



# Behind the Wheel

## Newsletter of the Maine Professional Drivers Association

Volume XVIII, No. 1

“Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism”

Jan-Feb-Mar 2008

### Championships

#### Maine State Truck Driving Championships

The Maine State Truck Driving Championships will be held on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at Dysart's Trailer Shop in Hermon and at the Bangor Motor Inn in Bangor. Every member of the Maine Motor Transport Association has been mailed an application and information sheet on the competition. If you or your company has not received one, contact Cliff Gray at MMTA at 623-4128 or grayc@mmta.com.

As in the past, the Maine Professional Drivers Association is involved with this event in a big way. We are involved in the set up and judging on the course, hosting a hospitality room, running the food booth, supplying course equipment and tearing down the site. We will need all hands on deck for this. Please offer to help at the food booth or judging on the course or wherever else you may be needed.

This is the biggest event of the year for us as it is the showcase of our industry and it is our biggest fundraiser for the Association with the food booth.

On the day following the competition we will hold an MPDA General Meeting at the Bangor Motor Inn. Hopefully we can get a few of the participants to come see what we are doing and get some new members interested.

#### Practice Session

The Maine Professional Drivers Association will give all drivers the opportunity to try their hand at the Truck Driving Championships. A practice session that is open to all drivers will be held on April 27 to acclimate drivers to the procedures for the competition. See the enclosed flyer.

Many drivers hesitate to enter the competitions, having never seen what it is all about. This free practice session will be open to any driver, regardless of whether they are MPDA members or not and whether or not they have ever competed. It is hoped that drivers who have been interested but hesitated to take that first step will be encouraged to come and see what it is all about.

State Championship Course Steward **Alan Paradis** will put together a practice driving course set up so

drivers can try their hand at the driving part with help from a number of Past State Champions. We will also set up a mock pre-trip inspection with Past Grand Champion **Denis Litalien** bugging a truck and reviewing inspection procedures.

#### Video Run

You can see **Warren Lewis'** Championship run at the 2007 Nationals on the Youtube video by Jeff Murdock. See it at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IuvkuYA8gH0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IuvkuYA8gH0)

#### Charity Challenge Meeting

An organizational meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge will be held on Sunday, April 6 at 12:30pm at the Fireside Grill in Northboro, Mass. Representatives from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York and Pennsylvania will be in attendance.

This event is a truck driving competition held to raise funds for ST. Jude's Children's Hospital and to generate goodwill to the public about truck drivers (and also to have a day of fun!).

Anyone wanting to attend or wanting more information about this event should contact **Denis Litalien** at 468-7373 or [dentruck@hotmail.com](mailto:dentruck@hotmail.com) or go to the website for the event at [www.nectaritrychallenge.org](http://www.nectaritrychallenge.org).

#### MPTDA Member Passes Away

It is with much sadness that I pass along this message. Bob Deslauriers passed away Wednesday night,

February 27 at his home. Bob was currently a driver for Frito-Lay and was a long time employee of Sweet Life Foods.

He and his wife Michelle were members of

Massachusetts Professional Truck Drivers Association (MPTDA) from the beginning in 1982 and had been



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

involved in the State and National competitions for 30 years. He was a seven-time State Champion. He was a fixture at the Charity Challenge since the start in 1997. Bob will be missed by his friends in the industry and his friends at MPTDA

His complete obituary can be seen at [www.holtfuneralhome.com/obituaries\\_old.php](http://www.holtfuneralhome.com/obituaries_old.php)

- Fred Schenk

## Officer's Reports

### President's Message

My name is George Colby. I have been a member of MPDA since 1998 but only started attending meetings 2 1/2 years ago. Not many of you know me. I live in New Gloucester with my wife of 35 years, Cathy. We have 3 daughters and 1 son along with 3 sons-in-law, 1 daughter-in-law, 3 grandsons and 2 granddaughters.



I have been driving for 22 years, 9 years in construction, 1 year reefer OTR and 12 years as a tanker yanker.

My goal for MPDA is to be in-your-face visible to professional drivers and to the general public promoting the safety, courtesy and professionalism that MPDA was founded for. I also plan to work with MMTA and others to get heavy trucks out on the interstate where they belong and work toward a better flow of freight movement.

