



# 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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm very fortunate to have people in this organization who when given a job to do, will tackle it with gusto. Now I'm asking those of you who are members and do not have a job to do, Please! Now is the time for you to help. We are still looking for judges for the Truck Driving Championship at **Dysart's** on May 15. If you would like to help please let **Cliff Gray** or me know by calling 623-4128 or by E-mail at [ronh@mmta.com](mailto:ronh@mmta.com) or [hutchtruc@aol.com](mailto:hutchtruc@aol.com) or **Cliff Gray** at [grayc@mmta.com](mailto:grayc@mmta.com) we need your help.

With that said lets talk about highway safety. We've made it through another winter. We may not have to worry about the ice on the road but we do have to worry about the Driver of small vehicles with their minds on things other than driving or the tourist on vacation, or the teenager who just got his/her license or that RV driven by an inexperienced driver, or that person who is moving and is driving a u-haul van for the first time. The on the job death rate among truck drivers (17.7 per 100,000 workers) is at least 7 times the rate for any other occupation. Please stay alert! And have a great summer.

**Remember! The world is run by those who get involved.**

*Ron Hutchins, President MPDA*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hello to all the members and readers of this newsletter! I set out not to write an article for this newsletter because I didn't think that I had anything to write about. Then I started looking though my date book for last month and found out that I had attended five meetings in the month of April.

Starting off with a meeting of the newly formed Membership Committee. We have come up with a few ways to increase the membership and discussed some benefits that we may be able to offer our members in the future.

The next meeting was with the Maine State Truck Driving

Championship Committee at the MMTA office in Augusta. At that meeting we put all the little ducks in a row and pointed them north to **Dysart's** in Hampden, Me. We will be having one more meeting before the Championships, just to make sure that all those ducks make it to **Dysart's** for this big event.

I followed up with the Officers Meeting and MPDA General Meeting at Cole Farm's Restaurant in Gray. You will see more about that meeting in this newsletter.

During school vacation week **Terry & Dave Stuart** and myself were at the School Bus Rodeo at Westbrook High School to give member **Dick Dolloff** a helping hand.

And, just like every month I was at the Southern Convoy for Kids meeting. This convoy is really going to be something BIG this year! Just wait and see as things unfold. The members of this committee are planning a great event and we hope to see all of you there.

Now with all of that said, I have to end on a sad note. I just got off the phone with **Bill and Barbara Pooler**. Bill is not feeling well at all. Barbara told me that Bill was having a rough go of it and Bill told me that he would not be at the Championships this year.

Bill was more worried about not being able to bring the golf carts for us to use than he was about his own health. He did say that he was hoping to be able to attend the N. H. Championships. I hope to see you their Bill! Get well soon!!

If you would like to send Bill a card and wish him well, his address is, 1446 Hounds Hollow Ct. Lutz, Fl. 33549-5700. I know that he would love to hear from you.

## SOME SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

I would like to take a moment to thank a few companies and local businesses that have recently given us support in all we do.

Thank you to **Hannaford Trucking** for donating all coffee supplies that we will need this year.

Thank you to **Associated Grocers of Maine** for their donation of a ramp to the northern trailer. This will really help our backs out with all the lugging we do in and out of the trailer during the course of the year.

Thank you to **Andy Reed** and **Ryder Truck** for their donation of restocking the supplies in the trailers with items that we need to make the competitions run smoothly.

Thank you also to the Old Country Buffet for supplying tasty meals and a room for the Southern Convoy committee to hold monthly meetings.

Thank you all again!! Donations such as these help the MPDA accomplish our goals.

*Dick Brown, MPDA Executive Director*

## MPDA ADMINISTRATIVE

Roger Sproul reports that Lt. Randy Nichols, who we know as the State Trooper responsible for activities on the Turnpike, was recently promoted to Major.

We understand that someone will be appointed to replace him in the Turnpike position as his responsibilities will change.

