



ICSIA Examiner's Newsletter

ICSIA Examiner January 2013

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**INTERNATIONAL
CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATORS
ASSOCIATION**
www.icsia.org

[Daryl W. Clemens](#), Editor

From the Editor



Back before Christmas my son and I built a computer. He's interested in Computer Game Design and wanted to be able to play some PC games instead of just Xbox. There is one game in particular that is due to be released in early 2013 that includes the game editor so that the users can generate new content for the game using the same tools the developer used. I told him I thought this would be a great way for him to get started, and that it would be a good idea for him to assemble a computer so that he could see how everything goes together. So, we ordered all the parts as they went on sale last fall and in early December we put everything together. The machine is a monster with an 8 core processor and 24 gigs of RAM, and the case is lit up with blue LEDs. It went together pretty well, and we learned a couple of things- 1. Windows 8 is weird. 2. PC games don't play well over HDMI. Don't ask me why.

In any event it was a good time for both of us putting it together. Now that it's up and running, I'm having at least as much fun with it as he is. Over the last few weeks I've been battling Mechs on a far off colony world, hunting mutants in the subway tunnels of a post-nuclear Moscow and am currently in the middle of an African brush war.

Meanwhile at work we had as many homicides in December as we had the rest of the year, and it shows no sign of letting up now that we are into 2013 (I had two bodies this past weekend alone). There's fewer people and smaller budgets everywhere, but the work load doesn't change does it?

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Product Spotlight- Cell Phone Signal Blocking Bag

Constructed of a metallized nylon fabric, this re closable and reusable padded bag will block incoming and outgoing cell phone transmissions. Increases operational battery life of a cell phone by blocking the signal and therefore placing the cell phone into "sleep" mode. This design also blocks high power smart phones. From Evident Crime Scene Products.

We've got a good issue for you this month, and are looking forward to the rest of the year. Remember, if you have anything to share with your fellow members, all you have to do is e-mail it to me.

Daryl

Got comments/questions or want to submit an article for The Examiner?
e-mail me: [Daryl W. Clemens](mailto:Daryl.W.Clemens)

President's Message

Greetings from the Executive Director,

The holidays are now past us and hopefully the crime will take a little vacation to give us all a rest. If you have some interesting cases that you can share we would love to hear from you. If you have technique that you developed we would love for you to submit it to share with others. ICSIA is only as good as the support and input from the members. Please pass the word about us and look for us on [Facebook](#) and [Linkedin](#).

Stay safe!

Hayden B. Baldwin, Executive Director
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Superglue fuming tips and tricks

By Hayden Baldwin

The tent frame below is one that I created in the 80's while still actively working crime scenes. It served me well through the years and I still use it when teaching CSI's. It is a simple device, easily put together for a kit to be carried in the crime scene vehicles.

I am a strong believer in superglue fuming at the crime scene on non-porous objects. Otherwise the fingerprints are rubbed off by the packaging when transported from the scene to your facility for further processing. Fuming the objects locks the ridge detail so it can be either processed at the scene or transported without damaging the ridge detail.

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Above photo by [Bill Selak](#)

Evidence Handling and Collection

By Dick Warrington

This article originally appeared in [Forensic Magazine®](#) August 2006, Reprinted with Permission.

I was recently a judge at a SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City. The competition pitted teams of high school students from around the country. Their task was to work as teams to investigate and process a crime scene. Watching these junior investigators reminded me of the simple, yet sometimes forgotten, basics of evidence handling and collection. So this issue, I thought I'd take an overview look at this side of crime scene investigation.

Let's start at the beginning. The crime scene must first be properly documented; only then can evidence be collected. Photography and diagramming are your tools here. First, get out the camera and take pictures. Your initial pictures should be overall views of the scene and the evidence. These should be representations of

Crime Scene Vehicles

by Hayden Baldwin



Pictured here is my crime scene vehicle from the late 80's with all the gear we carried then. I know a lot has changed since then. Please share with us your photo(s) of your crime scene vehicle so we can post them on the web site to share with others. We can post your photos of not only the outside but the inside of the vehicle and how you have it set up. So send us your Crime Scene Vehicle Photos!

New from NIJ

There were a couple of interesting articles recently released by the NIJ. Both are somewhat dense, and I admit that I'm not enough of a mathematician to fully follow the results. However, both may have implications for us as CSIs and are worth a look.

The first deals with mathematical probabilities related to latent fingerprint evidence, which has been an issue for some time and was highlighted by the recent study by the National Academy of Sciences: [Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward](#)

It can be found here: [Application of Spatial Statistics to Latent Print Identifications: Towards Improved Forensic Science Methodologies](#)

The second is a similar article dealing with physical match (sometimes also known as fracture matching): [Physical Matching Verification](#) Physical match is a great form of physical evidence, and one that I think is often overlooked.

the scene in its pristine state, without markers, giving a comprehensive view of the scene. Next, narrow the scope of your pictures to specific areas of the scene. Use markers to show the orientation of items in relation to each other. A-frame markers, placards, or survey markers may be used, depending on the location and size of the evidence. Your final set of photos should be close-ups. Make sure that you use a scale to show the size of the objects being photographed.

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Above photo by: [Johnathan Lyman](#)

Cell Phones

By Daryl Clemens

In past issues we've looked at both cell phone software and hardware that you can use in your investigations. But what about the cell phones themselves? What are the issues related to phones, and what do you need to do when collecting them?

There is a new article on Popular Science looking at how phones may become the next target of hackers: [Popular Science](#)

On the Web- Crime Scene Investigation Training Online

By Daryl Clemens

Interested in getting some crime scene training, but don't have the budget for travel? There is a new program available online from Law Enforcement Innovation Center at the University of Tennessee. You can read more about it here:

https://www.justnet.org/InteractiveTechBeat/winter_2013/Virtual_Crime.pdf

And, if you are interested you can sign up for the program here:

<http://www.leic.tennessee.edu/online/ivr.html>

You can find the current federal guide on electronic evidence here: [NLECTC](#)
And, there is a new guide coming- you can read about that here: [NIJ](#)

There is also a chapter on [Digital Evidence on Mobile Devices](#) free from Elsevier Direct

And, and article on [Examining Cellular Phones and Handheld Devices](#) available from Forensic Magazine

Daryl

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