



Behind the Wheel

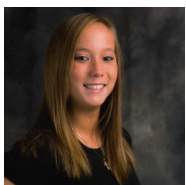
Newsletter of the Maine Professional Drivers Association

Volume XVIV, No. 3: *"Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism"* December 2009

MPDA-20 Years of Service 1989 to 2009

MPDA Holds 20th Anniversary Banquet

An evening of fun, recollection and recognition was held at the Senator Inn in Augusta on November 7. MPDA Vice-President **Alan Paradis** emceed the evening while guest speaker Col. Patrick Fleming, Chief of the Maine State Police entertained everyone with stories about the history of the State Police. He commented on how we have the same goals, safety for all.



With tongue firmly in cheek, Tim Doyle, a former state trooper and now MMTA's Safety Director, (with permission from the Chief) absolved **Fern Richard** of hauling an over-length vehicle in the convoy years ago when he hooked 4 trailers together. He said the statute of limitations had run out. Some may remember the Convoy for Kids held in 1996 when Fern hauled the four trailers in the convoy to help raise funds for kids programs in the State.



Rob Fernald presented the MPDA Memorial Scholarship to Aimee Mortensen, daughter of Membership Officer **Pete Mortensen**. Aimee is attending the Husson University in Bangor.



Pete Mortensen also produced a power point presentation that was shown throughout the evening with pictures of people involved in activities throughout MPDA's 20 year history. A number of recognition awards were presented, including the Driver of the Year to **Matthew Richardson**, two Special Recognition Awards to Dale Hanington and **Pete Mortensen** and a Sportsmanship Award to **Roger and Wanda Wilcox**. **Warren Lewis** was recognized for his over 40 years as a professional driver by receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. At the conclusion of the evening a number of great door prizes were drawn.



The highlight of the evening had to be the video put together by **Dave Stuart** and presented by **Denis Litalien** that featured MPDA activities for the past 20 years. For those who missed the video, it can be viewed on YouTube in two segments. It can be seen at -

Part 1 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lArGUtYKC18>

Part 2 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agE3WE6To4c>



If anyone wants a copy of the video in its entirety without the YouTube insignia all over it, you can get a copy from **Dave** for \$20.00 plus shipping with a portion of that donated back to MPDA. **Dave** can be reached at dave@vqms00.com or 207-221-3198.

This issue of "Behind the Wheel" is sponsored by:

Poland Spring Bottling Co.

Creating good Maine jobs since 1845

Founded in Maine in 1845, Poland Spring provides nearly 800 full-time and seasonal jobs with great benefits, statewide. And Poland Spring continues to invest more than \$100 million annually to grow and create new Maine jobs.

Poland Spring is committed to doing our part to make Maine a better place to live and work through our community involvement, engagement and environmental stewardship. Poland Spring listens carefully to local citizens, community organizations and businesses to minimize the impact of our operations in ways that are important to our neighbors, while maximizing the benefits to local communities.

Poland Spring congratulates our drivers who,
for the third consecutive year, have been recognized
for outstanding driver safety practices by
Maine Motor Transport Association.



PolandSpringWorksforMaine.com

Northeast Charity Challenge



The 11th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge was a huge success!

76 drivers from all over the Northeast participated on a gorgeous fall day. The fact that this event was held during these difficult economic times makes the results even more impressive. This year the drivers raised an incredible \$17,035, and company contributions were responsible for an additional \$12,700. Another \$2,300 was raised through food, raffle and t-shirt sales bringing this year's donations to more than \$32,000! The final net to St Jude Children's Research Hospital will be approximately \$21,000. Thank you to all the drivers and companies for your support.

Saturday, the setup day, brought rain all day long. The setup crew worked long, wet hours on the course and completing all that is needed for a successful event. Thank you to Jim Dolliver, Ed Bacon, Jim Hosey, **Denis Litalien**, Bob Darling, Don Herzog, Doug Francey, Tim Carlin, **Nate & Anna Marie Lewis**, Bernie Bean, Tony Spero and his son, Mike, **Esther & David Milyaro**, and **Mickey & Linda Rafeal** for their work on Saturday and Sunday. And a big thank you to JR Noel who spent Labor Day weekend cutting the weeds from the site to make the lots presentable.