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**Hannaford Trucking**  
A Strong Future Built on a Proud Heritage

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

- ◆ The ROADTEAM safety presentation was given by Fred Thompson on "Warm Weather Driving Tips". After viewing a video, discussion was had on everything from wildlife, motorcycles, children, unskilled RV and Rental truck drivers to road debris and heating problems as issues to be aware of during the summer months. Drive defensively.
- ◆ The Turnpike committee suggested that the MTA hold off on implementing the 3rd lane restriction until all construction is complete in the fall. No decision was made to change the date. Currently the date is set for May 5<sup>th</sup> and will probably remain so.
- ◆ MTA has asked that MPDA be involved with any issues regarding trucks and lane restriction education.
- ◆ A motion was made and passed to allow the MPDA name to be used in conjunction with the MTA for educational purposes only with MPDA Board authorization.
- ◆ More help is needed for the TDC. There is a change this year. All 'van' trailers in the competition will be with 53' trailers instead of 48'.
- ◆ There is a meeting on May 7th at Yarmouth Lumber for all involved with the upcoming Turnpike Coffeebreak. Anyone interested in helping out are encouraged to attend. 6PM
- ◆ Associated Grocers of Maine has donated a ramp for the northern trailer.
- ◆ Ryder Truck is donating the cost of replenishing the trailers with necessities for the upcoming season.
- ◆ The second vote on the by-law change was passed.
- ◆ Dave picked up the MPDA hats that were ordered. They will be sold for a cost of \$7, available at meetings and the TDC.
- ◆ Members present voted and passed giving a pin, patch or decal with each renewal of dues from this point on.

*Terry Stuart, MPDA Secretary*

## ... FROM UP & DOWN THE ROAD

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the new members to MPDA.

- **Roger Wilcox** - Roger and his family live in Newcastle, Maine. Roger drivers for supporting member **Hutchins Trucking**.
- **Bruce Gray** - Bruce and his family live in Monmouth, Maine. He drives for supporting member **Hannaford Trucking**.
- **Wal-Mart Transportation** - We welcome Wal-Mart as a supporting member.

### MAINE TURNPIKE UPDATE

The Maine Turnpike Authority did not bite on our suggestion to push the lane restriction back to November when the construction will be complete. May 5 is still the go date. By the time you read this, it WILL be in effect!

The lane restriction will only apply to those sections where there are three lanes open for travel despite what the signs say. They read "Trucks Prohibited from Left Lane".

The fine for the lane violation has been set at \$126. **Roger Sproul** reports that after speaking to Major Randy Nichols, troopers

are being instructed to allow a 30-day grace period (warnings only).

We requested that a transition area be recognized as vehicles go from 2 to 3 lane sections (or from 3 lanes of non-restriction in NH to Maine) so that truck drivers caught in that 3<sup>rd</sup> lane be allowed a distance to get back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> lane. Major Nichols answered that as to any grace distance upon entering the restricted area, it will be at the officer's discretion. Obviously, if you are hung out in the left lane and can't safely change, it would make no sense to commit an unsafe lane change (for which you can be ticketed) in order to avoid a violation of the left lane restriction.

On the other hand, professional truck drivers, knowing they are coming up on the restricted area, should plan in advance to get in the right lane before entering it. This again brings us back to the necessity for the Turnpike Authority to post signs far enough in advance to warn drivers they are coming up on the restricted area. Drivers from out of state would have no other way of knowing in advance.



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## CONVOY FOR KIDS CELEBRATES ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF TRUCKERS HELPING KIDS

Ten years ago the Maine Professional Drivers Association, with the support of the Maine Motor Transport Association, began the Convoy for Kids. Originally organized by MPDA members, Irvan Smith and Ron Martin, the convoy raised money for the Children's Miracle Network of Eastern Maine Healthcare. A highlight of the event has always been the convoy of big rigs, fire trucks, and antique vehicles winding its way through the streets of Bangor to a final destination where the fun and games begin.

