



# *Behind the Wheel*

Newsletter of the Maine Professional Drivers Association

Volume XXIV, No. 2

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

April-May-June 2009

**MPDA-20 Years of Service 1989 to 2009**

## **2009 Maine State Truck Driving Championship Edition**

### Matthew Richardson



## Grand Champion & Rookie of the Year

Complete List and Details inside.

This issue of "Behind the Wheel" is sponsored by:  
**Maine Motor Transport Association**

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



# 2009 Maine State Truck Driving Championships Results



## 2009 Grand Champion

Matthew Richardson

FedEx Ground



## 2009 Team Award

Hannaford Trucking Co.



## Knowledge Test Award

Warren Lewis

Hannaford Trucking Co.



## Rookie of the Year Award

Matthew Richardson

FedEx Ground



## 3-Axle Van

1<sup>st</sup> – Nelson Girard-Con-Way Freight

2<sup>nd</sup> – Bill Butland -Sysco of NNE

3<sup>rd</sup> – Robert Pederson-FedEx Freight



## Pre-Trip Inspection Award

(Three way Tie)

Ed Abbott-Downeast Energy

Alexander Creighton-Pottle's Trans.

Richard Hill-Walmart Trans.



## 5-Axle Sleeper

1<sup>st</sup> – Richard Hill-Walmart Transportation

2<sup>nd</sup> – Brian McDuffie-Pottle's Trans.

3<sup>rd</sup> – Craig Carver Sr. -Pottle's Trans.



## 4-Axle Van

1<sup>st</sup> – Vincent Cote -Hannaford Trucking Co.

2<sup>nd</sup> – Larry Menter-YRC

3<sup>rd</sup> – Chuck McHenan-Walmart Trans. (not in picture)



## 5-Axle Flatbed

1<sup>st</sup> – Rick Magnuson-Hannaford Trucking

2<sup>nd</sup> – Alexander Creighton-Pottle's Trans.

3<sup>rd</sup> – Douglas Snowden-Clifford W. Perham



## 5-Axle Van

1<sup>st</sup> – Eric Foster -LandAir Express

2<sup>nd</sup> – Elwood "Skip" Wilde-CMT

3<sup>rd</sup> – Ronald Round -Pottle's Trans.



## Twin Trailers

1<sup>st</sup> – Matthew Richardson -FedEx Ground

2<sup>nd</sup> – Kenneth Smith-YRC

3<sup>rd</sup> – Kevin Hughes -FedEx Freight



## 5-Axle Tank

1<sup>st</sup> – Don Mitsmenn -Cumberland Farms/Gulf

2<sup>nd</sup> – Ray Crockett-Currier Trucking

3<sup>rd</sup> – James Jewell-Webber Oil (not in picture)



## Step Van

1<sup>st</sup> – Jason Brooks -FedEx Ground

2<sup>nd</sup> – Eric Barden -FedEx Ground

3<sup>rd</sup> – Greg Gelinas -FedEx Ground



## Straight Truck

1<sup>st</sup> – Bradley Bartlett, Jr. -FedEx Ground

2<sup>nd</sup> – David Roberts– Con-Way Freight

3<sup>rd</sup> – John Ayer-Dysart's Trans.

