



Behind the Wheel

Newsletter of the Maine Professional Drivers Association

Volume XVIII, No. 3, *"Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism"* July-August-September 2008



2008 Maine "Trucking 4 Kids" Convoy

The weather was horrible and the economy was bad and how many other excuses can we come up with for not having a good event? Well, evidently there were not enough excuses as nearly 50 trucks showed up in the pouring rain generated by Hurricane Kyle with the second highest amount of money ever raised by the Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy

\$13,000.00

Full story inside

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2008 Maine Trucking 4 Kids Convoy

The weather was horrible and the economy was bad and how many other excuses can we come up with for not having a good event? Well, evidently there were not enough excuses as nearly 50 trucks showed up in the pouring rain generated by Hurricane Kyle with the second highest amount of money ever raised by the Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy.



Checks totaling **\$13,000.00** were dispersed to Camp Sunshine and youth programs hosted by Greater Portland Police Departments. Camp Sunshine received \$10,000 while the balance was distributed among South Portland and Scarborough Police Departments and also the Cumberland County Sheriff's Dept. and the York, Falmouth and the Cumberland Police Departments.

Since combining their efforts to form the Maine Trucking 4 Kids Convoy the Lions and the Maine Professional Drivers Association have raised over **\$103,000** for organizations that help kids in various ways. Camp Sunshine alone has received **\$51,820!**

This year the event was held on September 28th and convoyed through South Portland and Scarborough. The convoy portion started at Scarborough Downs and ended there after circling the Maine Mall area. DJ Jim Fahey entertained the crowd with music once the trucks arrived. **Dave and Terry Stuart** provided some great chili to take the chill off all the participants.



Enough sponsors were recruited to cover all the expenses of the event so that all pledges that drivers brought in, the funds from the raffle, the 50/50, the driving competition and the donations for food went directly to the kids' organizations. The Convoy Committee takes no cut from the funds that the drivers raise.

Thanks to all the MPDA members and the members of the two Lions Clubs in South Portland who helped out with making this event a huge

success. Thanks also go out to our major sponsors, including: Scarborough Downs, **Shaw's, Clifford W. Perham, Inc., Poland Spring, Hannaford, Portland Air Freight**, The Wash Bay, Michaud Distributors, **Kris-Way Truck Leasing**, Rigby Storage, **Cumberland Farms, Irving Oil**, Coca-Cola, **Sysco of Northern New England**, Shipyard Brewery, Atlantic Pest Solutions, Portland Eagles Club, A-1 Environmental Services, Pleasant Hill Auto Sales, Maine Motor Transport Assn., FedEx Express, Northeast Technical Institute and Pine Tree Waste.



Special awards and prizes were presented to those drivers who raised the most funds for the event. This year's top fundraiser award, sponsored by Maine Motor Transport Assn., was presented to **Butch Cheverie** (also last year's top fundraiser), representing **Portland Air Freight**. Butch raised \$2,800.00 and was also presented with an Irving Oil Gift Card. Also recognized for their fundraising efforts were **Jim Shunk of Poland Springs** (\$1600.00), Adam Hurtubise of Rigby Storage (\$1,000) and Ted St. Amand of Atlantic Pest Control (\$1,000).



Each year the Convoy Committee also recognizes two committee members and two companies who have gone over and above to help the event.

This year **Fred & Diane Thompson** and Tom Baker were recognized while **Sysco of Northern New England** and Mike & Lynn cousins of One Stop Party Shoppe were presented with recognition plaques for all their support of the event over the years.