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Convoy for Kids in 2002 marked a new beginning with MPDA members Stan McLaughlin and Ray Rogers joining forces with the Bangor Lions Club and members Dave Mansfield and Pat Martin to organize the event and expand the number of children's charities receiving support from the Convoy.

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual 2004 Convoy for Kids will benefit the Children's Miracle Network of Eastern Maine Healthcare and the public is encouraged to participate.

Beginning at the Brewer Eagles Club, Sunday June 6, driver registration will open at 8:00 AM. Ladies of the Brewer Eagles Club Auxiliary will provide a breakfast with just about anything a person could want. MPDA drivers and vehicle owners are encouraged to shine up their vehicles and come show them off. Drivers, kids and families are invited to attend the 8:00AM breakfast.

Following breakfast, the convoy will leave Acme Rd at 10:00 AM and travel along Wilson St. toward Bangor with escort vehicles and trucks, followed by antique and classic vehicles. The convoy

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Milk?



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# MPDA CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2004

(As of May 1, 2004 - includes events that our members are involved in, or are of interest to our members)

## May

- 5 **THIRD LANE RESTRICTION TOOK EFFECT – MAINE TURNPIKE & MAINE I-95**
- 7 **Coffee Break Meeting** - 6:00PM - at Yarmouth Lumber, Gray, Maine - contact Ron Hutchins at 207-623-4128 or <ronh@mmta.com>
- 14 **TDC Set-up Day** – Dysart’s Truck Terminal, Hermon - 12:00PM - contact Cliff Gray at <grayc@mmta.com> or 207-623-4128
- 14 **MPDA Hospitality Get-together** (for everyone involved with the competition)– Room 230, Bangor Motor Inn - contact Everett MacMaster at 207-797-6330 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 207-623-4128
- 18 **Southern Convoy Meeting** - Old Country Buffet - Maine Mall - Old Country Buffet, Maine Mall 6:00PM - contact Jim Costa at 727-5349 or jcosta@sacoriver.net
- 28 **‘Coffee Break’** – Maine Turnpike - Northbound Weigh Station - I-95, Kittery/York, Maine – contact Fred Thompson at 207-582-1343 or <Tfthomp5349@aol.com>

## June

- 6 **Northern Convoy for Kids** – Bangor/Brewer - contact Stan McLaughlin at <swifttrucker@aol.com> or 207-827-7209
- 18 **Officer’s Meeting** - Yarmouth Lumber - Gray Maine - 6:00PM - contact Ron Hutchins 623-4128 or <ronh@mmta.com>
- 12 **June Newsletter Deadline** - All submission should be emailed to <behindthewheel@mainepda.org>
- 17-20 **American Lung Association of Maine - Trek Across Maine** contact Fred Thompson at 207-582-1343 or <Tfthomp5349@aol.com>
- 22 **Massachusetts State Driving Championships** - Chicopee, MA.
- 26 **NH Truck Driving Championships** - CCX Terminal, Manchester, NH-contact Vera Tucker at 603-224-7337 vera@nhmta.org

## July

- 3 **July Newsletter Deadline** - All submission should be emailed to <behindthewheel@mainepda.org>
- 17 **MPDA General Meeting**, MMTA Office, Augusta, ME - 9:00AM - contact Ron Hutchins at 623-4128 or ronh@mmta.com

## August

- 1 **August Newsletter Deadline** - All submission should be emailed to <behindthewheel@mainepda.org>
- 17-24 **ATA National Truck Driving Championships** Salt Lake City, Utah - contact Cliff Gray at <grayc@mmta.com> or 207-623-4128

## September

- 4 **September Newsletter Deadline** - All submission should be emailed to <behindthewheel@mainepda.org>
- 4 **Tentative 2004 Charity FunDrive** - Virginia
- 9 **"Wishes on Wheels" Convoy** - Willington, CT. contact Roland Bolduc at 413-525-0764 or roadeo@charter.net
- 23-25 **US Professional Truck Driving Championships** - Wisconsin Center District, Milwaukee - contact Cliff Gray at <grayc@mmta.com> or 207-623-4128

