issue of the *Newsletter*, I asked if you taught and tested vision and perceptual training, used procedural demonstrations, asked questions pertaining to traffic strategy using slides (Power Point or 35mm carousel), film, video, laser disc or DVD. I asked what you are doing about greater parent participation since the passage of the GDL law. In this issue I have more questions and some possible answers.



What changes in the vehicle change what I teach? Changes in the length and slope of the hood change how we see our lane position. We can no longer use the center of the hood or the hood ornament. Sit in a new vehicle and actually notice what parts of the windshield, wipers, dashboard, and support pillars you now

use. Take photos of these to augment what is in your text.

The shape and size of the mirrors has changed. This requires new adjustment and viewing strategies. Take photos. Use a parking lot where you can physically demonstrate what can and cannot be seen in the mirrors with various settings. Show students how the base or bottom of the door mirror frame can be used as a guide for the location of the front bumper.

Head restraints, shoulder belts, high mount brake lights, high trunk decks, and roof supports require that we teach how and when to turn around for backing maneuvers. Now we must include the use of the mirrors yet not rely solely upon them.

Are you still teaching Hand Over Hand steering? HOH is killing thousands each year. The new vehicle steering is very sensitive. HOH steering developed from the 1920's with manual steering and 6 turns of the wheel from full left to full right. Today, with rack and pinion and power assist, less effort is needed and the full range of steering is only three revolutions. Air bags are another steering wheel change that affects hand placement as well as whether to use HOH or Push / Pull. Have you done the research? Have you gone to seminars? Have you made the changes?

Are you aware that DUI is no longer the number one factor in fatal crashes? Driver fatigue is considered number one. Are you aware that DUI is only number 5 on the list of factors for all types of crashes? Are you teaching how to handle the top 5? Did you know that "being in a hurry" is the number one cause of all crashes? Risk management is directly related to the mental state of being in a hurry. Being in a hurry changes everything about how we see as well as how we interpret what we see. This in turn changes our

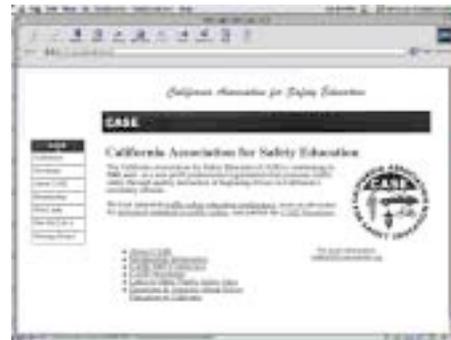
perception of risk. The decision to drink and then drive, the decision to drive a little longer to get home, the decision to drive a few miles over the speed limit, the decision to load a few more passengers or cargo into the vehicle, the decision to have a cell phone and use it in the car, and every other decision we make about driving stems from the belief that we must be number one and get it done right now. How are you approaching this issue in your class?

Do I teach beyond merely getting a license? Is my course primarily about the Vehicle Code? Will my students have the physical, visual, and social skills for 60 years of crash free driving? How do I teach the social interaction skills needed for today's traffic volume? How do I overcome the effects of automobile advertising? How do I get my students to see the other vehicles as people more than as cars?

Do I teach that the Right of Way is not a guarantee or do I teach that the person on the right has the Right Of Way? Is my teaching about following distances and blind spots, or do I emphasize looking for the gaps? What are you teaching your students to look for?

Short columns like this do not allow for in depth discussion. Attend the college classes. Stay abreast by using the state and national driver education associations. Use the Internet web sites of various organizations. Prevent the crashes. Don't add to the confusion.

**Visit the CASE Website:**  
**[www.casewebsite.org](http://www.casewebsite.org)**



- An archive of *CASE Newsletter* past issues downloadable in Adobe Acrobat pdf format
- *CASE Forum* message board. Ask or respond to questions about driver education/training and related safety topics—or exchange ideas with other traffic safety educators.
- Links to other traffic safety sites on the Internet
- Questions and answers about Driver Education in California

## Street Racing Can Be Expensive—and Deadly

For many young people who love cars, customizing and racing are a way of life. Some dedicated performance enthusiasts, however, are putting their cars, their buddies and their lives on the line by street racing.

Street racing is illegal. The CHP won't hesitate to take street racers to court.



A first conviction on a street racing violation means:

- Minimum county jail sentence of 24 hours and maximum of 90 days.
- Vehicle probably impounded for at least 30 days.
- Owner responsible for vehicle's towing and storage charges (\$1,000 or more).
- If owner fails to pay, vehicle could be sold at a lien sale.
- Anyone who aids or abets a street race also faces a maximum 90-day jail sentence.

Instead, speed enthusiasts are urged to take their cars to a National Hot Rod Association-sanctioned track or drag strip, where they can race safely under optimum conditions.

Source: CHP Office of Public Affairs  
<http://www.chp.ca.gov/html/streetlegal.html>

*Note: An extensive list (with photos) of illegal equipment most often cited by the CHP may be found at the this website.*

## Real World Driver Materials to be Distributed to High Schools

To help raise awareness and fight back against the serious youth health issue of teen driving crashes, Ford Motor Company, along with the Governors Highway Safety Association and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration have launched a program called *Real World Driver: Driving Skills for Life*.

Real World Driver is a multi-year, educational campaign aimed at teens, parents and the education community. The program includes a teacher's guide, 1/2 hour video, a take-home letter for parents, 25 copies of the Real World Driver brochure, and a Real World Driver poster that are being distributed to every public high school in the country (more than 20,000 schools).

An interactive Web site—[www.realworlddriver.com](http://www.realworlddriver.com)—also has been launched to give students and parents more information about driving skills and provide visitors the opportunity to take a quiz online.

## SAFE DRIVERS ?



They may act like they know it all, but teenagers all lack the one thing that can make them better drivers – experience. Before they get behind the wheel, it's up to you to teach them how to properly – and safely – operate an automobile.

With the Raydon Virtual Driver™ simulator and Road Tools™ multimedia classroom program, your students will become better drivers through revolutionary technology and an advanced curriculum.

**Fully Interactive** > The RVD is a curriculum-based simulator that provides one-on-one student instruction, feedback and scoring through cutting-edge simulation.

**More Flexibility, Less Risk** > The self-paced curriculum allows students to advance at their own pace while experiencing real-world situations in a safe environment.

**More Driving Time, Less Cost** > The RVD can increase each student's behind-the-wheel time for a fraction of the cost and liability involved with traditional driver's ed. classes.

**Effective** > The active learning environment gives each student significant transfer of training from the virtual roadway to real-world driving.



Take it for a virtual drive and experience the Raydon Virtual Driver firsthand.



To find out how, simply contact  
Deborah Quackenbush  
(386) 267-2936, ext. 315  
dquackenbush@raydon.com  
210 FENTRESS BLVD • DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32114  
[www.virtualdriver.net](http://www.virtualdriver.net)

## Please help us increase our membership!

Our Membership Committee is requesting that each member do his/her part to bring in new members. Please check with the driver education professionals at your school or district to see if they are members of CASE. If not, provide them with the membership application below and discuss the importance of belonging to their professional association.



Make check payable to:  
CASE  
25 Shelbourne Place  
San Mateo, CA 94402

### Membership Application (please type or print)

Professional Memberships are **\$40.00**. New memberships are valid for one year from date of receipt.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: School or office ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Evenings: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by (optional): \_\_\_\_\_