Driving competition winners were (Sponsored by Northeast Technical Institute):

- 1st – **Everett Macmaster**, retired from FedEx Express
- 2nd – Chris Hall of Yarmouth
- 3rd – **Mike Swallow** of UPS Freight
- 4th – Fred Peckham of the Chrome Shop

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Awards for the best looking vehicles in the convoy, sponsored by Maine Motor Transport Association, were presented as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Driver</u>
Bobtail - 1st Place	<u>T.R. Stone</u> <u>T.R. Stone</u>
Bobtail - 2nd Place	<u>Alex Pouliot</u> <u>T.R. Stone</u>

Straight Truck - 1st Place
Dennis Hamel Michaud Distributors

Straight Truck - 2nd Place
Johnny Sheppard Market Fresh Produce

Tanker -1st Place
Jim Shunk **Poland Spring**

Tanker - 2nd Place
Matt Chadbourne A-1 Environmental

Heavy Equipment -1st Place
Alan Hurtubise Rigby Storage

Antique -1st Place
Fred & Judy Peckham

Most Unusual -1st Place
Nathan Gray A-1 Environmental

Most Unusual - 2nd Place
Brian Hersey Pine Tree Waste

Pick-up Truck -1st Place
Butch Gaudet Pine Tree Waste

Pick-up Truck - 2nd Place
Brian Beaulieu B & B Towing

Flatbed Class – 1st Place
Craig Bernier B & B Towing

Flatbed Class – 2nd Place
Paul Robie Maietta

Wrecker Class – 1st Place
Robert Sanborn B& B Towing

Wrecker Class – 2nd Place
Ron Bozzuto Maietta

Small Fleet Van – 1st Place
Butch Cheverie **Portland Air Freight**

Large Fleet Van – 1st Place
John Lestage Wal-Mart

Large Fleet Van – 2nd Place
Yvette Astbury Hannaford Trucking

Kids Choice Award
James Shunk **Poland Spring**

Vehicle that traveled furthest to attend:
T.R. Stone Distance: 200 miles

Company with most vehicles in Convoy:
A-1 Environmental #Vehicles: 6

Most Patriotic:
Fred & Judy Peckham

More information can be found at:
www.mtpda.org/trucking4kids

2008 National Truck Driving Championship Winners:

Grand Champion: Dennis R. Shirar - Heritage Transport, LLC (Indianapolis, Indiana)
National Rookie of the Year: Robert Romando - FedEx National LTL (Surprise, Arizona)
State Team Trophy: Georgia (1st); Indiana (2nd); West Virginia (3rd)
Vehicle Condition Award: Carl Meyers – United Parcel Service (East Lake, Minnesota)
Neill Darmstadter Professional Excellence Award: Clarence Jenkins, Jr. - UPS Freight (Poca, West Virginia)
Life-Time Volunteer Award: Woody and Jeanne Yarwood (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania)

National Champions:

Straight Truck Class
1st Place – Dennis R. Shirar - Heritage Transport, LLC (Indianapolis, Indiana)
2nd Place - Mario Gonzales, Sr. - H-E-B Grocery Co. (Katy, Texas)
3rd Place – Joshua J. Jetton - Con-way Freight (Wildier, Idaho)

3-Axle Class
1st Place - Victor K. Wheeler – Roadway (Bountiful, Utah)
2nd Place - Daniel J. Shamrell - FedEx Freight (Battle Ground, Washington)
3rd Place - Bruce Amor – Roadway (Plymouth, Indiana)

4-Axle Class
1st Place - Ryan R. Kelley - FedEx Freight (Nora Springs, Iowa)
2nd Place - Jeffrey Halford - Con-way Freight (Meridian, Idaho)
3rd Place - Neil P. Nogues - Yellow Transportation (Franklin, New Hampshire)

5-Axle Class
1st Place - Buner H. Evans - USF Holland (Bremen, Georgia)
2nd Place – Lynn C. Laubach - Advance Food Company, Inc. (Waukomis, Oklahoma)
3rd Place – John A. Willinger - FedEx Freight (Louisville, Kentucky)

Flatbed Class
1st Place – Ben S. Moore, Jr. - Wal-Mart Transportation (Americus, Georgia)
2nd Place - Danny G. Drewery - UPS Freight (Hernando, Mississippi)
3rd Place – Roy Hart, III (California, Maryland)

Tank Truck Class
1st Place – John A. Smith, Jr. - FedEx Ground (Mooreville, Mississippi)
2nd Place - David Bolden - H-E-B Grocery Co. (Houston, Texas)
3rd Place - Daryl D. George (Buffalo, New York)

