



# Police Pages



*Southern Shores, North Carolina*



**Welcome** back to the Southern Shores Police Pages Newsletter. It's hard to believe that summer is almost here. And with it come the tourists and all that is good and bad with the season. Here are a few things to keep in mind with the increase of population and traffic. As always, please do not hesitate to call us at 252-261-3331 or e-mail us at [infopd@southernshores-nc.gov](mailto:infopd@southernshores-nc.gov) with questions, suggestions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support of the Police Department and, as always, we look forward to hearing from you!

**Stop Aggressive Driving**  
**Alto al Manejo Agresivo**



## **AGGRESSIVE DRIVING FACT-TIP SHEET WITH TALKING POINTS**

- Aggressive driving is defined as a progression of unlawful driving actions such as:
  - speeding -- exceeding the posted limit or driving too fast for conditions;
  - improper or excessive lane changing: failing to signal intent, failing to see that movement can be made safely, or
  - improper passing -- failing to signal intent, using an emergency lane to pass, or passing on the shoulder.
- The "aggressive driver" fails to consider the human element involved. The anonymity of being behind the wheel gives aggressive drivers a false sense of control and power; therefore, they seldom take into account the consequences of their actions.
- Aggressive Driving vs. Road Rage. There is a difference. Ag-

gressive driving is a traffic offense; road rage is a criminal offense.

- Road rage is defined as "an assault with a motor vehicle or other dangerous weapon by the operator or passenger(s) of another motor vehicle or an assault precipitated by an incident that occurred on a roadway."
- Road rage requires willful and wanton disregard for the safety of others.
- A national survey sponsored by NHTSA of 6,000 drivers over the age of sixteen showed that the public supports increased enforcement including photo enforcement, increasing sanctions, increasing intervention by vehicle occupants and increasing public awareness of risks, as ways of reducing these types of unsafe driving practices.
- The posted speed limit is a law that applies to all traffic lanes. Technically speaking, there is no fast lane or slow lane. In at least 21

states, slower traffic is expected to keep right, except for emergency vehicles, which are permitted to exceed the posted speed limit, but only when their lights and sirens are on. In some states, laws specify "keep right except to pass."

- According to NHTSA's Traffic Safety Facts 1998, approximately 6,335,000 crashes occur in the United States each year. It is unknown exactly how many of those crashes are caused by aggressive driving. Estimates indicate the number to be substantial, based on the violations committed by the drivers of the vehicles involved in the crashes and reported by law enforcement agencies as the contributing factor of the crash.



## ARE YOU AN AGGRESSIVE DRIVER?



### DO YOU:

- **Express Frustration.** Taking out your frustrations on your fellow motorists can lead to violence or a crash.
- **Fail to Pay Attention when Driving.** Reading, eating, drinking or talking on the phone, can be a major cause of roadway crashes.
- **Tailgate.** This is a major cause of crashes that can result in serious deaths or injuries.
- **Make Frequent Lane Changes.** If you whip in and out of lanes to advance ahead, you can be a danger to other motorists.
- **Run Red Lights.** Do not enter an intersection on a yellow light. Remember flashing red lights should be treated as a stop sign.

• **Speed.** Going faster than the posted speed limit, being a “road racer” and going too fast for conditions are some examples of speeding.

## LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

### PLAN AHEAD. ALLOW YOURSELF EXTRA TIME.

- **Concentrate.** Don't allow yourself to become distracted by talking on your cellular phone, eating, drinking or putting on makeup.
- **Relax.** Tune the radio to your favorite relaxing music. Music can calm your nerves and help you to enjoy your time in the car.
- **Drive the Posted Speed Limit.** Fewer crashes occur when vehicles are traveling at or about the same speed.
- **Identify Alternate Routes.** Try mapping out an alternate route. Even if it looks longer on paper, you may find it is less congested.
- **Use Public Transportation.** Public transportation can give you some much-needed relief from life behind the wheel.

• **Just be Late.** If all else fails, just be late.

## WHEN CONFRONTED WITH AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS

- **Get Out of the Way.** First and foremost make every attempt to get out of their way.
- **Put Your Pride Aside.** Do not challenge them by speeding up or attempting to hold-your-own in your travel lane.
- **Avoid Eye Contact.** Eye contact can sometimes enrage an aggressive driver.
- **Gestures.** Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- **Report Serious Aggressive Driving.** You or a passenger may call the police. But, if you use a cell phone, pull over to a safe location.

