

Western States Auto Theft Investigators Oregon Trail Chapter Newsletter

1st Quarter, 2013

Hurry! Get signed up for the Portland one-day auto theft class on April 12th!

Next meeting:
March 13,
2013
1130 am
Buster's BBQ
11419 SW
Pacific Hwy
Tigard



Jan 25 Portland International Auto Show Well Attended

PO Box 1071
Lake Oswego, OR
97034

2013 Oregon Trail
Chapter Executive
Board:

Barbara Caine
President
Tel: (503) 731-3037
barbara.caine@odot.state.or.us

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Secretary
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W.S.A.T.I. is affiliated with the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (I.A.A.T.I.)

W.S.A.T.I. membership consists of law enforcement, insurance investigators and auto industry professionals.

W.S.A.T.I. provides low cost education, training, and support in the areas of vehicle theft prevention and investigation.

W.S.A.T.I. members meet for information sharing or training on the second Wednesday of every month. Contact a board member for the topics and locations.

48 vehicle theft professionals attended the annual tour of the latest models of passenger vehicles. It was a rare opportunity to view vehicles and identifiers in a dry, clean, indoor environment followed by the annual awards ceremony and meeting.



Oregon State Police Detective Brian Assmus (left) is presented with the 2012 Investigator Of The Year Award by chapter Secretary Scott Thomas for his efforts to bring down a prolific heavy equipment thief and recover dozens of stolen vehicles.



2013 chapter President Barbara Caine recognizes outgoing President Gil Millett for his service.



SIU Investigator Carrie Still is presented with the WSATI-OTC Award For Investigative Excellence by SIU Manager John Efstathiou.

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Catalytic Converter thefts are back in the news: Corvallis owners of Toyota 4-Runners and Tacoma pickups reporting over a dozen incidents of stolen converters in the last three weeks alone.

(Courtesy: KVAL-TV)

Need to figure out acreage from square feet? How about the pitch of a roof? Convert metric measurements to gallons or pounds? Here is a great resource for converting measurements: <http://www.csqnetwork.com/converters.html>

2011 Top ten stolen vehicles in Oregon:

1. 1992 Honda Accord
2. 1998 Honda Civic
3. 1989 Toyota Camry
4. 1997 Ford Pickup (full size)
5. 1998 Subaru Legacy
6. 1995 Chevrolet pickup (full size)
7. 1994 Acura Integra
8. 1997 Toyota Corolla
9. 2001 Dodge Pickup (full size)
10. 1992 Nissan Sentra

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From the Lakewood, WA Police Department:

[Regional Undercover Operation Concluded](#)

Category: [Press Releases](#)

Published on Friday, 01 March 2013 10:16

Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority's (WATPA) Auto Crimes Enforcement Task Force finishes up six month investigation with multiple arrests

On February 26th, 2013 officers and detectives from the Auto Crimes Enforcement (ACE) Task Force and other assisting agencies in Pierce County served a series of search warrants upon five residences and several vehicles in Pierce and Thurston Counties. This combined effort was the result of a long term undercover investigation involving ongoing property crimes in Pierce County and across Washington State which included auto theft, firearms violations, residential burglary and fraud. The operation, dubbed "Shiny Penny", involved a six month undercover store front investigation in Pierce County in which detectives purchased stolen property from local criminals.

Regional resources utilized during service of these warrants included the following SWAT Teams: Pierce County METRO SWAT, Pierce County Sheriff's Department SWAT and Thurston County Sheriff's Department SWAT.

The ACE Task Force agencies involved in this undercover operation included the Lakewood Police Department, Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Tacoma Police Department, Washington State Patrol, Pierce County Prosecutor's Office, Puyallup Police Department, Fife Police Department, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations, National Insurance Crime Bureau and Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority.

Operation "Shiny Penny" has produced the following results

- 26 total suspects identified for felony crimes
- 21 suspects currently in custody. A number of those were arraigned in Superior Court on 02-27-13.
- 26 stolen cars recovered. Overall value \$250,000 plus.
- 16 firearms recovered which includes two assault rifles.
- 4 narcotics violations.
- 11 other property items recovered that included items such as televisions and laptops.
- 34 total undercover transactions completed by detectives.

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This is the third undercover operation conducted by the ACE Task Force in the last two years. All of these operations resulted in a significant number of stolen cars recovered and suspects arrested. The operation was funded by participating agencies and the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority. The ACE Task Force is dedicated to the pursuit of career criminals committing crimes against persons and property in the greater Pierce County region.

The task force is planning on returning stolen cars and property to victims on March 6th. We will be providing more details on this to allow the media to be on scene to film the event and possibly interview victims.

Please contact Lt. Chris Lawler for additional information.

Lt. Lawler can be contacted at the numbers listed below for more information;
Office (253) 830-5011
Cellular (253) 606-6981
Fax (253) 830-5069
clawler@cityoflakewood.us

The Northwest Chapter of WSATI is holding their detailed week-long auto theft class for law enforcement and SIU personnel May 6-10, 2013 in Dupont, WA. The class is only \$200 and some scholarships are available.

Topics include auto theft investigations, vehicle identification, tracking systems, theft trends and tons more topics important to the vehicle theft investigator.

For more details or to sign up please contact school coordinator Ben Remak at (425) 502-1351 or by e-mail at wsatinw@msn.com.

Deadline for sign up is April 19, 2013.