In one of my first official projects for MPDA I contacted an Auburn city councilor to discuss the possibility that Auburn might be installing a number of roundabouts on Route 4. He related to me that a study done by the Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center, which can be seen at [www.atrcmpo.org/public/](http://www.atrcmpo.org/public/), addressed this. He told me emphatically that it wouldn't happen. He also told me about using a laser sighting device (very expensive) to time the lights which he thought would be the most likely scenario to address the traffic problems. This would synchronize the lights so that in theory once you get a green light you can go the whole length of Center Street without stopping.

I have a challenge for you professional drivers. Today with the price of fuel, tolls and other costs, you must find ways to help your company be more effi-

cient. Do more than what is expected of you. Make an effort to help your dispatch. We all know that "dispatch" does some strange things, but we usually don't know what they are dealing with. When you get the respect of dispatch that you are trying to work with them, usually they will listen to you more closely. One of the most interesting things to me is the lack of communication between dispatch and drivers, shippers and receivers, and companies that interact with each other. On your level be creative and make better communication happen. Sometimes you will open mouth and insert foot, but keep on trying anyway.

That's my soapbox for this issue.

- George Colby

*Our new President has previously served as the Publicity Officer of the Maine Professional Drivers Association. George is a company driver for H. O. Bouchard and is in the process of becoming an owner-operator and plans to lease to H. O. Bouchard. Please give George the same support we have given our past presidents as he is entrusted with the reins of our organization for the next 2 years. You can reach him at 207-926-4217 or [gcolby@maine.rr.com](mailto:gcolby@maine.rr.com). -ed*

### A Past President Message

I'm not sure if you would call this a plea, a request or just plain begging, but I'm asking all of the members of the MPDA to please come to the next general meeting and meet the new MPDA President, **George Colby**. I have been to two officers' meetings with George since he took office and to tell you the truth he has got me and all of the other officers that have attended these meetings fired up and looking forward to a real bright future for the MPDA.

We all know that this association is very much needed and it is in your hands now to either make it or break it! George and the other officers would like to hear what you want the MPDA to be and to do from this point forward. I could go on and it would just keep coming out the same. If you don't start going to the meetings there won't be an MPDA and that is the plain truth.

- Dick Brown

### Legislative Officer Report

In the December 13, 2007 issue of The Coastal Journal, U.S Rep Tom Allen expressed his concern that the "price of diesel fuel is threatening to put Maine's independent truckers out of business". Representative Allen is working on three fronts to help Maine's independent truckers to survive. Specifically,

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Tom co-sponsored the Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act (HR 1252). This act will give the Federal Trade Commission the power to impose new civil penalties which would "make violators regret ever gouging a single Maine family".

Tom Allen is also pushing for the passage of H.R. 4066, which is known as the "Close the Enron Loop-hole" Act. When passed, this act will regulate speculators who are now driving up energy prices through off-market trading.

And Tom Allen is fighting for his Small Business Fuel Cost Relief Act, H.R. 2133. This bill would create a tax credit for the difference in today's fuel prices compared to the price on Labor Day 2004. For example, gasoline costs about \$3.16 a gallon today but only \$1.94 on Labor Day 2004. The passage of this bill would allow Maine's independent truckers to deduct the difference in price from their taxes. H.R. 2133 will also raise the IRS Standard Mileage Rate to 60 cents for vehicles used by small business owners.

On a personal note and a different topic, I have enjoyed serving as the Maine Professional Drivers Association Legislative Officer for the past two years. I highly recommend that all MPDA members get involved with this organization. The past and current leadership of MPDA have been both patient and professional in keeping this association a valuable tool for promoting professionalism within Maine's trucking community. When I decided to run for legislative officer I was told that my job would be made a lot easier because the MPDA officers do a good job keeping in touch via email. I found this to be very true and I am amazed at how much has been accomplished by MPDA's past and current leaders.

This has been a real learning experience for me that has strengthened my faith in American freedoms and democracy. Working together with fellow American workers to better the trucking industry is a rewarding experience and a worthwhile investment of a little bit of your free time.

*Dan Schweitzer*

## MPDA ROADTEAM News

### A SAFETY TIP FROM THE MPDA ROADTEAM

Spring is just around the corner! Kids are riding their bikes, playing ball and may run into the street.

#### Can you stop in time?

What about those new drivers?

#### Are they paying attention?

What about that elderly person that hasn't driven all winter and decides to take a ride on this nice sunny day?

#### Do they see you?

More people will be traveling this time of year.

