

ACTAR NEWS

Fall - Winter 1998

NEW ACTAR WEB-SITE

The ACTAR web-site address has changed. ACTAR can now be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.actar.org>. With a shorter address, ACTAR is now easier to reach. Our new website features current information and other on-line services for persons already accredited or those seeking accreditation. On-line features include:

- An introduction to ACTAR and the participating organizations;
- Complete directory, listing accredited persons by name,
- Country and State or Province or ACTAR accreditation number;
- On-line forms for accreditation application,
- CEU credit, accreditation renewal and FAQ;
- Information regarding Continuing Education Units (CEUs);
- Past editions of ACTAR NEWS;
- ACTAR long-term accreditation exam - site locations and dates;
- Extensive listing of "links" to other websites devoted to collision investigation and reconstruction.

We are also looking at the feasibility of having a link between your website and the electronic directory for a minimal annual fee. Visit the website and provide ACTAR with some feedback.

Directory Reprint -Second Edition is Complete

The second printing of the ACTAR Directory is complete and should accompany this issue of the newsletter. Some enhancements have been made to the font size, spacing and page layout. A listing of individuals by geographic location (City and State/Province and Country) is also included.

The second printing posts a roster of those individuals accredited as of June 1998. Corrections to the second edition were based on information returned via the survey form that accompanied the Winter-Spring 1998 edition of the ACTAR newsletter. Hopefully, everyone desiring any changes from the first directory returned the survey form.

The on-line version of the directory, available on the ACTAR website, will post more recent listings between the printing of "hard" copies. Printing of the third edition is scheduled for the year 2000. Reprinting of the directory will occur biannually. The next edition will be provided at no cost to reconstructionists who are accredited on or after June 1, 1998.

Additional copies of the directory are available at a reasonable price. Gratis copies are also available to organizations and associations beneficial to accredited reconstructionists. Should information or additional copies be desired, contact Al Baxter in the ACTAR administrative office -- by phone at (800) 809-3818, facsimile at (813) 869-2147 or E-mail at atbaxter@akos.net.

Message from ACTAR's Administrative Officer - Al Baxter

Greetings: As ACTAR approaches the last quarter of the year we continue to grow. Currently there are 619 accredited reconstructionists in the program. Over 950 applicants have been processed and there are 91 candidates awaiting testing. The Governing Board has been asked to submit new test dates and locations for 1999. Currently, we have only a test scheduled for Jacksonville Florida just before I.P.T.M.'s Special Problem workshop. I am also working on setting up an examination for the Cincinnati Ohio area in early January 1999 (brrrr!). With this respite in the test schedule, now is the time for those of you sitting on the fence to submit an application to ACTAR. Once approved, you have two years to take the examination. I have had applicants wait to the very last minute to submit an application, a week before a scheduled examination. Sorry, but the system does not work that fast!

Speaking of fast, the latest ACTAR printed directory has finally come off the press and will be sent out with this edition of ACTAR News. Already, some of the information on accredited reconstructionists is out-of-date. For the most current roster, check out the ACTAR Internet Website. Our NEW address is: <http://www.actar.org>.

If you are already accredited, check your listing. Remember ACTAR should you change an address, telephone or E-mail number. I currently have ten reconstructionists who are MIA. Also at the printer are brochures describing the ACTAR program and the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) program. Each accredited reconstructionist will receive a copy along with the directory. I urge you to read the CEU brochure and pass along the ACTAR brochure to a fellow reconstructionist. The major training institutions will be sent the ACTAR brochures for distribution to students. If you would like additional copies for distribution, please contact me.

The ACTAR Governing Board is busy working on several items. New theory and practical test questions, exploring a degree program in accident reconstruction, and strengthening the ethics procedures are some of the items under consideration.

The ACTAR logo has been officially registered with the government as a service mark. Two enterprising accredited reconstructionists have had an ACTAR decal made and affixed to their patrol vehicles. That's a true recognition of their accomplishment to the public they serve.

