

WESTERN STATES AUTO THEFT INVESTIGATORS

52nd ANNUAL TRAINING SEMINAR



Bally's Lake Tahoe Resort

South Lake Tahoe - Stateline, Nevada

October 12th - October 14th

2026

2026 WSATI NORTHERN CHAPTER PRESIDENT

ROBBIE MIDZUNO



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear WSATI Members, Partners, Sponsors, and Attendees,

On behalf of the Northern Chapter of the Western States Auto Theft Investigators (WSATI), it is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the **52nd Annual WSATI Training Seminar**, held October 12-14, 2026, at **Bally's Lake Tahoe** in beautiful South Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

This annual seminar represents more than just a training conference. For over five decades, WSATI has brought together dedicated professionals committed to combating vehicle theft, insurance fraud, and related criminal activity throughout our communities. This event provides a unique opportunity for law enforcement professionals, insurance industry investigators, National Insurance Crime Bureau representatives, prosecutors, and our valued industry partners to collaborate, share knowledge, and strengthen the relationships that are essential to our collective success.

This year, we are proud to welcome attendees from across the United States, and beyond. We are also honored to host our international partners. The diverse experience and expertise represented within this group exemplifies the strength of our organization and our shared commitment to protecting the public through education, investigation, and prevention efforts.

The success of this seminar would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteer members, Board of Directors, conference committee, instructors, sponsors, and exhibitors. Their countless hours of planning and commitment have made this event possible. I extend my sincere appreciation to each of them for their hard work and continued support of WSATI's mission.

Over the next three days, I encourage you to take full advantage of the outstanding training opportunities, networking events, and discussions designed to enhance your professional development and strengthen our partnerships. Whether you are attending for the first time or are a longtime member, I hope you leave with new knowledge, valuable connections, and renewed enthusiasm for the important work we all perform.

Thank you for your support of WSATI and for your commitment to the investigation and prevention of vehicle theft, vehicle crimes and insurance fraud. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference in our communities and within our profession.

I wish you a productive, educational, and enjoyable conference, and I look forward to seeing you throughout the seminar.

Thank you,

Robert Y. Midzuno

President, Northern Chapter

Western States Auto Theft Investigators (WSATI)

The 52nd Annual Training Seminar is Hosted by:

**Western States
Auto Theft Investigators Association**

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**Blake Schnabel - National Insurance Crime Bureau
(WSATI - Northern Chapter Past President & Advisor)**

WSATI Northern Chapter

Mission Statement

WSATI is a non-profit corporation with the sole purpose of providing education and training to law enforcement, the insurance community, district attorney personnel, rental car companies, automotive manufactures and dealerships, and auto financial funding institutions. WSATI focuses on combatting auto theft and enhancing the apprehension and conviction of persons involved in various types of cutting edge vehicle related crimes including vehicle theft, vehicle arson and insurance fraud.

WSATI is a professional organization comprised of law enforcement auto theft investigators (both active and retired), special investigative unit members of the insurance industry, special agents of the National Insurance Crime Bureau, and other interested investigative units, included multiple district attorney offices throughout California and retirees.

Sunday - October 11, 2026

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration - Bally's Conference Reception

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Hosted Reception & Networking - Hospitality Suite

Monday - October 12, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Late Registration - Bally's Convention Center Foyer

Evergreen A & B

10:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. Opening Ceremony: Presentation of Colors
Invocation, Introductions and Seminar
Overview

Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. - 3:20 p.m. Driving Changes - How AI has Upended
Investigations

Joe Stephenson - Lemieux & Associates

3:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m. The Use of Synthetic identities & Entities
to Commit Insurance Fraud

Steve Lenderman - Lemieux & Quantexa

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Information Sharing and Networking
Hospitality Suite

Tuesday - October 13, 2026

Evergreen A & B

8:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. Science Based Interviews -Part 1
Joe Preciado - Savage Training Group

Break

10:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Science Based Interviews -Part 2
Joe Preciado - Savage Training Group

Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. Open Source Intelligence in Investigations
Michèle Stuart - JAG Investigations INC.