#### Stay Alert!

### REMEMBER ALWAYS DRIVE DEFENSIVELY

## America's Road Team

The American Trucking Associations is seeking nominations for professional truck drivers to serve on the 2009-2010 America's Road Team. Sponsored by Volvo Trucks North America, the program is led by a group of professional truck drivers who share superior driving skills, strong safety records and a desire to spread the word about highway safety. "America's Road Team truly represents the best of the best," said ATA President Bill Graves. "The drivers selected to serve as captains have impressive driving records and unmatched enthusiasm for their job and for the industry."

America's Road Team Captains have traveled the country for 21 years, educating millions on the importance of safety, the essentiality of the industry and the need for pride and professionalism within the trucking industry, says ATA. They appear at events ranging from driver safety meetings to National Truck Driving Championships to promote the message that "Safety is our Driving Concern."

For more information or to nominate a driver, visit [www.americasroadteam.com](http://www.americasroadteam.com) or contact Joy Howells at [jhowells@trucking.org](mailto:jhowells@trucking.org).

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

## Guest Column

### Health & Wellness by Brian Bouchard

Some of you may have read articles in the Maine Motor Transport Association (MMTA) magazine where there is more of an emphasis on Health and Wellness. I have become a huge advocate for health and wellness. I am a firm believer that if we invest more in our employee's health and wellness, not only will we benefit from a healthier work force, we will see benefits in our insurance premiums and employee performance.

There is no doubt in my mind that a healthier work-force is a safer one. If we were to put as much emphasis on our employees' wellness as we do maintaining our trucks and trailers, we will not only help our employees and their families but we will also see reduced turnover in our companies.

Driver shortage? Why not preserve the drivers we have spent so much time and money training. Why not do more to promote a healthier environment for our most valuable assets, our employees?

I have recently read that there is a move to put in legislation at the federal level to encourage wellness in our workplaces, which could in turn provide tax incentives for businesses to implement workplace comprehensive health and wellness programs.

It is important that we recognize how important a wellness program can be by instituting programs that include such components as health awareness and education, health risk assessments and screenings, behavior change programs relating to such things as obesity, tobacco use, substance abuse, and nutrition.

One way to encourage participation is thru health insurance premium incentives and to encourage and motivate employees to exercise regularly.

My intention here is to encourage you folks to educate and motivate not only yourselves, but your employees to pay more attention to their health, and also do not forget to educate other members of the employee's family so that everyone can help one another.

We have companies that are members of MMTA that can help you design and manage a health and wellness program that can be tailored to your specific desires in the area of health and wellness in your company.

I know our company made the commitment to partner with one of them and we look forward to the re-

sults. Please contact me at anytime and I can share with you where we are headed in the area of Health and Wellness.

*Brian Bouchard,  
President, H.O. Bouchard, Inc.*

*While this article is aimed primarily at management personnel, we feel this is an issue that should be in the forefront of everyone's mind. Drivers are encouraged to share this information with their employers. Brian can be reached at 207-862-4070, Ext. 114 or brianb@hobouchard.com - ed*

## Administration

### Elections

Following are the results of the Election of Officers for Maine Professional Drivers Association for 2008-2009:

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| President           | George Colby   |
| Vice-President      | Alan Paradis   |
| Treasurer           | Rob Fernald    |
| Secretary           | Open           |
| Membership Officer  | Pete Mortensen |
| Legislative Officer | Dan Schweitzer |
| Publicity Officer   | Open           |
| TDC Officer         | Cliff Gray     |

Dave Stuart becomes Past President and is now a lifetime member of the MPDA Board of Directors. We are still looking for a permanent Secretary & Publicity Officer. Ron Hutchins has agreed to be the ROADTEAM Captain and Dick Brown has agreed to come back on as Executive Director, both appointed positions.

## Scholarship

The Annual Richard Esponnette Memorial Scholarship will be awarded this fall to help a child of an MPDA member with college expenses. Please find the application enclosed with this newsletter. Thanks to Scholarship Committee Chair **Rob Fernald** and Committee member **Dick Brown** for administering this program which will award \$500.00 to a lucky college student.

## Calendars

Please find enclosed with this newsletter a complimentary magnetic calendar. The time between newsletters did not allow us to get these out sooner.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

## Planning Dates

As you can see on the calendar page, we have set dates for meetings throughout the year so everyone can plan accordingly. We have also set deadline dates for newsletter item submissions.

