



# MAX MEYERS LAW **SPOKE & WHEEL**

## IN-CAR VOICE COMMANDS: DISTRACTION FOR DRIVERS?

### IN THIS ISSUE

- IN CAR VOICE COMMANDS** 1
- FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR** 2
- VALENTINE'S DAY** 3
- HARVEY THE KING!** 3
- SHELLY'S RECIPE CORNER** 4

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### DISTRACTED DRIVING

has become a national health and safety crisis. Studies clearly show the correlation between texting and driving or otherwise using a cell phone and traffic accidents.

Some have turned to in-car voice command systems to keep their hands on the wheel while performing tasks they might otherwise perform using a cell phone. Many car manufacturers include built-in voice command systems, and smartphone makers like Apple have created similar systems in their phones.

But driving requires more than just keeping your hands on the wheel. It also requires keeping your eyes and mind on the road. While in-car voice command systems allow drivers to keep their hands on the wheel and eyes on the road, some are concerned that drivers take their mind off of driving when using the system.

### THE AAA & UNIVERSITY OF UTAH STUDY

AAA and the University of Utah recently conducted a study that evaluated the impact mental distractions such as using voice prompts in the vehicle had on a driver's ability to remain focused on driving tasks. The study showed that mental distractions such as responding to voice prompts can be as distracting as many other distractions.

Researchers at the University of Utah conducted the study. Thirty-six drivers were tested in six different new vehicles, each from a different manufacturer, and including Chrysler, Ford, Chevy, Toyota, Hyundai and Mercedes.

The drivers were instructed to maneuver each of the six vehicles through a short loop while trying to complete a number of voice commands via the in-vehicle systems.

Some examples of the prompts include dialing a cell phone through the in-dash system or changing the music playing in the car. Vital statistics including heart rate and the ability to respond to a flashing light attached to their heads were collected and studied.

The data was used to analyze how difficult it was for their brains to stay focused and how hard they were working with the distractions present.



### HOW THE IN-CAR VOICE COMMAND SYSTEMS FARED IN THE STUDY

The systems within each vehicle were ranked according to how distracting it was for drivers to use them. For example, the Toyota's Entune was the least difficult for drivers to use and therefore scored lowest on the distraction scale. It was ranked as providing about as much distraction to the driver as listening to an audiobook.

However, the Chevy MyLink system was the most distracting because the system often made mistakes in understanding the voice input or encountered other errors.

# IN-CAR VOICE COMMANDS:

## DISTRACTION FOR DRIVERS?

Apple's Siri scored a four out of five on the distraction scale. A score of five on this scale means that the driver cannot concentrate on driving.

Below are the scores for all of the vehicles that were tested.

- 1.7 - TOYOTA ENTUNE
- 2.2 - HYUNDAI BLUE LINK TELEMATICS
- 2.7 - CHRYSLER UCONNECT
- 3.0 - FORD SYNC WITH MYFORD TOUCH
- 3.1 - MERCEDES COMMAND
- 3.7 - CHEVROLET MYLINK

The following are the ratings of performing eight different actions to engage with the on-board voice-command system.

1.88 ISSUE SIMPLE COMMANDS

2.04 ASK A NATURAL, RECORDED VOICE TO PLAY EMAILS OR TEXTS

2.31 ASK A COMPUTERIZED, RECORDED VOICE TO PLAY EMAILS OR TEXTS

2.83 USE ERROR-FREE, VOICE MENU SYSTEM TO NAVIGATE

3.06 ASK A COMPUTERIZED VOICE TO PLAY AND COMPOSE EMAILS AND TEXTS

3.09 ASK A NATURAL, RECORDED VOICE TO PLAY AND COMPOSE EMAILS AND TEXTS

3.67 USE AN ERROR-PRONE VOICE-BASED MENU SYSTEM TO NAVIGATE

4.14 USE APPLE SIRI TO NAVIGATE, SEND AND RECEIVE TEXTS, MAKE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS, AND USE CALENDARV

### CALL US IF YOU'RE IN A WRECK

While we all take measures to help ensure our safety on the roads, car accidents can and do still occur. If another party causes a wreck and you suffer serious damages, call Max Meyers Law at 888-230-4970.

# FEBRUARY

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### ART WALK

FEBRUARY 5

Head to historic Pioneer Square for the February First Thursday Art Walk, when art galleries open their doors to introduce new exhibitions and artists. Free.

Visit [www.pioneersquare.org/first-thursday-art-walk](http://www.pioneersquare.org/first-thursday-art-walk) for more details.

### SEATTLE'S IMPROVISED MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 5 - 7

The Seattle Improvised Music Festival celebrates musicians who are dedicated to playing free-form music on the fourth floor of Good Shepherd Center. More details can be found on the Seattle Improvised Music Festival Facebook page.

### RV SHOW

FEBRUARY 5 - 8

The Seattle Recreational Vehicle (RV) Show is an annual event of new vehicles, accessories, and daily seminars at the CenturyLink Field & Event Center.

Visit [www.seattlervshow.com](http://www.seattlervshow.com) for show details and schedule.

### HEARTS & WINE

FEBRUARY 6

Hearts & Wine is an elegant evening of wine, jazz, food, and good company at The Foundry. For details and information visit [www.firstharvest.org/events/hearts-wine/](http://www.firstharvest.org/events/hearts-wine/).

### PIKE CHOCOFEST

FEBRUARY 8

Wine, spirits, cider, and mead pair deliciously with chocolate, artisan cheese, savory food, dessert, and music at Pike Chocofest at Pike Brewing Company.

Show information and ticket prices at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/993305](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/993305).