The next meeting of the Governing Board will be in April 1999. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me or your Participating Organizations Representative. Thank you for your support of the ACTAR Program! Al Baxter PO Box 5436 Hudson FL 34674-5436 Phone 1-800-809-3818 E-Mail: <atbaxter@akos.net> Website: <http://www.actar.org>

** Note Al's new e-mail address, this is a change from the last edition of ACTAR NEWS.

ACTAR LOGO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED -Seal and Logo Now Proprietary

As mentioned in Al's message, the ACTAR seal and accompanying logo are now service marked (sm) and proprietary to ACTAR (the commission owns it). Persons attaining ACTAR accreditation are free to use the seal and logo, without restriction, as an individual and to represent themselves as accredited. Use

of the seal and logo on merchandise or other materials presented for sale requires approval of the Governing Board of Directors (GBOD). Requests for use of the ACTAR seal must be made in writing through the ACTAR administrative office.

Pending a final resolution, ACTAR may request a fee or percentage (not to exceed 10%) of the selling price for the merchandise bearing the ACTAR seal. The Governing Board of Directors voted that ACTAR itself will not directly produce or sell merchandise.

ACTAR will support accredited persons and means which promote ACTAR or the accreditation process. As noted in Al Baxter's message, Lyn Woolford - ACTAR #736, has produced a Scotchlite reflective ACTAR seal. The seal designed for an automobile is eight inches in diameter, but custom sizes are available. The eight-inch seal sells for \$20.00. Inquiries should be made to Lyn at KAA-CEE Company, 5611 Waterfront Drive N., Columbia MO 65202-9057 or by phone (573) 886-0499 / E-mail <Lyn3445@aol.com>.

Accreditation Renewal Fees Increase in 1999 - Renew Now and Save

A reminder that effective January 1, 1999 an administrative fee of \$1.00 per pre-approved CEU will be required at the time of accreditation renewal. This fee applies only to pre-approved CEUs. The basic renewal fee of \$100.00 and the fee per non pre-approved CEU of \$3.00 each are unchanged. The fee increase, therefore, will raise the cost of renewal from \$100 to \$180 for persons acquiring their CEUs through all pre-approved courses and seminars.

Renew your accreditation before January and save \$\$. Should you have any questions concerning CEUs, fees or the number of CEUs ACTAR has on your file contact Al Baxter at the administrative office. Please note that CEUs for attending a training course are awarded only upon satisfactory completion (passing) of the course.

CEUs for Northwestern University Courses CEUs are now available upon completion of traffic collision courses offered by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute (NUTI). NUTI has agreed to promote ACTAR CEUs, however, the Institute will not automatically register a course for CEU credit. Students attending a NUTI course must contact Ken Baker at NUTI (800-323-4011) and advise him that ACTAR CEUs are desired.

Board of Directors Meeting - 1998 and 1999

The ACTAR Governing Board of Directors (GBOD) met in St. Louis, April 4 and 5, 1998. In addition to routine and ongoing business, new areas of discussion were opened.

Code of Ethics -- A review of the ACTAR Code of Ethics concluded that ambiguity exists within the code and adjudicatory process. A new committee was appointed by the Chair to investigate and recommend revisions to the Code of Ethics. The revisions will be on clarity and constitutionality with the intent of preserving the goals of accreditation.

Limiting the size of the GBOD and number of participating organizations -- Organizations represented on the ACTAR GBOD now number 19. Concern was expressed that over time the size of the GBOD

could increase such that it would become cumbersome and fiscally inefficient. After much debate, the GBOD concluded that the rate of increase (from 12 original organizations) has neither been inordinate nor detrimental. To the contrary, the addition of new participating organizations has expanded ACTAR's influence and provided the GBOD with innumerable talent and resources. Fiscal responsibility could not, however, be ignored. Pending a detailed assessment of the issue, the GBOD did vote to raise the initiation fee of any organization now wishing to join ACTAR as a participating organization. Until a final resolution is produced, the initiation fee is increased to \$500.

Examinations -- The Exam Committee announced that the development of two new "theory" portions of the accreditation exam have been placed into service. The committee also reported that the continued development of a "question" database will soon result in the ability to produce new theory portions of the exam whenever needed. Board members were advised that two or three recent or pending crash tests will soon result in as many case problems for the exam process. The new case problems are expected to be used beginning around the first of the year.

Brochures -- Brochures were developed and have subsequently been printed. Two brochures were developed. The first describes ACTAR and the accreditation process. This brochure is designed for distribution at training courses and conferences to promote accreditation in collision (accident) reconstruction. The second brochure describes the CEU aspect of accreditation and is designed to clarify the process and encourage individuals to continually seek additional education in the field of collision reconstruction. Copies of the brochures are included with this edition of ACTAR News. For additional copies contact the ACTAR administrative office.

