

# *Behind The Wheel*

*Newsletter of the Maine Professional Drivers Association*



Volume XIII, No. 1

*"Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism"*

January 2004

## **Editor's Note**

In error, there were several submissions for the November / December 2003 issue of *Behind the Wheel* omitted.

So to make sure our members are kept informed, I am sending out this short newsletter.

## **UPCOMING MPDA GENERAL MEETING**

The next MPDA General Meeting will be on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM at the Old Country Buffet in the Maine Mall.

For more information, please call 207-727-3704 or email [dstuart@mainepda.org](mailto:dstuart@mainepda.org)

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE**

## **MPDA ROADTEAM Training Seminar**

Our first training seminar will be on January 24<sup>th</sup> at the MMTA Office in Augusta, Maine. The subject will be the new Hours of Service Rules.

FMI please see the article on the next page or call Fred Thompson at 582-1343 or email - [<Tfthomp5349@aol.com>](mailto:Tfthomp5349@aol.com)

## **From the Desk of Dick Brown**

Well as most of you know my term as MPDA President came to an end on December 31 2003. Our new President, Ron Hutchins, is no stranger to the office. He has been President before and did a great job. I am sure he will do a great job again, that is the way Ron is. If he takes on a job he does it.

My two years as President proved to be a lot of fun. Although there were some tough times with the budget, the Officers and I were able to overcome the problems. The Officers in this Association really make the President look good and I thank them for that.

The members also make the MPDA look good. With all their help and support at the events MPDA puts on, such as the Northern and Southern Convoys. I applaud all of you for that !!

The last two years has also had it's share of sorrow. We had four members pass away and you all know that it is hard to deal with because these members were also good friends.

I do have some good news though, (no this is not a Geico Insurance commercial), President Ron Hutchins has appointed me as the Executive Director. This is a job that I'm looking forward to. I will be visiting MPDA's Supporting Members and letting them know that we appreciate and need the support that they give us.

I also will be taking on the job of increasing our membership. So, you as a member, could give me a helping hand with this. Get a friend, your co-workers, and your employer to join our great organization. We need as many members as possible to be heard in all the right places. If you watched the news in the past few weeks you have seen a few of the newscasts telling about P.A.T.T. and the 10 year anniversary of their existence.

Thank you for letting me be your President for the past two years.

*Dick Brown, Executive Director MPDA*

# MPDA ROADTEAM Report

*The Maine Turnpike*

*Some of the 'Good Things' they have done*

A fact is that with the improvements to many entrance and exit ramps, it is easier and safer to enter and exit the highway. Before the widening, some on ramps did not have a long enough space to get up to speed and merge safely.

The new programmable overhead information signs will help alert us to accidents, traffic slowdowns, or dangerous road conditions ahead.

Finally we can all be thankful for the safe and professional construction work crews that have been working on the widening project. We have had a minimum amount of backups on most days and nights of the project.

So as I said, don't dwell on what we didn't get or lost, but keep your focus on all the good stuff we did get out of this project. It will help you maintain a healthy attitude while you are out there sharing the road with the motoring public.

If you need to use the left lane to pass get it out of your system before May of 2004, because after that large trucks will be prohibited the same as they are in many other states. When this does go into affect be patient with other drivers who will not be familiar with this law as it will be something new for the state of Maine. As always don't tailgate slower vehicles to intimidate them into moving over. Be Safe, Courteous, and Professional.

Keep that shiny side up and the greasy side down good neighbor. I'll see you on the boulevard in the Macomber one stack Mack with the tinted sliding window in the back.

*Fred Thompson, MPDA ROADTEAM Captain*

## Administrative 2004 Election of Officers

Newly elected MPDA Officers for the 2004 term are as follows:

President - Ron Hutchins  
Vice President - Dave Stuart  
Treasurer - Pam Rogers  
Secretary - Terry Stuart  
Legislative - Rob Fernald  
TDC - Cliff Gray  
Membership - Pete Mortensen  
Public Relations - Dave Stuart

Appointment to the position of Executive Director -  
Dick Brown

## Your Newsletter Submissions

[behindthewheel@mainepda.org](mailto:behindthewheel@mainepda.org)

All newsletter submissions can now be sent to a special email address. Please use this new email address only for newsletter related reasons.

For example - If you have questions for the Editor or about the newsletter and of course your submissions.

As always, if you don't have email capabilities, you are encouraged to send your submissions or questions to our mailing address at:

Maine Professional Drivers Association  
PO Box 5672  
Augusta, Maine  
04332-5672

Or call the MPDA phone at 207-318-7395

Remember... it's your newsletter, so please keep those submissions coming.