# Congratulations to the 2009 Maine State Champions from the

## *Maine Motor Transport Association*



### Grand Champion

*Matthew Richardson of FedEx Ground*

### Three Axle Van Champion

*Nelson Girard of Con-Way Freight*

### Team Champion

*Hannaford Trucking*

### Four Axle Van Champion

*Vincent Cote of Hannaford Trucking*

### Rookie of the Year

*Matthew Richardson of FedEx Ground*

### Five Axle Van Champion

*Eric Foster of LandAir Express*

### Knowledge Award Winner

*Warren Lewis of Hannaford Trucking*

### Five Axle Flatbed Champion

*Rick Magnuson of Hannaford Trucking*

### Pre-Trip Inspection Winner

*Ed Abbott of Downeast Energy*

### Five Axle Tank Champion

*Donald Mitsmenn of Cumberland Farms*

### Step Van Champion

*Jason Brooks of FedEx Ground*

### Five Axle Sleeper Champion

*Richard Hill of Walmart Transportation*

### Straight Truck Champion

*Bradley Bartlett, Jr. of FedEx Ground*

### Twin Trailers Champion

*Matthew Richardson of FedEx Ground*





# 2009 Maine State Truck Driving Championship Results

<u>Twin Trailers</u>			<u>Five Axle Sleeper</u>		
354	Matthew Richardson (*1,*4)	FedEx Ground	273	<b>Richard Hill</b>	Walmart Transportation
252	Kenneth Smith	YRC	262	Brian McDuffie	Pottle's Transportation
231	Kevin Hughes	FedEx Freight	259	<b>Craig Carver</b>	Pottle's Transportation
<u>Straight Truck</u>				Michael Jodoin	Dysart's Transportation
333	Bradley Bartlett, Jr.	FedEx Ground		Kevin McGarry	Central Maine Transport
293	David Roberts	Con-Way Freight		Robert Demchak	Pottle's Transportation
266	John Ayer	Dysart's Transportation		Fred Ayer	Dysart's Transportation
	Edward Abbott (*2)	Downeast Energy		Leanne Pooler	Central Maine Transport
	Shawn Hamel	Sunrise Materials			
<u>Three Axle Van</u>			<u>Five Axle Van</u>		
336	<b>Nelson Girard</b>	Con-Way Freight	314	<b>Eric Foster</b>	Land Air Express of NE
326	William G. Butland	Sysco of Northern NE	299	<b>Elwood Wilde</b>	Central Maine Transport
324	Robert Pedersen	FedEx Freight	293	<b>Ronald Round</b>	Pottle's Transportation
	<b>Warren Lewis (*3)</b>	Hannaford Trucking Co. (*5)		Allen Marble	Pottle's Transportation
	Hayri Berberoglu	Sysco of Northern NE		Thomas Pooler	Hannaford Trucking Co.
	Adrien Doyon	Sysco of Northern NE		James Vatter	YRC
	Lee Tillson	Con-Way Freight		Randy Way	Walmart Transportation
	Don Mitchell	Walmart Transportation		<b>Michael Frith</b>	Associated Grocers of NE
<u>Four Axle Van</u>				David Porter	Associated Grocers of NE
360	<b>Vincent Cote</b>	Hannaford Trucking Co. (*5)		Jeffrey Bellfleur	sociated Grocers of NE
348	Larry Menter	YRC		Jared Elston	FedEx Express
294	Chuck McHenan	Walmart Transportation		<b>John Ellingwood, Jr.</b>	FedEx Freight
295	Lester Lord	FedEx Freight		Jeff Murdock	Clifford W. Perham/ Shaw's
	Michael Brown	on-Way Freight		Jim Carroll	Carlen Transport
	Raymond Peavey	FedEx Freight	343	Jason Brooks	<u>Step Van</u>
	Philip Patry	Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's	309	<b>Erik Barden</b>	FedEx Ground
			304	Craig Gelinas	Wolfe Transportation Inc.
<u>Five Axle Tank</u>				Derrick DiPaulo	FedEx Ground
368	<b>Donald Mitsmenn</b>	Cumberland Farms Inc.		Sharon Clancy	Maine Uniform
277	Ray Crockett	Currier Trucking		Edward Surprenant	FedEx Express
271	James Jewell	Webber Oil Co.		Steven Howe	FedEx
	<b>Guy Currier</b>	Webber Oil Co.		Judy Weed	Maine Uniform
	Matthew Wood	J & S Oil Co.			FedEx Express
	Frank Betts II	Walmart Transportation			
	Danny King	Con-Way Freight	*1	Grand Champion	
	Robert Springer III	C. N. Brown	*2	Pre-trip Inspection Award Winner	
	Herman Hughes Jr.	C. N. Brown	*3	Written Test Award Winner	
			*4	Rookie of the Year	
			*5	Team Award	
<u>Five Axle Flatbed</u>			<b>Bolded</b> names are members of the Maine Professional Drivers Association.		
379	<b>Robert Magnuson</b>	Hannaford Trucking Co. (*5)			
300	Alex Creighton	Pottle's Transportation			
247	Douglas Snowden	Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's			
	Robert Balfour II	Balfour Motor Express			
	Fred Lindsey	YRC			
	Dennis Carver	Pottle's Transportation			
	Kraigh Cramer	Central Maine Transport			
	Bill Arnett	Walmart Transportation			
	<b>Dave Gagne</b>	Clifford W. Perham/Shaw's			
	Ken Lewis	Central Maine Transport			
	James Hannigan	Pottle's Transportation			

Note: All contestants are listed in order of finish.  
Anyone wanting their individual scores should contact  
Cliff Gray or Denis Litalien.

## 2009 Championships Scoring Notes

### Grand Champion Scores

(Award sponsored by Hartt Transportation, Inc.)

Matt Richardson – 410.64

**Rick Magnuson** – 409.32

**Don Mitsmenn** – 397.44

**Vince Cote** – 381.6

Larry Menter – 368.88

### Top Written Test Scores

(Award sponsored by Maine Professional Drivers Assn.)

(Out of possible 80)

**Warren Lewis** - 80

Lee Tillson - 78

**Vincent Cote** - 74

**Rick Magnuson** - 74

**Ron Round** - 74

4 drivers tied with 66

### Top Rookie of the Year Scores

(Award sponsored by Maine Commercial Tire, Inc.)

Matt Richardson – 354

Alex Creighton – 300

Allen Marble – 286

Brian McDuffie – 262

Kevin McGarry – 231

### Top Pre-Trip Scores

(Award Sponsored by United Insurance Group)

(Out of possible 100)

Ed Abbott – 90

**Richard Hill** – 90

Alex Creighton – 90

**Eric Foster** – 89

**Ron Round** – 89

## Maine State Truck Driving Championships

The 2009 Maine State Truck Driving Championships were again held at **Dysart's** Truck Terminal in Hermon. The folks at Dysart's have been gracious to us over the past 16 years in allowing us to bring the competition to the greater Bangor area by using their facility for the driving and pre-trip inspection portions of the statewide competition. The Maine Motor Transport Assn. conducts the Maine State Truck Driving Championships with assistance from the Maine Professional Drivers Assn.

