

Behind The Wheel

Newsletter of the Maine Professional Drivers Association



Volume XIII, No. 2

“Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism”

Mar / April 2003



THIRD LANE TRUCK LAW

You may or may not be aware of the “Third Truck Lane Law” that was proposed earlier this year in the legislature – Well, that got put to rest. Although did you know the **Maine Turnpike Authority** agreed to a ‘no trucks in the third lane law’ in order to acquire a needed permit for the widening? Wasn’t made very public was it?

Below you will find more detailed information about this. One very, very important thing here is this – ***if you care about no trucks in the third lane on the Maine Turnpike – YOU NEED TO BE THERE***, at the next MPDA General Meeting on May 3rd.

Dan Paradee from the Maine Turnpike Authority will be there to answer your questions and hear your concerns on this very important issue. Turnout is expected to be heavy, with representatives from MMTA, Maine trucking companies, as well as other officials from various agencies. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find directions to the meeting location.

SEE YOU THERE !!

NEXT MPDA GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, May 3 – Hannaford Trucking – S. Portland, Maine– 9:00am – FMI -Dick Brown at 207-318-7395 or <rbrown9@maine.rr.com>

FACTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED RULE PROHIBITING TRUCKS FROM THE LEFTMOST LANE ON THE THREE LANE SECTION OF THE MAINE TURNPIKE

It is expected that the Maine Turnpike Authority and the Maine Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing during the Authority’s regular monthly meeting on May 22 to consider a rule that would prohibit trucks from the leftmost lane on the three lane section of the Maine Turnpike. Here is a brief explanation of why this restriction is necessary to comply with the federal environmental permit granted for the Maine Turnpike Widening project.

- In order to obtain necessary environmental permits for the Turnpike Widening project from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Maine Turnpike Authority and the Maine Department of Transportation were required to perform an air quality analysis to determine the effect of the new third lane on the regional air emissions.
- The results of the air quality analysis indicated that emissions would worsen as a result of the Turnpike widening. To obtain the necessary federal environmental permits the Turnpike would have to offset these emission impacts.
- The Turnpike Authority conducted an exhaustive analysis to identify a list of all possible mitigation measures to offset the air quality impacts of the Widening. This list included:
 - The expansion and construction of new park

and ride facilities

- The installation and operation of an extensive network of electronic highway message boards
- The installation and operation of a highway advisory radio station (1610 AM)
- The implementation of a fixed fare and electronic toll collection system (Transpass)
- Significant investments in transportation educational programs
- And the prohibition of trucks and buses from the leftmost lane on the three lane section of highway.
- In the final analysis all of the above actions were required to generate enough air quality credits to obtain the necessary permits from the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection. The prohibition of trucks from the leftmost lane generated more than 25% of the credits needed, making it an essential part of the mitigation package.

Submitted by the Maine Turnpike Authority

 **HANNAFORD TRUCKING** 

Shop 'n Save

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Maine Turnpike Authority has done it to the trucking industry again. It has a great habit of asking for our help and then socking it to us. I was a member of the widening committee. The Maine Turnpike Authority asked for our help and support when they did the study for the widening. We were there when they needed us, and then in the final hours before the bill went before the Transportation Committee, they added the line that read *'trucks would be restricted from the left lane'*.

They were told that we would not only pull our support for the bill but would oppose it. They took out the restriction.

A short time after the bill passed, they up the tolls on the turnpike. This was their way of saying thanks to the trucking industry for all your help suckers.

Now!!! They are going to restrict trucks from the left lane for environmental reasons. Can anyone from the Maine Turnpike Authority tell me why a truck traveling at a speed of 65 mph is effecting the environment more in the left lane than it is in the right lane?

I have traveled the portion of the turnpike that has the third lane and I had to use that third lane because the two right hand lanes were blocked with vehicles going way under the speed limit for no reason. The third lane was added for safety reasons, and now they want to restrict trucks from that lane causing congestion and unsafe conditions.

We have been there when the turnpike has needed us for safety committees and whatever support they may have needed – **but where is the Maine Turnpike Authority when we need them?**

Ronald Hutchins, Past President MPDA

MPDA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello to everybody!

I want to start out by saying congratulations to **Randy DeVault** for winning the National trophy at the Roadway competition in Akron, Ohio. (you will see more details and the full story in this newsletter).

Things are really hopping this time of the year with company competitions coming up. Also the Boston Truck Show and the TDC at Dysart's in Bangor, both in May. There are so many other things that are about to take place, but I don't have space in this issue to tell you about them all.