The newsletter will now be published 4 times per year with the June edition being designated as the Championships Edition. Any material that members and officers want included must be in to **Denis Litalien** by Feb. 28, May 30, August 30, and November 29. Submissions should be sent to

*dentruck@hotmail.com.*

## Membership Anniversaries

Starting with this issue we will start listing members who have reached certain levels of membership. This will help recognize the years of support that go into maintaining the viability of the Association. We will list members who have reached 3 years of continuous membership and then list all members who achieve 5 year increments of membership.

### January, February and March, 2008

#### New Member

MaryAnn Cupero, Self-employed Truck Driving Instructor, Abbott, Maine

#### 3 Years

Michael Swallow

#### 10 Years

Dave Stuart

Tom Wertman

H P Hood, Inc.

## Dues Reminder

Some members still haven't paid their dues for 2007. Dues are also due for 2008. Second notices are in the process of being sent out. Please save us the mailing and get them in. If you have any question about whether you have paid or not, send our membership officer, **Pete Mortensen**, an e-mail at *morty@maine.rr.com* or call him at 229-4984.

## News

### Ryder Buys Lily

**Ryder System** announced that it has bought the truck leasing business of Lily Transportation Corp., a northeast regional transportation services company based in Needham, Mass. The acquisition closed in

January, Ryder said. Terms were not released.

Lily Dedicated Logistics Systems, including its Dedicated Contract Carriage operations, will continue to be owned and operated by Lily, Ryder said.

Ryder will buy Lily's truck fleet, including about 1,560 full-service lease units and over 240 contract customers served by Lily from its 15 locations in the Northeast.

Ryder is ranked No. 5 on the Transport Topics 100 listing of U.S. and Canadian for-hire carriers.

*- from Transport Topics Online*

### Maine Suspends Some Weight Restrictions Due to Fuel Prices

In January, Governor John Baldacci signed a bill to temporarily allow trucks hauling forest products to exceed state weight limits by 5% in hopes of helping them offset high fuel prices. Governor Baldacci stated that the administration is also working on legislation to ease taxes for truck drivers hauling forest products. The truck weight legislation took effect in January and expires April 1.

### New Driver Training Rules

Commercial driver licenses applicants would be required to complete classroom and behind-the-wheel training from an accredited program, under a proposed new federal rule announced in December.

Beginning three years after the effective date of a final rule, CDL or upgraded CDL applicants would be required to provide a valid certificate from an accredited truck driving program, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced.

"This proposed rule will give truck drivers additional skills needed to keep our roads safe," FMCSA Administrator John Hill said in a statement. The rule would not affect current CDL holders.

The training curriculum includes CDL safety regulations, vehicle operation and safe operating practices, FMCSA said. For a "Class A" CDLs for tractor-trailer drivers, the rule would require a minimum of 76 hours of classroom instruction and 44 hours of behind-the-wheel training, for a total of 120 hours. For "Class B" CDLs (large "box" or van trucks) and "Class C" CDLs (hazardous materials or certain passenger-carrying vehicles), the proposed rule would require a minimum of 58 hours of classroom instruction and 32 hours behind-the-wheel training, for a total of 90 hours.

*- from Transport Topics Online*

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

### Hours of Service Update

Safety advocates have again gone to court to try to block the Department of Transportation's rule on truck driver hours of service (HOS). In court documents filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals, lawyers for a coalition of groups, including Public Citizen and Parents Against Tired Truckers, asked the court to enforce an order striking down the HOS rule.

The groups, citing the risk of driver fatigue, have twice persuaded a federal court to reject implementation of the extended hours. DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) codified the rules largely as previously written, allowing drivers 11 hours behind the wheel daily and letting them reset their weekly limit after a 34-hour break.

Judges in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia denied Public Citizen's request which had sought to have the court force FMCSA to reissue its interim rule without those two provisions, on the grounds the agency had not allowed for proper levels of notice and comment from the public before retaining the controversial pieces of the rule.

In related news, FMCSA has extended the comment period for the rules that were just re-released as interim rules. The comment period closes on March 17 after which they will make their final ruling on the HOS rule.

- From Transport Topics Online Reports

### Turnpike News

#### York Toll Booth

The Maine Turnpike Authority has moved one step closer to getting started on building the new toll booths to replace the plaza in York that was built in 1969.

Four sites have been identified as possibilities for the new \$35 Million plaza. The sites are: Mile 8.7, 9.9, 11.3, and 13.2. The final site is expected to be selected within three months, construction to begin in the summer of 2009 with completion due in 2011.