Many companies were involved this year in providing equipment and personnel to make sure this competition went off without a hitch. And what a success it was! While space limits us from thanking all those who helped put this event together, we want them to know that we appreciate the efforts that each and every one of them put out to make this happen.

A special thank you goes out to all the MPDA members who showed up and did those things behind the scenes that often go unnoticed but really help in making things go smoothly. Like the Hospitality Room, the Food Booth, the Raffle, the Course Set Up and Tear Down, Equipment Handling, Judging, Etc, Etc.

Seventy-three drivers competed for the title of Maine State Grand Champion and to be the State Champion in each of nine different classes of trucks. Matthew Richardson of FedEx Ground took home the Grand Champion title and goes to Pittsburgh in August to represent Maine in the Twin Trailer class at the ATA National Truck Driving Championships. Matt was also the Rookie of the Year. This is very unusual for a first timer to win the Grand Champion Award! Other winners are listed elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter.

A terrific time was had by all that converged on the city of Bangor and surrounding areas to participate. Some we even heard made a small profit at Hollywood Slots in between the planned activities. Activities started on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, as company officials, MMTA staff and MPDA members set up the driving course at Dysart's. On Friday evening **Pete Mortensen** hosted a hospitality room at the Bangor Motor Inn along with other MPDA members to welcome all the participants to the event.

Saturday saw the contestants start their day with the written test portion at the Bangor Motor Inn and the pre-trip inspection test at **Dysart's** before going on to the actual driving competition. The weekend was capped off with a huge awards banquet held at the Bangor Motor Inn on Saturday evening. Many families stayed over into Sunday to enjoy the area and to return home at their leisure.

## Great Publicity

As part of the Championships Weekend in Bangor, the Bangor Daily News ran a supplement in their weekend edition titled "On The Move". This supplement contained a centerfold section on the championships with advertising throughout from supporters of the State Truck Driving Championships. There were also a number of articles in the supplement about the trucking industry.

One article featured member **Denis Litalien** and MPDA's involvement in the annual Sunday River to the Sea Bike Trek. The local radio station "The Bear" was also on hand to promote the event.

Local papers throughout the State also posted results of the event and local TV stations also did some coverage on the event thanks to our Publicity Officer, **Roger Wilcox**, who contacted TV stations and newspapers. Champion **Nelson Girard** was also featured in his hometown newspaper thanks to a press release from Con-Way.

The Bangor Daily News also did a nice article on the Championships on the Monday after the event. They included comments from members **Dick Brown** and **Guy Currier** and gave a very detailed description of the competition and explained how the drivers must maintain a safe driving record to enter. This is one of the reasons the competition is held, to promote to the public the professionalism of the State's truck drivers.

### Past State Champions Competing This Year

**Warren Lewis** - ('75,'96,'97,'99,'03,'06,'07,'08)  
**David Gagne** - ('89,'93,'00,'04)  
**Rick Magnuson** ('89,'98,'02,'05)  
**Donald Mitsmenn** ('92,'94,'99,'08)  
 Hayri Berberoglu II - ('97,'03,'06,'07)  
 Jeff Murdock - ('90,'91,'07)  
 Jared Elston ('99,'08)  
**Elwood Wilde** ('99,'08)  
**Eric Foster** ('06,'07)  
 Sharon Clancy (NH - '90)  
 Doug Snowden (NH - '97)

**Matt Wood** ('00)  
**Jeff Bellfleur** ('01)  
**Mike Frith** ('02)  
**Nelson Girard** - ('03)  
**Guy Currier** ('05)  
**Richard Hill** ('06)  
**Rob Balfour** ('07)  
**Bill Butland** ('08)  
**Jason Brooks** ('08)  
**Brad Bartlett** ('08)