For their work on Sunday, thank you to Denis & **Debbie Litalien**, Michelle Deslauriers, **Debbie**, Kayla & Nick Schenk, Bob & Carol Lyman, Pete & Cynthia Mesick, Sandy Herzog, Jim Dolliver (announcer), **Bill & Barbara Pooler**, **Claudette & Warren Lewis**, Scott & Nancy Harris, Bob Quinn, Nina & Beverly Darling, Frank DeGeorge, Rich Sweeney and Lowell Crouse. Thank you to all the drivers that took the time to work on the course as judges and to Joe Clemente, Rick Sylargi, Jim Pearce and Mike Shea who did not compete but gave us their day to help judging.

Thank you to George Barr and the Marine Corp League Metrowest Detachment 1037, Natick, MA for the Color Guard Ceremony and thanks to Cathy Albanese for the singing of the National Anthem.

An event this size takes many months of planning. This event would not be possible without the

commitment of Bob Darling, my co-chairman and right hand man; Denis Litalien, trophy planning and award ceremony; my son Nick Schenk, for hours and hours of work on the website, online registration, program book, and official score-keeper. Thank you to the Lewis's, the Rafael's, and Jim Hosey for their work leading up to the event.

The top three fundraisers this year brought in an amazing combined total of \$7,700! Thank you to John Hoffman (Sysco Boston), Ozzy Bartlett (Bozzuto's, CT) and Lowell Crouse (Retired, Yellow Transportation) for their unending support. All the scores and awards are posted on the [2009 Results](http://www.nucharitychallenge.org/results2009.html) page of the Charity Challenge website at: <http://www.nucharitychallenge.org/results2009.html>

To make the Charity Challenge more interesting, the Committee decided to hold an antique car and truck show during the day. Thanks to Frank DeGeorge, who headed up this effort. Awards were presented to the following participants: Viewer's Choice Award to Frank DeGeorge, 1988 Chevy Pickup Truck; Viewer's Choice Award to Dennis & Terry Beauchesne, 1947 Ford; and Best of Show Award to Charlie McSheffrey of the Teamsters with the 1950 Mack Teamsters Truck.

Thank you again, and we hope to see you all again next year.

Fred Schenk, Chairman



Use the Internet as a Valuable Tool.

Today's Internet is a valuable tool to find out ANYTHING you need to know.

Just in the transportation industry alone, there are thousands of websites that contain all the information you need to run a trucking business: locate freight, get directions, find lodging, food, fuel (including fuel pricing), repairs, whatever you need.

Don't be afraid of Wide World Web (www.), it is one of your biggest, and cheapest assets.

Go to: www.mpda.org today. We have many links for you to use.

Splitshifting by *Denis Litalien*

It was with a lot of pride that we held out 20th Anniversary Banquet in November. With the presentations by **Pete Mortensen** and **Dave Stuart** of pictures and videos of our past 20 years, it amazed everyone how many things our members have accomplished over the years.



It was especially fun to recognize Dale Hanington of the Maine Motor Transport Association who has been so supportive over those 20 years. Dale believed in our mission to get drivers involved in their industry in ways that promoted safety, integrity and professionalism, a mission we have not strayed from for 20 years. Dale is retiring this year from MMTA but will drop in occasionally on a consulting basis as needed. Brian Parke has been named the new President of MMTA and will hopefully continue the relationship we have had with their organization over the years. Congratulations to Dale on his retirement and the best to him and his wife is whatever their future holds.

Speaking of the future, 2010 will bring some interesting challenges to our industry. There is talk of the new, stricter Federal rules, including sleep apnea screening for drivers, more high tech inspection procedures, stricter training requirements, the possibility of on board computer requirements, among many other initiatives. And I just heard that Carlen Transport in Hampden closed its doors, putting over 100 out of work, reflecting that the economy still hasn't fully rebounded. Then I realize that the start of this new decade should be of some relief as we don't seem to be worried about our computers crashing like we did in 2000, with all the Y2K hype. Different decade, different worries!

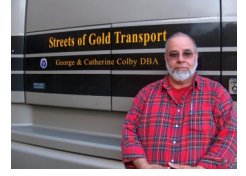
As we look at the future, MPDA continues to focus on Maine truck drivers and how things affect us and our jobs. While our membership numbers are down, we are still concentrating on the networking opportunities we make available to our members as well as the educational possibilities. Each of our activities either promotes what is good about our profession or serves to educate our members or others in the field of safe truck driving.