## Membership Reminder

Don't forget to send in the 'Update Application' you received in the last issue of *Behind the Wheel*.

Pete would like to update the membership list so no one is left out of some of the future plans for MPDA.

## Attention all MPDA members.

Don't miss this upcoming training put on by your ROADTEAM.

**Date:** Saturday, January 24, 2004.

**Time:** Sign is at 8:30AM - seminar starts at 9:00AM sharp.

**Topic:** The New Hours of Service Rules. How the rules will work, what you can and can't do, and how they differ from the current rules.

**Trainer:** Dale Hannington, Director of the Maine Motor Transport Assn.

We are expecting a large turnout for this training, so as always this is for members only and be sure to be there on time.

Coffee and donuts will be available.

## Maine Professional Drivers Association

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

### MPDA Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	Ron Hutchins
<i>Vice President</i>	Dave Stuart
<i>Treasurer</i>	Pam Rogers
<i>Secretary</i>	Terry Stuart
<i>T.D.C. Officer</i>	Cliff Gray
<i>Legislative Officer</i>	Rob Fernald
<i>Membership Officer</i>	Peter Mortensen
<i>Publicity Officer</i>	Dave Stuart
<i>Past Presidents &amp; Lifetime Directors</i>	

Dick Brown  
Fred Thompson  
Doug Pickard  
Ron Hutchins  
John Waisanen  
Alan Paradis  
Denis Litalien

ROADTEAM Captain  
Webmasters

Fred Thompson  
Dave Stuart  
Pete Mortensen

Maine Professional Drivers Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 5672

Augusta, Maine

04332-5672

Tel - (207)-318-7395

Email - [mpdainfo@mainepda.org](mailto:mpdainfo@mainepda.org)

Website - <http://mainepda.org>

# MPDA CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2004

(As of January 4, 2004)

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

## January

- 18 **MPDA Officers/General Meeting** – Old Country Buffet Restaurant, Maine Mall, S. Portland – 9:00am – Contact Ron Hutchins at 623-4128 or <ronh@mmta.com>
- 24 **MPDA Membership Training** – 7:30am – MMTA Office, Augusta - contact Fred Thompson at 582-1343 or <Tfthomp5349@aol.com>

## February

- 28 **MPDA ROADTEAM Training** - MMTA Office, Augusta - 9:00am - contact Fred Thompson at 582-1343 or <tfthomp5349@aol.com>

## March

- 21 Tentative **MPDA Officers/General Meeting** - Time & Location TBA – Contact Ron Hutchins at 623-4128 or <ronh@mmta.com>
- 28 **MPDA Membership Training** – 7:30am – MMTA Office, Augusta - contact Fred Thompson at 582-1343 or <Tfthomp5349@aol.com>

## April

- 24 **MPDA Membership Training** – 7:30am – MMTA Office, Augusta - contact Fred Thompson at 582-1343 or <Tfthomp5349@aol.com>

## May

- 2 Tentative **7th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge** – Location TBA - contact Fred Schenk at 508-453-3632 or <StJudeRoadeo4kids@excite.com>
- 5 Third Lane Restriction Takes Effect – Maine Turnpike & I-95
- 14 **TDC Set-up Day** – Dysart’s Truck Terminal, Hermon – Noon - contact Cliff Gray at <grayc@mmta.com> or 623-4128
- 14 **MPDA Hospitality Get-together** (for everyone involved in competition)– Room 230, Bangor Motor Inn – Contact Everett MacMaster at 797-6330 or <emac@maine.rr.com>
- 15 **Maine State Truck Driving Championships** – Dysart’s/Bangor Motor Inn – 5:30am - contact Cliff Gray at <grayc@mmta.com> or 623-4128

## June

- 6 (Northern) **Convoy for Kids** – Bangor/Brewer - contact Stan McLaughlin at <swifttrucker@aol.com> or 827-7209

## August

- 17-24 **ATA National Truck Driving Championships** – Salt Lake City, Utah - contact Cliff Gray at <grayc@mmta.com> or 623-4128

## October

- 9 **Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Set-up Day** – 9:00am – Portland - contact Jim Costa at <jcosta@sacoriver.net > or 727-5349 or <trucking4kids@aol.com>
- 10 **Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy**, 7:00am - Portland/South Portland - contact Jim Costa at <jcosta@sacoriver.net> or 727-5349 or <trucking4kids@aol.com>
- 24 Tentative **10<sup>th</sup> Annual N. H. Truckers Drive for Kids** – Location TBA – 7:30am - Contact Linda Rafeal at 603-435-6366 or <LndaRfl@aol.com>

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

Behind the Wheel Newsletter  
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