



(Continued from page 1)

## MACK RENEWS SPONSORSHIP OF ATA'S SHARE THE ROAD PROGRAM

Paul Vikner, chief executive officer of Mack Trucks, Inc. said Monday that Mack would serve as the primary sponsor of American Trucking Associations' Share the Road program in 2005.

Share the Road was designed to enhance the safety of America's roadways by teaching automobile drivers how to safely share the road with large trucks. This will be the fifth year Mack has supported the program.

The program delivers life-saving messages to hundreds of U.S. cities and reaches millions of motorists annually. America's Road Team members - professional truck drivers with exemplary safety records - travel to cities throughout the country and conduct safety demonstrations for local media as a way to reach the driving public.

Mack is a member of the Volvo Group. Volvo Trucks North America Inc., is the sole sponsor of America's Road Team.

## ROUTE 3 CONNECTOR AUGUSTA THIRD BRIDGE

As most of you all know, the new by-pass (Route 3 Connector) to route 3 & 201 is now open. Some of you may not know that it is also open to trucks grossing 100,000 pounds (tri-axles).

The ban on these truck has been lifted from the end of the Maine Turnpike north on I95 to exit 113 only.



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## AUGUSTA MEMORIAL BRIDGE TEMPORARY CLOSURE - 3 OR 4 DAYS BEGINNING DECEMBER 1ST

<http://www.maine.gov/mdot-stage/ambindex.php>

The Augusta Memorial Bridge will be temporarily closed for structural repairs beginning December 1st. This temporary closure will last only 3 or 4 days and will take place after the opening of the Augusta Third Bridge, which will provide an additional route across the Kennebec River into the future.

The short-term bridge closure in December will also allow MaineDOT to assess traffic impacts in advance of the longer-term repair and re-decking procedure planned for Spring/Summer 2005.

MaineDOT will use a variety of methods to gather feedback on the public's experience during December's 3-4 day temporary closure, so that we can determine the best approach to traffic management during the more extensive repairs to Memorial Bridge next year.

Please consider alternate routes during the required Augusta Memorial Bridge closure in December:

For most traffic, the two recommended routes across the Kennebec River will be the new Augusta Third Bridge and the Gardiner/Randolph Bridge.

Downtown Augusta businesses will remain open and accessible throughout the closure, and the Father Curran Bridge can be used to reach them.

## MAINE TURNPIKE UPDATES



**E-ZPass**

**Maine Customer Service Center**

For all MMTA accounts in the Toll Discount Program please be sure that you have returned your EZ Pass application. If you did not receive one in the mail, please contact Deb at 207-623-4128.

If we do not have your application in by December 10, 2005 then MMTA will not guarantee you will have your devices on the day of the change, which is February 1st, 2005. All applications that are received will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. The device(s) you have now, (little black box) WILL NOT WORK as of February 1, 2005. If you do not have a new device on this day then you will have to pay cash until you get your new

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## Wal-Mart

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devices.

As of today, the Turnpike Authority opened the new Exit 86 in Sabattus to all traffic.

As of November 20th, the Maine Turnpike Authority by agreement with the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) will extend to the "New Bridge" in Augusta. Thus, 100,000 pound six-axle combination units will be able to use that portion of the highway from Exit 109 to the new exit

*From MMTA's "Maine Line" newsletter*

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BANS MEXICAN TRUCKS

The omnibus spending bill passed by the House of Representatives Nov. 20. contains a provision aimed at restricting Mexican trucks from entering the U.S. in accordance with the North American Free Trade Agreement of 1993.

The provision was sponsored by Rep. John Olver, D-Mass.

Olver inserted the amendment to restrict foreign trucks citing safety reasons rather than environmental considerations that had been at issue earlier.

The bill passed 339-70, but the truck provision might not survive a House-Senate conference, according to NewsMax.com, an on-line news source.

The Supreme Court in June ruled that the Bush administration had the authority to lift a moratorium on Mexican, a defeat for groups seeking to ban Mexican trucks from U.S. roads.

*From ROADSTAR ONLINE*



## HOOD INTRODUCES Carb Countdown

Hood's "Carb Countdown" is the dairy solution for those counting their carbs!

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## REGULATION OF THE MONTH

§ 396.25 Qualifications of brake inspectors.

(a) The motor carrier shall ensure that all inspections, maintenance, repairs or service to the brakes of its commercial motor vehicles, are performed in compliance with the requirements of this section.

(b) For purposes of this section, brake inspector means any employee of a motor carrier who is responsible for ensuring all brake inspections, maintenance, service, or repairs to any commercial motor vehicle, subject to the motor carrier's control, meet the applicable Federal standards.

(c) No motor carrier shall require or permit any employee who does not meet the minimum brake inspector qualifications of § 396.25(d) to be responsible for the inspection, maintenance, service or repairs of any brakes on its commercial motor vehicles.

(d) The motor carrier shall ensure that each brake inspector

*(Continued on page 4)*



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(Continued from page 3)

is qualified as follows:

(d)(1) Understands the brake service or inspection task to be accomplished and can perform that task; and

(d)(2) Is knowledgeable of and has mastered the methods, procedures, tools and equipment used when performing an assigned brake service or inspection task; and

(d)(3) Is capable of performing the assigned brake service or inspection by reason of experience, training or both as follows:

(d)(3)(i) Has successfully completed an apprenticeship program sponsored by a State, a Canadian Province, a Federal agency or a labor union, or a training program approved by a State, Provincial or Federal agency, or has a certificate from a State or Canadian Province which qualifies the person to perform the assigned brake service or inspection task (including passage of Commercial Driver's License air brake tests in the case of a brake inspection); or

(d)(3)(ii) Has brake-related training or experience or a combination thereof totaling at least one year. Such training or experience may consist of:

(A) Participation in a training program sponsored by a brake or vehicle manufacturer or similar commercial training program designed to train students in brake maintenance or inspection similar to the assigned brake service or inspection tasks; or

(B) Experience performing brake maintenance or inspection similar to the assigned brake service or inspection task in a motor carrier maintenance program; or

(C) Experience performing brake maintenance or inspection similar to the assigned brake service or inspection task at a commercial garage, fleet leasing company, or similar facility.

