

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8th - San Diego AAA  
Teen Drivers Safety Fair

### Special Thanks To

We would like to extend special thanks to the following supporters:

- Mr & Mrs Woo
  - Mr & Mrs Kelvin Lee
  - The Asian Youth Center
  - AAA of Southern California
- In addition, a big thanks goes out to our friends and family. We also could not have come this far without our most dedicated supporters, who have not only supported VASR by donating but also through continuous moral support. Through our family and friends, our fathers' memory will live on and we will continue the fight to end street racing.

## TIPS FOR PARENTS ON HOW TO TALK TO TEENS ABOUT NOT STREET RACING

VASR believes that it is imperative parents get involved early on with their teens to talk with them about the dangers of street racing. When parents are involved, they can and do make a tremendous impact on keeping their children away from street racing and our roads safe. Here are some signs that parents can look for to determine if your child is involved with street racing:

- Check websites being visited
- Check the odometer regularly
- Monitor interest in computer games and movies related to racing
- Look for excessive wear on tires
- Watch for increased cost on maintenance and parts

For most street racers and their innocent victims, the finish line is often a morgue or a hospital bed. As a parent, you can be a role model and prevent loss of lives. Assist teens in learning about the dangers of street racing and lead the way in making positive changes.

For more tips, email: [info@vasr.org](mailto:info@vasr.org)



# VASR

victims against street racing

Fall/Winter 2008 Issue

Premiere Issue

**VASR'S MISSION IS TO ERADICATE STREET RACING AND TO PREVENT FUTURE VICTIMS THROUGH COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.  
VASR ALSO LENDS SUPPORT TO THE VICTIMS OF STREET RACING.**

### AAA JULY & AUGUST EVENT

The Automobile Club of Southern California (AAA) held its 2nd Annual Teen Driver Safety Fair on July 26th at Irwindale Speedway and August 28th at Fontana Speedway. VASR participated in these events by hosting a booth and conducting an educational presentation to concerned parents and teens. This event provided VASR the opportunity to reach out to teens through dialogue and educate young drivers about the dangers of street racing and what they can do to say "no" to peer pressure. In addition, concerned parents learned about what they can do to keep their teens safe and away from street racing.



Sohee Jun, President & Jinhee Jun, Vice President - VASR at the AAA Safety Fair for Teens, July 2008.



### STATISTICS

Illegal street racing has reached epidemic proportions. The California Highway Patrol says it gave out 697 citations for participating in a "speed contest" in 2006. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2001 there were 135 fatal crashes involving street racing, which was up from 72 street racing-related fatalities the previous year. The following is just a few sobering statistics about illegal street racing:

- According to the California Office of Traffic Safety, more than 800 citations for illegal street racing were issued in 2001. In Florida, there were 7,216 citations of racing on the state highways.
- In San Diego, where the street racing problem has been termed "epidemic," there were 16 deaths and 31 injuries related to illegal street racing in 2001. The city attorney's office prosecuted 147 illegal street racing cases in 1999, 161 in 2000 and 290 in 2001.
- According to the NHTSA, motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 16 and 20.
- As a result some cities and states have recognized the increasing dangers of street racing and have instituted stiffer penalties. Vehicles used in street racing will be impounded and those involved can have their license revoked. Spectators are subject to penalties as well. Car insurance can be cancelled or rates dramatically increased.



122-A E. Foothill Blvd. #268  
Arcadia, CA 91006

**Learn How You  
Can Help Make  
the Streets Safer**

## SHOWCASE ON PAST OR CURRENT EVENTS

### AYC EVENT

On March 5, 2008, VASR collaborated with the Asian Youth Center to educate teens about the dangers of street racing. This was VASR's first educational event and we were pleased to have had 25 youths ranging from 12 to 17 years old participate. We were also fortunate to have had Sgt. Mike Metcalf from the Los Angeles Sheriff's department co-present with us.

The session's focus was to create awareness about the dangers of street racing and to have a dialogue with teens and pre-teens about:

- VASR's mission
- Media's influence on street racing
- What could happen if you street race
- The laws associated with street racing
- How to say no to street racing

The 45 minute session provided participants with an opportunity to share their stories associated with

street racing and ask Sgt. Metcalf questions about the tragic accidents and deaths he's seen as a result. We would like to extend our thanks to the Asian Youth Center for providing VASR a forum and the

opportunity to communicate about this important topic to California's youth.

VASR is available to make presentations on this important topic. To find out more, please email: [info@vasr.org](mailto:info@vasr.org)



### SACRAMENTO

On April 15th and in partnership with Assemblymen Mike Eng, VASR sponsored a bill and went to Sacramento to help pass AB 2951 aimed at reducing the number of innocent people that are killed and injured as a result of illegal street racing collisions. Specifically, AB 2951 authorizes a county or city to declare a violator's motor vehicle a nuisance upon a second illegal street racing conviction and have the vehicle either forfeited or crushed at an auto yard.