Twins Class
1st Place – Chris A. Mahony - FedEx Freight (Kearns, Utah)
2nd Place - Jerry A. Richman - Yellow Transportation, Inc. (Moatsville, West Virginia)
3rd Place – Erik P. Lilleberg - FedEx Ground (Billings, Montana)

Sleeper Berth Class
1st Place - Karl R. Bohrer - Wal-Mart Transportation (Katy, Texas)
2nd Place - Gary L. Plant - Wal-Mart Transportation (Windsor, Colorado)
3rd Place - Clark B. Welch - Wal-Mart Transportation (Locust Grove, Arkansas)

Maine Driver Results

Straight Truck Class
Bradley Bartlett, Jr. – FedEx Ground – 31st

3-Axle Class
Jimmy Franklin – FedEx Express – 20th

4-Axle Class
Guy Carroll III – Land Air Express of NE – 24th

5-Axle Class
Jared Elston – FedEx Express – 28th

Flatbed Class
Warren Lewis – Hannaford Trucking Co. – 24th

Tank Truck Class
Don Mitsmenn – Cumberland Farms – 39th

Twins Class
Bob Kierstead – FedEx Ground – 12th

Sleeper Berth Class
Elwood Wilde – Central Maine Transport – 31st

Northeast Charity Challenge

"With pouring rain in the morning and cloudy skies all day, the drivers who dared the weather were heroes in the children's eyes." That quote, from Roland Bolduc on the Connecticut Drivers Assn. website says it all about the event held on September 14 at Devens, Mass.



Seventy Six drivers participated in the 10th Annual Northeast Truck Drivers Charity Challenge and raised \$33,000. After expenses were deducted over \$19,000 was available for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

As with the Trucking 4 Kids Convoy, the rain could not dampen the spirits of all the truck drivers who came to try their hand at the driving competition. It was disheartening to get up in the morning that day and see the weather but conversely very heartening to see all the drivers show up anyway with more pledges than anyone could have imagined.

The driving portion consisted of ten obstacles set up with varying degrees of difficulty. There was also an optional pre-trip inspection and an optional written test for those who wanted to test their own limits. Many comments were heard about the great driving course. Most drivers appreciated the effort that the course layout guys put into creating a challenging competition.

The list of awards for this event is long and each year 2 companies and 2 individuals receive special recognition for their continued support.

2008 Companies: **Linde** (ME) and P. S. Marston Associates/ Abenaqui Carriers (NH)

2008 Individuals: Al & Lynn Charbonneau (NY) and Roland Bolduc (CT)

The individual awards this year were renamed the "Bob Deslauriers Recognition Award" after Bob Deslauriers, a Frito-Lay driver who had been involved with the event since its inception and passed away suddenly this past year.

Here is a list of the Award Winners:

Straight Truck – Ozzie Bartlett of Bozzuto's (CT)
3-Axle Van - Roland Bolduc, FedEx Express (CT)
4-Axle Van - Brian Singlais, A. Duie Pyle (MA)
5-Axle Van – Bill Anthony, FedEx Express

5-Axle Sleeper – Karen Tierney, FedEx Express (MA)
5-Axle Tank – Chris Lemauk, Abenaqui Carriers (NH)
5-Axle Flatbed – Pete Mesick, J.A. Carman (NY)
Twin Trailers – **Mickey Rafeal**, Roadway Express (NH)
Step Van – Fred Nordloh, retired (Air Products) (NY)
Father/Son Award – Joe Austin of Exxon Mobil and Chris Austin
Retired Driver – Ralph Mauro, retired (Air Products) (NY)
Team Trophy - Yellow Transportation
Top Management Trophy – Bob Quinn of FedEx Express (MA)
Top Setup Team Score – Tim Carlin, retired (CT)
Grand Champion - Brian Singlais, A. Duie Pyle (MA)
Rookie of the Year – Chris Austin of Normandeau Trucking, Inc.
Top Fundraiser – Ozzie Bartlett of Bozzuto's (CT) (\$3850.00)

