

Behind The Wheel

Newsletter of the Maine Professional Drivers Association



Volume X, No. 3

“Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism”

May / June 2000

2000 Maine Championship Edition



2000 Grand Champion
Everett MacMaster
FedEx



2000 Rookie of the Year
Matt Wood
J & S Oil



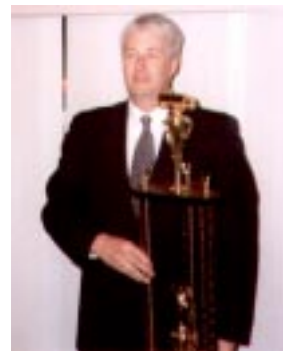
2000 Maine State Truck Driving Champions

Back row: Samuel Hake of **Hartt Transportation** (Flatbed), Richard Worster of Hanington Bros. (Straight Truck), **Everett MacMaster** of FedEx (3-Axle), Malcolm Covey of Parallel Transportation (Twins) and **Charlie Nadeau** of **Hannaford Trucking** (Sleeper).

Front Row: **Denis Litalien** of **Shaw's Supermarkets** (4-Axle), **David Gagne** of **Shaw's Supermarkets** (5-Axle), David Blanchette of Yellow



2000 Pre-Trip Award
Ronald Hebert
McCains
Transportation



2000 Written Exam
Paul Barnes
Pottle's Transportation

NEXT MPDA GENERAL MEETING

MPDA'S NEXT GENERAL MEETING FOR ALL MEMBERS WILL BE HELD AT HANNAFORD TRUCKING'S MEETING ROOM AT THEIR FACILITY IN SOUTH PORTLAND. THE JULY 8 MEETING WILL START AT 8:30AM FOR OFFICERS AND 10:00AM FOR ALL MEMBERS.

2000 Team Award
Hannaford Trucking Co.

Left to right:
Rick Magnuson
Charlie Nadeau
Richard Hill
Rick Perry



THIS ISSUE OF
“*BEHIND THE WHEEL*”
SPONSORED BY
**MAINE MOTOR
TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION**



2000 MAINE CHAMPIONSHIPS SCORES

3 AXLE

380	Everett MacMaster	FedEx
266	Bill Butland	Sysco Food Services
208	Wayne Berube	Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's
	Mike Carr	Carl Smith Foods
	Rick Garcelon	Northcenter Foodservice

4 AXLE

339	Denis Litalien	Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's
309	Trevor McKenzie	LandAir Express
287	Eric Foster	LandAir Express
	Leonard Young	Currier Transport
	Edward Fernald	Fowlers Express
	Ken Kimball	Parallel Transportation
	Marty Fitzpatrick	Sure Winner Foods
	Ronald Hebert	McCain Transport
	Dan Leighton	Pottle's Transportation
	Jon Frost	LandAir Express
	Don Rajaniemi	NRF Distributors
	Jared Elston	FedEx
	Dennis Rickett	Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's

5 AXLE VAN

334	David Gagne	Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's
303	Greg Johnson	Hannaford-Winthrop
294	Cory Vail	Poland Spring
	Rick Perry	Hannaford-So. Portland
	Terrance Brougham	Associated Grocers
	Robert Cook	McCain Transport
	Wade Flood	Sysco Food Service
	David Hillman	Hannaford-Winthrop
	James Harmon	Hutchins Trucking
	Jeffery Bellfleur	Associated Grocers
	Ernest York	McCain Transport
	Richard Kozloff	Supervalu
	Roger McLane	Pottle's Transportation
	William Leathers	Currier Trucking
	Michael Bedi	Hartt Transportation
	Donald Cyr	McCain Transport
	Reggie Day	Pottle's Transportation
	Robert Campbell	Hutchins Trucking
	Greg Avery	Poland Spring

5 AXLE SLEEPER

344	Charles Nadeau	Hannaford -So. Portland
310	Chris Libby	Yarmouth Lumber
281	Chet Sawyer	Pottle's Transportation
	Mark Roberts	Hutchins Trucking
	Robert Balfour	Balfour Motor Express
	Gary Smith	McCain Transport
	Jim Ouellette	R.F. Chamberland, Inc.
	Keith Colby	Carlen Transport
	Rodney Gerrish	Hartt Transportation
	Mike Butterfield	Pottle's Transportation
	Sam Fellows	H.O. Bouchard
	Elwood Wilde	McCain Transport
	David Curtis, Sr.	Hartt Transportation
	Roland Dubois	R.F. Chamberland, Inc.
	James Lane	Currier Trucking
	Peter Corriveau	R.F. Chamberland, Inc.
	Ronald Latourette	Currier Trucking
	Ransford Begin	R.F. Chamberland, Inc.