## October

- 9 **Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Set-up Day** – 9:00am - Portland - contact Jim Costa at <jcosta@sacoriver.net > or 207-727-5349 or <trucking4kids@aol.com>
- 10 **Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy**, 7:00am - Portland/South Portland - contact Jim Costa at <jcosta@sacoriver.net> or 207-727-5349 or <trucking4kids@aol.com>
- 20 **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)

### Maine Professional Drivers Association's

#### *Behind the Wheel* Newsletter & Board of Directors

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#### MPDA Newsletter Staff & Contributors

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#### 2004-2005 MPDA Board of Directors

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<b>ROADTEAM Captain</b>	Fred Thompson		
<b>Webmasters</b>	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, inquiries, payments, change of address, comments, and newsletter submissions should be mailed to:

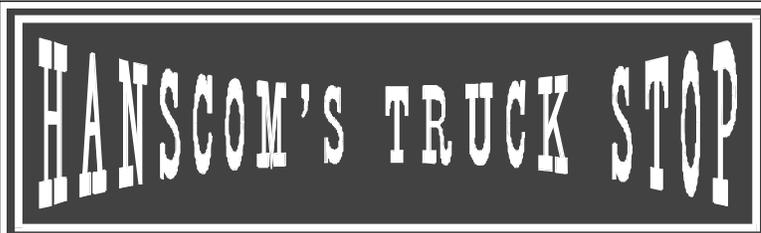
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**Augusta, Maine / 04332-5672**

**Tel – (207)-318-7395**

**Email – mpdainfo@mainepda.org**

**Website - http://mainepda.org & http://www.mpda.org**



# BUZZY'S" ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

**COME ONE - COME ALL**

**Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup>**

\*\* FREE HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS \*\*

\*\* FREE OFFICIAL BUZZY'S TRUCK STOP" HATS \*\*

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**Portsmouth, N.H.**

*(Continued from page 3)*

will make its way through Bangor on Wilson St. across the Chamberlain Bridge and on into Bangor making its way to Washington St. The parade route will continue up through downtown and on to Bass Park. The public is invited to view the big rigs along the convoy route to show their support. Some especially good viewing places will be along Wilson St. in Brewer and Main St. in downtown Bangor.

Following the convoy parade, the public is invited to Bass Park for the rest of the convoy activities. Festivities include opening ceremonies, fun and games for the children, raffles for the adults with many donated prizes, and food and beverage concessions for everyone. During the activities, judges will be checking the big rigs and show vehicles for trophies to be awarded. Music will be played and most important, children and families will have a chance to view the trucks and ask the drivers any questions they may have about truck transportation in Maine.

Convoy for Kids is made possible by the generosity of Maine's many trucking companies and the involvement of many other businesses. Convoy for Kids has raised thousands of dollars for local children's healthcare in the past 10 years. Show your support for local children. Come on out Sunday, June 6th to see the 10th Annual Convoy for Kids. See the trucks, antique and classic vehicles and make a difference in the lives of a child, actually, many children. Come for the fun, come for the kids.

FMI Contact: Stan McLaughlin, MPDA

Tel: 356-1377

email <swiftrucker@aol.com or

<www.northernconvoyforkids.org>

## COMPETITION UPDATE

### US PROFESSIONAL TDC

The US Professional Truck Driving Championship Committee announced the scheduling for the 4th annual Truck Driving Championship in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Date: September 22nd through September 25th, 2004

Entry Fee: \$100.00

Contest to be held at:

Midwest Express Center

400 West Wisconsin Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53202

1-414-908-6000

Championship Headquarters Hotel:

Rate: \$90.00 per night

Hilton Express Center

509 West Wisconsin Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53203

The skills test will be administered in the Midwest Express Center; this will also include pre-trip inspection and written exam. Thank you for your safe driving efforts; hope to see you in Milwaukee.

Good Luck representing your state spread the word!!!!

Contact: Ernest Hardy, Chairman

C/O NEMF

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