Break

3:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. Open Source Intelligence in Investigations
Michèle Stuart - JAG Investigations INC.

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Information Sharing and Networking
Hospitality Suite

Wednesday Morning - October 14, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

Evergreen A	Organized Retail Theft Mike Diehl – California Highway Patrol
Evergreen B	Facial Recognition Technology Blanca Rodriguez - Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Evergreen C	Connected Vehicles Kipp Loving - Reviver JD Decker - NV DMV Enforcement
Evergreen D	Traffic Collisions—Staged Accidents Lee Adamson - Department of Insurance

Break

10:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Evergreen A	General Motors Vehicle Security George Baker - General Motors
Evergreen B	Vehicle Arson Investigations - Don't Get Burned Steven Poe - Fire Cause Analysis
Evergreen C	Vehicle Fraud Investigation Kipp Loving - Reviver JD Decker - NV DMV Enforcement
Evergreen D	Leadership Course Brandon Shipwash - California Highway Patrol

Lunch Break

Wednesday Afternoon - October 14, 2026

1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Evergreen A GPS Tracker Investigations
Jimmy Eberhart – 3si Trackers

Evergreen B DealerTrack Thefts
Robert Foster - Cox Enterprises

Evergreen C Vehicle Infotainment
A.G. Speake—Vehicle4ensics

Evergreen D Vehicle Containment & Undercover Rescue
Matt Harden & Chris McGiboney
Optempo Training Group

Break

3:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.

Evergreen A Odometer Fraud
David Chin—U.S. Department of Transportation

Evergreen B Street Racing & Sideshows
Cosimo Bruno - California Highway Patrol

Evergreen C Ford Vehicle Security Demonstration
Adam Smith & Kristen “KJ” Jones - Ford Security

Evergreen D Auto Finance Fraud in Auto Theft
Jim Vogler - Ally Financial

5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Banquet Reception & Awards Ceremony



We are a non-profit organization committed to reducing vehicle theft related crimes including vehicle theft, vehicle arson, and insurance fraud. Our team is comprised of seasoned professionals from diverse backgrounds, including law enforcement, rental car, and insurance companies. Our overarching objective is to thwart vehicle thefts, enhance recoveries and bring about a significant reduction in the rate of such crimes.

We offer comprehensive training programs for auto theft detectives, insurance company special investigators, vehicle leasing loss prevention agents, and other individuals involved in the investigation, recovery, prevention of vehicle thefts and vehicle related crimes. Our training modules are designed to impart the necessary knowledge, expertise and skills to professionals to combat auto theft effectively.

In our bid to stay up-to-date with the latest auto theft trends, we frequently invite investigators from the State of California to share information about current cases, suspects, and auto theft trends. Through collaboration and information-sharing, we strive to stay ahead of the curve and reduce vehicle related crimes in California.

At WSATI California Chapters, we take great pride in our efforts to make a positive impact on our community. We are convinced that by working together, we can create a safer environment for everyone. We implore you to join us in our mission to reduce vehicle related crimes, including vehicle theft, vehicle arson, and insurance fraud. Together, we can make a difference.

www.WSATI.org

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CATPA

Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority

Department of Public Safety

In 2003, the Colorado General Assembly created in the Department of Public Safety, the automobile theft prevention authority. Under the authority, a law enforcement agency or other qualified applicant may apply for grants to assist in improving and supporting automobile theft prevention programs for the enforcement or prosecution of automobile theft crimes through statewide planning and coordination.

