# Behind The Wheel

Newsletter of the Maine Professional Drivers Association



Volume XIV, No. 3

"Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism"

March 2004

# "GOOD STUFF... TRUCKS BRING IT"

# MAINE TURNPIKE GOOD NEWS

While much ado is being made about the **Maine Turnpike Authority** and their vote to restrict trucks from the third lane, there is also some good news to report on the 'Pike.

Sometimes it's easy to forget the good things that get accomplished when they fall in the shadow of some negative item. I think we should keep things in perspective and recognize positive things as they happen.

Some of you may have noticed some of the positive changes happening not only on the Turnpike but on other Maine Interstate highways also. These changes include the renumbering of all (or most) of the exits and the re-designation of some Interstate highways. How many years did we complain about this problem and think that no one was listening. Well, obviously someone was listening. And the folks listening were the folks at the Maine Turnpike who initiated the process that made it happen.

After much discussion at MPDA meetings on how to recommend the changes that needed to be done, MPDA's Executive Director wrote to the Turnpike back in 1998 to encourage this process and the changes necessary to make the highways in Maine less confusing and therefore safer.

We recommended the changing of the Interstate designations to reflect I-95 going straight up the Turnpike and that I-295 go from Exit 6A all the way to Gardiner. We also asked that all the exits be re-numbered to reflect their position in relation to mile markers along the highway.

As you can see on the highways today, the final changes, taking effect as you read this, are nearly identical to the proposal we put to the Turnpike back in 1998. During the changeover, they even adjusted the mile markers to make them accurate to the starting point of the Maine/New Hampshire State Line, which they hadn't been since the opening of the Turnpike back in 1947.

This was not a simple process as it required approvals from the Turnpike Board of Directors, the Maine Dept. of Transportation, the Maine Legislature and a number of Federal Agencies to allow this to happen as this plan does not conform to Federal Standards. It also required changing over 500 signs on the Interstates and over 100 signs on the Turnpike.

Through it all, we stayed on top of the situation, recommending changes in the process as it happened through 2001 and 2002 until it finally became a reality. We submitted testimony and wrote

☆

☆☆

letters at various stages to encourage the changes we knew would make our job on the highways a little easier and safer.

I include this background information to let you know that we did our part to represent the interests of Maine's truck drivers and continue to do so as we track all the things that affect drivers and highways in Maine.

In this particular case, the Maine Turnpike Authority responded to our requests and did the right thing. As we continue to address the restriction of trucks in the 3<sup>rd</sup> lane, we will try to convince the folks that the right thing to do is to give us back that safety margin so we can do our jobs safely and efficiently and share the road with all motorists in a safe and professional manner.

Denis Litalien, Past Executive Director

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this message finds you well. I want to start off by bringing you up to date on what is happening in MPDA. First off, **Dick Brown & Roger Sproul** be met with the Maine Truenpike on March 8<sup>th</sup>. We will hear the results of that meeting at the next general meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> and in the next newsletter.

We're also watching to see the results and putting in our twocents worth, over the battle allowing the 100,000 pound road limit on I-95. We all know if you have to haul 100,000 pounds, the safest place is on the interstate highway system, not secondary roads. You can also help by calling your legislator and tell him/her your feelings on this issue.

Spring is coming and its time to think about the 2004 Truck Driving Championships. If you are going to compete, remind your office to send for your materials to study and for your application. If you are not going to compete how about signing up to help out as a judge or any of the other jobs we have you can do. Give me a call at 623-4128 or 622-1118 or call my cell phone at 458-0151. You also can reach me via e-mail at hutchtruc@aol.com.or ronh@mmta.com.

You can use these numbers and e-mails to reach me at anytime if you have a question or an issue you would like to address.

Thank You and Remember...

The World Is Run By Those Who Get Involved.

Regards, Ron Hutchins, President MPDA

THIS EDITION OF BEHIND THE WHEEL IS SPONSORED BY

SFS / ANDREW W. HOLMES - GENERAL SECRURITIES REPRESENTATIVE

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

I would to say hello to all the members of the MPDA, and to let them know that my retirement is going real well. Although the active functions of the MPDA have not started yet, **Ron Hutchins** has been keeping me and all of the other Officers quite busy going to meetings and making plans for the upcoming season.

As we get into our busy time of year, we will need lots of help with all of the competitions and events that we take part in. Like I am always telling you, we sure would like to hear from you saying you would like to volunteer at one of the upcoming events and give us a hand. Remember, all of our events are centered around safety and family, so bring your family along for a fun and safe time.

In the Calendar of Events elsewhere in the newsletter is all the contact names for all of the upcoming events.