Use the following link to see all the details:
www.nucharitychallenge.org

DOT Blog

Transportation Secretary Mary Peters has launched a blog at DOT, called the Fast Lane. "This new opportunity will allow me and others here at the Department to speak with you and engage in an earnest conversation about our nation's transportation system," Peters wrote in the blog's first entry in April. The blog will be open to public comments, Peters said. The blog is located at <http://fastlane.dot.gov/secretarysblog>

- from Transport Topics Online

Membership Anniversaries for July, August, September

3 Years

Alan Henriksen

5 Years

Earle Bonney

10 Years

Rick Magnuson

Michael Frith

Split shifting by *Denis Litalien*

With long intervals between newsletters, it's hard to catch up on everything going on in our business. Since the last newsletter we have seen the Bike Trek, the National Truck Driving Championships, The Charity Challenge and the Trucking 4 Kids Convoy. We also got by National Truck Driver Appreciation Week. While we don't do anything special to recognize Truck Driver Appreciation Week ourselves, it was nice to see so many companies and Associations do so. Maine Motor Transport Association had a huge banner on the front of their building in Augusta that could be seen from the Turnpike that included the MPDA logo and thanked trucks drivers.



We also saw the reconstruction of I-295 from Topsham to Gardiner. This was no small feat and was accomplished in record time with little disruption to our business. It took one of the notoriously worst roads in the State and made into the smoothest piece of Interstate highway in New England. Thanks to the coordination with the Maine Turnpike, Me DOT made this construction as painless as possible for all of us. Thank you!

While rain was the dominating factor in both the Northeast Truck Drivers Charity Challenge and the Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy, it was gratifying to see all the truck drivers who turned out in inclement weather to help kids programs. Many of us mistakenly thought that both events would be a bust in the rain but over \$32,000 was raised from both events for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Camp Sunshine and greater Portland youth programs. What a tribute to truck drivers for their diligence and generosity when called upon. And thanks to all those member companies who either sponsored parts of the event, matched driver pledges or simply made donations!

While we always beg for people to get involved, it always charges my batteries to see what we can accomplish when we put our mind to it.

The fundraising efforts that drivers come up with always astound me. And this is always done by a small minority of our members. For those who hesitate and don't get involved, I think you are missing a great opportunity to get that feeling that you accomplished something worthwhile while having a lot of fun and making new friends.

Check out the calendar of events for next year and start making plans. We will be including a small "**STICK-ON**" calendar with your 2009 dues notice for you to stick on the dash of your truck to keep track of all the stuff coming next year. All of our activities are family-friendly and a great opportunity to do some industry networking. It would be great on the 20th anniversary of the founding of MPDA (2009) to see the membership come out and get active and make this the greatest group to belong to. See you at the next meeting!

Denis

Truck-Related Fatalities Declined Last Year

The number of Americans killed in truck-related crashes fell 4.4% to 4,808 last year, the lowest total in 15 years, the Department of Transportation reported in August. DOT reports that road fatalities and truck-related fatalities both declined last year.

The number of people killed in heavy-duty truck-related crashes fell 4.4% to 4,808, from 5,027 in 2006, DOT said. Overall traffic fatalities fell to 41,059, the lowest number since 1994, and the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was 1.37, the lowest fatality rate on record, DOT said. The 2.49 million people who were injured in highway crashes last year was the lowest since the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began collecting injury data in 1988.

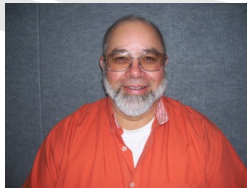
DOT said motorcycle fatalities now account for 13% of all fatalities and that the number of motorcycle riders or passengers killed on the nation's roads increased 6.6% over the previous year. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters said DOT will continue its efforts to combat impaired driving, increase safety belt use and improve motorcycle safety.

- from Transport Topics Online

Administrative Section

- On our website you will find a members-only section. This section is only for by-laws, meeting minutes, membership list and newsletters. This is password protected. After July 1st member access will be dropped if dues are not paid.

- MPDA President **George Colby** set up an information booth at the New Gloucester Community Fair and had a great day speaking to the public about, trucking, truck drivers and sharing the road with trucks.

