

Behind The Wheel

Newsletter of the Maine Professional Drivers Association



Volume XI, No. 2

"Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism"

Mar / Apr 2001



JOIN US AT THE NORTH AMERICAN TRUCK SHOW IN BOSTON

Thursday, May 3, Friday, May 4,
& Saturday, May 5, 2001


~~~~ See page 3 for more information ~~~~  
~~~~ Complimentary tickets enclosed ~~~~

Convoy for Kids

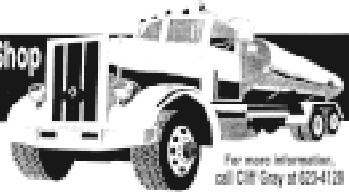
Our 7th Annual "Convoy for Kids" will be held this year in the Bangor area on June 3rd. The Convoy will be part of the day-long event that will include a huge truck parade and truck show. There will be raffles, demonstrations, music and food booths. There will also be activities for the kids, including a bounce house, face painting, dunk tank and a bungee run along with a modified Army Humvee and a helicopter for the kids to sit in. The event will be held, rain or shine.

The parade and show are open to all companies and individual truckers. This is a great way to advertise your company and let the Trucking Industry be recognized.

The parade will line up at the Bangor Mall (South end, between


 Maine Motor Transport Association
 and

 Maine Professional Drivers Association
 present
THE MAINE PROFESSIONAL TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS
 Saturday • May 19, 2001

Dysart's Trailer Shop
Hermon, Maine



and
DON'T FORGET ...

CONVOY FOR KIDS

Sunday • June 3, 2001



For more information,
call Steve Smith at 853-4870

Proceeds benefit
"Children's Miracle Network"

Parade starts at 11:00 a.m.
at the Bangor Mall (south end)
and ends at Dysart's in Hermon.

Maine State Truck Driving Championships

The Maine State Truck Driving Championships will be held again this year at Dysart's Transportation terminal in Hermon. The Bangor Motor Inn in Bangor will serve as the headquarters for the event. This all-day event, administered by the Maine Motor Transport Assn. with assistance from the Maine Professional Drivers Assn. will be held on Saturday, May 19th.

Set up for the driving course will be done on Friday, May 18th. Anyone who would like to help on Friday is welcome to meet the crew at Dysart's Truck Stop at noon for lunch. Anyone competing on Saturday is not allowed to help in setting up or be anywhere

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MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

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near the course before the competition. Anyone who has equipment they would like to leave for use in the competition, can leave it at Dysart's terminal in the afternoon. Please notify someone on the set-up committee that the equipment is being left for the competition so that keys will be put away for the morning crew.

The competition will consist of a six-part driving test; a written examination about the regulations, first aid and the trucking industry; a pre-trip inspection test where vehicles will be planted with defects that the contestants have to find; and an interview for any first time contestants. Awards will be presented in eight classes of vehicles: Straight Truck, 3-Axle Van Tractor-Trailer, 4-Axle Van Tractor-Trailer, 5-Axle Van Tractor-Trailer, 5-Axle Tank Tractor-Trailer, 5-Axle Flatbed Tractor-Trailer, 5-Axle Van Sleeper Tractor-Trailer, and Twin-Trailers.

An awards banquet will be held after the competition at the Bangor Motor Inn to recognize the State Champions in each class. Trophies will be awarded to the top 3 places in each class and special awards will be presented to the highest scorers in the written test and pre-trip inspection portions. The highest scoring rookie will also be presented with a special award as well as the highest scoring team of drivers from any one company (there must be at least 4 drivers from a company to be eligible for this). The highlight of the evening is the awarding of the Grand Champion Award to the driver achieving the highest score of all the classes in the competition.

Winners will be eligible to go on to one of two National Championships. Members of ATA companies will be eligible for the ATA National Truck Driving Championships in Minneapolis in August while all drivers will be eligible for the U.S Professional Truck Championships in Milwaukee in September.

Pre-registration is a must. Early registration is encouraged as there is material that needs to be distributed to the drivers prior to the event. Contact **Cliff Gray** at MMTA if you have not received your registration package. You can reach him at 623-4128 or grayc@mmta.com.