#### Fun Facts About the TDC

- \* There were 21 past State Champions in this year's Maine competition. Seven out of the nine State Champions this year are repeat winners while **Matt Richardson** and Vince Cote won their first State Championships. Out of this year's Champions, **Eric Foster**, Jason Brooks, **Brad Bartlett**, **Nelson Girard**, **Richard Hill**, **Rick Magnuson** and **Don Mitsmenn** are past Champions.
- \* **Randy DeVault** is tied with **Denis Litalien** and **Charlie Nadeau** for the record among Maine drivers for winning the most State Championships, all having done it 10 times. (Randy no longer competes as he runs the training unit for MMTA, Charlie is retired and Denis did not compete this year.) Following close behind are **Fern Richard** (retired) and **Warren Lewis** (fourth place this year in 3-Axle Class) with 8 wins."
- \* Maine has five past National Champions. **Mark Corriveau** of **Hannaford Trucking Co.** (2-time National Champion) has retired from competition; **Warren Lewis** of **Hannaford Trucking**, **Everett Macmaster**, (retired) and **Randy DeVault** are past Champions at the ATA National Truck Driving Championships. Also, **Warren Lewis** and **Rick Magnuson**, both of **Hannaford Trucking** and **Everett Macmaster** are past National Champions at the U.S. Professional Truck Driving Championships.
- \* Next year's Maine State Truck Driving Championships will be held again in Bangor with the competition being held at **Dy-sart's** in Hermon and all the other activities again being held at the Bangor Motor Inn. Mark the date, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, on your calendars.
- \* 2009 marked the 60th anniversary of the first Maine State Truck Driving Championships held in Maine. The first Championships were held at the old Portland Stadium (Fitzpatrick Stadium) in the grass on September 17, 1949 with only two classes competing: tractor semi-trailers and straight trucks. The Truck Rodeo, as it was then called, was put on by the Maine Truck Owners Association, the forerunner of today's Maine Motor Transport Association.
- \* - **Clifford W. Perham, Inc./Shaw's Supermarkets** sponsored this year's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Awards for the Championships.
- \* - Over 100 people were involved in organizing, judging, competing and peripheral activities of this year's championships.
- \* - There were 20 rookies this year. Rookies are drivers who have never competed in a State Championship. **Matt Richardson** of FedEx Ground was named the Rookie of the Year at this year's competition. He also won his class and was named Grand Champion, a feat seldom accomplished by a rookie. Maine Commercial Tire, Inc. sponsored this award.
- \* - Twelve companies had 3 or more drivers in the competition. **Pottle's Transportation** had 8 drivers entered; **Walmart** had 6, while Con-Way Freight, FedEx Freight and Central Maine Transport each had 5 drivers in the competition. **Hannaford Trucking**, **Clifford W. Perham, Inc. /Shaw's**, FedEx Ground and YRC each had four, making them all eligible for the Team Trophy. **Hannaford Trucking Co.** took the award this year after their drivers finished 1st, 1st, 4th and 5th in their respective classes with an average score of 283.5. Those drivers included Vince Cote, **Rick Magnuson**, **Warren Lewis** and Tom Pooler respectively. JJ Keller & Associates sponsored the award.

## 2009 MPDA Banquet

**Plans are underway for a 20th Anniversary banquet to be held at the Senator Inn in Augusta. The date will be Nov. 7th**

**contact George Colby at [gcolby@maine.rr.com](mailto:gcolby@maine.rr.com) or 577-5181 ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))**

**Watch the MPDA website for reservation and payment arrangements.**

**2009 New Hampshire State Champions****Straight Truck**

1ST – Neil Nogues, YRC  
 2ND – Paul McNutt, FedEx Express

**Three Axle**

1ST – **Mickey Rafeal**, YRC  
 2ND – Samuel Foulds, FedEx Ground  
 3RD – Joe Martin, Con-Way Freight

**Four Axle**

1ST- Paul Robichaud, FedEx Express  
 2ND- Paul Ouellette, AG of New England  
 3RD- Robert Gaudette, Con-Way Freight

**Five Axle**

1ST- George Orchard, **Walmart**  
 2ND – Laurier Dumont, YRC  
 3RD – Paul Cunha – AG of New England

**Sleeper**

1ST- Mike Cloutier, **Walmart**  
 2ND- Peter Allen, FedEx Express

**Flatbed**

1ST- Norman Sullivan, FedEx Express  
 2ND- Robert Heald, **Walmart**  
 3RD- Sam Ketchum, YRC

**Tank**

1ST- Chris Lemauk, Abenauqui Carriers  
 2ND- Dennis Memmolo, Abenauqui Carriers  
 3RD- Patrick McNaughton, Abenauqui Carriers

**Twins**

1ST- Rick Wickman, YRC  
 2ND- Kevin Messier, FedEx Ground  
 3RD- Tom Sullivan, Con-Way Freight

**Step Van**

1ST- Kurt Wheeler, FedEx Ground  
 2ND- Kurt Crear, FedEx Ground  
 3RD- Edward Gertz, FedEx Ground

**Other Awards**

Grand Champion – Mike Cloutier, **Walmart**  
 Best Pre-Trip Inspection – Kevin Messier, FedEx Ground  
 Best Written Exam – Dennis Memmolo, Abenauqui Carriers  
 Rookie of the Year – Samuel Foulds, FedEx Ground  
 Team Award – YRC: Rick Wickman, Bob Przybyla,  
**Mickey Rafeal**, Tom Hartt, Laurier  
 Dumont, Sam Ketchum, Neil Nogues

**2009 Vermont State Champions (Held in NH)****Straight Truck**

1ST- Carroll Bean, FedEx Custom Critical  
 2ND- Marty Goodell, FedEx Custom Critical  
 3RD- Bruce Kennedy, FedEx Express

**Three Axle**

1ST- Bernard Spine, FedEx Express  
 2ND- Magne Moland, New Penn  
 3RD- Robert Weller, FedEx Freight

**Four Axle**

1ST- William MacDonald, YRC  
 2ND – Prisli Salkic, Con-Way  
 3RD – Ernest Wood, ABF Freight

**Five Axle**

1ST- John Foran, UPS  
 2ND- Stephen Gunn, RSD Transport  
 3RD- Leonard Trifaro, Con-Way

**Sleeper**

1ST- Chris Goddard, FedEx Express  
 2ND – Mark Rose, Daniels Transport

**Flatbed**

1ST- Chris Novak, FedEx Express  
 2ND- Michael Crause, RSD Transport

**Tank**

1ST – David McGranaghan, Con-Way  
 2ND – Jeremiah Jarvis, FedEx Freight  
 3RD – Kenneth Conrad, RSD Transport