With 50% of all Turnpike traffic and 80% of trucks using EZPass, the Turnpike Authority plans to include high speed EZPass lanes.

There has been some opposition by local residents who would like to see the booths further south. Turnpike officials say that located the booths south of Exit 7 would encourage people to take route 1 to avoid the toll, creating more traffic in the already congested

area.

More information is available at the Turnpike website at [www.maineturnpike.com](http://www.maineturnpike.com).

### Be Aware

New Hampshire has posted new speed limit signs at the Hampton Toll Booth on I-95. The speed through those booths is 10 MPH.

### Truck Fatalities Fall to Record Low

Three of the primary measures of large truck safety fell to record lows in 2006 reports the American Trucking Associations. The 2006 fatal crash rate for large trucks was 1.93 fatal crashes per 100 million vehicle-miles-traveled, lower than the previous record low of 1.97, set in 2002, ATA said, citing Department of Transportation figures.

The large truck-involvement rate fell to 2.12 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, down from 2.21 a year earlier, and the fatality rate declined to 2.24, down from 2.34 in 2005, ATA says.

Transport Topics reported in December that overall truck-related fatality rate was 2.24 deaths per 100 million miles driven in 2006, down from 2005's rate of 2.35 and the lowest rate of fatalities per mile since DOT began tracking the statistics in 1975. TT also reported that the number of large-truck crashes in which someone was killed fell to 1.94 per 100 million miles in 2006 — down from 2.04 the previous year and also the lowest rate since 1975.

- Transport Topics Online

### Driving School Scam

It has been reported to ATA that in recent weeks scam artists' are targeting truck driving schools and motor carriers with student training programs. The scam artist initially presents himself as a recruiter for a motor carrier and is extremely knowledgeable of the industry and carrier.

The schools have been forwarding a list of students and graduates and their personal information. The scam artist in turn makes direct contact with the student, hires them as a driver and convinces them to send money for a deposit for training costs. The scam artist will also identify himself as the Recruiting Department Supervisor for a motor carrier and talk with other family members, asking them to wire their fam-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

ily member money. A number of schools and motor carriers have been approached in the last few days. If this happens to you, please contact the appropriate law enforcement.

- *Transport Topics Online*

## Trucking Carried More Than 10 Billion Tons of Freight in '06

The U.S. trucking industry hauled more goods than ever before in 2006 reports the American Trucking Associations. American Trucking Trends 2007-2008 reported that the trucking industry hauled 69% of all U.S. freight volume in 2006. That equates to an all-time high of 10.7 billion tons and \$645.6 billion in revenue, representing 83.8% of the nation's freight bill, the trucking group says.

"Americans should understand that their national economy is directly linked to freight transportation," ATA President Bill Graves said in a statement. "Trucking is the driving force behind our great economy." American Trucking Trends, an annual report produced by ATA, reported that more than 26 million trucks of all classes played a part in reaching the tonnage milestone. Of those, 2.9 million were typical Class 8 trucks operated by more than 750,000 interstate motor carriers.

## Toll Increases

Many states are looking at using tolls to alleviate their shortfalls in funding for highway projects. Pennsylvania is even preparing to add tolls to I-80 to help fund their highway budget. If this proposal goes through, it would cost truckers \$83 to run the length of I-80. New Hampshire is also proposing to put tolls on its planned bridge being considered in Nashua.

Massachusetts has raised tolls on all their toll roads and bridges. Tolls rose in New York by 10% in January. New York Thruway Authority board members are also proposing additional 5% increases for 2009 and 2010, and \$4 to \$8 increases for E-ZPass annual permits. Maine tolls are also scheduled to increase in 2010. New Jersey is planning to increase their tolls up to what could amount to 800% increases by 2020. Tolls are also increasing this year in a lot of other states.

Add this to the increase in fuel costs and we can all see how tough it is on truckers to keep up with all the additional costs, not to mention the inflationary increases in all other expenses to keep those wheels

turning.

Come to the MPDA meetings and discuss these and other topics. As a group we have a much larger voice that we do as individuals. And while we may not be able to change all these things for the better, we can at least share information and find solace in making the proper officials aware of how these costs affect those of us who have to move the goods of the nation.