5 AXLE TANK

335	Matthew Wood	J & S Oil
327	Richard Hill	Hannaford -So. Portland
287	David Stuart	MPDA
	Gordon Smith	Dysart's Transportation
	Jeffery Grass	GAC Chemical Corp.
	David Crocket	Currier Trucking
	James Costa	MPDA
	Tim Lord	J & S Oil
	Scott Howard	H.O. Bouchard
	Anthony O'Neil	Irving Oil
	Mona Lowell	MPDA
	Cliff Chamberlain	Pottle's Transportation
	George Leighton, Jr.	Dysart's Transportation
	Richard Berry	Dysart's Transportation
	Mike Drew	H.O. Bouchard

5 AXLE FLATBED

285	Samuel Hake	Hartt Transportation
272	Rick Magnuson	Hannaford -So. Portland
269	Bill Wheeler	H.O. Bouchard
	Peter Johnson	Kennebec Valley Trans.
	Ron Ware	H.O. Bouchard
	Richard Emmons	Wood Structures
	Paul Barnes	Pottle's Transportation
	David Walker	Wood Structures
	Conrad Kinney	McCain Transport
	Mike Conroy	Pottle's Transportation
	Alton Varney	Carlen Transportation
	Roland Harris	Carlen Transportation

STRAIGHT TRUCK

290	Richard Worster	Hanington Bros.
280	Harold Sherwood	Pottle's Transportation
220	John McKeown	Olympia Sports
	John Prince	Carlen Transport
	Douglas Farnham	Dysart's Transportation
	Paul E. de la Rosa	FedEx
	Carl Mullen	Sure Winner Foods

TWIN TRAILERS

286	Malcolm Covey	Parallel Transportation
266	Donald Fortin, Sr.	Consolidated Freight
258	Ken Smith	Yellow Freight Systems
	Douglas Martin	Hartt Transportation
	Fern Richard	A-P-A Transport
	Stacey Howard	FedEx
	Greg Deterding	Overnite Transportation
	Anthony Perry	Overnite Transportation
	Ray Rogers	American Freightways

~VERMONT~

4 AXLE VAN

300	David Blanchette	Yellow Freight
254	Robert Tanner	A-P-A Transport
237	David Couture	A-P-A Transport

Note: All contestants are listed in order of finish. Anyone wanting their individual scores should contact Cliff Gray or Denis Litalien.

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COMPETITION NEWS

MAINE STATE TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2000 Maine State Truck Driving Championships were held again at **Dysart's** Truck Terminal in Hermon, Maine to a record turnout of drivers. The weather was perfect as 101 drivers competed for the title of Grand Champion. The event is sponsored annually by the Maine Motor Transport Assn. with assistance for the Maine Professional Drivers Assn.

A terrific time was had by all who attended. Drivers, officials and their families converged on the city of Bangor Maine and surrounding areas to participate in this event, held to name the State Champions in eight different classes of vehicles, and to qualify drivers for the National Truck Driving Championships to be held in New Orleans in August.

Activities started Friday, May 19, as company officials and MPDA members set up the driving course at Dysart's. On Friday evening, MPDA members manned a hospitality room sponsored by the **Maine Oil Dealers Assn.** at the Bangor Motor Inn to welcome all those involved in the competition.

Saturday saw contestants start their day with the written test at the Bangor Motor Inn and the pre-trip inspection and driving competition at Dysart's. A return to the Bangor Motor Inn on Saturday evening for the huge Awards Banquet topped off the wonderful weekend of activities. Many families stayed over into Sunday to enjoy the area and return home at their leisure.

Elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter is all the information about scores, contestants and other tidbits. All contestants are being sent a copy of this edition, whether they are an MPDA member or not. We encourage those who are not members to fill out the enclosed application for membership, mail it in, and join in our efforts to promote what is good about our industry and promote safe and professional driving among all drivers.

UPCOMING COMPETITION NOTES

- Aug 9-12 - National Championships, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Sep 10 ---- 4th Northeast Charity Challenge, Devens, Mass.
- Sep 16 ---- **Sysco Foods** Competition, Westbrook, Maine
- Sep 23 ---- **AG / Progressive Dist.** Competition, Gardiner, Maine
- Sep 24 ---- **H. P. Hood** Competition, Portland, Maine

NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year's National Truck Driving Championships, sponsored by the American Trucking Associations, will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana from August 9 through 12. Drivers and wives will register on Wednesday, August 9, whereupon drivers will select equipment they will drive in the competition as well as take their written tests.

Thursday will see the 5-Axle Vans, Sleepers, Straight Trucks, Twins and Auto Transporters compete while all other classes will compete on Friday. Saturday will see the finals in the competition and the awards banquet in the evening.

Many people are going to this event from Maine. If you are interested in going, contact **Cliff Gray** at MMTA at 623-4128 for information on hotels and flights out there. The hotel used by most contestants and officials is the Hilton New Orleans Riverside next to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, where the competition will take place.

Keep in mind that Wednesday evening, we always try to get the people from Maine together to go out to eat as a group. Check with Maine contestants upon arrival to find out where to meet. See you there!