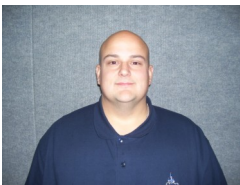


- Two changes to the by-laws were proposed at the last meeting. One change is the change in wording to Article , Section which in effect states that in the event that the organization is dissolved all unexpended funds must be distributed to a 501(c)(3) organization as per IRS rules. This vote was taken under emergency changes and put into effect. The other change that was suggested was to award all past Presidents with Lifetime Memberships and waive dues requirements in appreciation of their service to MPDA. This change must wait for two meetings that have a quorum of members to implement a vote. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

- The awarding of the Richard Esponnette Memorial Scholarship has been announced. Stephanie Neales will receive the scholarship in January for the second semester of studies. Stephanie is member **Rob Fernald's** niece and is attending St. Joseph College in Standish.

- MPDA will begin an advertising program on the equipment trailers. We will charge \$100.00 per year to put a 4' by 1' decal along to top rail on each side of one trailer. We will require white background or no background as we have white trailers with the advertiser providing self-adhesive decals. We

will apply them. Contact **Rob Fernald** for more information. This will give our Supporting Members and others a chance to advertise on our trailers which appear at all the most professional trucking events in Maine and New England.



It was also decided at the last meeting to sell advertising on our website. A classified section will be put together with prices as follows: Any ads 100 / month, 250 / 3 months, 400 / 6 months, 500 / year with a 50% surcharge for non-members and size of ads to be determined at the next meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

November 16 - Officers Meeting, 8:00am, Hannaford Trucking.

January 18 - Officers & General Meeting, Location TBA

March 15 - Officers & General Meeting, 8:00 & 9:00am, Location TBA

April 5 - Officers Meeting, Location TBA (South)

May 17 - Officers & General Meeting, 8:00 & 9:00am, Bangor Motor Inn Room 230

Our Future?

Guest Column by Brian Bouchard

With crude oil prices bouncing, the World economies will need to make adjustments. I see these adjustments, and the uncertainties that come with them, plaguing those industries that are heavy users of petroleum fuels relative to revenue. Trucking and forest products industries are the two that are the closest to my thoughts. The problems we see were a long time getting here and I expect there will be reasons for concern for quite some time.

Those of us who earn our livings in these industries must be as proactive as possible. Business as usual will not be an option. Those who are successful must change their ways. Letting \$3.70 fuel go up the stack and earn no revenue is no longer an option.

The one technology area above all others that is important for the future of the heavy - duty truck business is fuel conservation. Fuel conservation will not be merely a question of price. It soon will be a question of economic survival. Trucking can no longer ignore any of the four major disciplines of fleet efficiency and conservation:

Engine and drive train technology;
Heavy-vehicle aerodynamics;
Preventive maintenance; and
Driver skills and practices.

Each of these disciplines carries roughly the same potential for savings, but used together, they represent a more powerful force than any government agency mandate. So, while there is no need to panic, it is certainly a good time for all facets of the trucking industry to move quickly in all areas of fuel efficiency.

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

While this edited article is aimed primarily at management personnel, we feel Brian raises issues 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 bri-anb@hobouchard.com - ed

State of New Hampshire
"Move Over" Law

Governor John H. Lynch will sign HB1235 into law at the Executive Council Chamber at the State House at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8, 2008.

The bill strengthens the state's "Move Over" law, which requires motorists to slow down and move away from the scene of roadside incidents, such as motor vehicle stops, crashes and breakdowns.

The bill expands coverage of the "Move Over" law by requiring motorists to respond to blue, red and amber warning lights, which includes tow truck operators and highway crews, as well as police, fire and emergency medical personnel. It is intended to reduce roadside deaths and injuries to emergency personnel and members of the public.

This law took effect on August 5, 2008.

Obituaries:



Cherri L. Conroy, wife of member Mike Conroy passed away on Sept. 6 at her home after a courageous battle with cancer. Mike and Cherrie both have been very involved with the driving championships and driver education classed in the Bangor area. Mike's e-mail address is mconroy50@gmail.com and the home address is, P.O. Box 833, Bucksport, ME 04416.