The truck driving championships are especially pertinent at every level and are still the best avenue for drivers to improve their skills, knowledge, attitude and their willingness to share those traits with others. That is why we spend so much time promoting them and working to get drivers and companies to get involved.

As we start a new decade, I wish everyone a healthy, happy, safe and hopefully prosperous New Year. See you down the road.....

Message from the President

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank those who came to the Banquet celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Maine Professional Drivers Association. We had a great time and I believe that we surprised almost everyone who received an award.



Once more special thanks to Dale Hanington, President and CEO of Maine Motor Transport Association, for his help and encouragement to MPDA over his twenty years with MMTA. Dale is retiring at the end of 2009.

It was my great pleasure to meet **Geneva Stiffler** at the banquet. I have heard about her and **Harry** and seen their names in past issues of Behind the Wheel. Thank you Geneva for being present at the 20th Anniversary and celebration of an organization that your husband helped found and worked so hard for.

Officers are elected for a two year term and this is an election year. If you are interested in serving or know someone who is interested in serving please contact **Cliff Gray** or **Gary Clark** and you can also e-mail to election@mpda.org. There is a link to the elections on our website where can you vote. However, understand that if you vote on the website it is NOT a secret ballot.

We are also in need of an Executive Director which is an appointed position.

Drive safe and I hope to see you soon.

- *George Colby*

A Note from Our Legislative Officer....

Drivers,

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as Legislative Officer. This has been a great learning opportunity. Most importantly, I learned how the founding members of MPDA inspire and motivate the other members with their never ending dedication to our cause.

MPDA is fortunate to have **David Littlefield** as candidate for Legislative Officer. I wish him the best and look forward to voting for him.

Happy Holidays,

Dan Schweitzer

Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy

2009 marked the 20th year the MPDA has hosted or co-hosted the Maine Trucking for Kids Convoy. It has had a number of names over the years and in the past was part of the State Truck Championships Weekend. During that span the event has raised over \$135,000 for local charities involving kids, including donating nearly \$60,000 to Camp Sunshine since joining forces with the Lions Clubs in 1999.

This year the Convoy raised \$11,200 of which \$9,000 went to Camp Sunshine and \$2,200 went to local Police Department Youth Programs such as D.A.R.E., Explorer and other programs. The presentation of the funds was held on October 29th at Camp Sunshine's facility in Casco.

For the 6th year in a row the event was held at Scarborough Downs. The facility and hospitality there were fantastic. If only we could get them to stop the rain from falling each year, it would be perfect. All activities except the actual convoy and the driving competition were held inside this year. The event was co-chaired by **Kevin Battle** of the South Portland Police Department representing the Lions Clubs and **Denis Litalien** of **Clifford W. Perham, Inc.** representing the Maine Professional Drivers Association.

Entertainment was provided by Tony Michaud and his Little Melodies Band, a great musical group which kept the kids entertained. There was also face painting and helium balloons for the kids along with a number of raffles and door prizes. And thanks to our many sponsors there was very little expense incurred in organizing the event. All driver pledges along with any money leftover from sponsor donations and raffle money goes to the charities.

Roger and **Wanda Wilcox** with help from **Dick Brown** kept everyone fed with a huge barbecue style cookout while **Mickey Rafeal** kept drivers ribbing each other over who could be the best in the driving competition. Kevin emceed the awards and announcements portion of the event while the folks from the Lions Clubs took care of the raffle tables and registrations and Jim Fahey provided deejay services.

Mickey also brought the last of the New Hampshire Drivers Association sponsored afghans to

the raffle. It had logos of the various New England charitable events embroidered and raised over \$300.00! Camp Sunshine also raffled off one of their beautiful blankets produced by the families who attend the camp.

Irving Oil Corp. was presented with an appreciation award for its support over the years of the Convoy. Also, Tony Michaud and his Little Melodies Band were presented with an appreciation award in recognition of all the entertainment they provided for the kids during the events. Lions' member Doris Gressick was also presented with an appreciation award as was MPDA member **Everett MacMaster**. Both of them have been involved in making this event a success for many years. **Poland Spring** was also recognized for being the company responsible for raising the most funds with its donations and driver pledges.