A real big item I need to tell you about is the **Maine Turnpike Authority** is planning to RESTRICT TRUCKS FROM THE THIRD LANE. Dan Paradee from the Maine Turnpike called me to tell me about this, and to let me know that he would be glad to address our membership at our upcoming general meeting on May 3rd.

The time and location of this meeting is listed in the calendar of events on page the last page with the directions to Hannafords on page 3 of this newsletter.

MPDA members and their guests really need to attend this meeting. If we show a real strong opposition to this THIRD LANE RESTRICTION now, maybe we can stop it before it gets started. But, and this is a real big BUT, if you don't come to this meeting and just leave it for the other people to take care of, this RESTRICTION will go though and we will not be able to get it changed.

See all of you at the meeting.

Dick Brown, President MPDA

ROADTEAM REPORT

At our last ROADTEAM meeting we went over the calendar

of events to figure out where we need people and when.

It all starts with the Boston truck show, which is headed up by **Jim Costa** and **Mona Lowell** again this year. They do such a good job of organizing things for that event. If you would like to work with them and others in the booth there give Jim a call.

With the newly purchased 19-inch TV/VCR combo, our ROADTEAM will now have the ability to show our videos at various ROADTEAM functions and events, as well as the showing of safety videos at MPDA General meetings for our members.

I don't know what is going to happen with the driver-ed schools if the Secretary of State changes the way these classes are taught. He wants them to limit the classroom teaching to 7 hours per week, which would mean each class would take four to five weeks to complete as 30 hours of classroom time is required. We should see a final ruling on this in the coming weeks. I guess it probably wouldn't affect the two-hour presentation we do, but it sure would make it hard on the driver-ed schools to make a living. I, along with many of the driver-ed school owners, am not sure how this would enhance the learning or safety of the new drivers whom take this course.

At our next meeting on April 19th, we will be discussing the possibility of putting together our own video(s) to use at driver-ed schools and at other events.

If any of our membership has experience in the area of video recording and/or would like to help us with this endeavor, please feel free to call me at 207-582-1343 or 207-632-3385.

We are also now taking new applications for ROADTEAM members. If you are interested or would like more information on the ROADTEAM, and what we do, please call me at the above numbers.

Well it looks like spring has sprung and the grass has risen, I wonder where the flowers is. That was just a little poem from my childhood. It really is nice to see the temperature on the rise and the frost heaves going away. Just in time for another season of major road maintenance and construction. Well it's pretty hard to do any roadwork in this part of the country in the winter months.

Talking about spring and road construction leads me into this month's safe driving tip. You can probably guess what it will be about. That's right, safe driving in construction zones.

Lets look at some facts from the U.S. DOT and the Federal Highway Administration. Then lets look at some safe driving tips for construction zones.

- * Over the last 5 years the number of persons killed in motor vehicle crashes in work zones has gone from 717 in 1996 to a high of 1,093 in 2000.
- * In 2000, 1,093 fatalities resulted from motor vehicle crashes in work zones of which 264 resulted from large truck crashes.
- * In 2000, almost two times as many fatal work zone crashes occurred on weekdays compared to weekends.
- * In 2000, the percentage of fatal work zone crashes occurring on urban interstates was nearly twice the percentage of all fatal crashes occurring on urban interstates. (11% compared to 6%)
- * Over 40,000 people per year are injured as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones.

So why the increase in crashes and fatalities in work zones? SPEED, IMPATIENCE, TAILGATING, and INATTENTION are the most common reasons. Here are some tips.

- **SLOW DOWN** in construction zones. The lanes are narrow or reduced to single lanes quite often and may be offset or in a zigzag pattern.
- **BE PATIENT** There is no way you are going to make up for lost time because of a construction delay. *(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 2)

be resolved to that fact.

- **DON'T TAILGATE** Trying to stay on the bumper of the vehicle in front of you to prevent someone else from getting in front of you is not worth the risk you take by tailgating the vehicle ahead of you. Your chances of not rear-ending the vehicle ahead of you in stop and go traffic are much less if you leave a gap.
- **PAY ATTENTION** In a construction zone with slowed or stop and go traffic is not the time to be fidgeting with your radio, cd or tape -player, cell phone, or anything else that might distract your attention from the traffic and conditions around you. Looking away from the road even for a few seconds can be time enough to cause a crash.
- **FINES** for speeding in construction zones in most states now are doubled. That can take the profit out of a trip real quickly not to mention costing you points on your driving record.
- When you know you are approaching a construction zone begin to prepare for the worst. Be prepared for slow moving construction vehicles and workers who may be in the road or crossing the road.
- When you see the signs that say a lane is closed ahead merge into the lane that will be open as soon as you can safely do so. Don't be the guy or gal who has to see how many more vehicles they can pass before you reach the barricades.
- Make allowances for other drivers who may be confused or may not know what lane to be in. Remember you are the professional driver and should be defensive in your driving habits and skills at all times.
- Be aware of vehicles hauling campers, vehicles hauling boats, motor homes, or other drivers who may not be completely familiar with the type of vehicle or combination they are driving.
- Finally try to stay in one lane and don't pass when driving in construction zones unless it is absolutely necessary.