Support of Year 2000 Conference -- The ACTAR GBOD voted to support the efforts of the Year 2000 conference to be held in Texas during October of that year. Most, if not all, of the participating organizations have or intend to sign on in support of the conference. This conference promises to be the largest traffic collision conference ever assembled and will offer something for everyone involved in any aspect of motor vehicles and motor vehicle crashes.

The Texas Association of Accident Reconstruction Specialists (TAARS) is coordinating the conference. For additional information or to offer your assistance with the conference, contact TAARS or its president, Conrad Dippel at <DippleC@aol.com>.

Expenses -- Expenses have, for the most, stabilized and ACTAR is financially sound. Some areas of expense, such as the directory, crash testing for exams and enhanced electronic information technology are expected to increase over time. Application, testing and renewal fees currently support these functions. To defray future increases in fees, the GBOD is actively pursuing sources of grant funds and other avenues of revenue generation.

To this end, the GBOD has stipulated that revenue sources promote the goal of ACTAR and be non-affiliatory with any other group. Direct merchandising was deemed too cumbersome and not within the scope of the GBOD.

Collision (Accident) Reconstruction as a College Degree -- ACTAR is currently speaking with several universities concerning the prospect of offering collision reconstruction as a component of a degree, or minor, within an engineering curriculum. Tarleton College, an affiliate of the Texas A&M System,

currently offers credit for successful completion of TEEEX courses toward a degree in Criminal Justice.

1999 GBOD Meeting -- The GBOD is scheduled to meet during the month of April in 1999. Should you have any concerns, questions or issues you consider important to ACTAR, contact a Board member or the ACTAR administrative office. The Board wants to hear from you.

More About Exams and Accreditation

At last count, 619 individuals have attained ACTAR accreditation. With more than 91 persons awaiting testing, the accreditation ranks may soon exceed 700. A total of 954 people have applied.

Concern has been expressed regarding what information ACTAR retained and/or disseminated pertaining to an individual's application and exam score. When questioned as to the status of an individual with ACTAR, the commission will confirm only that a person is either ACTAR accredited, involved in the accreditation process, or expired. Information, such as previous failures of the exam or application status is not released.

Regarding exam scores, final scores are recorded only as pass or fail. Numerically, scores and actual test answers are retained only throughout the duration of the test review process. Numerical scores are available only to the candidate. The review process has been established to take no longer than 120 days following completion of the exam. After this time all exams are destroyed.

Procedure now dictates that any candidate who does not pass the exam within four attempts must re-apply and certify that additional training was obtained before being permitted to sit for another examination.

Exam Dates and Locations

Below is a listing of accreditation exam dates and locations currently scheduled.

Sunday January 10, 1999 - Cincinnati, OH registration deadline December 18, 1998

Saturday February 20, 1999 - Denver Colorado registration deadline February 1, 1999

Sunday April 25, 1999 - Jacksonville, FL before I.P.T.M. Special Problems Workshop registration deadline April 12, 1999

Contact the ACTAR administrative office to register or obtain further details regarding a test location. ACTAR is always seeking new locations to conduct exams. If your organization or agency is interested in sponsoring an ACTAR exam contact the administrative office.

MIA - ACTAR is Looking for You -

ACTAR has been unable to contact the following individuals. Should anyone know of their whereabouts, please have them contact the administrative office.

Bedell, William (#656) -- Redford, OR
Donald, Richard (#221) -- Augusta, ME
Emori, Richard (#152) - Tokyo JAPAN
Johnson, David (#705) - San Jose, CA
Kidd, Jeffrey (#192) -- Hudson, WI
Kyburz, Timothy (#542) --Springfield, VA
Martin, John (#618) -- Beaumont, TX
Sanders, Guy (#186) -- Spring Hill, FL
Schlosser, Steven (#788) -- Las Cruces NM
Shortland, Lindsey (#706)-- La Mirada, CA

Our condolences on the passing of David Sheehan #349 San Francisco, CA and Frank J. Schloegel #589 Rochester MN.

For additional information or to pass along ideas or comments, contact a participating organization's representative or the main ACTAR office at:

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