The mission of the CATPA Board is, “To deter and reduce vehicle theft and insurance fraud through a statewide cooperative effort of generating funds to support law enforcement, prosecution and public awareness through a partnership between industry and state government.”

www.CATPA.com

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KYCS Global provides advanced theft prevention and recovery solutions to stop vehicle theft before it happens. Our patented technology offers precise satellite location tracking, even inside sealed shipping containers, ensuring faster and more accurate recovery. We work with law enforcement, insurers, and automakers to protect your assets 24/7 in over 190 countries. Recognized by major insurance providers, our systems help lower loss ratios and may qualify you for premium discounts.

www.KYCSGLOBAL.com



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www.COPART.com

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Be safe out thereSM

OnStar is General Motors' subscription-based telematics system providing in-vehicle safety, security, and connectivity services, including emergency assistance, automatic crash response, stolen vehicle protection, vehicle diagnostics, remote vehicle control via a mobile app, and in-vehicle Wi-Fi. Our safety technology puts you in touch with real people who can provide critical support at a moment's notice.

www.ONSTAR.com



The Roseville Automall is the perfect location for choosing your next vehicle from the premier collection of used cars in Sacramento. The Roseville Automall has been serving the greater Sacramento area for over 35 years. We know vehicles and we have the largest collection of used cars to choose from. Roseville Automall has the most extensive selection of used cars in Sacramento, California. We encourage you to browse our online inventory, schedule a test drive and investigate financing options.

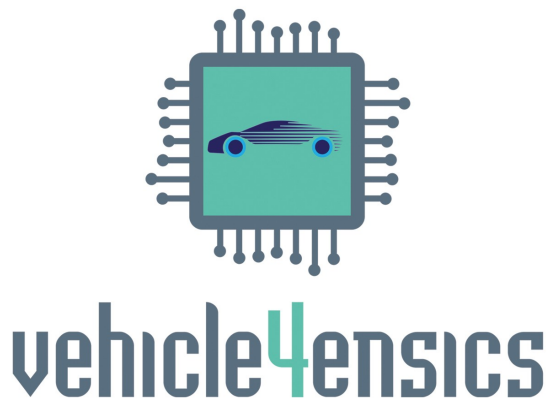
www.ROSEVILLEAUTOMALL.com

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Recognized by AutoTech Breakthrough for transforming GPS recovery into a nationwide law enforcement network, LoJack delivers unmatched vehicle protection, smarter dealer operations, and peace of mind for drivers. With over four decades of innovation and stolen vehicle recovery expertise, LoJack connects consumers, dealers, and law enforcement agencies through a single, secure platform.

www.LOJACK.com



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California Central Chapter

www.IAATI.com

www.WSATI.org



Ford offers Security Package customers access to a dedicated 800 number that is managed 24/7 by live agents. If your vehicle goes missing, file a police report first. Then call the dedicated 800 number to authorize recovery agents to work directly with law enforcement to try to track and recover your vehicle in real-time. Stay up-to-date on progress via the Ford app.

www.FORD.com

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Garcia Shaw, APC is a preeminent trial and litigation law firm that excels in the defense of lawsuits on behalf of corporate, municipal, and individual clients. The firm represents clients in legal matters ranging from suspicious first and third-party claims to complex litigation in the areas of personal and catastrophic injury, business, product liability and professional malpractice.

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www.MIDWAYCARRENTAL.com

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The Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) is a division within the Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions whose mission is to deter vehicle theft through a cooperative effort by supporting law enforcement activities, vertical prosecution, and public awareness/community education programs. The AATA functions as an integral component in a statewide network of law enforcement, criminal justice, and crime prevention partners working together to combat vehicle crimes across Arizona.

www.AATA.AZ.gov



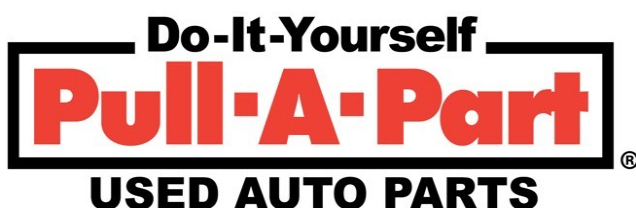
Hyundai Motor Company, often referred to as Hyundai Motors and commonly known as Hyundai, is a South Korean multinational automotive manufacturer headquartered in Seoul, South Korea, which was founded in 1967. Currently, the company owns 33.88 percent of Kia Corporation, and owns a luxury cars subsidiary, Genesis.