Well that's it for this issue of *Behind the Wheel*.

Remember to be SAFE, COURTEOUS, and PROFESSIONAL out there on the boulevard because you and I are representing the trucking industry and we want our industry to look good don't we.

If you pass me in the Macomber one stack MACK with the tinted sliding window in the back don't blow my doors off and for crying out loud say hello to the Gray Ghost.

See you on the boulevard.

Fred Thompson, MPDA ROADTEAM Captain

PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT

We are getting closer all the time to our plans of producing our audio & video PSA's, and safety training videos.

MPDA member **Bud Sawyer** will be meeting with the Officers at the upcoming MPDA Officer's Meeting to discuss what the best way to accomplish this will be.

As time goes on, I encourage, and I have no doubt, our membership – including our supporting members, will have the chance to be involved with the production of these MPDA training and PSA's audio & video segments

Dave Stuart – MPDA Public Relations Officer

MPDA ADMINISTRATIVE

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Again – we would like to encourage you if you are interested – to get your name or to suggest someone for the upcoming election of officers.

All the positions will be open, and which will include:

President	Vice President
Treasurer	Secretary
Legislative Officer	Membership Officer
Publicity Officer	TDC Officer

If anyone is interested in serving in one of these positions or would like to nominate someone, please contact Terry Stuart at 727-3704, or via email tstuart@mainepda.org

SECRETARY'S REPORT

PAST MEETING HIGH LIGHTS

- 1 Fred Thompson gave an informative safety presentation on Tailgating at the General Meeting on March 15, 2003, held at the Maine Motor Transport offices in Augusta. The ROADTEAM members are planning a safety presentation to begin each general meeting of the MPDA. As you have read in this issue of *Behind the Wheel*, the next meeting will be held on May 3rd at the Hannaford Offices in South Portland and the topic will be "Trucks in the third lane of the Maine Turnpike".
- 2 A second vote to raise the yearly dues beginning in 2004 passed unanimously.
- 3 Anyone who would like to help at the Maine State Truck Driving Championship to be held on May 17th in Bangor should contact Cliff Gray at MMTA. His number is 207-623-4128. Help is needed to set up the course on the 16th and judges are needed on the 17th during the competition.
- 4 Once again, CCX has donated a vacation raffle to be drawn at the TDC on May 17th. Tickets are \$5.00 each or a book of 5 for \$20.00. You will find in this mailing of the newsletter a book of 5 tickets. If you wish to purchase a ticket (\$5.00) or the whole book (\$20.00), please fill out the stub(s) and send them with your money to:

Maine Professional Drivers Association
P.O. Box 5672 - Augusta, Maine
04332-5672

Please make checks payable to MPDA, as well as put "IN CARE OF PAM ROGERS" on your envelope. Be sure to send them in time for the drawing May 17th. For more information you can contact Dick Brown at 318-7395.

Terry Stuart – MPDA Secretary

NOTES FROM UP & DOWN THE ROAD

NEW ENGLAND TRUCK SHOW

In this issue of *Behind the Wheel*, there are 4 tickets for the 2003 New England Truck Show. If you need extra tickets, you can contact either Jim Costa at 207-727-5349 or Dave Stuart at 207-727-3704.

MPDA GENERAL MEETING LOCATION DIRECTIONS

From Exit 7 off the turnpike – turn left – got to 3rd lite – turn right – follow until you see signs saying employee's parking.

From 295 South – Take the Route 1 South exit – got to second lite – turn left – follow until you see signs saying employee's parking.

For more information you can call Dick Brown at 207-318-7395. This phone is available 24/7. If Dick doesn't not answer, please leave a message with your name and phone number and he will call you back

(Continued from page 3)

RANDY DEVAULT NAMED GRAND CHAMPION OF PFHC

Roadway's dockworkers: 6,000 dedicated professionals working day and night to move our customers' freight safely, move it efficiently, and load it to ride from pick-up through to delivery.

To do this, they need skill, knowledge, and a dedication to safety. There's no question that their skills are put to the test every day, but some dockworkers choose to put their skills to the ultimate test – the *Professional Freight Handlers Competition* (PFHC).