Nancy Thompson, 60, wife of member Clarence Thompson passed away on September 15 after a long illness related to Alzheimer's. She and Clarence had been married for 39 years. She is also survived by brother-in-law, Fred V. Thompson and his wife, Diane, of Gardiner, also MPDA members.

New Hampshire Truck Driver Dies

Aaron Staelens, 43, of Richmond, NH lost his life in an accident after being severely burned on I-91 in Chicopee, Mass. in March. Staelens' tanker crashed into a guardrail and exploded after a car collided with him and he veered to the right to try to avoid getting hit, state police said.

The driver of the car, Victor Aponte, 35, of Holyoke was issued a summons to face charges including negligent motor vehicle homicide and reckless operation. Staelens worked for Abeniqui Carriers of North Hampton, N.H. Staelens had been a truck driver for more than 15 years and had 5 children.

America's Road Team Driver Tony Sifford Dies in Crash

Tony Sifford, 41, an America's Road Team captain since 2007, died Sept. 24 near Ruston, La., from injuries sustained in a highway accident that day. His FedEx Ground partner, Rodney Palmer, 38, died the following day.

A resident of Hillsville, Va., Sifford made frequent runs between Virginia and Dallas for FedEx's truck-based parcel carrier. Beyond his work as an owner-operator, he was deeply involved in industry affairs, whether testifying on Capitol Hill on trucking issues, recruiting new drivers to the industry, instructing people on highway safety or participating in the National Truck Driving Championships.

"Tony Sifford was devoted to the trucking industry, accumulating 1.8 million accident-free miles during his 14-year career," said Bill Graves, president of American Trucking Associations. "But more importantly, Tony was a part of the ATA family, a dedicated Road Team captain and an amazing person."

America's Road Team is an ATA-sponsored group of drivers who advocate for highway safety through events such as Share the Road.

ATA said Sifford had volunteered in the Trucker Buddy program, which sets up pen-pal relationships between drivers and elementary school classes. He also taped a video presentation for Ford Motor Co. earlier this year to recruit laid-off auto workers to work as commercial vehicle drivers. Sifford testified this year to members of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate on the effects of high diesel fuel prices.

"Tony made such a strong impact on so many people with his knowledge and passion for the industry," said Elisabeth Barna, an ATA vice president who worked with Sifford on the Road Team.

He is survived by his wife, Gena; a daughter, Hannah; a son, Isaac; and his parents, Leonard and Janice. A memorial fund for the benefit of his children will be administered at the Grayson National Bank in Hillsville.

-from Transport Topics Online

MPDA Calendar of Events – 2008-2009 (As of November 1, 2008)**2008****November**

- 16 **MPDA Officers Meeting** – Hannaford Trucking Co. - 8:00am - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 (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)
- 4 **Maine Transportation Conference** – Augusta Civic Center – 8:00am – contact Maria Fuentes at maria@mbtaonline.org or 622-0526 (www.mbtaonline.org)

2009**January**

- 18 **Officers & General Meeting**, Location TBA- 8:00am - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 (www.mpda.org)

March

- 15 **Officers & General Meeting**, 8:00 & 9:00am, Location TBA - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 (www.mpda.org)

April

- 5 **Officers Meeting**, Location TBA (South) - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 (www.mpda.org)
- 30 - 1 **State CDL Truck Driving Competition** - Westbrook High School, Westbrook - contact Dick Dolloff at dolloffr@westbrookschoools.org or Dick Brown at 415-4734 or rbrown9@maine.rr.com

May

- 1 **State CDL Truck Driving Competition** - Westbrook High School, Westbrook - contact Dick Dolloff at dolloffr@westbrookschoools.org or Dick Brown at 415-4734 or rbrown9@maine.rr.com
- 15 **TDC Set-up Day** – Dysart's Truck Terminal, Hermon – Noon - contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or grayc@mmta.com (www.mpda.org)
- 16 **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 (www.mpda.org)
- 16 **Maine State Truck Driving Championships** – Dysart's/Bangor Motor Inn – 5:30am - contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or grayc@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
- 17 **Officers & General Meeting**, 8:00 & 9:00am, Bangor Motor Inn Room 230

