Ravnsborg/Boever Pedestrian Fatality
Trooper John Berndt

- 20-yr SDHP Employee, 15 as a State Trooper
- District 1 Crash Coordinator
- 100+ Fatal Crashes Investigated and/or Reconstructed
- Instructor
  - Intermediate Crash Investigation
  - Advanced Crash Investigation
  - Vehicular Homicide for the Patrol Officer
Sergeant Kevin Kinney

- 18-yrs SDHP
- Crash Reconstruction Program Director
- 100+ Fatal Crashes Investigated and/or Reconstructed
- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Instructor
  - Intermediate Crash Investigation
  - Advanced Crash Investigation
  - Crash Reconstruction
  - Applied Physics
  - Energy Methods
  - Vehicular Homicide for the Patrol Officer
Events of September 12, 2020
RAVNSBORG / BOEVER PEDESTRIAN FATALITY CRASH
Lincoln Day Dinner [Redfield, SD]

- AG Ravnsborg
  - No Alcohol Consumption
    - Video
    - Witness Interviews
    - Receipts
  - Departs at approximately 9:21pm
    - Based on phone activity
Miller, SD [10:04pm]

- FarmTech Video
State Phone Activity

- 10:14pm: Weather App
- 10:17pm: Secretary of State for Voter Registration Totals
- 10:17:25pm: Yahoo Mail
- 10:20:28pm: Screen off, then back on instantly
- 10:20:49pm: Dakota Free Press
  - [Speed – 72-mph; Speedometer – 77-mph]
- 10:21:13pm: RealClearPolitics
  - [Speed – 72-mph ; Speedometer – 77-mph]
- 10:21:45pm: Riding the Dragon
  - [Speed – 68 to 72-mph ; Speedometer – 73 to 77-mph]
- 10:22:48pm: Screen off, phone locked as enters Highmore City Limits
Highmore, SD

- G3 Gas Station (Hall Oil and Gas)
  - SW Corner of US14 and SD47
  - Speed Limit: 45-mph
  - Phone Speed: 46-mp
  - Video Speed: 44 to 48-mp
Boever Crash (earlier)

- Earlier Event for MR Boever
- Vehicle Located
  - Approximately 3/4-mile west
  - North ditch
Boever Evidence

- Flashlight – Found along shoulder (still on)
  - Witness saw MR Boever with a light
  - Witnesses stated MR Boever was walking on shoulder near ditch
  - Witness talked to MR Boever and believed he may be intoxicated

- Video of MR Boever
  - Walking on SD47 (Inside Highmore City Limits) at 9:31pm
  - Mashek Grocery
  - No issues walking
  - No impairment observed

- Toxicology shows higher than normal levels of Lorazepam prescription
Boever Evidence

- Direction of Travel: Eastbound
  - Autopsy
- MR Boever’s broken glasses found inside AG Ravnsborg's vehicle
AG Ravnsborg accelerates to 68-mph
  - Based on phone location information
  - Speedometer would indicate approximately 72-mph
Traveling completely on shoulder of the roadway
  - 10-ft 8-in wide
Strikes MR Boever approximately 1-ft from edge of grass
Vehicle Location

- Stops 614-ft after area-of-impact
- Panic braking would have stopped in 174-ft from 68-\textit{mph}
- Stops in lane, not completely out of westbound driving lane
  - Determined by AG Ravnsborg photo
  - Only photo taken from night of crash
Vehicle Location

- Tow truck driver describes approaches
- Identifies location on Google map
- Driver turns around on circled approaches and backs up to vehicle
- Approximately 110-ft
- Never drove east past AG Ravnsborg vehicle
Post-Crash Events

- 9-1-1 Call [10:24:22 to 10:26:44pm]
  - States he hit something in the middle of the road, dispatcher mentions deer
- Phone Flashlight ON [10:26:59 to 10:33:15pm]
- 848 Steps [10:24:24 to 10:34:23pm]
  - AG Ravnsborg states he walked along the north shoulder with light on
  - MR Boever’s body is approximately 2-ft from shoulder
    - Mostly naked from shoulders down due to impact
    - Pale white complexion
    - Right leg severed
Post-Crash Events