MPDA has resumed our annual 50/50 raffle to be awarded at the end of the competition. A booklet of tickets in enclosed with this newsletter. Please sell the booklet (or buy it yourself) and turn it in to the MPDA booth at the competition. Extra books are available from **Pam Rogers** at 846-4853 or PRogers@UIG-ME.com. Please help out with this, as it is one of our major fund-raisers for the year.

MPDA will again host a hospitality room at the Bangor Motor Inn (Room 230) from 5:00 to 10:00pm on Friday evening, May 18th. We encourage anyone involved with the competition to stop by and say hi. We will have snacks and refreshments.

CONVOY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

J.C. Penney and Porteous) between 8:00 and 10:00am and start at 10:00am sharp. The convoy of vehicles will go through Bangor and end at Dysart's Transportation parking lot across from Dysart's Truck Stop. The truck Show portion and other activities will take place at Dysart's following the parade.

Classes for the show will consist of: Tanker, Antique, Straight Truck, Vans, Twin Trailers, Most Unusual, Heavy Equipment, Alternate Mode (Bus, Fire Equip., Etc.), Highest Mileage, and Best of Show. The entry fee is \$25.00 per unit. You may pre-register by sending your information and the entry fee for each unit to: Children's Miracle Network, c/o Irvin Smith, 10 Erin LN, Eddington, ME 04428. You may also register at the time of the line-up at the Bangor Mall.

Volunteers are also needed to help out with this event. If you can help in any way... directing traffic, line-up and parking, cooking, running kids games, cleanup, etc., contact event Chairperson, **Irvin Smith**, and let him know what you can help with. Contact him at 800-432-1727 or at brianb@hobouchard.com.

We are asking all the parade drivers to raise money through donations and pledges for "The Children's Miracle Network". There will be L.L. Bean gift certificates for the top fund-raisers. \$300.00 certificate to the top fund-raiser, \$200.00 for second place and \$100.00 for third. We are asking that drivers bring pledges the day of the parade and turn them in at the raffle table at the Dysart's lot after you get parked. Last year we raised \$3,200.00 and the goal this year is to raise \$5,000.00 for the Children's Miracle Network of Eastern Maine Healthcare.



Boston Truck Show

This year's North American Truck Show will be held again at the Bayside Expo in Boston on Thursday, May 3, Friday, May 4, & Saturday, May 5. Included with this newsletter are two complimentary tickets to the show courtesy of MPDA. Stop by and see us at the show as we will staff a booth again this year. MPDA will be in booths # 2127 & 2129.

As show Committee Chair **Jim Costa** (*Editor's Note - Jim's article is below*) mentions elsewhere in this newsletter, we could use some help staffing the booth. It really is fun and a great way to see the show and make new friends!

This show is supposed to be the largest yet as more and more vendors get on board to display their goodies and new equipment. It is the place to be to see all the newest stuff in the industry.

The Show runs from Thursday (2:00 to 8:00pm), through Friday (12:00pm to 9:00pm) and ends on Saturday (10:00am to 4:00pm). On Friday, May 4, from 4:00 to 6:00pm, there will be a free trucker BBQ to the first 500 licensed CDL Drivers.

For more information, call the show at 1-800-225-1577, or to help at the MPDA booth, call Jim Costa at the number below in the article from him. You can also log onto the truck show website at www.truckingexpo.com. To get to the Show, take I-93 South through Boston to Exit 15. Turn left at the stop sign, go under I-93 and the Bayside Expo will be ahead to your right. Parking is around the right side. There is also parking for tractor-trailers if you want to stop by with your truck.

HEY GUESS WHAT?

It is that time of year again!! It's hard to believe that a year has passed so quickly. The Boston Truck Show is going to be May 3rd, 4th, & 5th this year.

As usual the Maine Professional Drivers Assn. has joined forces with the New Hampshire Professional Drivers and hopefully the Massachusetts Professional Drivers to make another meaningful showing at this great show.