CHAMPIONSHIPS ELIGIBILITY

As we have mentioned previously, American Trucking Associations(ATA) was considering restricting entry into the National Truck Driving Championships to people who drive for companies that are members of ATA. Well, at their winter meeting, the ATA Board of Directors voted to put that idea into effect for the year 2001.

Starting with the 2001 Championships, a driver must be an employee of an ATA member company in order to compete at the Nationals. The only exception will be if a company has never entered a driver in the competition, a driver may be allowed to compete one time before his/her company has to join ATA before he/she can compete again.

Drivers entered in this year's competition will not be held to that restriction. Maine Motor Transport Assn. has stated that it will keep the Maine State Truck Driving Championships open to all CDL operators who qualify. Membership in the State or National Association will not be required.

MPDA will put this item on the agenda for the next general meeting of members to discuss how to approach this subject with ATA. The Championships programs are what helped get MPDA established and has been the foremost program for MPDA in educating drivers and promoting safety and professionalism in our industry.

- info courtesy of MMTA's Maine Line News

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2000 MAINE CHAMPIONSHIPS SCORING NOTES

Top Written Test Scores

(Out of possible 80)

- Paul Barnes - 80
- Rick Magnuson - 78
- Charlie Nadeau - 78
- Denis Litalien - 76
- Robert Cook - 74

Top Pre-Trip Scores

(Out of possible 60)

- Ronald Hebert - 70
- Cory Vail - 68
- Denis Litalien - 67
- Anthony Perry - 66
- Gary Smith - 65

Top Rookie Interview Scores

(Out of possible 10)

- Samual Hake - 10
- Richard Berry - 10
- 17 drivers scored 9

Grand Champion Scores

- Everett MacMaster - 380
- Charles Nadeau - 357.76
- Denis Litalien - 352.56
- Matthew Wood - 348.4
- Richard Hill - 340.08

OTHER COMPETITION NOTES

The year 2000 marks the 51th anniversary of the first Maine State Truck Driving Championships held in Maine.

The first Championships were held at the old Portland Stadium in the grass on September 17, 1949 with only two classes competing - tractor semi-trailers and straight trucks.

The Truck Rodeo, as it was then called, was put on by the Maine Truck Owners Association, the forerunner of today's Maine Motor Transport Association.

- Over 300 people were involved in organizing, judging, competition and peripheral activities of this year's championships.

- Out of 101 contestants, 19 were MPDA members while over 75 of our members were involved in helping make this event a success.

- Four out of Eight of the Maine Champions are MPDA members and 10 of 24 of the top three finishers are members.

- There were 40 rookies this year. Rookies are drivers who have never competed in an ATA/MMTA sponsored State Championship. Matthew Wood of **J & S Oil** was this year's Rookie of the Year.

- MMTA usually invites the Vermont drivers to join Maine's drivers in this competition where each State's drivers receives their own trophies and gets qualified to go to the Nationals. This year three drivers joined us from Vermont. David Blanchette was the highest scoring Vermont driver and will represent his State in the 4-Axle class at the Nationals. Vermont does not hold their own competition.

- There were 14 past State Champions in this year's Maine competition. There were no repeat Champions from last year. Out of this year's Champions, **Everett MacMaster** ('98), **Charlie Nadeau** ('78, '79, '84, '86, '87, '89, '93, '98), Richard Worster ('95, '98) and **Denis Litalien** ('81, '82, '84, '87, '88, '94, '95) are previous winners in the competition.

- **Charlie Nadeau** still holds the State record for winning the most State Championships, having done it 9 times. Following close behind are **Denis Litalien**, with 8 Championships and **Fern Richard**, who has been State Champion 7 times. Charlie's win this year makes him the first driver to win State Championships in Maine in four different decades, starting with his first Championship in 1978. Winning at least twice each in the 70's, 80's, and 90's, this win in the year 2000 gives him that unique distinction.

- Fourteen companies had 3 or more drivers in the competition. While 3 companies had 5 drivers and 6 had 4, McCain Transport entered 7 drivers and **Pottle's** entered 9. Eleven companies had four or more drivers entered making them eligible for the Team Trophy. **Hannaford Trucking** of South Portland took the award this year after their drivers finished 1st, 2nd, 2nd and 4th in their respective classes. Those drivers included **Charlie Nadeau**, Richard Hill, **Rick Magnuson** and Rick Perry. **Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's** came in second and FedEx came in third for the Team Award.

GREAT GROCERY GRUDGE V



April 30th saw the resumption of the Great Grocery Grudge, as the drivers from

Shaw's and Hannaford got together to see who would capture the Grocery Grudge Award for the year 2000. The event was held as part of a Family Fun Day that the two companies get together for each year.

The theory is that even though they are competitors in the grocery business, it pays to pool resources when it comes to promoting highway safety among the drivers. This event is also set to qualify drivers for the State Competition in Bangor.

Along with the Fifth Annual competition between

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the two companies' drivers, there was also a bike rodeo for the kids, a spouses driving competition, pitting the wives of the Hannaford Drivers against the wives of the Shaw's drivers, and a huge barbecue for the families of all who came. There were event t-shirts for everyone competing or helping, as well as door prizes for almost everyone in attendance.

