



The Pulse

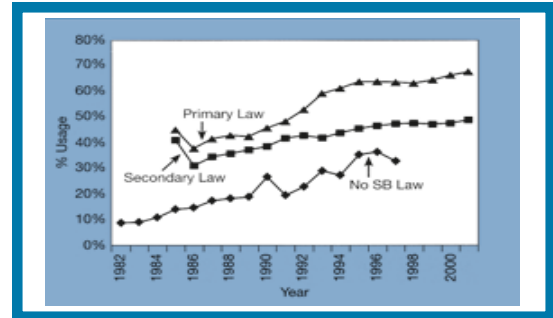
Summer 2006
Volume II Issue 3

at the heart of **OCCUPANT PROTECTION** in the State of Kansas



The Great Race High School Team

Side note:



Safety Belt Usage by 16-20 year-old drivers in Fatal Crashes as a Function of State Safety Belt Laws (FARS)

The Great Race

The 2006 Great Race, a rally-race for old cars evocative of the 1965 movie, "The Great Race", starring Tony Curtis and Jack Lemon, will feature a 1952 Chevy which has been maintained and will be raced by students from three area high schools. Students from Oskaloosa, Lawrence, and Lawrence Free State high schools will be traveling 4200 miles from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to San Rafael, California, with stops in Kansas June 30th and July 1st.

The race cars will travel a daily course and will make evening stops in various cities across the United States. The students have chosen to promote seat belt use and safety when they stop for the evening to visit with communities. The Kansas Seat Belt Education Office has provided "Click it. Or ticket." signs for the vehicle roof and trunk, along with a "Buckle up and Enjoy the Ride" banner along each fin. Students have a sandwich board with the "Top Ten Reasons To Wear Your Seat Belt" along with the new "Yes, Even Way out Here" poster to promote seat belt used in pickup trucks and rural areas. The students will visit and distribute materials across America, and will make stops in Fredonia, Parsons,

Miami, and Wichita, here in Kansas. It is estimated the students will have spoken to over 300,000 people by the end of the 14 days.

The racers are:
Justin Fox--Lawrence High
John Leonhard-Oskaloosa
Chris Berger--Lawrence Free State
Lakin Tenpenny--Oskaloosa
Michael Reynolds--Oskaloosa
Chase Tenpenny--Oskaloosa

Instructors:
David Tenpenny--Oskaloosa
Ted Crady--Lawrence High
David Bailey--Lawrence Free State



Booster Seats Meet the Law

The 2006 Kansas Legislature passed into law effective July 1, 2006, that all children, ages 4 through 7, are required to ride in a booster seat, unless:

- * *the child weighs more than 80 pounds,*
- OR**
- * *the child is taller than 4 feet 9 inches*

Seat belts are made to fit adults and do not protect children properly. Booster seats work by raising a child up so that the lap and shoulder belt are positioned safely. Booster seats reduce the risk of injury by 59% as compared to using only seat belts.

Various Kansas agencies will begin an educational campaign July 1st to provide an understanding of the new law and how it will pertain to Kansas children. Information can now be obtained on line at www.kansasboosterseat.org or you can contact the Kansas Safety Belt Education Office at 1-800-416-2522.

KS. Turnpike displays Click it. Or ticket. posters at 77 toll booths.

The Kansas Department of Transportation distributed to local and state agencies yard signs with the “Click it. Or ticket.” message. Steve Rust, with the Kansas Turnpike Authority displayed the posters on all 77 booths along the Kansas Turnpike entries and exits. Approximately 55,000 customers a day saw the poster during the CIOT mobilization, when they picked up their ticket and again when they stopped to pay their toll. If you would like to obtain some of these posters, contact KDOT’s Bureau of Traffic Safety, at 785-296-3756.



*Educating
how it is done!*



Booster Seat Law signing



Rose Hill Elementary

“Dad, when can I sit up front?”

The latest research on seating position is summarized in a new report by that name from Partners for Child Passenger Safety (PCPS) and the American Academy of Pediatrics. It puts the facts into context for both educators and legislators. The entire report, CPS Issue Report #2, can be downloaded. Highlights include:

- Front row seating increases with age, to over 30% by age 10 and about 55% at age 13.
- The back seat is safer, even though new air bag technologies are improving the outcomes for children seated in front.

- While age and size appropriate child restraint use are the most important factors in child occupant protection, back seat position also is beneficial for children through at least age 12.

- Vehicle selection is important: risk of abdominal injury to 4-8-year-old children in SUVs is 11 times higher than in minivans and six times higher than in passenger cars; children seated in the back seat of compact extended cab pickup trucks have five-times the risk of injury compared to children in other vehicles. Children too large for CRs or BPBs have an 81 percent

overall lower risk of injury using lap-shoulder belts, compared to using only lap belts. A center rear position with only a lap belt can be used for a small child in a CR with a harness but never for a BPB and preferably not for a child using only a safety belt. The benefit of using the center position is not substantial enough to outweigh the risk of using a lap belt.