www.HYUNDAIUSA.com

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www.PULLAPART.com

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By the time you finish reading this paragraph, **another vehicle will be stolen** somewhere in the United States. Vehicle theft is a **big business**. Frequently run by **organized crime rings** that are out to make huge profits, and they are doing it at your expense. Vehicle theft is driven by money and greed – it is a **dangerous business** that victimizes everyone.

www.WAAUTOTHEFTPREVENTIONAUTHORITY.com



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Thank you Marcia Matsuda for your generous donation in supporting the Northern Chapter of WSATI in 2026.

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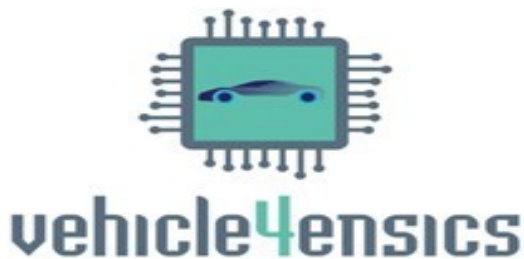


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Located at 3803 E. Woodbridge Road, Acampo, CA 95220

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www.BLACKRIFLECOFFEE.com

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www.ABRITES.com



Formed in 2015, and incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)(6) corporation in 2016, the Automotive Anti-Counterfeiting Council, Inc., is an automotive association composed of representatives from North American vehicle manufacturers. Collaboration among automakers and their partners that strives to eliminate counterfeit automotive components that could harm U.S. consumers.

www.a2c2.com

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With a 110-year heritage, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) is the nation's premier not-for-profit organization dedicated exclusively to fighting insurance fraud and crime. NICB membership includes more than 1,200 property-casualty insurance companies, vehicle rental companies, auto auctions, vehicle finance companies, self-insured organizations and strategic partners. Beyond our membership, our nearly 400 employees work with law enforcement agencies, technology experts, government officials, prosecutors, international crime-fighting organizations and the public to lead a united effort to prevent and combat insurance fraud and crime.

www.NICB.org



At Fuji, we are committed to providing our customers with an exceptional Japanese dining experience. Our menu features a wide selection of traditional Japanese recipes that are prepared with the utmost care and attention to detail. Our craft cocktail bar is a standout feature, where we use only the finest ingredients to create unique and flavorful drinks. We invite you to join us at Fuji and discover the true taste of Japan.

www.FUJI-SACRAMENTO.com



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to WSATI's Northern Chapter (Northern California) and Southern Chapter (Southern California) for their continual support and dedication in making these California Annual Training Conferences possible.

We are a non-profit organization that is comprised of professionals representing law enforcement, rental car and insurance companies, and other individuals whose goal is to reduce vehicle theft and vehicle fraud. Each California WSATI Chapter hosts regional training days periodically throughout the year.

For more information on becoming a member of a WSATI Chapter, providing training to our members at one of our regional Chapter Training Days, or obtaining additional information about upcoming events, please visit our website and click on the "WSATI Chapters" or "Events" tab.

www.WSATI.org

WSATI's Northern Chapter would like to
acknowledge and thank the entire staff at the
South Bay Regional Public Safety Training
Consortium for their continued support over
the years.

* * * * *

This Training Seminar has been certified for
24 hours of Continuous Professional Training
Credit by the California Commission on
Peace Officer Standards and Training.

**POST Course Control Number
2540-28002-26**

**Please see the following websites for upcoming
continual education & training opportunities:**

WSATI.ORG

IAATI.ORG

**In memory of those who have paid
the ultimate sacrifice.**



"When a police officer is killed, it's not an agency that loses an officer, it's an entire nation." -Chris Cosgriff, ODMP Founder

