

Ralph's Accident Reconstruction Newsletter

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but the software which converted those bits to numbers to be placed in appropriate blocks was grouping bits which didn't belong to each other, resulting in erratic and obviously erroneous values for those two rows only. Other data bits in the CDR report were unaffected. The problem has been corrected, so that downloads done on those modules with version 3.1 will report the correct values in all rows.

I attended my most recent series of Bosch CDR Technician/Analyst training this past October in Fort Worth, Texas. The rate of change of the software, hardware, and techniques in the field of crash data extraction from airbag control and other modules in cars and light trucks is such that anyone who wants to stay essentially current needs to take this course every two years or so. While I was at this course, Bosch released version 3.1 to manufacturing, so we were able to be provided with the latest and greatest on the software and hardware fronts. This particular course was taught by Rusty Haight, the "human crash dummy." As of the time I was taking that class, Rusty had conducted 898 staged collisions, if memory serves me correctly. He had just finished a series of crashes with a variety of Chrysler vehicles and reported that those staged collisions had demonstrated a very high accuracy of the data recorded by their modules. Crash testing and post-crash comparison of downloaded data with known speeds provides the validation that so many courts and others now require. I have always considered Rusty to be a lucky guy—years ago, he found someone to pay him to crash cars, and he's been doing it ever since! If any of you are willing to pay me to conduct one or more staged collisions, please contact me. ☺

On a personal level, the grandniece who has been living with us since she was two and half years old is now eight. My wife and I have just completed the process of adopting her; she is now Katherine Cunningham. She is in second grade at Young Americans Christian School in Conyers. She currently enjoys soccer (they play indoors in the winter), gymnastics, and piano. Her favorite subject at school is science. She still calls me "boyfriend," which she began calling me when she was about four. I'm 59, and my wife is not much younger (but, of course, I'm not divulging her age); with an instant, eight-year-old child of my own, any thoughts of early retirement are banished. I will be **extremely grateful** for your ongoing consideration of my services!

Ralph Cunningham, Inc.
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