

# VERMONT

## GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Monthly Newsletter

June / July 2016

### Click It or Ticket 2016

By Tom Fields, GHSP LEL

Sunday, June 5th marked the last day of the 2016 "Click It or Ticket" campaign. The kickoff for this year's event took place on May 23rd at two locations along the New York and Vermont borders. The first was held at the Fair Haven Welcome Center on U.S. Rt. 4 and was coordinated by Deputy Sheriff Kevin Geno (Lt. Ret). This first detail involved a Border-to-Border operation including agencies from both New York and Vermont. Vermont participants were the Rutland County Sheriff's Department, Fair Haven Police, Castleton Police, Vermont State Police, and others. From New York, the New York State Police, Washington County Sheriff, and the Granville Police Department were present. Together, safety checkpoints were conducted on both sides of the border.

The second event was held on Lake Champlain, aboard the Grand Isle Ferry, which connects Vermont and New York states. This activity was coordinated by Sgt. Al Fortin of the Shelburne Police Department and involved the Shelburne Police, the Vermont State Police, the Grand Isle County Sheriff, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and others. Participants from New York included a contingent from the New York State Police, the Clinton County Sheriff, and the Plattsburgh Police Department. Guest keynote speakers included Vermont's Lieutenant Governor Phil Scott, Assistant Commissioner of the New York State Traffic Commission, Chuck DeWeese, Vermont's Highway Safety Chief, Scott Davidson, as well as representatives from the American Red Cross.

Vermont police agencies participating in the *Vermont Click It or Ticket* campaign were very pleased to partner with the American Red Cross. The ARC kicked off *100 Days of Summer, 100 Days of Hope* blood donation campaign. Both campaigns recognize this is the time of year when many automobile crashes occur, and other accidents are prevalent, resulting in high demand for blood donations. This joint event was well covered by television, radio, and newspaper media outlets on both sides of Lake Champlain, including news reports and one-on-one interviews. *(Continued on back)*



Representatives from Vermont and New York Law Enforcement on Lake Champlain (Top & Middle) and U.S. Rt. 7 Welcome Center in Fair Haven (Bottom)

### GHSP Northern LEL John Filipek Retires



John Filipek (VSP Major, Ret.) Law Enforcement Liaison d/b/a Asymmetric Enforcement Solutions has recently retired from GHSP. John was hired in 2013 and served the northern part of the state. John worked directly with county and local law enforcement departments to enhance the effectiveness of the law enforcement grants by providing support to project directors. He was heavily involved with Occupant

Protection safety by creating and serving as the Chair of the OP802 Task Force. Please join us in wishing John the very best in his (second) retirement.

### From the 2016 NHTSA Campaign Calendar

July 4th Weekend  
**IMPAIRED DRIVING**



*"Drive Sober, or Get Pulled Over"*

*Twitter Chat: Buzzed Driving*

July is also ...  
*"Vehicle Theft Prevention Month"*

For more information on NHTSA [Current Campaigns](#), visit us at the GHSP Website at [GHSP.Vermont.gov](#)

### Our Mission Statement

*Working toward the goal of "Zero Deaths" by promoting highway safety awareness through education and enforcement, thereby reducing crashes, saving lives, and improving the overall quality of life for those using Vermont's roadways.*

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Continued **“Click It or Ticket 2016”** At the same time these Border-to-Border events were taking place, the *Click It or Ticket* Task Force and other Law Enforcement agencies were active throughout Vermont on the opening day of the campaign. In the initial hours of the campaign a total of 53 agencies participated, generating hundreds of traffic stops, resulting in: 39 citations for seatbelt violations, 2 child passenger safety seat violations, and 153 other traffic violations.

By the end of the campaign, Vermont police agencies *initiated* a total of 26,753 contacts, issued 577 citations for seatbelt violations, and 70 child passenger safety citations. Law Enforcement also issued 2,043 speeding tickets and addressed 3,255 other violations. Criminal arrests included 76 DUI’s processed, one from a fatal crash, 126 DLS offenses, 9 excessive speed violations, 7 warrant arrests, arrests for possession of stolen property including a handgun, possession of drug cases including heroin and dozens of other criminal offenses.