We have enclosed a couple complimentary tickets to the show for our members in this newsletter. If anyone

needs more tickets let me know or swing into Buzzy's or T/A Truck Stop in New Hampshire. I have dropped some off at both locations.

As Denis has said in the previous article, we need some volunteers to help us man the booth again this year. I would like any one that can help us out to send me a note in the mail or e-mail me or give me a call as soon as possible. I can send your names to the show and have nametags pre-made. It will also give me time to plan how many per day will be available.

This is a fun event and we always have a great time. We need your help to make it another super success.

207-727-5349

33 Costa Road

Hollis Me. 04042

E-mail - jim-mona@cybertours.com

Thank You,
Jim Costa

News

America's Road Team Finalists

American Trucking Associations (ATA) recently announced their finalists for selection to America's Road Team. Among the 25 drivers were two MPDA members. **Bill Roy** of Manchester, N.H., a driver for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. out of Raymond, New Hampshire and **Paul Barnes** of South Portland, a driver for **Pottle's Transportation, Inc.** of Bangor were among those who will vie for one of 12 selections to the 2001 Team.

The drivers will now move on to the final round of the selection process to be held at ATA headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. There a panel of distinguished judges from the trucking industry and trucking news media will quiz the drivers on their knowledge of trucking industry safety and economic issues, followed by a battery of interviews to test their media and communication skills. In addition, the finalists will be judged on their record of community service.

Once the 12 are selected for the 2001 America's Road Team and announced on June 6, this elite group will spend the next two years representing the U.S. trucking industry. Their job will be to deliver ATA's highway safety message to the motoring public, the news media, civic organizations and legislative bodies. (Note: For training purposes, the new team will overlap for six months with the 2000 America's Road Team.)

To be nominated to serve as a Road Team Captain, a driver must be currently employed as either a company driver or an independent owner-operator by a full-dues-

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paying member of ATA. Each nominee should have an excellent safety record, and should demonstrate an ability to communicate his or her commitment to safety, professionalism and courtesy.

- From Transport Topics online

Remember Major construction will soon begin showing up around the state. This will require drivers to take extra precautions while in these areas. Remember - fines double in these areas. Also watch for increased activity in school areas as the weather becomes nicer. And don't forget that bicycles, scooters and motorcycles will be sharing the road more as the weather improves. Be on the lookout for them, too!

Jake Brakes More towns are posting their roads to prevent drivers from using their engine brakes. Why??? Because a few drivers have abused them and made so much noise to irritate residents that they have passed laws to prevent their use. Brewer is the latest city to post signs. While Brewer has not made them illegal, they have posted their roads and are hoping that with the cooperation of the truckers, voluntary compliance with the signs will be enough. What do you think? Where will it end?

Reminder Mandatory biennial filings of the MCS-150 Motor Carrier Identification Report began in January. Carriers required to file in January or February, however, were granted an extension to file until March 31 when the program shifts into full swing.

- from MMTA's Maine Line

Deceased Philip Leach of Scarborough, passed away on March 31st at the age of 77. He had driven for Nissen's and Hannaford Bros., retiring in 1984. He was recognized for his never having had an accident and for winning many truck driving competitions. We have him listed in the archives as being the State Champion in the Tractor-Trailer class in the 1953 State Truck Rodeo.

Million Milers Clifford W. Perham, Inc. recently announced they have awarded four drivers with Million Mile Award. Drivers Donald Blanchard, Lloyd Johnson, Bruce Kimball and Phil Tucker were recognized at the Annual Safety Banquet for having driven 1 million accident-free miles hauling for **Shaw's Supermarkets**. At the banquet, MPDA members **Dave Littlefield** and **Walter "Eric" Berry** were presented with their 250,000 mile safe driving awards. Dave was also presented with his 4 year driving award while Eric received his 3 year safe driving award.

Other MPDA members receiving driving awards included (with # of years): **Don Houde** (1), (2), **Scott Ruby** (3), **Pete Mortensen** (4), **Charlie Wilcox** (8), **Chris Black** (10), **Steve Fleurent** (11), **Dave Gagne** (11), **Denis Litalien** (14), **Norm Gallant** (15), and **Wayne Whitney** (23).