**Twins**

1ST- Steve Slack, Con-Way  
 2ND- David Fountain, FedEx Express

**Step Van**

1ST- Danielle Carbonneau, FedEx Ground  
 2ND- Jeffrey Whittemore, FedEx Ground  
 3RD- Mark Lovering, FedEx Ground

**Other Awards**

Grand Champion – Steve Slack, Con-Way  
 Best Pre-Trip Inspection – Steve Slack, Con-Way  
 Best Written Exam – John Foran, UPS  
 Rookie of the Year – Marty Goodell, FedEx Custom Critical  
 Team Award – Con-Way: Steve Slack, Clyde Gallion, Prisli  
 Salkic, Gerald Charron,  
 Leon Towsley, Leonard Trifaro, David  
 McGranaghan



## High School Students Compete for Best in the State

By: Vicki Kimball

Thirty-four students from Westbrook Regional Vocational Center-Westbrook, St. Croix Region Technical Center-Calais, Tri-County Technical Center-Dexter, and Region



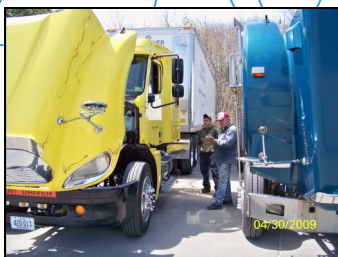
3 Northern Penobscot Tech.-Lincoln all enrolled in Commercial Truck Driving Programs competed in a C.T.E. Truck Driving Competition on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Westbrook Regional Vocational Center Director Todd Fields, and Truck Driving Instructor **Dick Dolloff** graciously hosted the competition again this year. Another year, and another job well done. **Mr. Dolloff** arranged for the students to be treated to two outstanding meals provided by the W.R.V.C. Culinary Arts Program, and a pizza and bowling night at West-Port Lanes the night before the skills portion of the competition. The three schools that traveled, stayed overnight at the Howard Johnson's Plaza Hotel in Portland.

The truck driving competition is compiled of three tests:

A written test similar to the permit test that all of the participating students had already passed with the State of Maine earlier in the school year;

a 7-Step Vehicle Inspection Test; and



a series of behind-the-wheel skills all based on the skills the students would need to pass the licensing portion of the test with the State of Maine.

All students performed in a very impressive and professional manner. Many of the judges were retired or current professional drivers and members of **Maine Professional Drivers Association**. MPDA members **Dick Brown, Craig Carver, Rob Fernald, and Pete Mortensen** were on hand to help out with the two day event.

There were 34 participants total. Nine of those are enrolled as CDL Class B students and the other 25 are enrolled as CDL Class A students all from the four participating technical/vocational schools.

The Class B winners were:

1 <sup>st</sup> place	Chris Woods	WRVC
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Zeke Lord	WRVC
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Adam Slivinsky	WRVC
4 <sup>th</sup> place	Zach Morse	WRVC

The *Class B team* trophy for highest combined points went to Westbrook Regional Vocational Center Instructor Dick Dolloff.

The Class A winners were

1 <sup>st</sup> place	Chris Perry	WRVC
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Kris Foss	TCTC
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Tyler Libby	WRVC
4 <sup>th</sup> place	Bill Pelkey	TCTC.

The *Class A team* trophy for highest combined points went home with Tri-County Technical Center Asst. Instructor Vicki Kimball to Dexter.



There is talk for the 2010 Career & Technical Education Truck Driving Competition to be held in Bangor the two days prior to the Professional Truck Drivers Competition held annually at Dysart's in May. What an amazing experience that would be for those students.

Coming Soon!!



September 27th @ Scarborough Downs



### Championships Practice

Before the Championships took place this year, **Alan Paradis** suggested we hold a practice session for drivers who might be interested in competing but did not want to come to the competition having never seen what it is all about. Alan headed up the driving portion of the practice with help from **Warren Lewis** and others. **Denis Litalien** set up a pre-trip inspection seminar along with a truck loaded with planted defects for the drivers to practice. Special thanks to **Emery-Waterhouse** for the use of the lot for the practice session. Also thanks to **Clifford W. Perham** and the other companies who provided equipment for the session for the drivers to use for practice.

MPDA will also host a practice session for those drivers going to the National Truck Driving Championships in Pittsburgh. The practice will be held at the Emery-Waterhouse parking lot in Portland on July 26. Past State champions are encouraged to come lend a hand as we set up various driving course obstacles and a pre-trip inspection for the contestants to practice with.

Thanks to **Dave Littlefield**, **Cliff Gray** and **Denis Litalien** for hosting a meeting to organize the current State Champions in an effort to win the Team Award at the Nationals. A number of company officials will travel with the Champions to Pittsburgh. **Lynda Foster** is getting shirts made for all the Champions and other attendees. If you are going and you would like a shirt, you should contact her as soon as possible. You can reach her at 692-3772 or [thehaymaker@xr650r.us](mailto:thehaymaker@xr650r.us).