June

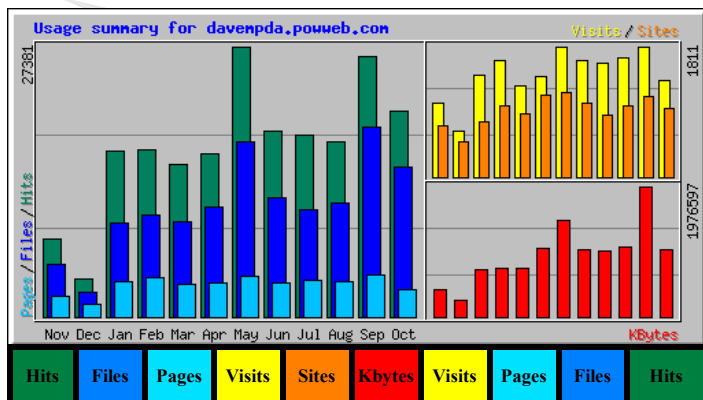
- 17-21 **Trek Across Maine / Lung Assn. Rally**, Sunday River – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or dentruck@hotmail.com (www.maine Lung.org)

August

- 18-22 **ATA National Truck Driving Championships** – San Jose, California. - contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or grayc@mmta.com

September

- 13? **11th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge** – Devens, Mass.- contact Fred Schenk at 978-453-3632 or info@necharitychallenge.org. (www.necharitychallenge.org)
- 20 **Wishes on Wheels Convoy** – Willington, CT. – contact Roland Bolduc at 413-626-0900 or roadeo@charter.net (<http://webpages.charter.net/roadeo/>)
- 26 **Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Set Up Day** – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall-9:00am - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com or Terry Stuart at 221-3198 or tstuart@mainepda.org
- 27 **Maine Trucking 4 Kids Convoy**, 7:00am to 4:00pm – Scarborough Downs, Scarborough - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com or Terry Stuart at 221-3198 or tstuart@mainepda.org (www.mpda.org/trucking4kids)

MPDA Website Usage**Website Update**

MPDA continues to make our organization more productive and efficient. We are in the process of getting member dues payments available online by this year. This is a time-consuming task, but should better serve our membership.

A classified page will also be available to post jobs available, jobs wanted, etc. This will be open to members and non members. Members will have a reduced rate for posting classified ads. Watch on our website for these up-coming improvements in our service to our membership.



Pete Mortensen
Webmaster

**Maine Turnpike News
York Toll Booth**

The replacement of the York Toll Booth is in the planning process and several meetings have been held for public input. This issue has generated some very heated debate in the York area where proposals for construction of a new toll booth plaza will possibly take place. The proposed locations include Mile 8.7, 9.5, 11.3 and 13.2. Each location involves the acquisition of property including at least one home at each location.

While MPDA has not gotten involved in the hot issue of the location of the proposed replacement for the York toll booth plaza, the Board of Directors has come up with a statement establishing the MPDA position. "Our Assn. is not as concerned with the location of the tollbooths but that they be located in such a way that is the safest for all highway users. This should include consideration for not being near an exit, having at least two or three high speed lanes in both directions and that those lanes be located to the left in the direction of travel and that it have a long, flat, straight approach. Our interests lie in the safety of the motoring public."

**MPDA Newsletter Staff**

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ROADTEAM Captain Ron Hutchins

Executive Director Dick Brown

2008-2009 MPDA Board of Directors

President	George Colby
Vice President	Alan Paradis
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Secretary (Interim)	Denis Litalien
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Legislative Officer	Dan Schweitzer
Public Relations Officer	TBD
All Active Past Presidents	

Past Presidents

Dave Stuart, Dick Brown, Fred Thompson, Doug Pickard, Ron Hutchins (2 Terms), John Waisanen, Alan Paradis, Denis Litalien

Behind the Wheel Newsletter

Our newsletter is published quarterly for our members and advertisers.

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
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.**