Administrative

Our next General Meeting will be held at the MMTA Office in Augusta on Saturday, April 21st at 9:00am. As part of our continuing safety program held at all our meetings, we have invited Steve Landry, Assistant State Traffic Engineer to join us and discuss the traffic signal systems the State uses. This should be very interesting as he has agreed to update us on all the latest technology on how the sensors work at traffic lights and how the change cycles are determined. Haven't you always wondered?

This will be the last General Meeting before all of our major events this spring, so please try to attend if possible. Much last-minute organizing needs to be tended to.

There will be coffee and donuts available at the meeting. Take Exit 30 off the Maine Turnpike and head toward Rt. 202 West. Take left at the first traffic light onto Whitten Road past the Shop & Save in Augusta and the Maine Motor Transport Assn. building is about 1/2 mile on the right.

From the Treasurer

We have enclosed with this newsletter, one book of tickets for the 50/50 raffle drawing to be held following the Maine State Truck Driving Championship on May 19 in Bangor, Maine.

We would ask that each member be responsible for selling one book. Please send your check and the completed tickets to:

MPDA
P.O. Box 5672
Augusta, ME 04332-5672

If you would like additional books to sell, please contact me, **Pam Rogers** (days 1-800-244-4694, nights 846-4853) and I will be happy to mail you more.

Pam Rogers

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MMTA News Drivers of the Month

MMTA's February Driver of the month, Charles "Hap" Buck, has driven over 3,750,00 accident-free miles in his 32 year career. "Hap" drives for Central Maine Transport and lives in Hallowell.

Richard Bissonette of Lewiston is the MMTA Driver of the Month for March. He is currently employed at Portland Air Freight and has logged over 2 million miles in his 23 year driving career.

Goderick "Marty" Martin of Saco, a driver for **Clifford W. Perham, Inc./Shaw's Supermarkets**, has been named MMTA's April Driver of the Month. Marty has accumulated over 3.3 million accident-free miles in his 33 year driving career, 17 of which have been hauling for Shaw's.

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Legislative

A number of bills concerning the trucking industry were heard in various committees in Augusta this year. It seems we fared fairly well. Maine Motor Transport had personnel to testify and rallied a number of people to testify on behalf of the trucking industry.

L.D. 814 would have restricted trucks to the right lane during inclement weather if it had passed. The Transportation Committee voted unanimously "Ought Not To Pass" on this bill which would have restricted trucks during those times when the lights were flashing on the Interstates for 40 or 45pmh. A couple of bills that would have restricted use of cell phones, CB radios and other electronic devices went down also.

There was even a bill to abolish the Maine Turnpike Authority introduced. What many found out during the hearing for this bill is that: 1) Half of the Turnpike's tolls come from out-of-staters; 2) Abolishing the Turnpike Authority would mean the State would have to assume the Turnpike's \$295 Million debt; and 3) The Turnpike has paid for all of its own maintenance, repairs, new construction and even work off the 'pike, like the Zoom bus, exit ramps and work adjacent to the Turnpike, all with tolls. The Me. DOT would be hard pressed to fund all of this without tolls!

A number of other bills are still pending. Their status can be found on the legislative website at <http://janus/state.me.us/legis>

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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.

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Maine Turnpike News

“Give Us Ten”

As of April 12, 2001, a new speed limit has been instituted at all of the toll plazas on the Maine Turnpike.

The Maine State Police together with the Maine Turnpike Authority has begun to enforce this new 10 MPH speed limit.

You will most likely be seeing more and more Troopers at these toll plazas for the next few weeks. Just remember... They are there for your safety as well as all employees of the Maine Turnpike Authority.

Do you find our newsletter interesting and informative?

If so, and you are not already an MPDA member, you can become one! For only \$20.00 per year (*company memberships are \$50.00 per year*) you can get this newsletter, membership card, jacket patch, pin, and decal. This also gives you the opportunity to get involved with your fellow drivers, improving highway safety and the image of the safe, courteous and professional driver.