Competing for the title of Grand Champion, dockworkers face four challenges: a written examination, personal interview,



Age: 45
Home: Canton, ME
Spouse: Ginny
Hobbies: Snowmobiling

Community Involvement

Member, Maine Professional Drivers Association; participant, Northeast Charity Challenge for St. Jude's; participant, Maine Convoy for Kids

History

28 years in the trucking industry
14 years with Roadway Express

Achievements: 14 years accident- and injury-free; District Road Team; instructor, haz mat and Smith System™; member, IPI Council; Golden Q recipient

"I have competed in the truck driving championships for the past 12 years and thought the Professional Freight Handlers Competition would be a new challenge for me. I enjoy the excitement of competition."



pre-trip inspection, and a driving course. Employees from around the company competed in local and regional run-offs to earn their way to the company-wide competition. To be eligible, employees had to be certified to operate forklifts and have an injury- and accident-free safety record for the twelve-month period immediately preceding their district event.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET ?

The Maine State Truck Driving Championships will be held on May 17, 2003 at Dysart's at the intersection of the Coldbrook and Odlin Roads in Hermon. Drivers need to be pre-registered in order to compete.

You may register online at the MMTA website at www.mmta.com. All driver registrations must be received at the MMTA Office prior to May 2, 2003.

For further information contact Cliff Gray at the MMTA Office at 207-623-4128.

- from MMTA's Maine Line

POSTED ROADS

As happens every spring the MDOT has posted many roads in the State. That information is now available over the internet at www.511maine.com. It is also available from the MMTA web site at www.mmta.com then click on "Posted Roads & Info". Once on the linked page click on the area of the State you are interested in and a map will show the posted roads in that area, click on the road you are interested in and information will appear specific to that location.

This same site may be used to obtain information about construction projects or other events that may cause delays.

- from MMTA's Maine Line

TRUCKER BUDDY UPDATE

Trucker Buddy always needs more trucking pen pals. Recently, more than 200 teachers were waiting for Trucker Buddies for their elementary classes. Although most of these classes have

been matched with truckers, more drivers are needed for the new teachers applying in May.

"With summer coming, we're always in need of drivers," Ellen Voie, president of Trucker Buddy, said.

Through the Trucker Buddy pen-pal program, drivers are matched with school classes in grades two through eight. By sharing news about their travels with their assigned classes, the Trucker Buddy drivers enhance the classes' lessons in reading, writing, geography, mathematics, social studies and history.

Established in 1992, Trucker Buddy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping educate and mentor schoolchildren through pen-pal relationships between professional truck drivers and children in grades 2 through 8. Trucker Buddy matches classes of students with professional truckers.

The only requirement to be a Trucker Buddy is that you are a professional driver, willing to send a post card each week or two to a designated class. Drivers can apply online at www.truckerbuddy.org or by calling 1-800-MY BUDDY.

Behind the Wheel Newsletter

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

MPDA's Board of Directors

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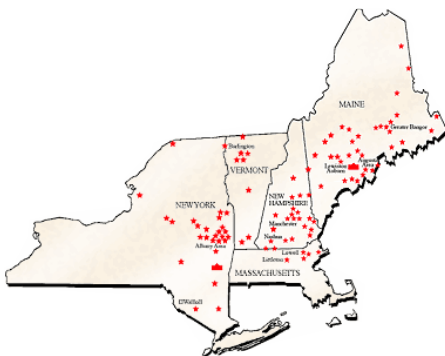
In the late 1800's when Arthur and Howard Hannaford began their venture on the waterfront in Portland, Maine, transportation was a big challenge. At that time, a round trip to Boston, Massachusetts, could take four days, depending on the weather and if road conditions were passable for horse and wagon. To-day we make the trip in four hours from our South Portland,

Maine, terminal.

For the trucking business, 1982 brought a new era. Deregulation of the trucking industry allowed us to become a common carrier - hence, Hannaford Trucking Co. was born! We set forth on a new road with experience and the ability to meet all of our customers' high expectations. With an elite fleet of drivers, a very knowledgeable dispatch staff, and late model, well maintained equipment, we



moved forward to meet those needs and have grown to become one of the premiere carriers on the East Coast.



Today, Hannaford Trucking Co. operates out of four (4) terminals located in South Portland, Maine; Winthrop, Maine; Schodack, New York; and Butner, North Carolina.

Hannaford Trucking is pleased and proud to be a Supporting Member of the Maine Professional Drivers Association.