Assistance for putting this event together came from many areas, as the State Police put together the Pre-trip inspection portion, **Ron Hutchins** of MMTA, put together the written test portion, and members of the Maine Professional Drivers Assn. put the driving course together. Shaw's Risk Control Dept. put on the bike rodeo for the kids. And **Kris-Way Truck Leasing** loaned the vehicles for the pre-trip and spouses competition.

Clifford W. Perham, Inc./Shaw's and Hannaford Trucking wants to thank the following members of MPDA for their assistance with the competition: **Doug Pickard, Dick Brown, Ron Hutchins, Everett MacMaster, Alan Paradis, Terry Shortsleeves, Jim Costa, Mona Lowell, Dave Stuart, Trevor Mackenzie, Alan Paradis, Jim Poole** and **Ken Nascimento**.

Award winners in the event were:

Ladies competition:

Hannaford Winner: Kim Bowie

Shaw's Winner : Anne-Marie Gagne

Truck Driver Competition:

Hannaford:

1st: **Rick Magnuson**

2nd: Norm Desrochers

3rd: **Warren Lewis**

Pre-Trip Inspection:

Warren Lewis

Shaw's:

1st: **David Gagne**

2nd: **Denis Litalien**

3rd: **Dave Littlefield**

Pre-Trip Inspection:

Denis Litalien

The overall winner of the Grocery Grudge Award for 2000 was Hannaford. Shaw's leads the series 3-2 in the past 5 years.

SHAW'S METHUEN COMPETITION

On June 4th, **Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's** held their Eighth Annual Truck Driving Competition for the East Bridgewater and Methuen terminals at the Methuen, Mass. Distribution Center. Eighteen drivers took part in the competition that was included in a fun family day for the drivers and their families.

Pieter Van Voorst, Vice-President of Transportation thanked the Massachusetts Professional Truck Drivers Assn. for putting the course together for the competition and for their help in organizing the event.

Winners in the competition were as follows:

1st. place: Mike Chapman of East Bridgewater.

2nd place: Mike Milyaro of Methuen

3rd place: **Jim Haggerty** of Methuen

Pre-Trip Inspection Award:(3-way tie)

Milyaro, Haggerty, Ray Earl

CARL SMITH FOODS COMPETITION

April 29 was the day Carl Smith Foods held their first of what is hoped to an annual Truck Driving Competition. While managers had a cookout for the drivers and their families. Nine drivers arrived ready to show their skills and knowledge in the competition. Carl Smith Foods thanks MPDA for the support and help in setting up the course and seeing that the competition ran smooth.

MPDA members in attendance included **John Waisanen, Irvin Smith, Cliff Gray, Dave Smily, Doug Pickard** and **Ron Hutchins**.

Following are winners in the competition:

Straight Truck Class

1st - Chris Trafton

2nd - Doug Mills

3rd - Paul Dobson

Trailer Class

1st - Mike Carr

2nd - Jason Gaudet

3rd - Steve Brown

High Score Awards

Written Test

Jason Gaudet/Veinote (tie)

Driving

Mike Carr

Pre-Trip Inspection

Jason Gaudet

SYSCO COMPETITION



Sysco of Northern New England held their first competition on April 29th at their new facility in Westbrook, Maine to renew their annual truck driving competitions.

This event was one of two to be held this year for Sysco of Northern New En-

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gland drivers. Sysco will also hold a driving competition as part of their annual family day on September 16th.

MPDA members and personnel from **Ryder Transportation Services** set up and judged the driving course after Sysco personnel did the written test and pre-trip inspection portions of the competition.

Thirty-six drivers from Sysco terminals throughout Maine and New Hampshire attended this event to qualify for the State Competition in Bangor, Maine and the Sysco National Championships that were held in Houston, Texas in May.

Drivers and organizers were treated to a fully cooked breakfast at the start of the morning. With full bellies, the drivers put on a great show. Following the drivers competition in three and five-axle classes, the driver-supervisors tried the course to amuse the crowd.

Sysco personnel added that without the selfless service of the Ryder personnel and the MPDA volunteers, the event would not have been possible. Representing MPDA at the event were: **Dave Stuart, Ryan Stuart, Denis Litalien, Jim Costa, Jim Poole, Mona Lowell, Rob Fernald, Andy Reed and Harry Stiffler.**

Results of the event were as follows:

5-Axle:

- 1st: Jeff Cook* of Westbrook
- 2nd: Les Merrill of Laconia
- 3rd: Mark Kenney

3-Axle:

- 1st: Hayri Berberoglu of Bangor
- 2nd: Brian Bowden of Bangor
- 3rd: Don Hawkins of Laconia

Pre-Trip Award:

Don Hawkins and Steve Stitham of the County (tie)

Written Exam Award:

Chuck Woods of Laconia

Depot Contest (for best overall participation)

New Hampshire Drivers

* Note - Jeff Cook and Hayri Berberoglu will represent Sysco of Northern New England at the Sysco Nationals in Houston, competing against 60 other Sysco houses from across the United States.