You can get an MPDA Membership application by doing any of the following:

You can visit our web site at <http://mpda.maine.org> - our email address and application is here

Mail this coupon to the address below.

Please send me a application;

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # (_____) - _____ - _____

Please Mail to:

Maine Professional Drivers Association

P.O. Box 5672

Augusta, Maine 04332-5672



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Thank you for your efforts in making our highway safer.

For more information about the Maine Turnpike, we invite you to
visit our website at -

<http://www.mainturnpike.com>

Turnpike Travel Conditions 1-800-675-7453 *77 Cellular Phone Emergency Calls

Please Drive Safely

2001 MPDA Calendar of Events

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

APRIL

- 21 MPDA General Meeting – 9:00am - MMTA Office, Augusta – contact Fred Thompson at <Tfthomp5349@aol.com> or 582-1343
- 21 Meeting for Southern Convoy – Maine Mall Conference Room, Maine Mall - 6:30pm - contact Kevin Battle at <trucking4kids@aol.com> or 623-1396
- 28 Carl Smith Driving Competition – Bangor – contact Dave Smiley at Kris-Way Truck Leasing - 799-8593

MAY

- 3-5 New England Truck Show - Bayside Auditorium, Boston - contact Jim Costa <jim-mona@cybertours.com> or 727-5349
- 6 Great Grocery Grudge VI - Hannaford/Shaw's Driving Competition – Hannaford Bros. Office, Scarborough - 8:00am - contact Denis Litalien at <dentruck@hotmail.com> or 282-6346
- 6 Shaw's Driving Competition – Methuen, Mass – contact Jim Haggerty at <jsjjab@aol.com> or 603-595-1483
- 18 State Championships set-up day @ Dysart's - Contact Cliff Gray - <grayc@mmta.com> or 623-4128
MPDA TDC get-together @ Bangor Motor Inn (Room 230) 5-10pm - Contact Denis Litalien at <dentruck@hotmail.com> or 282-6346
- 19 Maine/Vermont State Truck Driving Championships – Bangor/Hermon contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or <grayc@mmta.com>
- 19 New Hampshire Truck Driving Championships - Concord, New Hampshire Contact - Vera Tucker (603) 224-7337 or <nhmta@chi.tds.net>

JUNE

- 3 7th Annual Convoy for Kids - Bangor/Hampden - contact Irvin Smith at <brianb@hobouchard.com> or 800-432-1727
- 9 MPDA General Meeting – 9:00am – Hannaford Trucking Office, So. Portland –contact Fred Thompson at <Tfthomp5349@aol.com> or 582-1343
- 10 Massachusetts/Rhode Island State Truck Driving Championships – Devens, Mass - Contact: Lorrie Shea (800) 233-2246 or <SnoopsToy@aol.com>
- 16 State Champions Meeting – 9:00am - MMTA office, Augusta - contact Denis Litalien at <dentruck@hotmail.com> or 282-6346

AUGUST

- 22-25 National Truck Driving Championships (ATA) - Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 25-31 National Truck Driver Appreciation Week

SEPTEMBER

- 8 MPDA General Meeting – 9:00am – Associated Grocers Office, Gardiner –contact Fred Thompson at <Tfthomp5349@aol.com> or 582-1343
- 15 Associated Grocers Driving Competition - Gardiner - contact Jim Widdoes at <jwiddoes@agofme.com> or 582-6500
- 15 Set up day for Charity Challenge
- 16 5th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge - Devens, Mass - contact Fred Schenk at <StJudeRodeo4kids@excite.com> or 508-453-3632
- 26-29 U.S. Professional Truck Driver Championships (non- ATA) – Milwaukee, Wis contact Dave Borngesser at 800-772-3673(Ext.2430)

OCTOBER

- 7 Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy, Portland/South Portland - contact Kevin Battle at <trucking4kids@aol.com> or 623-1396

DECEMBER

- 13 MMTA Shipper's Night – Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland - contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or <grayc@mmta.com>
(Please send any additions or changes to: Denis Litalien at 282-6346 or e-mail at mpda@mpda.maine.org)