(e) No motor carrier shall employ any person as a brake inspector unless the evidence of the inspector's qualifications, required under this section is maintained by the motor carrier at its principal place of business, or at the location at which the brake inspector is employed. The evidence must be maintained for the period during which the brake inspector is employed in that capacity and for one year thereafter. However, motor carriers do not have to maintain evidence of qualifications to inspect air brake systems for such inspections performed by persons who have passed the air brake knowledge and skills test for a Commercial Driver's License.

[56 FR 491, Jan. 7, 1991]

[44 FR 38526, July 2, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 55868, Dec. 16, 1983; 53 FR 18058, May 19, 1988; 59 FR 8753, Feb. 23, 1994; 59 FR 60324, Nov. 23, 1994]

**PETRO NOW ACCEPTS WRIGHT EXPRESS CARD**

Wright Express customers can now use their Wright Express Fleet Card at all 60 Petro Stopping Center locations nationwide.

Petro joins the more than 45,000 diesel retail locations nationwide currently in the Wright network, including the more than 7,000 truck stops that already accept the Wright Express Fleet card.

*from eTruck online*

**Maine Professional Drivers Association's  
Behind the Wheel Newsletter Credits & Board of Directors**

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Dave Stuart

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MPDA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting courtesy, safety and professionalism in the field of commercial driving. Articles of interest to members, advertising copy, inquiries, payments, change of address, comments, and newsletter submissions should be mailed to:

**Maine Professional Drivers Association / P.O. Box 5672  
Augusta, Maine / 04332-5672  
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## **UPCOMING MPDA MEETINGS**

**MPDA Officer's / Budget Meeting – December 10<sup>TH</sup>**

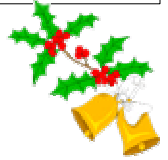
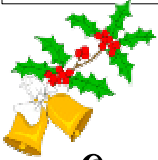
Yarmouth Lumber, Gray, ME @ 6:00PM

FMI - Contact Ron Hutchins at 623-4128 or <ronh@mmta.com>

**15<sup>TH</sup> Annual MPDA Awards Banquet**

Verillos Restaurant - Portland, Maine

FMI - Terry Stuart at 207-727-3704 or <tstuart@mainepda.org>



*Have a safe and happy Holiday Season*

### **2004 / 2005 MPDA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

(As of November 28, 2004 - includes events that our members are involved in, or are of interest to our members)

#### **DECEMBER 2004**

- 10 - **MPDA Officer's & Budget Meeting** - Yarmouth Lumber - Gray, Maine - 6:00PM - contact Ron Hutchins at 207-623-4128 or <ronh@mmta.com>

#### **JANUARY 2005**

- 8 - **MPDA ROADTEAM Meeting** - MMTA Office - Augusta, Me - 9:00AM - FMI contact Fred Thompson at 582-1343 or <Tfthomp5349@aol.com>
- 11 - **So. Convoy Committee Meeting** - Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall - 6:00pm - contact Dick Brown at 207-318-7395 or <rbrown9@maine.rr.com> or <trucking4kids@aol.com>
- 14 - **Tentative MPDA Officer's Meeting** - Time & Location TBA - contact Ron Hutchins at 207-623-4128 or ronh@mmta.com>
- 22 - **15<sup>th</sup> Annual MPDA Awards Banquet** - Verillos Restasurant - Portland, Maine - contact Terry Stuart at 207-727-3704 or <tstuart@mainepda.org> (**note date change from October**)

#### **MARCH 2005**

- 13 - **Tentative MPDA General Meeting** - Time & Location TBA - contact Ron Hutchins at 207-623-4128 or <ronh@mmta.com>

#### **APRIL 2005**

- 28 - 30 - **Boston truck Show** - Boston Convention & Exhibition Center - Boston, Ma. - FMI contact Jim Costa at 207-727-5349 or <jcosta@sacoriver.net> - <http://naexpo.com/truckshow/>

#### **MAY 2005**

- 13 - **TDC Set - up Day** - Dysart's Truck Terminal, Hermon - Noon - contact Cliff Gray at <grayc@mmta.com> or 207-623-4128
- 13 - **MPDA Hospitality Get-Together** (for everyone involved in competition) - Room 230, Bangor Motor Inn - contact Everett MacMaster at 207-797-6330 or <emac@maine.rr.com>
- 14 - **Maine State Truck Driving Championships** - Dysart's/Bangor Motor Inn - 5:30am - contact Cliff Gray at <grayc@mmta.com> or 207-623-4128

#### **JUNE 2005**

- 6 - **Northern Convoy for Kids** (Tentative) – Bangor/Brewer - contact Dick Brown at 318-7395 or <rbrown9@maine.rr.com>
- 16-19 **Trek Across Maine Lung Assn. Rally**, Sunday River - contact Fred Thompson at 582-1343 or <Tfthomp5349@aol.com>

(Corrections or additions should be sent to Pete Mortensen at morty@maine.rr.com or 284 - 4933)