### Maine Idling Law

Some facts about the Maine law regarding engine idling:

Idling allowed for only 5 minutes in any hour

No limit below 0 degrees

15 minutes 0 to 15 degrees

Fines \$25 - \$500 First offense

Subsequent offenses \$150 - 500

Exemptions:

Traffic Conditions

Prevent Safety or Health Emergency

Emergency or Law Enforcement Emergencies

Maintenance, servicing, repairing or diagnostic purposes

State or Federal Inspections

Power work-related Operations

Sleeper Berth A/C or heat during rest or sleep periods

A/C or heat while waiting to load/unload

Mechanical difficulties if receipt of repairs is submitted within 30 days

### Traffic Delays Fell in 2007

According to a Transport Topics article, U.S. drivers spent less time in traffic delays in 2007 for the first time in at least 25 years, a new study showed. Motorists spent 4.16 billion hours in traffic in the 439 urban areas studies by the Texas Transportation Institute, the report released in June showed.

The number increased every year since studies began in 1982, but fell in 2007 from 4.2 billion hours. The decrease was caused by motorists cutting back the amount they drive, the study said. The recession and high fuel prices have pushed motorists to drive less. The 2007 figure was still above 2004's level, the study said. The average motorist spent one less hour stuck in traffic in 2007 than in 2006 and wasted one less gallon of gasoline, the study showed.

- From Transport Topics

### National Truck Driving Championships

The ATA National Truck Driving Championships will be held August 18<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Officials for the competition will begin laying out the course on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> while contestants are expected to be at registration at 11:00am on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. It is recommended that drivers arrive in Pittsburgh at least on Tuesday, to have time to settle in and be ready for Wednesday to take into consideration any delays that may occur. Points are deducted for not being on time. Spouses of contestants will also register on Wednesday.

The written test and equipment selection will be held on Wednesday for the drivers while the driving, interviews, and pre-trip inspections will be held Thursday and Friday. The Truck Driving Championship finals will be held Saturday morning with the awards banquet to follow on Saturday evening.

Anyone interested in going to the Nationals should contact **Cliff Gray** at MMTA for information or details of the events, rooms and transportation. There are discounts available. You can reach him at 623-4128 or [grayc@mmta.com](mailto:grayc@mmta.com). At this time a number of people besides the State Champions have already made reservations.

All Maine attendees usually meet for dinner on Wednesday evening as a group when attending the nationals.

**Splitshifting** by Denis Litalien

Congratulations to Matthew Richardson for his winning the Grand Champion Award at the State Truck Driving Championships this year. Matt, Champion in the Twins



Class (and also the Rookie of the Year), along with the eight other State Champions, will travel to Pittsburgh in August to attempt to become National Champions and bring back the Team Award at the National Truck Driving Championships.

While the drivers who participated get all the attention, we should remember and thank all who lent a helping hand at the Championships. Many of our members spent the day at the food booth, on the course as judges, scoring drivers for the pre-trip inspection; staging equipment, selling raffle tickets, hats and t-shirts, hosting the hospitality room, and doing all those little things that make the event an annual success. MMTA Past Chairman **Barry Pottle** sent an e-mail, saying, "Thank you guys for all you do for our industry. I think the weekend was a great success."

Splitting gears here, I'd like to ask you to keep some of our members in your thoughts as they recover from serious illnesses. These include **Bill Pooler**, **Everett MacMaster** and **Dick Dolloff**. Also let's not forget a couple of former members who recently passed away. **Bill Bean** drove for Carolina Freight and was a founding member of the New Hampshire Drivers Assn. He was also a past State Champion. **Mike Dibiase** also recently passed away. You may remember Mike as the driver for National Distributors in Portland then South Portland who hauled to and from the Merrimack Anheiser Busch brewery every day for a number of years.

Shifting gears again, I want to thank the drivers who volunteered their time for the 2009 Bike Trek of Maine on June 17, 18 and 21. Thanks to your efforts and that of many others, the Lung Association raised over \$1.7 million to help us all breathe easier. Over 2000 bicyclists rode from Sunday River to the waterfront in Belfast that weekend.

We were able to have a safe event thanks in great part to the professionalism of our drivers. Those members who helped were **Mark Nilsen**, **Pete Mortensen**, **Dick Brown**, **Cliff Gray**, **Dale Rowe**, **Ron Round** and **Mike Conroy**. Also, special thanks to **Emery-Waterhouse** for the use of their parking lot for the trucks.

Splitting the gears a little further, I want to remind everyone that **Hanscom's Truck Stop** is still open. With the weight limits on the two bridges in Kittery and Portsmouth, many drivers have been bypassing "Buzzy's" thinking trucks can't get there with the new bridge weight limits. The State has opened a new ramp allowing access to all businesses on the New Hampshire side of the bridge on Rt. 1 By-Pass. Going south on I-95, use NH Exit 7 (Market St.), turn left at bottom of ramp then turn right at Albacore Park, going by the submarine onto Rt. 1 By-pass Southbound. Coming north, you can access Buzzy's on US1 By-Pass northbound from the Portsmouth Traffic Circle. When leaving Buzzy's, continue north on By-Pass and turn left just before the bridge by the submarine then turn left onto Market St. to access the I-95 bridge. Buzzy has supported us in a number of ways over the years so let's not let him down as he tries to make people aware that his businesses are still there and accessible.

And let's not forget that it is MPDA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! 2009 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> year of existence for the Maine Professional Drivers Association. Let's make this a special year to commemorate the greatest driver's association in the US of A!

In the meantime, keep on truckin'...safely!

