



## AZ. Auto Theft Authority News & Updates February 2010

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### **The AATA Welcomes ASU Intern, Valeria Ahumada!**

In January, Valeria (Val) Ahumada joined the AATA Team as part of the State of Arizona's Interns-In-Action Program, which was launched this year. Val is a senior at Arizona State and is studying Mass Communications and Business. This semester Val's assisting the AATA with several public service and education programs. Val will also be providing VIN etching by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will be helping out department with Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching events. Please contact her at 602 364-2887 to reserve your appointment. Welcome, Val – we're glad to have you on board. For more information about the State's Interns-In-Action Program, visit [www.hr.az.gov/intern/index.asp](http://www.hr.az.gov/intern/index.asp)

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Auto Theft Prevention & Awareness Week – March 1-6, 2010**

The AATA, in partnership with several Arizona law enforcement agencies, will host the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Auto Theft Prevention & Awareness Week. Several events will be planned during this first week in March in an effort to promote auto theft and burglary prevention in Arizona. Check out our **Events Calendar** for more information – [www.azwatchyourcar.com](http://www.azwatchyourcar.com). "Although budget cuts and staffing reductions have limited our efforts this year, we're happy to report many agencies will continue proactive public education programs during the 2010 Auto Theft Prevention Week," stated Brian R. Salata, AATA Executive Director. For more information or sponsorship & participation opportunities, please contact Ann Armstrong 602 364-2892.

### **Do-It-Yourself VIN Etching Kits Available**

The Arizona Auto Theft Authority and statewide law enforcement agencies have been promoting VIN Etching as an effective visual deterrent against theft since 2002. VIN Etching is the process of permanently etching the vehicle's 17 digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on each piece of window glass on the vehicle.

Etching your vehicle's VIN number serves as a permanent fingerprint of your

vehicle. When a vehicle is stolen, the thief must change the identity of the vehicle by changing the VIN identification plate on the dashboard. With a new VIN identification plate in place, he/she now has a new vehicle. BUT, with a vehicle that has its window glass VIN etched, the thief must replace and dispose of each piece of window glass, which drastically cuts into their profit (and time) margin. As a thief contemplates stealing your vehicle, they will notice the etching on the glass, and may move on to an unmarked vehicle. Some insurers offer discounts for policy holders.

Several companies are now offering D.I.Y. VIN Etching Kits, which can be ordered online for less than \$25 in most instances and installation takes 15 minutes to complete per vehicle; some companies also offer multiple VIN Etching Kit discounts.



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