According to PCPS, the best way to increase the proportion of children seated in the rear would be by using the combination of legislation, program messages, and low-cost incentives given to children observed riding in the back seat. (from SRN, May/June, 2005)



Rose Hill Elementary



Lansing Elementary

Saved by the Belt

"I've been driving since 1972, and have never driven a car even one block without having my safety belt on. In 33 years, I only needed that safety belt one time, but it saved my life."

Bruce Jones
KSNT Weatherman



This picture was taken when my hands were wet, cold, and shaking.

Date of Accident: Nov. 27, 2005

Location: East Lawrence turnpike exit. Westbound

Type of occupant protection: lap/shoulder belt combo on adults, child restraint seat for child.

Injuries received by occupants:

Driver: none

Front seat passenger: a few nicks on hand from broken glass.

Child in restraint seat: none

Dog in back seat: fractured pelvis

We were coming home from Thanksgiving vacation, driving westbound on the turnpike. In need of gas, I decided to get off at the East Lawrence exit. It was raining lightly. Being a meteorologist, I made a mental note that this was the first rain Lawrence had received in a few weeks, and planned on exiting very carefully in case of slippery conditions. I saw the 30 MPH speed limit sign for the exit, and was braking to be at or below 30 when I made the exit. We came into the turn and were about halfway around the loop of the cloverleaf when the vehicle made a strange shudder. We began hydroplaning and the car was out of control. It spun around 180 degrees, slid off the inside of the curve, and came to a stop, but began tipping over onto its side. I remember watching the car lay down on its side...the outside mirror was supporting the weight of the vehicle for a second until the plastic mirror housing exploded, the car slowly rolled over, and we began rolling down the hill. We rolled four times before coming to a halt upright, in the

grassy area of the exit loop. I looked over at my wife in the passenger seat and she was fine, but we knew we had to look back and check on our two-year-old in her child restraint seat. Ava didn't have a scratch. In fact, she looked at us with a look that said, "Well that was interesting. Let's do it again." We were amazed we weren't injured. My wife was six weeks pregnant. The only thing I would do differently: put the dog in a restraining harness. I knew of such things, but I was an accident-free driver and never thought I would be in a mishap when my dog was in the car. Our golden retriever-collie mix Lexi was ejected from the vehicle on the third roll. She suffered a badly broken pelvis and died that night at a local veterinarian's. Despite this, we consider ourselves very lucky. I've been driving since 1972, and have never driven a car even one block without having my safety belt on. In 33 years I only needed that safety belt one time, but it saved my life.

Danni Boatwright, Survivor: Guatemala winner, promotes "Click it. Or Ticket."

The enforcement/education program - "Click it. Or Ticket." was announced by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and officials of KDOT during a May 15th event. Tonganoxie native Danni Boatwright, winner of the "Survivor: Guatemala" television program, climbed aboard a Seat Belt Convincer to demonstrate the value seat belts provide during even low-speed collisions. While seat belt use has been slowly increasing over the past few years, the state still ranks poorly against other states in seat belt use. Last year, 69 percent of Kansas drivers and passengers were wearing seat belts during observational surveys in the summer. The national seat belt use rate is 82 percent. Drivers of pick up trucks were less likely than other Kansans to wear seat belts. Last year, the compliance rate was only 52 percent. Ms. Boatwright will be helping promote seat belt use across the state this year.



Danni Boatwright of "Survivor: Guatemala" fame takes a ride on a seatbelt convincer at KDOT's Click it. Or Ticket. campaign kick off event as Gov. Sebelius looks on.

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**Safer Driving,
Safer Roads.
KANSAS**

**SAFETY
BELTS**

Save lives
and reduce
injuries.

KANSAS **Safety Belt
Education** OFFICE

This information is available in alternate accessible formats.

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INSIDE

Great Race

Side Note

Great Idea

Saved by
the Belt

FYI

KANSAS **Safety Belt
Education** OFFICE

KSBEO Information!!

Kansas Safety Belt Education Office schedules trainings which are essential to the education of Kansas citizens, both children and adults. Please contact our office if you need to sign up for or schedule a training or a presentation for your area.

1-800-416-2522 or nwingfield@dcca.org

We are currently in the process of scheduling the 32 hour Child Passenger Safety Training and the Boosters to Belts Training for fall of this year. If you would like to be placed on our waiting list for these upcoming classes, please call or email the numbers above.

Research has shown that lap/shoulder belts, when used properly, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45% and the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50 percent. For light truck occupants, safety belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60 percent and moderate-to-critical injury by 65 percent.

**EVENTS
CALENDAR**

July 1st

Booster Seats become the law

August 17-Sept. 4th

You Drink, You Drive, You Loose

September 8-17

State Fair

October 3-7

Drive Safely Work Week

October 7-10

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day