- AG Ravnsborg takes a photo of his vehicle [10:33:22pm]
- AG Ravnsborg states that Sheriff Volek arrives at this approximate time
Post-Crash Events

- 10:44:23 to 10:51:38pm
  - AG Ravnsborg departs scene and at Sheriff’s house
  - Locates at 10:47pm
  - 80 steps taken
- 10:53pm near water tower
  - Sheriff Volek stops AG Ravnsborg because he forgot keys
Post-Crash Events

- Text/Chat Message Sent
  - 4 Sent Messages
  - 1 Audio Message
- Text/Chat Message Received
  - 5 Received and Read
- Phone Calls
  - 1 Phone Call Made Unanswered
  - 5 Phone Calls Made
Events of September 13, 2020
RAVNSBORG / BOEVER PEDESTRIAN FATALITY CRASH
Post-Crash Events

- AG Ravnsborg returns to crash scene
  - Returning Sheriff’s personal vehicle
  - Going to check the south ditch for the “deer”
  - Suddenly decides to check north ditch first one more time
  - Discovers body of MR Boever
  - He drives to Sheriff’s house to make notification
Post-Crash Events

- TRP Berndt notified
- SGT Snyder meets AG Ravnsborg
  - Blood samples collected at 1:39pm
- DOT has westbound lanes closed
- MR Boever’s body is approximately 2-ft from edge of pavement into the grass
- Standing on the shoulder, MR Boever’s body is easily recognized
Post-Crash Events

- Skid marks observed near crash site
- Skid marks determined to be from another vehicle
  - Track width of AG Ravnsborg vehicle is narrower
  - AG Ravnsborg vehicle has ABS
  - LT Stahl video prior to crash date [09/04/2020]
Post-Crash Events

- Hughes County Emergency Manager
  - Flies drone
  - Photos/video
- Forensic Mapping – already discussed
- Evidence documented and preserved for North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI)
- BCI arrives and begins collecting evidence
  - Flashlight is determined to be on
  - Fork is collected
Post-Crash Events

- National Weather Service (NWS)
  - No weather conditions in area
  - Video collected from Miller and Highmore show no visibility issues
  - Little to no wind at time of crash
  - Highest wind gust recorded from time of crash to scene securement is 17.88-\textit{mph} from S/SW
AG Ravnsborg Vehicle

- Regularly serviced
- Involved in prior crashes
- AG Ravnsborg admits to hitting deer in the past
- Passenger side windshield has hole in it
  - Relates to glass spread on shoulder
  - Glasses inside vehicle
- Damage limited to 1.65-ft of passenger side
AG Ravnsborg Vehicle
Scene Documentation (Mapping)

- Setup and mapping
- Initially
  - Evidence located by TRP Berndt*
  - Prism Pole held by TRP Moore
  - Total Station operated by TRP Berndt
- SGT Kinney Arrival
  - Evidence located by TRP Berndt*
  - Prism Pole held by TRP Moore
  - Total Station operated by SGT Kinney

*TRP Berndt crawling on hands and knees searching
Evidence Mapped (Blood)

- High Velocity Spatter
  - Identified by North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation Agents
- Samples taken from broken fork
  - Identified as human blood
- No blood was discovered in the westbound driving lane
Evidence Mapped (Blood)

Ravnsborg/Boever Pedestrian Fatality investigation
September 12, 2020
US 14 MM 278, Hyde County
Case #: HP20094565CR
Investigated by: ND Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Mapped by: Trooper John Berndt
Trooper Nathan Moore
Sgt Kevin Kinney
Evidence Mapped (Paint Chips)

Ravnsborg/Boever Pedestrian Fatality investigation
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US 14 MM 278, Hyde County
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Investigated by: ND Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Mapped by: Trooper John Berndt
Trooper Nathan Moore
Sgt Kevin Kinney
Evidence Mapped (Vehicle Parts)

- Various
  - Bolts
  - Washer Pump Motor
  - Broken Headlight Pieces
  - Broken Inner Wheel Well Pieces
  - Glass
Evidence Mapped (Vehicle Parts)

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            Trooper Nathan Moore
            Sgt Kevin Kinney