## Handy Websites

Maine Professional Drivers Association:

[www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org)

Maine Motor Transport Association:

[www.mmta.com](http://www.mmta.com)

Maine Turnpike Authority:

[www.maineturnpike.com](http://www.maineturnpike.com)

Maine Better Transportation Association:

[www.mbtaonline.org](http://www.mbtaonline.org)

Connecticut Professional Drivers Association:

<http://webpages.charter.net/roadeo/>

New Hampshire Professional Drivers Association:

[www.nhpda.com](http://www.nhpda.com)

Land Line Magazine:

[www.landlinemag.com](http://www.landlinemag.com)

Federal Rules and Regulations:

[www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov)

America's Road Team website:

[www.americasroadteam.com](http://www.americasroadteam.com)

Northeast Charity Challenge:

[www.necharitychallenge.org](http://www.necharitychallenge.org)

Trucking for Kids Convoy:

[www.trucking4kids.mpda.org/](http://www.trucking4kids.mpda.org/)

## Convoy for Kids Meetings

We still meet each month at the Old Country Buffet Restaurant at the Maine Mall in South Portland. There are always MPDA members and Lions members present to plan this great event throughout the year. See the MPDA Calendar.

Any member is welcome to stop by and sit in on a meeting and see what we do. While it takes a lot planning throughout the year, the work is spread out enough to make the time spent at the meetings enjoyable.

We know we are working for a good cause and the meals are ½ price!

October 18, 2007  
Mr. Denis Litalien, Treasurer  
Truckin' 4 Kids Convoy  
364 Maine Mall Road Box 814  
South Portland, Maine 04106

Dear Denis,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, the volunteers and the Camp Sunshine families, I sincerely thank you for your recent donations totaling \$14,000 to our Family Sponsorship Program.

2007 was another great year at Camp Sunshine. We expanded our programs in Maine and Wisconsin, and added a pilot program in Arizona. Thanks to your support today, we can begin laying the foundation for another great year in 2008.

It's amazing how far we have come from the inception of our Program in 1984. Yet despite our success, the demand for our Program continues to grow, making your support more important than ever.

We are very proud to share our ongoing achievements with you and to show you what a wonderful investment you have made in enhancing the lives of families with sick children. On behalf of the families, thank you again for giving us the opportunity to expand our services.

Respectfully,  
Matthew Hoidal, Esq.  
Executive Director  
Camp Sunshine  
35 Acadia Road, Casco, Maine 04015

*Note: Trucking for Kids Convoy Was Named Donor of the Month for October  
This monthly award on the Camp Sunshine can be seen at  
[http://www.campsunshine.org/support\\_us/donor\\_of\\_the\\_month/index.php](http://www.campsunshine.org/support_us/donor_of_the_month/index.php)*

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# MPDA 2007/2008 Calendar of Events