NORTHCENTER FOODS COMPETITION



Northcenter Foods revived their annual truck driving competition this year on May 6th, hoping to get the drivers involved once again in this fun safety program. Eight drivers competed in the event that had the company putting on a cookout for the drivers and their families. Even though this time of the

year is extremely busy for MPDA members because of participation in the New England Truck show and other company competitions, a number of members showed up to help make the course one that challenged the drivers.

Helping out were **Alan Paradis, Rob Fernald, Ron Hutchins, Cliff Gray, Dave Smily, Terry Brougham and Mike Coulombe.**

Winners in the competition were as follows:

3-Axle Class *

- 1st - James Edwards
- 2nd - Rick Garcelon
- 3rd - **Matt Beck**

5-Axle Class

- 1st - Dave Dolley
- 2nd - Mike Hoppe
- 3rd - Pat Linehan

ADMINISTRATIVE

Priscilla Eaton passes away.

Priscilla Eaton, wife of Cliff Eaton of Scarborough passed away Sunday, June 11th at the Maine Medical Center in Portland.

Many members remember Pris, who along with Cliff, was at many truck driving championships, helping out in any she could. And up until this year had been taking care of the score boards at the event. She was always along with Cliff in the 1980's when he was Maine State Champion a number of times as a driver for St. Johnsbury Trucking.

She was retired from New England Telephone Co. and was very active volunteering her time and maintained memberships in many organizations, including MPDA, the Pythian Sisters of Scarborough, the Good Sam Club, the Telephone Pioneers and the Westbrook Memorial Legion Post Auxiliary.

The funeral service was held on June 15th in South Portland and burial took place in the Black Point Cemetery in Scarborough.

The family requests that anyone wishing to make contributions in her memory may do so to the American Heart Assoc., ME Affiliate Inc., 20 Winter St., Augusta, ME 04330. Cliff's address is 46 Payne Road, Scarborough, ME 04074.

Please join us in extending our condolences to Cliff and his family in the loss of his wife and our friend.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MPDA's next general meeting for all members will be held at Hannaford Trucking's meeting room at their facility in South Portland. The July 8 meeting will start at 8:30am for officers and 10:00am for all members.

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Hannaford Trucking Co. offices are located in Hannaford's Distribution Center in Rumery Industrial Park in South Portland across from Kris-Way Truck Leasing. Walk through the revolving metal gate to the office by the brick walk and check in with the security guard who will direct you to the upstairs meeting room.

NOTES FROM UP & DOWN THE ROAD

This past month it was announced that New Hampshire state troopers will be performing roadside tests on trucks emitting visible emissions by early summer. The law that authorizes the testing and fines was enacted two years ago, but it took officials until now to figure out how to enforce it.



A computer probe will be used to test the emissions of all trucks traveling in or through the state. The probe measures the amount of visible pollutants.

Standards for older trucks are less stringent than for those manufactured since 1991. Fines for polluting engines range from \$100 for a first offense to \$500 for a third.

"The test is designed to catch the gross emitters," said Glenn Wallace, State Department of Safety. *"It is designed to catch trucks that have been tampered with or have not been maintained."*

Robert Sculley, executive director New Hampshire Motor Transport Association, said *"The fine structure, we believe,... will get their (the violators) attention,"* he said. *"What's been at issue with the public is the black smoke pouring out of trucks,"* he said. *"If a bad segment of the industry is giving us a black eye, we're willing to clean that up."*

from Roadstar online and truckinginfo.com

TURNPIKE NEWS



The Maine Turnpike recently completed construction of two more toll booths at the York Plaza. They added Transpass-only lanes to the northbound and southbound lanes, bringing the plaza up to 17 lanes capable of handling 500 vehicles an hour apiece.

The **Maine Turnpike Authority** also recently held a public information meetings on the widening and modernizing project of mile 12 through mile 42 and discussed the construction schedule with attendees.

Construction has started and should last approximately 5 years. As construction progresses, it will be done

in portions, starting at both ends and meeting in the middle. We were assured that 2 lanes would remain open at all times except those times during the night when it was necessary to close one lane to do bridge work, paving, etc.

During the first year the tentative schedule covers the construction of Miles 12 to 18 and miles 40 to 42 along with 5 overpasses and 3 underpasses. The second year will include mile 34 to 40 along with 3 underpasses and 1 overpass. Year 3 will include mile 18 to 21 and mile 31 to 34 along with 4 underpasses. Year 4 will see mile 21 to 24 and mile 30 to 31 reconstructed together with 1 overpass and 1 underpass with year 5 covering the remaining stretch of miles 24 to 30.

No MORE ICC NUMBERS

According to *Transport Topics Online*, July 3rd is the effective date for the new rule mandating the use of DOT numbers on trucks instead of ICC numbers.

