



North Carolina Department of Transportation

**GHSP**

**GOVERNOR'S  
HIGHWAY SAFETY  
PROGRAM**

# Centerline

Spring 2008

## Message from the Director

Greetings from the staff at the Governor's Highway Safety Program. We are in the midst of a beautiful spring season here in North Carolina. As warmer weather creeps into the area we are reminded that the heavy travel period of summer is right around the corner.

With rising gas prices, I expect to see more motorcycles being driven by our citizens who are looking for ways to conserve. Motorcycle fatalities are at an all-time high in North Carolina, in 2007 alone there were 183 fatalities. I urge you to enforce our motorcycle laws, including those involving aggressive driving and the motorcycle helmet law requiring motorcyclists to properly wear FMVSS 218 compliant helmets.

This month, we are excited to celebrate the 15th anniversary of "Click It or Ticket" here in North Carolina. When "Click It or Ticket" began in 1993, the state's seat belt usage rate was 65 percent. In 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that North Carolina's seat belt usage rate was 88.8 percent, its highest rate ever. This campaign has been a life-saving effort in North Carolina and serves as a national model in more than 40 states.

Even though we have seen a drastic increase in seat belt usage we still continue to lose too many of our citizens who are unbuckled. Out of the 1,360 motorists that were fatally injured in 2006, 617 were unrestrained. I encourage agencies to enforce seat belt compliance and participate in "Click It or Ticket" activities.

Sincerely,  
Darrell Jernigan  
Director

*15th Anniversary*



*1993 - 2008*

## "Click It or Ticket" Kickoff Events

*You're invited to attend a celebration nearest you.*

**May 19 at 11 a.m.**

Lowe's Motor Speedway (Victory Lane)  
5555 Concord Parkway South  
Concord

**May 20 at 11 a.m.**

Phil G. McDonald Plaza (Downtown)  
220 S. Greene St.  
Greensboro

**May 21 at 11 a.m.**

Aboard the Battleship North Carolina  
One Battleship Road  
Wilmington

## "No Need 2 Speed" Nets 11,241 Speeding Violations

State and local law enforcement officers cited 11,241 motorists for speeding during the "No Need 2 Speed" campaign, which ran March 31 through April 6, in conjunction with the State Highway Patrol's "Operation Slow Down." A total of 31,928 traffic and criminal citations were issued statewide. Officers also issued 2,697 safety belt and 385 child passenger safety violations and 775 drug charges. In addition, they apprehended 175 fugitives from justice and recovered 51 stolen vehicles.



**No Need  
2 Speed**  
Obey or Pay

# Centerline

## Agency Spotlight Raleigh Police Department

For the last 30 years the Raleigh Police Department has given special attention to serious crashes. It all started with a small number of officers receiving special training and becoming Major Accident Investigators. Anytime a serious crash occurred, these officers were pulled off a beat to investigate the crash. However, despite their best efforts, fatal crashes began increasing in the city. In a lot of cases "at fault" became increasingly difficult to determine. Three officers attended training to become Crash Reconstructionists. Those officers were already Major Accident Investigators, but desired to do a more extensive crash investigation and always determine fault. However, continued training in crash investigation and necessary equipment for investigation were not readily available.

In 2005, the Raleigh Police Department received a GHSP grant to start a new Crash Reconstruction Unit. The grant focused specifically on training and equipment. Since 2005, the unit has acquired training at The Institute of Police Technology Management in Advanced Traffic Crash Investigation, Crash Reconstruction, Pedestrian Crash Investigation, Motorcycle Crash Investigation, Crash Data Retrieval training and Total Station training. In addition, members of the unit have provided training to an additional 80 Raleigh police officers in Intermediate Crash Investigation.

Each year, intermediate crash officers are required to attend refresher training to be kept up to date on the latest advances in crash investigation. Equipment purchased with the grant, include a Nikon total station, weigh pads, Nikon digital single lens reflex camera with high-end flash, Crash Data Retrieval Unit, Accelerometer, Institute of Police Technology and Management study manuals and guides, a color laser jet printer, a laminating machine, six crash investigation kits and a variety of other items to assist in a complete investigation. As a result of the grant, the Raleigh Police Department now holds seven certified Crash Reconstructionists.



