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☐ news
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News

- Local News
- Hometown Heroes
- Hero Homecomings
- KATV eVideo
- Video Vault
- Newslinks
- Chopper 7 Info
- Slideshow
- National
- International
- Consumer
- P. Allen Smith
- Medical
- Politics
- Business
- Web Watch
- Technology
- Entertainment
- Today In History
- 7 News Alerts
- ABC News
- Weather
- Hometown Heroes
- Hero Homecomings
- Sports
- KATV eVideo
- Newslinks
- 7 On Your Side
- Daybreak
- MidDay Arkansas
- Good Morning Arkansas
- Around The Home
- Family First
- Connecting with Kids
- ARSN
- Programming
- HealthCheck
- Recipes
- Community Events
- Movie Reviews
- Talent Bios
- JobCenter
- Member Profile
- Classifieds
- Games
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Teen Tracker: A New Way to Monitor Your Teen Driver

Friday July 08, 2005 1:51pm Reporter: [Jason Pederson](#) Posted By: [Amanda Manatt](#)



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Teen Tracker: Monitor Your Teen Driver

Little Rock - Two weeks ago a speeding sport utility vehicle wrecked on a southwest Little Rock street, injuring nine of the eleven passengers inside. All but one of those passengers was a teenager. The driver was only fourteen years old. Jason Pederson reports on ways to change your teen's driving habits that you probably haven't considered.

Next time you are driving down the interstate, take a closer look at the semi trucks as you pass them or they pass you. Almost all of them have a little globe mounted somewhere behind the cab. It's a real-time GPS system that allows headquarters to know at any time where a truck is, how fast its going, how close it is to its destination. It took some time for truckers to warm up to the big brother bubble on board.

(Clay Merches, Maverick Transportation) "When we first came out with the technology they were scared from it. But now, that they're used to it and they get to work with that equipment every day they see how much time it saves them. And it's a big benefit for them. So they're seeing that time savings and how much better they can operate out there and make money."

Carole Whitted is senior claims manager for Maverick Transportation.

(Carole Whitted) "I know what the technology can show you. I know what the technology in our trucks can help show a driver, what they're doing that maybe can be corrected."

Carole also has a teenage daughter, Julie...a daughter who she believes drives a little on the fast side. Enter...the Teen Tracker, or the real-time GPS system from Alltrack USA. When installed in a teen's car, it tells a parent where their child is and how fast they are driving. Carole put it in Julie's car without telling her.

(Whitted) "I'm always talking to my daughter about safety and those kind of things so I jumped on the opportunity to try and show her some of her driving habits and see if we can't try to correct that."

(Whitted) "You definitely have a way to see where they're going. How fast they're going. Again, I wasn't really looking at it as a gotcha device. More something to show them yes you are exceeding the speed limit when you say you're not."

Three days after installation, Carole let Julie in on our little experiment.

(Julie) "At first, my initial reaction was I was kind of upset that she didn't trust me but then she told me that it was a test. I told her I wasn't going to change the way i drive just because she put a GPS system in my car."

(Carole) "I thought she might say that so I put \$50 dollars on the table and said for the rest of the week each time she set it off and she was in violation of a speed limit or something like that she would lose ten dollars and she jumped right on it."

Did Julie's driving habits change? Read "Teen Tracker: Part II."

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- Hero Homecomings
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- National
- International
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- Medical
- Politics
- Business
- Web Watch
- Technology
- Entertainment
- Today In History
- 7 News Alerts
- ABC News
- Weather
- Hometown Heroes
- Hero Homecomings
- Sports
- KATV eVideo
- Newslinks
- 7 On Your Side
- Daybreak
- MidDay Arkansas
- Good Morning Arkansas
- Around The Home
- Family First
- Connecting with Kids
- ARSN
- Programming
- HealthCheck
- Recipes
- Community Events
- Movie Reviews
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Teen Tracker: Part II

Friday July 08, 2005 2:16pm Reporter: [Jason Pederson](#) Posted By: [Amanda Manatt](#)

Little Rock - We introduced you to a parent who took a radical step to monitor her teenage daughter's driving habits. She put a GPS tracking system in her teen's car.

It worked. And, there are other things you as a parent can do to ease your fear when your teen gets behind the wheel. Unbeknownst to her, Julie Whitted drove around for four days with a teen tracker device in her car.