MPDA CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2003 (As of April 12, 2003)

April

- 17-18 - **Tri-State Transportation Safety Conference** – (ME, NH, VT) Fairlee, Vt. – contact 802-655-7769 or www.aot.state.vt.us/sms/documents/tristatelakemorey.doc
- 19 – **MPDA Officers Meeting** – MMTA Office – 9:00am– contact Dick Brown at rbrown9@maine.rr.com or 207-799-1030
- 19 – **MPDA ROADTEAM Meeting** – MMTA Office – Noon – contact Fred Thompson at ftthomp5349@aol.com or 207-582-1343
- 27 – **Great Grocery Grudge** - ~~cancelled~~
- 29 – **So. Convoy Committee Meeting** – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall – 6:30pm - contact Jim Costa at jcosta@sacoriver.net or 207-727-5349

May

- 3 – **MPDA General Meeting** – Hannaford Trucking, S. Portland – 9:00am– contact Dick Brown at rbrown9@maine.rr.com or 207-799-1030
- 4 – **Shaw's Truck Driving Competition** – Scarborough Truck Terminal – contact John Waisanen at john.waisanen@shaws.com or 800-667-4297
- 8-10 – **New England Truck Show** – Bayside Auditorium, Boston - contact Jim Costa at jcosta@sacoriver.net or 207-727-5349
- 16 – **TDC Set-up Day** – Dysart's Truck Terminal, Hermon – Noon - contact Cliff Gray at grayc@mmta.com or 207-623-4128
- 17 – **Maine State Truck Driving Championships** – Dysart's/Bangor Motor Inn – 5:30am - contact Cliff Gray at grayc@mmta.com or 207-623-4128
- 23-24 – **Tentative Coffee Break** – Maine Turnpike & I-95 Locations – contact Dick Brown at rbrown9@maine.rr.com or 207-799-1030
- 27 – **So. Convoy Committee Meeting** – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall- 6:30pm - contact Jim Costa at jcosta@sacoriver.net or 207-727-5349

June

- 1 – **Northern Convoy for Kids** – Bangor/Brewer - contact Stan McLaughlin at swifttrucker@aol.com or 207-827-7209
- 21 – **New Hampshire State Truck Driving Championships** – N.H. Dept. of Public Safety, Concord – contact Vera Tucker at 603-224-07337 or nhmta@tds.net
- 22 – **Massachusetts State Truck Driving Championships** – CCX Terminal, Chicopee, Mass. – contact Bob Darling at 508-853-9088 or bdar66@aol.com
- 24 – **So. Convoy Committee Meeting** – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall – 6:30pm - contact Jim Costa at jcosta@sacoriver.net or 207-727-5349

July

- 19 – **MPDA General Meeting** – Cole's Transportation Museum, Bangor – 9:00am – contact Dick Brown at rbrown9@maine.rr.com or 207-799-1030
- 29 – **So. Convoy Committee Meeting** – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall – 6:30pm - contact Jim Costa at jcosta@sacoriver.net or 207-727-5349

August

- 19-23 – **ATA National Truck Driving Championships** – Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio - contact Cliff Gray at grayc@mmta.com or 207-623-4128
- 26 – **So. Convoy Committee Meeting** – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall – 6:30pm - contact Jim Costa at jcosta@sacoriver.net or 207-727-5349
- 29-31 – **Tentative Coffee Break** – Maine Turnpike & I-95 Locations – contact Dick Brown at rbrown9@maine.rr.com or 207-799-1030

September

- 1 – **Tentative Coffee Break** – Maine Turnpike & I-95 Locations – contact Dick Brown at rbrown9@maine.rr.com or 207-799-1030
- 6 – **2003 Charity FunDrive** – Lehigh Travel Plaza (VA. I-81, Exit 195) - contact Fred Schenk at StJudeRoadeo4kids@excite.com or 508-453-3632
- 20 – **MPDA General Meeting** – Hannaford Trucking, S. Portland – 9:00am– contact Dick Brown at rbrown9@maine.rr.com or 207-799-1030
- 30 – **So. Convoy Committee Meeting** – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall – 6:30pm - contact Jim Costa at jcosta@sacoriver.net or 207-727-5349

October

- 1-4 – **US Professional Truck Driving Championships** - Milwaukee
- 11 – **Convoy Set-up Day** – 9:00am – Portland - contact Jim Costa at jcosta@sacoriver.net or 207-727-5349
- 12 – **Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy**, 7:00am - Portland/South Portland - contact Jim Costa at jcosta@sacoriver.net or 207-727-5349
- 26 – **8th Annual N. H. Truckers Drive for Kids** – Location TBA - Contact Linda Rafeal at 603-435-6366 or micrafeal@aol.com

November

- 14 – **Annual MPDA Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet** – Location and time to be announced.