Denis

**Charity Challenge**

The Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge is coming up on September 13. If you have never participated in this event and truck driving competitions interest you, this is an event you will not want to miss. It consists of a well laid out driving competition consisting of 10 obstacles that drivers have to maneuver to score.

Awards are presented for the top 3 drivers in each of 10 classes of vehicles. A Grand Champion Award is also given out as well as 3 places for the optional pre-trip inspection test and rules and regulations test.

To enter a driver must raise at least \$75.00 and must turn in the money at registration. Drivers may register [online as forms should be available on July 1](#). Much information is available on the website for the event including sponsoring various parts of the event by companies, local hotels to stay for the weekend, etc. Check it out at

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

## Legislative

Our Legislative Officer, **Dan Schweitzer**, sends his recommendation to call Senators Snowe and Collins in support of this bill.

May 7, 2009

Jason's Law Would Create Grant Program to Address Shortage of Parking for Commercial Vehicles on National Highways

U.S. Senator Schumer today announced that he is introducing legislation in the Senate that would provide grant money to increase security and improve conditions at truck stops across the country. The bill is called "Jason's Law," in honor of trucker Jason Rivenburg, who tragically lost his life during a robbery attempt on March 5th while resting at an abandoned gas station in South Carolina. A companion bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Paul Tonko (D-NY 21)

"Every day our truck drivers endure long hours on the road transporting goods throughout the state. This law will enable states to improve the conditions and safety at rest stops so that when truckers stop to rest, they are safe and protected," said Schumer. "This law is also a way for us to honor the life of Jason Rivenburg who died in a senseless act of violence. I will fight to see this bill through the legislation process to honor Jason and ensure that something like this never happens again."

"Jason's Law" would create a six year pilot program that would make \$120 million available in from of grants (\$20 million per year) for local governments and private companies to address the shortage of parking for commercial vehicles on the National Highway System. The grants would provide funding for several initiatives:

- Construction of safety rest areas that include parking for commercial motor vehicles
- Constructing commercial motor vehicle parking facilities next to commercial truck stops and travel plazas
- Opening existing facilities for commercial motor vehicle parking, including inspection and weigh stations and park-and-ride facilities
- Promoting the availability of publicly or privately provided commercial motor vehicle parking on the National Highway System
- Constructing turnouts along the National Highway

System for commercial motor vehicles

- Making capital improvements to public commercial motor vehicle parking facilities currently closed on a seasonal basis

- Improving the geometric design of interchanges on the National Highway System to improve access to commercial motor vehicle parking facilities

If the bill becomes a law, applications for grant funding would get priority if they can demonstrate a severe shortage of commercial motor vehicle parking, demonstrate cooperation with affected government groups and private trucking companies and demonstrate that the projects can have a positive effect on highway safety, traffic congestion or air quality.

## Maine Department of Public Safety Roadcheck News

The enforcement numbers are in from June's Roadcheck 2009 conducted by the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit of the Maine State Police. Lt. Thomas Kelly reports 662 trucks were inspected by his division at truck weigh stations in Kittery, Sidney, Hampden, Old Town and Houlton. The three days of beefed up enforcement coincided with a nationwide truck safety effort. Kelly said that 98 of the big rigs were placed out of service because of safety issues and 52 drivers were temporarily taken off the road for log book violations. In addition troopers found 11 drivers with suspended licenses and another nine that were not qualified to be behind the wheel. The inspections revealed 1,231 safety violations on the trucks that were looked at.

In other news, the big lane switch on I-295 from Topsham to Gardiner took place on June 16<sup>th</sup>, as the northbound lanes will be closed for the summer for repairs. The southbound lanes will be used for northbound traffic, and Route 201 will be the detour for vehicles traveling south. School buses will be still running on Route 201 next week and may cause delays, and motorists should allow extra time if using Route 201. Vehicles traveling to Portland and points south are urged to use the Maine Turnpike. Speed limits on Route 201 have been reduced, and the speed limit on I-295 will be reduced to 60 MPH.

- Compiled by the Public Information Office



**MPDA Calendar of Events – 2009** (As of July 20, 2009)**July**

- 26 **Maine State Champions Practice** – Emery-Waterhouse Lot, Portland – 8:00am – contact Denis Litalien at [dentruck@hotmail.com](mailto:dentruck@hotmail.com) or 468-7373

**August**

- 16 **MPDA Officers(8:00am) & General(9:00am) Meetings**, Hannaford Trucking, S. Portland - contact George Colby at [gcolby@maine.rr.com](mailto:gcolby@maine.rr.com) or 577-5181 ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))
- 18-22 **ATA National Truck Driving Championships** – Pittsburgh, PA. - contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or [grayc@mmta.com](mailto:grayc@mmta.com)