On June 19, it caught her going seven miles-per-hour over the limit on Interstate 430. Later that same day, her speed was OK. The next day, eight over plus a false reading of 110 miles per hour on Maumelle Boulevard. On June 21 she was speeding through a construction zone on Interstate 40...18 miles over the limit. The next day, it was back on I-430 and back over the limit.

But then Carole let Julie in on the secret and gave her a financial incentive to get the lead out of her foot. It worked.

From June 23 to June 25 Carole checked the Teen Tracker six times and only once did it show Julie to be speeding. But the teen tracker tells more than speed, it tells location too. And that's where Julie got busted.

(Carole) "You know there was a time or two where I found the car to be somewhere where it shouldn't be...those kind of things."

(Julie) "There was one instance where me and my boyfriend traded cars. He took it to Conway and she thought I guess that I was in Conway when I was supposed to be in school."

Julie has never been ticketed and never caused an accident. And her mom trusts her, so she was probably not the ideal candidate for the teen tracker device.

(Carole) "I believe you can trust your child until they give you a reason not to trust 'em. So I would think this is marketable maybe to a parent that has had a problem. I wouldn't just run out and buy the thing. It's not a gotcha device."

Most schools do not offer driver's education, which means most teens are taught by their parents. It's not an ideal situation.

(Brock Thompson, Emergency Driving) "Private education. One-on-one with an instructor. There can't be any other distractions while you're trying to learn how to become a safe driver."

Many states are passing laws designed to protect teen drivers. Five years ago Wisconsin passed a law requiring teens to put in more practice hours behind the wheel, take and pass a driver's ed class, put limits on late night driving and the number of passengers, and you can't get a regular license until you're 19.

In the first three years since the law was passed, fatality wrecks involving 16 year-old drivers are down 18 percent, injury wrecks down 20 percent, and non-injury wrecks down 12 percent. Some states also prohibit young drivers from using cell phones while driving. Lawmakers in Arkansas have not created such restrictions, but that doesn't mean parents in Arkansas can't.

(Thompson) "I think avoidable distractions...minimize that. I think there's also something to say about the number of people allowed in the vehicle."

(Thompson) "You're not trying to catch them and punish them. You want them to be safe so they don't get hurt."

So what does the teen tracker cost? The model we tested costs \$389 dollars plus a \$15 dollar per month monitoring fee. [Click here](#) for more information.

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News

Local News

Hometown Heroes

Hero Homecomings

KATV eVideo

Video Vault

Newslinks

Chopper 7 Info

Slideshow

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International

Consumer

P. Allen Smith

Medical

Politics

Business

WebWatch

Technology

Entertainment

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7 News Alerts

ABC News

Weather

Hometown Heroes

Hero Homecomings

Sports

KATV eVideo

Newslinks

7 On Your Side

Daybreak

MidDay Arkansas

Good Morning Arkansas

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Live 8 Concert

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Other Teen Tracker Devices

Article features devices that help keep track of your teen driver.

Teen Tracker

Site features information on the Teen Tracker, to keep track of your teenage driver.

Clint Stoerner/Jared McBride QB/WR Camp

Arkansas State Legislature

Official site of the Arkansas Legislature.

U of A County Extension Services

Mascot Memories

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KATV merchandise site offers Channel 7 t-shirts, hats and more and at reasonable prices!

Phantom Fireworks

Fireworks site offers unique features, including an online fireworks display.

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Fireworks site offers unique features, including an online fireworks display.

Celebrate Fourth of July

Ideas for celebrating the Fourth of July, including recipes, crafts and outdoor activities.

City of Little Rock

New site for the city of little Rock, features community calendar of events, pictures, and area attractions.

LULAC

Main page for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) organization.

Arkansas Forestry Commission

Web site features information on managing and protecting Arkansas' forests, including information on rural fire safety.

Heifer International

Site features information on Heifer International.

Project for Public Spaces

Site features Little Rock's Clinton Avenue as one of the "great public spaces" in the world.

Purple Hull Pea Festival

Site features information on the upcoming Purple Hull Pea Festival in Emmerson, Arkansas.

Big Bass Bonanza

Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium, 1909-1973

Informational site for the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanatorium, which closed in 1973.

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