Dick Brown, Executive Director

#### NHPDA AWARDS BANQUET

The NH Professional Drivers Association held their Annual Banquet on Saturday, February 21 at the Cat N The Fiddle Restaurant in Concord, NH. The evening festivities were hosted by Chairman William Roy. Steve Sargent of the NH Highway Safety Agency, gave a very informative speech. Followed by presentation of awards were as follows;

- DRIVER OF THE YEAR: Helen Dame
- SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD: Linda Rafeal
- GOOD SAMARITAN AWARD: Trooper Patrick Palmer
- SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD: Wayne Peasley
- CORPORATE APPRECIATION AWARDS: Roadway Express, Crowley Foods, Wal-Mart, Tru Serv Logistics, Yellow Transportation, Peasley Safety Consulting, NHMTA, and M & S Trailers

Awards of Appreciation were presented to: Linda Rafeal for 2003 Chairperson for the Trucker's Drive for Kids Convoy, **Mickey Rafeal** for Vice Chairman, Linda Rafeal for Secretary, Neil Nogues for Treasurer, Chris LeMauk for Membership Officer, Maine Motor Transport Association, and Maine Professional Drivers Association for their continued help and support.

Lifetime Membership certificates were presented to Thomas Hartt for past Chairman of the Champions Council, and William Nagel for past Chairman of NHPDA.

Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to the following individuals: Connie Roy, Robin LeMauk, Chris

LeMauk, Helen Dame, William Nagle, Dennis Soucy, Carol Soucy, **Ron Hutchins**, and **Cliff Gray**.

At the end of the evening door prizes were awarded to all in attendance.



Ron Hutchins and Cliff Gray receive Appreciation Award from NHPDA Chairman Bill Roy.

Submitted by Linda Rafeal

#### NOTES FROM DOWN THE ROAD

A new national effort to boost the image of the trucking industry hits the road this week, with the unveiling of the "Good Stuff — Trucks Bring It" campaign at American Trucking Association's Winter Leadership Meeting.

The campaign, financed with a \$500,000 commitment from ATA for the first two years, is designed to underscore the importance of trucking to the nation and to

help create a positive image of the industry in the eyes of the public.

A primary element of the campaign is to get as many trailers as possible adorned with the new posters that carry the "*Trucks Bring It*" logo.

The new effort joins a stable of image-building programs that ATA was already running, namely Share the Road, America's Road Team, Highway Watch and National Truck Driver Appreciation Week.

The latest program is the brainchild of ATA's Communications and Image Policy Committee. The first trucking image campaign began in 1955, when the ATA Foundation was created during the Eisenhower administration at a time when the interstate highway system was just beginning and trucking was beginning to grow with it.

In discussing the new campaign, ATA President Bill Graves said, "The trucking industry and our professional drivers have a good story to tell the American public. We want people to know more about how we contribute to their quality of life and about our commitment to their safety and security."

ATA's chief spokesman, Mike Russell, said the goal is to get millions of trailers working as "rolling billboards." He said companion efforts will "teach industry employees and leaders how to talk positively about what they do."

In addition to the trailer decals with the campaign logo, the image project will include kits for public speakers and media training for industry spokesmen and spokeswomen who want to help spread the good word about trucking.

The plan is also to create a new Web site for the media and the general public that is "stocked with pertinent industry information," according to Russell.

If you'd like to join this campaign, you can call ATA at (703) 838-1873 to get more details. And be sure and spread the word: Good Stuff — Trucks Bring It.

This story appeared in the Feb. 9 print edition of Transport Topics

## Kris-Way Truck Leasing

Kris-Way has grown from a single location in South Portland, Maine to a company that now operates

nine service locations in Maine, New Hampshire, and New York



### MPDA CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2004

(As of February 14, 2004) - (Includes events that our members are involved in, or are of interest to our members)

#### March

- **20** MPDA General Meeting MMTA Office, Augusta 9:00am Contact Ron Hutchins at 623-4128 or <ronh@mmta.com>
- **So. Convoy Committee Meeting** Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall 6:00pm contact Jim Costa at <jcosta@sacoriver.net > or 727-5349

#### <u>April</u>

- **7-8 2004** Energy Equipment and Equipment Expo Augusta Civic Center hosted by the Maine Oil Dealers Association Contact Lynn LeClair at 729-5298 or <lynn@meoil.com>
- MPDA General Meeting Cole Farms Restaurant 8:00 9:00 AM, Breakfast Hour 9:00 Noon, General Meeting Contact Ron Hutchins at 623-4128 or <ronh@mmta.com>
- **Great Grocery Grudge VIII** Hannaford/Shaw's/Hutchins Driving Competition Hannaford Office, Scarborough 8:00AM Contact Denis Litalien at <dentruck@hotmail.com> or 468-7373
- **29-30** N. American Truck Show Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD FMI contact Jim Costa at <jcosta@sacoriver.net> or 727-5349