- Log
- Delineator Post
- Body
- Vehicle Pieces
- Flashlight
- Reference Measurements
- Haybale
- Reference Point
- Pieces of Front Bumper
- Broken Glass from Windshield
Evidence Mapped (Vehicle Parts)

- Glass
  - Formed approximately 8-ft long stretch
  - Non-reflective glass – from windshield
Bolt
- Only part found in westbound driving lane
- Approximately 2-in from fog line
Overall Forensic Map

Ravnsborg/Boever Pedestrian Fatality investigation
September 12, 2020
US 14 MM 278, Hyde County
Case#: HP20004565CR
Investigated by: ND Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Mapped by: Trooper John Berndt
Trooper Nathan Moore
Sgt Kevin Kinney
Joseph Boever fatal crash
Jason Ravnsoerg investigation
September 12, 2020
US 14 MM 278, Hyde County
Case#: HP20004565CR
Investigated by: ND Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Mapped by: Trooper Jahn Berndt
Trooper Nathan Moore
Sgt Kevin Kinney
AG Ravnsborg Vehicle

- TRP Berndt drove AG Ravnsborg’s vehicle at crash location
  - Skid testing
    - Several with inner wheel well rubbing on tire, then removed
    - ABS functions properly
    - 0.882 friction value (very good)
      - AG Ravnsborg uses approximately 1/3 available to stop
    - No drivability issues
      - No drifting and good braking
      - Driven over rumble strips, noticeable noise and vibration
  - Speedometer shows 2 to 5-mph faster than actual vehicle speed
    - Determined by RADAR vs. Speedometer reading
    - AG Ravnsborg traveling at 68-mph, driver speedometer shows 70 to 73-mph
Headlight Analysis

- Driver and passenger headlights removed and identified
- Passenger side experienced hot shock
  - Single filament bulb – unable to determine high/low beam setting
- Driver would have seen person
Vehicle Exemplar

- Exemplar Testing
  - Exemplar – 2011 Ford Taurus from dealership in Sioux Falls
    - Replaced headlight bulbs with same as AG Ravnsborg’s vehicle
  - Drove vehicle from Rooster’s Bar and Grill in Redfield to crash location
  - While driving, a deer jumped into road in front of us…able to see and avoid.
  - Based on exact distances and times AG Ravnsborg had to drive 6-mph over the posted speed limit

- BCI Agent Rummel
  - Dressed similar to Boever with MR Boever’s flashlight
  - Walked near area-of-impact
  - Able to see with high beam and low beam
  - Other people traveling westbound past Agent Rummel able to see him
    - Brake lights
    - One person stopped to check on him
A non-distracted driver would see MR Boever

- MR Boever’s face was through the windshield, and he rode on vehicle short distance
- MR Boever’s glasses were located inside AG Ravnsborg’s vehicle
- AG Ravnsborg stated his headlights were on low-beam
  - It is proven he was distracted

AG Ravnsborg is proven to be driving on the shoulder of the road

- Crossed the rumble strips with the right and left side tire of his vehicle
Summary

- AG Ravnsborg walks past MR Boever’s body
  - Body is within 2-ft of the shoulder
  - AG Ravnsborg has his phone flashlight on
  - AG Ravnsborg later tells BCI he was searching for the deer on the shoulder and in the ditch while walking
  - MR Boever’s flashlight is on along the shoulder of the road
Conclusions

- AG Ravnsborg crosses rumble strip with both sides of vehicle
- AG Ravnsborg is driving completely on shoulder near ditch
- MR Boever walking eastbound on shoulder near ditch w/flashlight
- MR Boever’s face goes through AG Ravnsborg windshield
- After impact it takes AG Ravnsborg 614-ft to stop
- AG Ravnsborg walks past MR Boever’s naked body twice with a light on as he searches for what he struck
- AG Ravnsborg returns following day to search south ditch, but goes to north ditch within approximately 25-ft of MR Boever
- Traveling 68-mph but speedometer would indicate closer to 73-mph
Conclusions

- Based on facts...AG Ravnsborg was distracted
  - Driving on the shoulder
  - MR Boever's face goes through the windshield
  - AG Ravnsborg never sees MR Boever
  - It takes AG Ravnsborg 614-ft to stop