**September**

- ?? Tentative **Dennis Paper Driving Competition** – Bangor – contact Alan Paradis at 289-0328 or [aatkg@maine.rr.com](mailto:aatkg@maine.rr.com)
- 12 **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity FunDrive** LeeHi Travel Plaza, Lexington, VA (I-81, Exit 195) – contact Larry Davis at 336-924-1751 or [info@maptda.org](mailto:info@maptda.org) ([www.maptda.org](http://www.maptda.org))
- 12 **Charity Challenge Set-up Day** – Location TBA, Mass. – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or [dentruck@hotmail.com](mailto:dentruck@hotmail.com)
- 13 **11th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge** – Devens, Mass.- contact Fred Schenk at 978-453-3632 or [info@necharitychallenge.org](mailto:info@necharitychallenge.org). ([www.necharitychallenge.org](http://www.necharitychallenge.org))
- 20 **Wishes on Wheels Convoy** – Willington, CT. – contact Roland Bolduc at 413-626-0900 or [roadeo@charter.net](mailto:roadeo@charter.net) ([www.wishesonwheels.com](http://www.wishesonwheels.com))
- 26 **Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Set Up Day** – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall-9:00am - contact Kevin Battle at [trucking4kids@aol.com](mailto:trucking4kids@aol.com) or Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or [dentruck@hotmail.com](mailto:dentruck@hotmail.com)
- 27 **Maine Trucking 4 Kids Convoy**, 7:00am to 4:00pm – Scarborough Downs, Scarborough - contact Kevin Battle at [trucking4kids@aol.com](mailto:trucking4kids@aol.com) or Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or [dentruck@hotmail.com](mailto:dentruck@hotmail.com) ([www.mpda.org/trucking4kids](http://www.mpda.org/trucking4kids))

**October**

- 18 **MPDA Officers(8:00am) & General(9:00am) Meetings**, MMTA Office, Augusta - contact George Colby at [gcolby@maine.rr.com](mailto:gcolby@maine.rr.com) or 577-5181 ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))

**November**

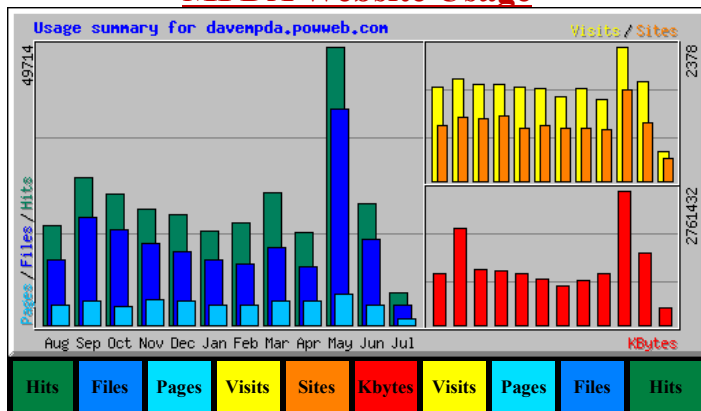
- 1-7 **National Truck Driver Appreciation Week**
- 7 **MPDA Annual Meeting** – (6:00pm) – Senator Inn, Augusta - contact George Colby at [gcolby@maine.rr.com](mailto:gcolby@maine.rr.com) or 577-5181 ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))

**January 2010**

- 17 **MPDA Officers(8:00am) & General(9:00am) Meetings**, MMTA Office, Augusta - contact George Colby at [gcolby@maine.rr.com](mailto:gcolby@maine.rr.com) or 577-5181 ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))

**May 2010**

- 15 **Maine State Truck Driving Championships** – Dysart's/Bangor Motor Inn – 5:30am - contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or [grayc@mmta.com](mailto:grayc@mmta.com) ([www.mmta.com](http://www.mmta.com))

**MPDA Website Usage****April, May, June  
Membership Anniversaries****15 Years**

Matthew Beck, Ramona Costa, L. James Costa, William Ledoux, George Linnie, Jr., International Paper.

**10 Years**

Roland Charlton, Michael Conroy, Philip Emery, Bruce Howard, Anthony O'Neal, Elwood "Skip" Wilde

**5 Years**

Walmart Transportation  
Bruce Gray

**Website Update**

MPDA continues to make our organization more productive and efficient. Members can now pay dues online, make donations to MPDA or "Trucking 4 Kids" convoy, and purchase membership items through our members only page on the website. Check out our items for sale—hats, shirts, fleece vests and jackets as well as pins, decals, and patches.

Pete Mortensen  
Webmaster

**Upcoming Meetings**

August 16 **MPDA Officers(8:00am) & General(9:00am) Meetings**  
Hannaford Trucking, S. Portland

October 18 **MPDA Officers(8:00am) & General(9:00am) Meetings**  
MMTA Office, Augusta

November 7 **MPDA Annual Meeting**  
(6:00pm) Senator Inn, Augusta

January 17 **MPDA Officers(8:00am) & General(9:00am) Meetings**  
MMTA Office, Augusta

**2008-2009 MPDA Board of Directors**

<b>President</b>	George Colby
<b>Vice President</b>	Alan Paradis
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rob Fernald
<b>Secretary (Interim)</b>	Denis Litalien
<b>Membership Officer</b>	Pete Mortensen
<b>T.D.C. Officer</b>	Cliff Gray
<b>Legislative Officer</b>	Dan Schweitzer
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Roger Wilcox

**All Active Past Presidents****Past Presidents**

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

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

**MPDA Newsletter Staff**

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<b>Layout &amp; Distribution:</b>	Pete Mortensen
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<b>ROADTEAM Captain</b>	Ron Hutchins

**"Behind the Wheel"**

Our newsletter is published quarterly for  
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and

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