#### May

- N. American Truck Show Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD FMI contact Jim Costa at <jcosta@sacoriver.net> or 727-5349
- 2 <u>Tentative</u> 7th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge Location TBA contact Fred Schenk at 508-453-3632 or <StJudeRoadeo4kids@excite.com>
- 5 <u>Third Lane Restriction Takes Effect Maine Turnpike & Maine I-95</u>
- **TDC Set-up Day** Dysart's Truck Terminal, Hermon Noon contact Cliff Gray at <grayc@mmta.com> or 623-4128
- **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>
- **Maine State Truck Driving Championships** Dysart's/Bangor Motor Inn 5:30am contact Cliff Gray at <grayc@mmta.com> or 623-4128
- **'Coffee Break'** Maine Turnpike Northbound Weigh Station I-95, Kittery/York, Maine contact Fred Thompson at 582-1343 or <Tfthomp5349@aol.com>

#### June

- **Northern Convoy for Kids** Bangor/Brewer contact Stan McLaughlin at <swifttrucker@aol.com> or 827-7209
- **17-20 American Lung Association of Maine Trek Across Maine** contact Fred Thompson at 582-1343 or <Tfthomp5349@aol.com>

#### <u>August</u>

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

#### **October**

- **Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Set-up Day** 9:00am Portland contact Jim Costa at <jcosta@sacoriver.net > or 727-5349 or <trucking4kids@aol.com)
- Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy, 7:00am Portland/South Portland contact Jim Costa at <jcosta@sacoriver.net> or 727-5349 or <trucking4kids@aol.com>
- **10**<sup>th</sup> **Annual N. H. Truckers Drive for Kids** Steeplegate Mall, Concord, NH to Hopkinton Fairgrounds, Hopkinton, NH 7:30am Contact Linda Rafeal at 603-435-6366 or < LndaRfl@nhpda.com>

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



3520 Broadway Kansas City, Missouri 64111 (816) 753-7000 (OSI) Member NASD, SIPC Sunset Financial Services, Inc.

#### Andrew W. Holmes

General Securities Representative

550 Forest Ave, Ste 201 Portland ME 04101

Office: 207-780-6391 FAX: 207-780-9809

Save money on your 2003 taxes! Make a 2003 IRA contribution by April 15, 2004!

#### **(3) RETIREMENT PLANNING:**

- 401k\*
- Roth IRA\*
- Traditional IRA\*
- Annuities\*

#### **S** WEALTH ACCUMULATION:

- Brokerage Accounts\*
- Stocks\*
- Bonds\*
- Mutual Funds\*
- CD's\*
- Money Market Accounts\*

#### (5) EDUCATION FUNDING:

- 529 Plans\*
- Coverdell Accounts\*
- UTMA/UGMA Accounts\*

#### (\*) INSURANCE PLANNING:

- Long Term Care –
   DISCOUNT AVAILABLE
   FOR MPDA MEMEBERS
- Life
- Disability
- Supplemental

### ☼ COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL PLAN AVAILABLE TO ALL MPDA MEMBERS.\*

I specialize in supporting the trucking industry and its' employees in financial matters.

I'VE BEEN AFFILIATED WITH THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY FOR OVER 20 YEARS AND AM A MEMBER OF THE MAINE PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS ASSOCIATION!

Please contact Andy @

550 Forest Avenue Suite 201 Portland, ME 04101 / Tel 207-780-6391 / Fax 207-780-9809 aholmes@pivot.net

\* Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through Sunset Financial Services, Inc. 3520 Broadway Kansas City, MO. 64111 (816) 753-7000 (OSJ) Member NASD/SIPC.

### **News From The ROADTEAM**

A sure sign of spring is the full crop of frost heaves we are now harvesting. Oh well I guess we just have to slow down a bit so we don't break our equipment and keep reminding ourselves that the warm weather is coming.

At our ROADTEAM meeting last month we decided to suspend the training seminars for the time being. I mentioned last month that we would be evaluating the importance of these training seminars to our membership. I also listed my e-mail for people to respond and offer input as to the future of these sessions. I received no e-mails or phone calls regarding this issue, so the ROADTEAM decided until there is more interest in this type of training we will discontinue it. If and when we start this program up again we will give ample notice to the MPDA membership.

The construction on the Maine Turnpike is progressing very quickly this year and I wouldn't be surprised if it was ahead of schedule. That extra lane from Kittery to Portland will be nice, even if we can't use it starting in May. Be sure to obey the speed limit in the work area. Just as the signs state, the fine is doubled.

We will be doing a 'coffee break' at the northbound weigh station in York on Friday May 28, 2004. What we will be doing exactly is serving coffee, cold drinks, snacks, and fruit to the motoring public on a donation basis. We will also be handing out safety information on sharing the road with large trucks, fatigue, no zones, and various other safety related materials.