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**2008**

|               |              |  |
|---------------|--------------|--|
| <b>March</b>  | <b>16</b>    | <b>MPDA Officers &amp; Budget Meeting</b> – Hannaford Trucking, South Portland - 8:00am - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 ( <a href="http://www.mpda.org">www.mpda.org</a> )   |
|               | <b>19</b>    | <b>Convoy Committee Meeting</b> – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall - 6:00pm - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com or Terry Stuart at 727-3704 or tstuart@mainepda.org ( <a href="http://www.mpda.org/trucking4kids">www.mpda.org/trucking4kids</a> ) |
| <b>April</b>  | <b>6</b>     | <b>Charity Challenge Meeting</b> – Fireside Grill, Northboro, Mass. – 12:30pm – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or dentruck@hotmail.com ( <a href="http://www.necharitychallenge.org">www.necharitychallenge.org</a> )  |
|               | <b>13</b>    | <b>MPDA Officers &amp; Invite Members Meeting</b> – Location to be announced - 8:00am - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 ( <a href="http://www.mpda.org">www.mpda.org</a> )   |
|               | <b>26</b>    | <b>TDC Open Practice Session Set-Up Day</b> - Emery-Waterhouse Lot, Portland - 8:00am - contact Alan Paradis at 289-0328 or aatkg@maine.rr.com   |
|               | <b>27</b>    | <b>TDC Open Practice Session</b> - Emery-Waterhouse Lot, Portland - 8:00am - contact Alan Paradis at 289-0328 or aatkg@maine.rr.com ( <a href="http://www.mpda.org">www.mpda.org</a> )   |
|               | <b>26</b>    | <b>Wal-Mart Driving Competition</b> - Lewiston   |
| <b>May</b>    | <b>3</b>     | <b>Wal-Mart Driving Competition</b> - Raymond, NH  |
|               | <b>3</b>     | <b>Grocery Grudge Set-up Day</b> – Hannaford Trucking, S. Portland – 8:00AM – Contact Dick Brown at rbrown9@maine.rr.com or 415-4734   |
|               | <b>4</b>     | <b>Great Grocery Grudge XII</b> – Shaw’s / Hannaford Driving Competition -Hannaford Trucking, S. Portland – 8:00AM – Contact Dick Brown at rbrown9@maine.rr.com or 415-4734  |
|               | <b>16</b>    | <b>TDC Set-up Day</b> – Dysart’s Truck Terminal, Hermon – Noon - contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or grayc@mmta.com ( <a href="http://www.mpda.org">www.mpda.org</a> )   |
|               | <b>16</b>    | <b>MPDA Hospitality Get-together</b> (for anyone involved in competition) – Room 230, Bangor Motor Inn – Contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or dentruck@hotmail.com ( <a href="http://www.mpda.org">www.mpda.org</a> )   |
|               | <b>17</b>    | <b>Maine State Truck Driving Championships</b> – Dysart’s/Bangor Motor Inn – 5:30am - contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or grayc@mmta.com ( <a href="http://www.mmta.com">www.mmta.com</a> )  |
|               | <b>18</b>    | <b>MPDA General Meeting</b> – Room 230, Bangor Motor Inn, Bangor - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 ( <a href="http://www.mpda.org">www.mpda.org</a> )  |
| <b>June</b>   | <b>7</b>     | <b>New Hampshire State Truck Driving Championships</b> – contact Vera Tucker at 603-224-7337 or vera@nhmta.org or Mickey Rafeal at micrafeal@aol.com   |
|               | <b>12-15</b> | <b>Trek Across Maine / Lung Assn. Rally</b> , Sunday River – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or dentruck@hotmail.com ( <a href="http://www.mainelung.org">www.mainelung.org</a> )   |
|               | <b>14</b>    | <b>Connecticut State Truck Driving Championships</b>   |
|               | <b>22</b>    | <b>MPDA Officers &amp; General Meeting</b> – Location to be announced - 8:00/9:00am - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 ( <a href="http://www.mpda.org">www.mpda.org</a> )   |
| <b>July</b>   | <b>20</b>    | <b>MPDA Officers Meeting</b> – Date & Location to be announced - 8:00am - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 ( <a href="http://www.mpda.org">www.mpda.org</a> )   |
| <b>August</b> | <b>17</b>    | <b>MPDA Officers &amp; General Meeting</b> – Date & Location to be announced - 8:00am - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 ( <a href="http://www.mpda.org">www.mpda.org</a> )   |
|               | <b>19-23</b> | <b>ATA National Truck Driving Championships</b> – Houston, Texas - contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or grayc@mmta.com  |

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**MPDA 2007/2008 Calendar of Events continued next page ---->**

# MPDA 2007/2008 Calendar of Events

## 2008

- September 13** 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity FunDrive Lehigh Travel Plaza, Lexington, VA (I-81, Exit 195) – contact Larry Davis at 336-924-1751 or info@maptda.org ([www.maptda.org](http://www.maptda.org))
- 13** Charity Challenge Set-up Day – Devens, Mass. – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or dentruck@hotmail.com
- 14** 10th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge – Devens, Mass.- contact Fred Schenk at 978-453-3632 or info@necharitychallenge.org. ([www.necharitychallenge.org](http://www.necharitychallenge.org))
- 20** World's Largest Truck Convoy – Several States – contact 202-824-0268 or aberke@specialolympics.org ([www.worldslargesttruckconvoy.com](http://www.worldslargesttruckconvoy.com))
- 21** Wishes on Wheels Convoy – Willington, CT. – contact Roland Bolduc at 413-626-0900 or roadeo@charter.net (<http://webpages.charter.net/roadeo/>)
- 27** Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Set Up Day – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall 6:00pm - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com or Terry Stuart at 727-3704 or tstuart@mainepda.org
- 28** Maine Trucking 4 Kids Convoy, 7:00am to 4:00pm – Scarborough Downs, Scarborough - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com or Terry Stuart at 727-3704 or tstuart@mainepda.org ([www.mpda.org/trucking4kids](http://www.mpda.org/trucking4kids))
- October 19** MPDA Officers & General Meeting – Location to be announced - 8:00/9:00am - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))
- November 16** MPDA Officers Meeting – Date & Location to be announced - 8:00am - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))
- December 4** MMTA Shipper's Night – Holiday Inn, Portland – Contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or <grayc@mmta.com> ([www.mmta.com](http://www.mmta.com))