## What to do after an auto accident

**Auto Accidents are unexpected and stressful. Even the most careful drivers may be involved.**

Prepare the trunk of your car for a possible accident as well by making sure you have a set of cones, warning triangles or emergency flares. **Make sure you also have:**

- A pen
- A card with relevant medical information for you and your family.

### **What to do after an auto accident:**

- Stay as calm as possible.
- Check for injuries. Life and health are more important than damage to vehicles. When in doubt, call an ambulance.
- If the accident is minor and there are no serious injuries, move cars to a safe place, rather than risk being in moving

traffic.

- Turn on hazard lights. If warranted, and possible, use cones, warning triangles or flares for safety.
- Call the police, even if the accident is minor.
- Notify your insurance agent about the accident immediately.
- Don't sign any document unless it is for the police or your insurance agent
- Make immediate notes about the accident including the specific damages to all vehicles involved. If the name on the auto registration and/or insurance policy is different from the name of the driver, establish the relationship and jot it down. Get witness information, if possible, as well.
- Be polite, but don't tell the other drivers or the police that the accident was your fault, even if you think it was. Likewise, do not accuse the other drivers of being

at fault at this time. Everyone is usually shaken up immediately after an accident, and it is wise to state only the facts. Limit your discussion of the accident to the insurance agent and the police. Even if the facts are embarrassing or detrimental to you, be truthful.

- If you have a camera handy, and it is safe to do so, it may be helpful to photograph the accident scene.
- If possible, do not leave the accident scene before the police officers and other drivers do.
- Finally, remember that while getting the facts is very important, investigating the accident should be left to the police officers and the insurance companies.



courtesy of



# Happy Birthday Dr. Suess!

In honor of Dr. Suess' (aka Theodor Suess Geisel) birthday on March 2nd, the National Education Association sponsors Read Across America to introduce children to the joy of reading. The Southern Shores Police Department was happy to help by visiting with several classes at Kitty Hawk Elementary School and bringing the magic of Dr. Suess into the classroom!



Chief Kole reads to the 2nd grade class at Kitty Hawk Elementary School.

# We Won!



Officer Clark accepting the trophy!  
(photos courtesy of First Flight Cruisers)

Thanks for the support that everyone showed us by coming out to the 2008 Shamrock Car Show. We took home the prize for "Patrol Car of the Year" as without a doubt, we have the best looking cruiser on the beach!



What a beautiful car!



## Operation Slow Down April 1 - 6

Studies continue to show that speed is a major cause of injury and fatality on North Carolina roadways. In 2005 alone, there were 540 fatalities and more than 32,000 speed-related injuries on our roads. GHSP kicked off the pilot project "No Need 2 Speed," in June 2006 in Robeson, Cumberland, Harnett and Johnston counties to encourage drivers to slow down and follow the speed limit.

Results suggest that with the combination of signage and enforcement there was a decrease in motorists speeding on rural roads.

In April 2007, in conjunction with the N.C. State Highway Patrol's Operation Slow Down GHSP asked local law enforcement agencies to participate and report during this combined effort.



The North Carolina  
Department of Transportation

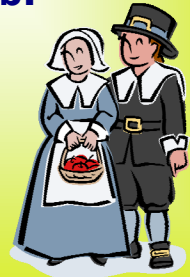
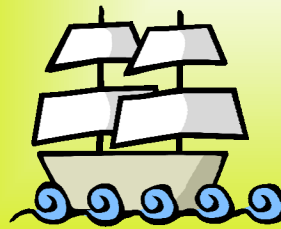
If April showers ...



bring May flowers...

What do Mayflowers bring?

**PILGRIMS!**



*Achieving Excellence  
Through Integrity*

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**We're also on the web!  
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From the desk of...

Another summer is almost upon us, so please remember that with the nicer weather our children will be out playing and riding their bikes. We ask that you be extra cautious when driving through the neighborhoods. We are gearing up for the busy season; we will be placing the police boat back into service in April. Our bike patrols and beach patrols will also return again this year. We will be working with our Public Works department, and will be placing some new (educational "No Parking") signage on some of the major thoroughfares in town, which will include some new "No Parking" signs on and around Ocean Blvd. We have ordered "Yield to Pedestrian" cross walk signs for Rt12 and once they come in, we will have them put in place. Thank You.

*David M. Kole*