ICC numbers are no longer relevant and will not be used by any agency. The legal name of the motor carrier and the DOT number must be on the side of the vehicle.

NORTHERN CONVOY FOR KIDS

The Annual Convoy for Kids in the Bangor, Maine area took place June 3rd and was another success, showing the public how truckers care enough to help their local children by dedicating all revenues from this event to the Children's Miracle Network at the Eastern Maine Medical Center.

Fifty-three trucks convoyed from Brewer through downtown Bangor to Dysart's trailer shop in Hermon, Maine where a truck show and many other fun activities took place. Organizers want to especially thank the Bangor and Brewer Police Departments for the excellent job of traffic control during the event.

Radio station 104.7, or The Bear, as it affectionately known, did a live remote to bring the news of the event to the local public. There was also local television coverage of the event. Many new trucks were on display and there were activities and raffles for everyone. A number of local businesses donated prizes to entice the truckers to get involved with this great event. Longtime chairman of this event, **Irvin Smith**, corralled many from within the industry to put this event on, marshalling the forces of the Maine Professional Drivers Assn. and the Maine Motor Transport Assn.

The convoy and the activities at **Dysart's** raised over \$3300.00, not counting what was raised on the phones by members in the Children's Miracle Network telethon.

Sunday morning, June 4th, found members handling phone calls live on the Children's Miracle Network Annual

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Telethon. Many thanks to the following for taking pledge calls: **Ron & Cindy Hutchins, Cliff & Sharon Gray, Fred & Diane Thompson, Doug Pickard, Irvin Smith, Bill Phipps** and **Pam Rogers**. We were told that during the pledge campaign, one caller made a challenge to Ron Hutchins, and to that caller, we were told to mention that no, he has not yet kissed the dog.

Judging for the awards for the truck show took place following the Convoy. Judges were: MMTA Training Coordinator and ROADTEAM Captain Ron Hutchins, MPDA President and owner-operator Doug Pickard and ROADTEAM Member and long time company driver **Dick Brown**. Following are the winners in the Truck Show portion of the event on Saturday, all receiving trophies sponsored by MMTA:

Straight Truck/Bobtail:

- 1st - Performance Trans.
- 2nd - Gerald Thomas

Flatbed Class:

- 1st - Maine Commercial Tire
- 2nd - **Yarmouth Lumber**

Tank Class:

- 1st - **H. O. Bouchard**
- 2nd - **H. O. Bouchard**

Van Class:

- 1st - Smolin Transport
- 2nd - Carl Smith Foods

Heavy Duty Class:

- 1st - **Cianbro**
- 2nd - **H. O. Bouchard**

Twin Trailer Class:

- 1st - **Northcenter Foods**
- 2nd - Cons. Freightways

Antique Class:

- 1st - **H. O. Bouchard**
- 2nd - Ken McAvey

Alternate Mode:

- Maine Commercial Tire

Most Unusual:

- Inway Landstar No-Zone Unit

Highest Mileage:

- Thompson & Thompson

we joined with some of Ryder's crew and helped with the judging. Twenty-five company drivers competed in that competition.

The drivers did a great job, showing good driving skills and good attitudes. They also had a written test plus a pre-trip inspection. We had a lunch break that included a nice catered hot meal that really hit the spot... Thank you Poland Spring !!

After the competition was completed, we had the run of Point Sebagoto go and come as we wanted until we got together again for the evening awards banquet. That was another great-catered meal.

Mona & I would like to thank **Harry Stiffler, Dave Stuart, Ryan Stuart, Denis Litalien**, and **Jim Poole** for being there to give us a hand with all that needed to be done for one of these competitions. They, as always, do a super job and we really enjoy working with each and every one of them.

We would also like to mention the management team of Poland Spring. They made sure that we knew how much they appreciated our help. They treated us to a great lunch, and a fun banquet including a super meal. Mike Tozier, Alan Bubier, and Mike O'Hearn, showed that they care about their drivers. They all were very busy all day making sure that all went well.

We watched Mike O'Hearn pitch right in with the set-up, judging and awards part of the very long day. He seems to enjoy his job and makes no bones about the fact that he is very proud of his drivers and management.

Mike Tozier did a great job setting up and overseeing the powder puff competition for the Ladies. The ladies all did well seeing as they scored better overall at the alley dock!!

Alan Bubier was busy organizing all things going on in the background.

All in all it was a fun day with a great bunch of people, thanks for a good time !! We are looking forward to the next one.

The first three place winners were:

1st - Dan Bergeron	410 points
2nd - Dick Fraser	407 points
3rd - Jesse Pellitier	367 points

Congratulations to you and all of the people who competed, you all are winners.

Jim Costa & Mona Lowell



POLAND SPRING COMPETITION

June 10th we took a little ride to Point Sebago to set up a driver's competition course for the drivers of Poland Spring. Their company had rented the resort for the day. After we got the course set up

MPDA MEMBER SCORES WELL

Member **Nathan Lewis** did well in his recent competitions representing Wal-Mart. Nate Won the Tank Class at the New Hampshire State Championships as well as being named New Hampshire Rookie of the Year and winner of the

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Best Written Test Award.