The goal of this campaign was to raise awareness for the need to buckle up and thereby reduce injury and fatal crashes. This was one of our most successful *Click It or Ticket* campaigns, and we owe it all to Vermont’s Law Enforcement agencies, and the partnership of our neighboring Law Enforcement agencies, who have made the commitment to reduce injury and death on our highways. Thank you.

### Turn Off Texting at Cabot High School.

Upon the invitation from Cabot High School Driver Educator, Pam Ricker, the Youth Safety Council of Vermont brought its “Turn Off Texting” program to the school in May. Special guests, Vermont Representative Catherine Toll (Caledonia-Washington), and Andrew Kingman, AT&T Regional Director of External Affairs for Northern New England, also visited the school campus for the demonstration. Students, along with their guests, participated in the “Turn Off Texting” demonstration presented by Paul Burroughs, who guided students as they navigated a traffic cone course with the golf cart, all while texting, and learning first-hand that distracted driving has some very dangerous consequences. Needless to say it was a very enlightening day for the students. If you’re interested in bringing a demonstration to your school or business, please feel free to invite the Youth Safety Council of Vermont “Turn Off Texting” program to your campus, too.



Top - Students make their way through the driving course. Bottom - (left to right) Rep. Catherine Toll, Andrew Kingman with students from Cabot HS.

### Summertime Bicycle Safety Tips

Safety is a primary concern for people on bikes, and now that summertime is here and people are on the road. We are sharing advice provided during Local Motion’s classes to keep everyone safe:

- **Make Sure Your Bike Is Working** - Check your bike over before you go for a ride. Make sure the brakes work, the tires are inflated, and the chain is properly lubricated.
- **Obey All Traffic Laws** - Bicyclists have the same rights as drivers, but you also have many of the same responsibilities. For example, bike riders have to make a complete stop at stop signs and red lights.
- **Use Proper Safety Gear** - Use a headlight and a red taillight when riding at night. Wear a helmet and high-visibility or reflective clothing. A mirror can help you see oncoming cars.
- **Ride In the Same Direction as Traffic, and Keep to the Right (When Safe)** - Riding against traffic is dangerous. Follow the law (using common sense) and ride in the same direction as cars. Ride to the right side of the road, when that is safe.
- **Signal Your Turns** - Look back before you make a lane change or a turn and make sure it is safe to change positions. Use your arm to signal where you are going.

For a complete list of safety rules for people on bikes, on foot and in cars, visit us at [LocalMotion.org](http://LocalMotion.org)

NHTSA and SafeKids are asking for help to raise awareness about the danger of heatstroke to kids in cars through a concerted, summer-long social media conversation. Join NHTSA and SafeKids at [“Summer of Social Media Conversation”](#).

## 2016 Vermont Teen Driver Educator Summit

Vermont DMV, in coordination with the GHSP, will host the **2016 Teen Driver Educator Summit** at St. Michael’s College on July 28th, 2016. This summit will include current Legislative Highlights, information on Drowsy Driving, Distracted Driving, Drug Recognition Experts, Ignition Interlock Programs, the AAA Cannabis Study, and Organ Donation. Registration will begin at 8:00, lunch will be provided on site, and there will be an outdoor EMS Display put on by St. Michael’s College Fire & EMS crews. Contact Nancy Andrus, [Nancy.Andrus@vermont.gov](mailto:Nancy.Andrus@vermont.gov) for more information or to register.

### Deaths on Vermont Roadways

Year	Deaths
2008	73
2009	73
2010	71
2011	54
2012	77
2013	71
2014	44
2015	57

**31 Deaths as of June 30th, 2016**

### Governor’s Highway Safety Program

Governor’s Highway Safety Program  
Agency of Transportation  
One National Life Drive  
Montpelier, Vermont 05633

Visit our Website...

[www.ghsp.vermont.gov](http://www.ghsp.vermont.gov)

If you have comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please send them to [james.baraw@vermont.gov](mailto:james.baraw@vermont.gov).

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