### MPDA Newsletter Staff, Contributors, Preparation & Mailing;

Fred Schenk Denis Litalien

### 2006-2007 MPDA Board of Directors;

President George Colbyt  
 Vice President Alan Paradis  
 Treasurer Rob Fernald  
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 Membership Officer Peter Mortensen  
 T.D.C. Officer Cliff Gray  
 Legislative Officer Dan Schweitzer  
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### Past Presidents / Lifetime Directors;

Dave Stuart Dick Brown Fred Thompson  
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 Denis Litalien

### ROADTEAM Captain;

Ron Hutchins

### Webmasters;

Pete Mortensen

### Maine Professional Drivers Association's Behind the Wheel Newsletter

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**Maine Professional Drivers Association**  
**P.O. Box 5672 / Augusta, Maine / 04332-5672**  
**Tel – (207)-318-7395 / mpdainfo@mainepda.org**  
**www.mpda.org**

MPDA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting courtesy, safety and professionalism in the field of commercial driving.



# Maine Professional Drivers Association

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

## **RICHARD ESPONNETTE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| What type of scholarship?                               | A \$500 scholarship awarded to a student for the second semester of an accredited school or a certified truck driving school.  |
| Who is eligible?  | Members, spouses, children, and grandchildren will get first consideration; if there are no applications any eligible student will be considered.                        |
| What are the judging rules?                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Scholastic record</li><li>* Participation in school and community</li><li>* Personal interest</li><li>* Financial need</li></ul> |
| What is the selection procedure?                        | The applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee of the Maine Professional Drivers Association   |
| Are there any obligations or restrictions?              | Yes. The student must notify the organization so that payment can be made to the school.   |
| Can a student reapply the next year?                    | Yes. Previous applicants may reapply and will be considered on an equal basis with the new applicants.   |
| When will we know?                                      | Announcement will be made at the MPDA August General Meeting.  |
| Where can a student get information and an application? | Contact: Attn. Rob Fernald<br>Maine Professional Drivers Association<br>105 Perry Court, Westbrook, Maine, 04092   |

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Deadline for submitting application is **August 1, 2008**

**Please mail application to:**

Rob Fernald  
Maine Professional Drivers Association  
105 Perry Court, Westbrook, Maine, 04092



# Maine Professional Drivers Association

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

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Name of MPDA sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

School presently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Date graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

School activities: (athletics & clubs) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Community activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies & interests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you been employed? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ / No\_\_\_\_\_

Give a brief description of your job: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name & location of school that you plan to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a letter with this application stating why you would like to receive this scholarship.

Please mail this application to:

Rob Fernald  
Maine Professional Drivers Association  
105 Perry Court, Westbrook, Maine, 04092

# MPDA's First Annual Pre-Season Competition Warm-Up / Field Day

Sunday, April 20th, 2008 Starting @ 8:00 AM

**Sponsored By: Maine Professional Drivers Association**



**Location:  
Emery-Waterhouse**

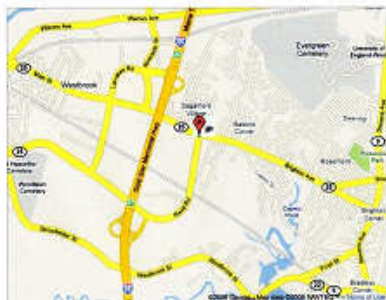
**7 Rand Rd., Portland, ME**

**Google**

Results 1-1 of about 24 for emery-waterhouse, near Portland, ME

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A Emery-Waterhouse Co  
7 Rand Rd, Portland, ME  
(207) 775-2371



Contact:

Alan Paradis—207-289-0328

Denis Litalien—207-468-7373

Dick Brown—207-415-4734

George Colby—207-577-5181

MPDA has put together a group of past State Champions to conduct a practice competition to give new and experienced drivers an opportunity to “BRUSH UP” their driving skills coming into the summer competition season. There will be a Pre-Trip Inspection Seminar, Written Test, and Driving courses to hone your skills!

Please take the time to join us to enhance your driving skills and have some fun!!!

Pre-Trip Seminar—8:00 AM

Written Test—to follow

Driving all day!

Refreshments will be available

**Come and Join the Fun!!**



**Promoting Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism**