You will see more on this at some of the truck stops in southern Maine as the date draws closer. We invite all our fellow truckers to stop in also and take a break. The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division will not be working with us on this event so we have the area to ourselves.

If any of you would be interested in helping us with this event please notify Ron Hutchins, Dave Stuart, Dick Brown, or Fred **Thompson** as soon as possible so we can get a feel for how much help we will have on that day.

Another event we are involved in is the Trek Across Maine, which is sponsored by the American Lung Association Maine Chapter.

They have asked us to supply 9 drivers on Thursday June 17, 2004 to drive 24-foot straight trucks hauling bicycles for those involved in the event. The starting points are Portland, Freeport, and Rockland. We drive from those points to Sunday River ski area. When we get there they put on a big feed for all the volunteers and participants. It is a really fun day and an opportunity to promote our industry in a positive light.

We then go to Rockland on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> to pick up the trekkers and return them to Sunday River. On Sunday we only need 5 drivers. If you would like to volunteer for this fun day

please give me a call at 207-582-1343 or by e-mail at tfthompson5349@aol.com.

You can contact the lung association directly to find out more on this event by calling Kate Markham at 207-622-6394 or 1-800-499-5864 and by visiting their web site at www.mainelung.org.

There were four of us who did this last year and we had a real blast.

Just one more thing I know these are work days for most of you and if you participate you will have to use a vacation day or something like that. I can relate to that because I fall into the same situation. I can tell you this, if you do choose to help, you won't regret using your time for these worthwhile events.

Have a great month and drive safe out there.

Fred Thompson, Captain MPDA ROADTEAM

# INTERSTATE TRUCK WEIGHT STUDY

The Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) released today their study entitled, "Study of Impacts Caused by Exempting Currently Non-exempt Maine Interstate Highways from Federal Truck Weight Limits". A link to the study is on the Maine Motor Transport Association homepage at www.mmta.com then click on "Maine Interstate Truck Weight Study".

The study concluded that:

- The safety analysis indicates that if Congress were to extend the current weight exemption on the Maine Turnpike to all currently non-exempt Interstate Highways in Maine, the net impact would be a decrease of 3.2 crashes annually. The associated FHWA defined economic impacts would save \$356,000 per year.
- It is estimated that if the current Turnpike Exemption was extended to all Maine Interstate Highways the policy would save the State of Maine between \$1.0 million and \$1.7 million in pavement rehabilitation costs each year.
- The bridge analysis found that extending the federal weight exemption currently in place on the Maine Turnpike would result in annual bridge maintenance and rehabilitation savings of approximately \$317,000 per year.
- The economic impact in Maine that would result from extending an exemption from federal GVW limits to currently non-exempt Interstate Highways in Maine is estimated to be annual cost savings of between \$1.7 and \$2.3 million.

From MMTA's March 5th 2003 Maine Line Newsletter

	Maine Professional	Drivers Association's	
Behind the Wheel Newsletter & Board of Directors			
Our newsletter is publish	ned monthly for our member	s and advertisers. Any and all co	opyrights and trademark
	are solely the property	of the respective owners.	
	MPDA Newsletter	Staff & Contributors	
Newsletter Preparation & Mailing		Dave Stuart	Terry Stuart
Contributors	Denis Litalien Dick Brown	Linda Rafeal Fred Thompson	Ron Hutchins MMTA
	2004-2005 MPDA	A Board of Directors	
President	Ron Hutchins	Vice President	Dave Stuart
Treasurer	Pam Rogers	Secretary	Terry Stuart
T.D.C. Officer	Cliff Gray	Legislative Officer	Rob Fernald
Membership Officer	Peter Mortensen	Publicity Officer	Dave Stuart
Past Presidents &			
Lifetime Directors	Dick Brown	Fred Thompson	Ron Hutchins
	John Waisanen	Alan Paradis	Denis Litalien

ROADTEAM Captain Dave Stuart & Pete Mortensen

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, inquires, payments, change of address, comments, and

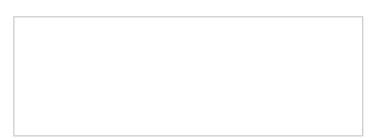
newsletter submissions should be mailed to:

Maine Professional Drivers Association, Inc. P.O. Box 5672 Augusta, Maine 04332-5672 Tel - (207) - 318 - 7395Email - mpdainfo@mainepda.org Website - http://mainepda.org

# **NEXT MPDA GENERAL MEETING**

Our next MPDA General Meeting will be on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00AM, at the MMTA Office in Augusta Maine. For more information, please call 207-623-4128 or email ronh@mmta.com

# **SEE YOU THERE**



# MAINE PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS ASSOCIATION

A Publication of the