Raleigh Police Department's Crash Reconstruction Unit (left to right) Master Officer Peter Manukas, Master Officer Eric Sweden, Sgt. Robert Strickland, Officer Bradford Winston and First Class Officer Christopher Bradford.

The CRU currently consists of three full-time members and two members in the field. Since its inception, unit members are required to respond to all fatal or serious injury crashes and oversee the investigation. Those crashes currently average more than 60 per year. Fatal crashes average 30 per year. Since 2005, charges in fatal crashes have resulted in a 100 percent conviction rate.

## GHSP 2009 Calendar Call For Entries



June 2008

This year, we are inviting agencies to submit their own photos for consideration for the 2009 GHSP wall calendar. If you would like your agency featured, the submission requirements and details are:

- Pictures should feature traffic officers, cars or equipment;
- Agencies can be creative in determining the location or background of their photograph;
- All pictures must be 300 dpi at final size in either JPEG or TIF formats and sent to GHSP on a cd, marked 2009 Calendar Submission;
- All pictures must be submitted by Aug. 13, 2008; and
- Submissions will be selected based on creativity and agency participation in GHSP activities.

## Upcoming Campaigns

Week	Dates of Enforcement	Reports Due
<b>"Click It or Ticket" 2008</b>		
Week 1	May 19-25	5 p.m., May 27
Week 2	May 26-June 1	5 p.m., June 2
<b>"Booze It &amp; Lose It" Operation Firecracker 2008</b>		
Weekend 1	June 27-June 29	5 p.m., June 30
Week 2	June 30- July 6	5 p.m., July 7
<b>Labor Day "Booze It &amp; Lose It" 2008</b>		
Weekend 1	Aug. 15-17	5 p.m., Aug. 18
Week 2	Aug. 18-24	5 p.m., Aug. 25
Week 3	Aug. 25- Sept. 1	5 p.m., Sept. 2

# Centerline

## 2008 Highway Safety Youth Conference

More than 400 high school students from across North Carolina gathered April 11 at the Kerr Scott Building on the N.C. State Fairgrounds to examine teen driving issues during the 2008 Highway Safety Youth Conference.

Over 30 highway safety exhibitors were available to deliver safety messages to students in attendance. Among the exhibitors were the GHSP Expo, a Seat Belt Convincer, a mobile breath-alcohol testing unit, and a virtual driving simulator designed especially for teen drivers. Several demonstrations including the use of fatal vision goggles and golf carts were also utilized to allow students a hands-on learning experience.

Students had the opportunity to visit and participate in the demonstrations and observe North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement's Keys of Life dramatization which included a mock crash scene involving student volunteers.

GHSP would like to thank the following law enforcement agencies that made this event a success: Garner Police Department, Greensboro Police Department, Greenville Police Department, Raleigh Police Department, Wake County Sheriff's Office, N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement and the N.C. State Highway Patrol.



The mock car crash scene presented by N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement utilized area response teams and student volunteers.

## Governor Easley Declares April 21-25 Motorcycle Safety Awareness Week

Spring means warm weather and the seasonal return of motorcycles on North Carolina's highways. Gov. Mike Easley proclaimed April 21-25 as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Week to remind both motorcyclists and other drivers of the importance of motorcycle safety and sharing the road.

According to the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles, North Carolina had 183 motorcycle rider fatalities in 2007, up from 61 in 1997. This is a 200 percent increase, compared to a 140 percent increase nationally for the same time period. Mild weather, which allows for extended riding seasons, and a 17 percent increase in motorcycle registrations over the past two years, among other factors, have contributed to this increase.

North Carolina has more than 190,000 registered motorcycles and 500,000 licensed drivers who have either a motorcycle endorsement or a motorcycle learner's permit.



Officers Michael Frazier and James Smallwood with the Jacksonville Police Department.

## GHSP Point System "Click It or Ticket" Reminder

- During the month of May, the four seat belt checkpoint limit has been waived to encourage agencies to participate before, during and after "Click It or Ticket."
- To order "Click It or Ticket" enforcement signs to place in your communities, call the GHSP office at (919) 733-3083.



**Michael F. Easley**  
Governor

**Lyndo Tippett**  
Secretary of Transportation

**Darrell Jernigan**  
Director, Governor's Highway Safety Program

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[www.ncdot.org/programs/GHSP](http://www.ncdot.org/programs/GHSP)