Nate also fared well at the Wal-Mart corporate championships, as he won his class at the local company competition and also won his class at the regional company competition.

The regionals were held among Wal-Mart's distribution centers from New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Tennessee. This puts him in the finals for the Wal-Mart Nationals.

MPDA MEMBER INJURED

Rick Esponnette, Laura, and Ralph Trempe

Member **Rick Esponnette**, driver for A-P-A Transport of Scarborough was critically injured in a yard accident at A-P-A's terminal in New Jersey.

While we hope the situation has changed for the better by the time you read this, but Rick was unconscious in a New Jersey hospital with collapsed lungs, broken ribs, head trauma and other injuries when this issue went to press. It appears that Rick was performing a pre-trip inspection on his unit when a another trailer being hooked up moved and crushed Rick between the two units, according to friend and fellow member **Ralph Trempe**.

Please join us in keeping Rick, wife Laura, and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Well it looks like we are off to a great start with our busy season.

The MPDA trailer has been completely unloaded and swept clean, and all of the barricades and anything else that was white has a new coat of paint before being reloaded. Anything that needed to be repaired or replaced was taken care of at that time.

Thanks to the people and companys that support us, we were able to make the necessary repairs and apply a fresh coat of paint to everything that didn't move (including Ron Hutchins). Those who were there to help out were **Rob Fernald, Irving Smith, Ron Martin, Cliff Gray, John Waisanen, Ron Hutchins, Dewight Pickard** and myself.

I can't remember the last time we got so much done and had such a great time doing it.

A lot of this work would not have been possible if it were not for the many companys who support our efforts to help spread the word about safety. Luke Brochu, Manager for supporting member **Stratton Lumber**, was kind enough to give us all the lumber that we needed for the repairs to the barricades and to build new ones so we would have extras.

Other supporting members who donated materials

were **H.O.Bouchard**, Currier Trucking, Fowlers Express, **Yarmouth Lumber, Shaws, Pickard Transport**, and Maine Motor Transport Association.

Since April 29th we have helped with 4 company competitions as well as the Boston Truck Show (all 3 days).

We did two competitions in one day. One in Westbrook and one in Hermon. We helped with the Truck Driving championship in Bangor and we also did Northern Convoy in Bangor on June 3rd.

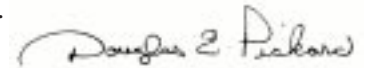
We would not have been able to do two competitions in one weekend without that much needed help. If any of you can help us for just one day a year it would be very much appreciated by those who help continously. One of the most valuable commodities we needed was the help we got from our general membership.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all who competed in the TDC, and wish those that will be going to the nationals... Good Luck!

As this issue of "Behind the Wheel" goes to press, I am on my way to Vernon, Conn. to speak on behalf of MPDA and its' membership at one of the many public hearings about the much debated and controversial subject that has all the nations commercial drivers concerned.

I will have a complete update, or at least as up to date as it can be, when I return. I will have more information at the July 8th Officers & General meeting. Hope you will be able to be there.

And with that said, remember to please be a professional and drive safely.



MPDA ROADTEAM REPORT

Well, it has been a busy summer so far for the ROADTEAM and many of our MPDA members! Unfortunately I didn't get my report in on time for the last newsletter so I'll try to catch you up with this one. A little disclaimer up front though. If anyone helped at any of the following events I mention, and you don't see your name in print I apologize and please let me know so I can correct my report. It is definitely not my intention to leave anyone out, but sometimes things get pretty busy and I don't get all the names of people there helping.

With that said lets start with the last Professional Driver Training Seminar. ROADTEAM members **Dick Brown** and **Warren Lewis** did a super job. The response by you, our members was overwhelming. It made a statement to me as Captain of the ROADTEAM that this program is something we need and it is a plus for our membership. The last seminar was June 24th. Hope you were there to take advantage of the class.

The State TDC went super! It turned out to be a beautiful sunny, warm day. We had a chance to set up our new

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canopy and new MPDA banners. They both looked and worked great. Cherrie Conroy, wife of ROADTEAM member Mike Conroy manned or should I say womaned our information booth. She was assisted by Sue Ellen Leighton. The women handed out MPDA information and sold TDC shirts along with the other MPDA goods. Great job ladies and Thank You!!

My wife Diane Thompson organized the food booth. She was assisted by MPDA secretary Terry Stuart, wife of ROADTEAM member Dave Stuart, along with their daughter Shelley, and Nicole Brougham, daughter of ROADTEAM member Terry Brougham. Ivan Johnston and Carl Moulton of SYSCO Foods manned the grill. Member Mike Frith and his son Kyle were there also helping out where ever they were needed. President Doug Pickard and ROADTEAM member Ron Hutchins were there also helping set up, and take down anything else we needed. ROADTEAM MEMBER Rob Fernald and Ryan Stuart, son of Dave Stuart helped man the equipment needed for the championship. I know there were many other ROADTEAM members there also working on the course whose names I don't have. Thanks to Associated Grocers of Maine for the large supply of donuts to go with the Hannaford supplied coffee. SYSCO Foods supplied us with the burgers, hot dogs and condiments.