### SEATTLE BIKE SWAP

FEBRUARY 8

Vendors sell new and used mountain, road, and track bike equipment at Cascade Bicycle Club's Seattle Bike Swap in the Seattle Center Exhibition Hall.

Visit [www.cascade.org/node/6882](http://www.cascade.org/node/6882) for more information.

### BOOK FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 28

The Search For Meaning Book Festival at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry features 50+ authors who write about spirituality, faith, and social justice. Free tickets on website; [www.seattleu.edu/searchformeaning/](http://www.seattleu.edu/searchformeaning/).

### TRAVEL & ADVENTURE FAIR

FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 1

Travel Trips and Adventures Expo is for outdoor enthusiasts and features a zip line, rock climbing wall, demo pool for kayaks, and tons of outdoor gear at CenturyLink Field Event Center.

Go to [www.nwoutdooradventureexpo.com/](http://www.nwoutdooradventureexpo.com/) for festival information.

# Valentine's Day



**WITH THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY** comes Valentine's Day. For some Valentine's Day is an opportunity to show the ones they care about how much they mean to them. For others, like those who are single, it is a good reason to get together with other single friends and celebrate great friendships. And for some it is simply just a great excuse to indulge in all the yummy Valentines treats. However you decide to celebrate we have a few ideas of places to go or gifts to give.

## FLATSTICK PUB IN DOWNTOWN KIRKLAND

A craft beer bar and indoor mini golf course located in downtown Kirkland. They have 24 rotating taps that are Washington-only beer and ciders. They have a small selection of sandwiches, wraps and salads, all locally made but you can bring in your own food or order take out from the list of local restaurants that will deliver right to your table. There is a 9-hole mini golf course in the back of the pub and they are dog friendly!

## FRAN'S CHOCOLATES

Shelly was lucky enough to receive a box of Frans Chocolates as a Christmas gift from her dog Harvey. These chocolates are exquisitely done and offer some unique and delicious flavors like Grey & Smoked salt caramels and Single Malt Whisky & Oolong Tea truffles, just to name a few. The chocolates come beautifully packaged and would be a hit with any chocolate lover.

## ART OF THE TABLE

Art of the Table is owned and operated by Chef Dustin Ronspies. Chef Ronspies uses only fresh locally grown ingredients and it is these ingredients that help inspire the dishes. The Menu changes frequently but the best way to experience the food is to choose the

chefs tasting menu. Shelly and I have been fortunate enough to have dined at Art of the Table a few times and each time we get the tasting menu with the wine pairing. Typically when it comes to food Shelly is not the adventurous type but when we visit Art of the Table there's nothing she won't try and has yet to be disappointed. We love this place, but be warned it is hard on the wallet.

## WINE TASTING IN WOODINVILLE

Woodinville wine country is an area of Western Washington situated around the city of Woodinville, approximately 30 minutes to an hour driving time from downtown Seattle (depending on traffic). The area is home to more than 130 wineries and tasting rooms, including several of the state's notable wineries, such as Chateau Ste. Michelle, Columbia Winery, Novelty Hill Januik, and Silver Lake.

While located within the Puget Sound AVA area, the majority of wineries in Woodinville wine country source their grapes from Eastern Washington AVAs like Columbia Valley and Yakima Valley.

In addition to making wine, several of the wineries in Woodinville wine country are open for tours and tastings.

## CIRQUE DU SOLEIL AT MARYMOORE PARK IN REDMOND

Most guys are not into plays or musicals but Cirque Du Soleil is like none other. KURIOS - Cabinet of Curiosities is an ingenious blend of unusual curiosity acts and stunning acrobatic prowess from Cirque du Soleil. Let KURIOS show you that anything is possible through the power of imagination.



## HAVE YOU MET THE King of Meyers Castle?

Harvey is our 11 year old English Bulldog. He loves to chew on sticks in the summer. Most of his day is spent lounging around the house dozing while we are at work. He's a quintessential Bulldog, loves to be with us all the time and loves to be petted. If you have a treat in your hand he'll do anything you want. He is trained but stubbornly decides when to listen or obey. He snores like a freight train and can pass gas with the best of them.

Shelly and I don't have any children but Harvey is like our child. We spoil him rotten and would do most anything for him. Our home life

often revolves around Harvey's needs and wants. We wouldn't have it any other way most days!

English Bulldogs are wonderful pets. They are super cute especially as puppies. However, they are very high maintenance. Harvey has allergies to certain foods and outdoor environments. He's prone to skin and ear infections. We are close "friends" with our vet since we are there often. The folks at Cat and Dog Clinic of Bellevue are great and they really know bulldogs.

If you are thinking about getting an English Bulldog and want the inside scoop feel free to give Shelly or I a call. We love to talk about dogs!



MAX MEYERS LAW<sup>PLLC</sup>



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**IN CAR VOICE COMMANDS**  
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**VALENTINE'S DAY**  
**HARVEY THE KING!**  
**SHELLY'S RECIPE CORNER**

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## Alaska Salmon Bake with Pecan Crunch Coating



3 tablespoons Dijon mustard	3 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley
3 tablespoons butter, melted	6 (4 ounce) fillets salmon
5 teaspoons honey	Salt and pepper to taste
½ cup fresh bread crumbs	6 lemon wedges
½ cup finely chopped pecans	

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).

In a small bowl, mix together the mustard, butter, and honey. In another bowl, mix together the bread crumbs, pecans, and parsley.

Season each salmon fillet with salt and pepper. Place on a lightly greased baking sheet. Brush with mustard-honey mixture. Cover the top of each fillet the with bread crumb mixture.

Bake for 10 minutes per inch of thickness, measured at thickest part, or until salmon just flakes when tested with a fork. Serve garnished with lemon wedges.