While April 15th was a success, the bill was held in the appropriations committee and ultimately put in the suspense file due to the potential cost impact of the bill. While the bill did not pass appropriations, we would like to thank Assemblymen Mike Eng for fighting to make our streets and roads safer.

VASR's aim to create safer streets does not end here and we need your support. We won't be able to do this without concerned parents, teens and citizens like you. Here are some things you can do to stop street racing:

Be an Advocate for Change. Work to strengthen existing laws and enact new ones. Speak Out. Join us in community outreach and speak at schools, civic groups, clubs and other organizations. Raise Funds. Get involved with **VASR events** to help raise awareness and funds for VASR.

Drop a Line. Contact law enforcement agencies, local government officials and read local newspapers to find out about street racing related crashes so that we can get closer to eradicating street racing.



California State Capital

### INTERVIEW WITH SGT. SKIP SHOWALTER

**Q:** Tell us about your role at the Riverside Police Department.



**A:** The past three years I was assigned to the traffic division to help coordinate and enforce our efforts against street racing. I also trained our officers to identify vehicle modifications and educated teenagers at local schools about the dangers of street racing.

**Q:** Why should the public care about street racing?

**A:** The public should care because of the dangers involved. Too many lives are put in jeopardy. Anyone near or around public roads can be affected. Every one should care from the illegal spectators to the person on the way to the store because they can be killed. Public roads were not meant for racing. When people race all safeguards are thrown out the window.

**Q:** How big of a problem is street racing in Southern California?

**A:** It's a big enough problem that people are still being arrested for it. The City of Ontario recently arrested 150 people or so gathered to participate in racing illegally. If you have groups like that then it's still a problem. California has the most registered cars in the country so there are more chances for illegal racing to happen.

**Q:** What kind of trends can you identify among illegal street racers?

**A:** The basic trend we see is on weekends after midnight, but there is really no way to determine trends. Usually from midnight to 3 a.m. they are out there looking to race. They look for large parking lots or remote commercial areas. There are certain areas where they like to race.

**Q:** What can parents do to help stop street racing?

**A:** Everyone who has a teenager please monitor their activities and behavior. There is no reason for them to be out from midnight to 3 a.m. They should have curfews and be given guidelines. That would help out a lot. Also, the parents should know about their kid's cars. Don't buy a car that can go from 0-60 MPH in 4.9 seconds for your kid. If you see a race happening let the police know or tip them off. Finally, you can take a video camera and tape it yourself and give it to the police.

**Q:** What is law enforcement doing to keep up with the street racers?

**A:** We know certain areas where they like to congregate. But honestly it's like pulling on a slot machine and hoping it hits. We have task forces and grants to target the street racers. We need time to plan and gather intelligence. We go undercover and video tape races and we monitor the Internet because there are people who chat about racing online. It's not a 100 percent by any means, but it is another tool we can use. Without the grants and the task force it will be like playing the slot machine. You just hope it hits.

### HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Invest in safer streets and in your community. Give to Victims Against Street Racing. VASR is working to eradicate street racing by focusing on education and victim support. Creating awareness and talking with teens and individuals are the building blocks to rid our streets of racers. We cannot make a difference without the support of caring parents, individuals and people like you.

Please consider donating, visit [www.vasr.org](http://www.vasr.org) or mail donations to:

**Victims Against Street Racing**  
122-A E. Foothill Blvd #268  
Arcadia, CA 91006

There are other ways to get involved and make a difference:

- Get informed on the issues!
- Volunteer with **VASR**.
- Invite people to our website - [www.vasr.org](http://www.vasr.org)
- Celebrate your birthday. Instead of more "stuff" ..... ask friends to donate to VASR. Your birthday will have a far reaching positive impact.
- Spread the Word. Organize a Brown Bag lunch n' learn at your workplace. We'll show up and bring information, success stories and opportunities for others to help in the fight against street racing.
- Be a Role Model. Assist teens in learning about the dangers of street racing and lead the way in making positive changes.

Your donations and funds go to community awareness, education and outreach programs.

**Victims Against Street Racing**  
is a  
**California Public Benefit Corporation**  
(Corporate #3054373, EIN #42-1747529, 501(c)(3))

## INCORPORATION NEWS AND LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS NAMES

### Board Members:

Sohee Jun

Ken Woo

Jinhee Jun

Joseph Goodman

**Victims Against Street Racing** was incorporated on November 15, 2007