Our Northern Convoy was another huge success rais-

ing over \$3,000.00 for the Children's Miracle Network of Eastern Maine. A big Thank you to member Irvin Smith for another great job of organizing this event. Even though it was a little on the cool side everyone including the kids had a fun time. Diane Thompson organized the food booth. She was assisted by Marsha Booker, ROADTEAM member Mike Conroy and members Mike Colombe and daughter Margaret, Matt Beck and daughter Kelly. Cherrie Conroy, wife of ROADTEAM member Mike Conroy again manned our MPDA booth handing our information and selling MPDA goods. Pam Rogers sold 50/50 tickets. President Doug Pickard, ROADTEAM members Ron Hutchins and Dick Brown judged the trucks. Members Clarence and Fred C. Thompson helped out on Saturday as well. On Sunday morning Doug Pickard, Bill Phipps, Pam Rogers, Cliff Gray, Ron and Cindy Hutchins, Diane Thompson, and myself manned the CMN phones for an hour.

If you have never worked at these events I would encourage you to get involved and enjoy the camaraderie of these events.

Well I know this was a long report so I'll say remember to drive safe, courteous and professionally out there. Remember we all represent each other and the trucking industry. See ya on the Boulevard!

ROADTEAM

Captain and Vice President, Fred Thompson

Behind the Wheel

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An affiliate of Maine Motor Transport Association

MPDA is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting courtesy, safety and professionalism in the field of commercial driving.

MAINE MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

Wishes to congratulate all the Winners and Contestants in the
2000 Maine State Truck Driving Championships

~ Straight Truck ~

Richard Worster of Hanington Brothers

~ 3 Axle ~

Everett MacMaster of FedEx

~ 4 Axle ~

Denis Litalien of Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's

~ 5 Axle Van ~

David Gagne of Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's

~ Flatbed ~

Samuel Hake of Hartt Transportation

~ Tank ~

Matthew Wood of J & S Oil

~ Sleeper ~

Charles Nadeau of Hannaford Trucking Co.

~ Twins ~

Malcolm Covey of Parallel Transportation

MPDA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2000

MPDA Calendar of Events - 2000 (As of June 11, 2000)

(Includes events that MPDA or its members are involved in or are of interest to our members)

July

- 8 **MPDA Officers/General Meeting** - 8:30am/10:00am - Hannaford Trucking - South Portland, Maine - Officers meeting will be at 8:30 - General meeting will be at 10:00.
- 15 **State Champions Meeting** - 10:00am - MMTA office, Augusta - contact Denis Litalien at <dentruck@hotmail.com> or 207-282-6346

August

- 9-12 **National Truck Driving Championships**, New Orleans, Louisiana Contact Cliff Gray <grayc@mmta.com> or 207- 623-4128
- 12-19 **National Truck Drivers Appreciation Week**

September

- 10 **4th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge** - Devens, Mass contact Fred Schenk at <StJudeRoadeo4kids@excite.com> or 508-453-3632
- 16 **Sysco Driving Competition** - Sysco terminal, Westbrook
- 23 **Associated Grocers/ Progressive Distributors Driving Competition** - Gardiner - contact Jim Widdoes at jwiddoes@agofme.com or 207-582-6500
- 24 **H.P. Hood Driving Competition**, Emery -Waterhouse Lot, Portland - contact Andy Reed at 1-800-759-9448

October

- 8 **Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy**, Portland/South Portland contact Jim Costa at <jim-mona@cybertours.com> or 207-727-5349
- 27-28 **Baby Daize Truck Display** - Portland Expo, Portland - contact Doug Pickard at <dpickard@cybertours.com> or 353-4042

(Please send any additions or changes to: Denis Litalien at 282-6346 or e-mail at dentruck@hotmail.com)

ARE YOU CPU ?

Now I know what you are thinking... 'There he goes again talking about those darn computers', or 'What is he doing talking about computers again, I don't even begin to understand him when he says all that stuff'. Well... Surprise !!!

I won't be talking about computers, I'm going to talk about being courteous, professional, and understanding. What you say !!! Let me explain.

It's that time of year when the roads get really busy, crowded, and hectic. Now that is where a CPU comes into play.

'C' - is for being *Courteous* -

Remember the last time you were lost and confused with road signs, or amazed by that

beautiful scenery?

'P' - is for being *Professional* - Because you didn't and won't lose your patience with those tourists that are lost and looking at that scenery.

'U' - is for *Understanding* - Understanding those tourists will be gone in a few weeks. And also understand that those tourists are some of the reason you have a job as a 'CPU' Driver of our roads and highways.

Think about it....

Dave Stuart