Awards were also presented to the individuals who raised the most funds for the event. The top fundraiser was Dennis Hamel of Michaud Distributors, who raised \$1,550.00. He was presented with a trophy and a \$200 Irving gift card for his efforts. Jack Roussel of **Portland Air Freight** raised \$1,445 and was also presented with an award and a \$100 Irving gift card. **James Shunk** of **Poland Spring** was the third highest fundraiser, bringing in \$1,315. The top Company Fundraiser was Poland Spring which was responsible for raising \$2,850.00. These awards were sponsored by Irving Oil Corp. and the Maine Motor Transport Association.

The Charles Mansfield Memorial Driving Challenge was held during the day of the event and organized by **Mickey Rafeal**, giving the drivers something to do while waiting for the Convoy to depart or after returning from the Convoy. Northeast Technical Institute sponsored the awards for this competition and winners included:

1st Place	Mike Swallow , UPS Freight - 240
2nd Place	Erik Barden , FedEx Ground - 210
3rd Place	James Shunk , Poland Spring - 175
4th Place	Chris Hall, Oakhurst - 150

**Trucking for Kids Convoy Truck Show Awards
sponsored by the Maine Motor Transport Association**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Driver</u>	<u>Company</u>
Bobtail - 2nd Place	Jeremy Fisher	T. R. Stone
Bobtail - 1st Place	Dan Perreault	C B Kenworth
Straight Truck - 2ndPlace	Dennis Hamel	Michaud Distributors
Straight Truck- 1st Place	Johnny Sheppard	Native Maine Fruit & Produce
Tanker - 2ndPlace	Scott Edwards	Poland Spring
Tanker -1st Place	James Shunk	Poland Spring
Heavy Equipment - 2ndPlace	Bob Snow	Northeast Concrete Pumping
Heavy Equipment -1st Place	Bob Snow	Northeast Crane Service
Antique - 2ndPlace	Jeffrey Burns	Jake & Jules Fire Co.
Antique -1st Place	Philip Piela	Gorham Sand & Gravel
Most Unusual - 2ndPlace	Nathan Gay	A-1 Environmental
Most Unusual -1st Place	Keith Smith	Scott Transportation
Pick-up Truck -1st Place	Mark Nilsen	Poland Spring
Flatbed Class – 2 nd Place	Glenn Meehan	Shaw Bros. Construction
Flatbed Class – 1st Place	Mark Healy	Stewart's Trucking
Wrecker Class – 1st Place	Bubba Stewart	Stewart's Trucking
Small Fleet Van – 2 nd Place	Jack Roussel	Portland Air Freight
Small Fleet Van – 1st Place	Stephen Marshall	Paradigm Windows
Large Fleet Van – 2 nd Place	Rob Fernald	Walmart
Large Fleet Van – 1st Place	Chris Hall	Oakhurst Dairy
Kids Choice Award	Dan Perreault	CB Kenworth
Vehicle that traveled furthest to attend: T. R. Stone - Distance: 173 miles		
Company with most vehicles in Convoy: A-1 Environmental #Vehicles: 7		
Most Patriotic: Dennis Hamel – Michaud Distributors		

Bike Trek Update

Last June our members helped with the trucking part of the Sunday River to the Sea Trek Across Maine to help raise funds for the Maine division of the American Lung Association. Following is a note from Gail Auclair of the Lung Association to our members:

Dear MPDA,

The 25th Anniversary Trek Across Maine, June 18th – 21st, was an enormous success! It is the largest American Lung cycling event in the country and together, volunteers and cyclists raised a record amount - over \$1.7 million in support of our mission. Over 2600 cyclists registered to ride the Trek with 2100 actually riding and 575 volunteers supported them despite torrential rain during the weekend – a hardy and committed group of people!

It takes a community of like minded, committed and generous individuals to bring all the elements together for a successful event. I can't thank you and the drivers enough for your time, efforts, and flexibility, especially on Father's Day. I look forward to seeing you in 2010 for the Trek Across Maine.

Cheers,



Gale Auclair
Development Manager
American Lung Association of Maine



Local News

Pottle's Wins National Award

On October 15 the American Trucking Associations announced **Pottle's Transportation** the 2009 Mike Russell "Good Stuff" trucking image motor carrier award winner.

"I am pleased to see all aspects of the industry take such an active role in improving the image of the trucking industry," said ATA President and CEO Bill Graves. "The work Pottle's Transportation (... has) accomplished demonstrates that improving the image of trucking is best served by an industry-wide commitment."

Pottle's has been a great promoter of the trucking industry and has been giving back to the community while at the same time telling the industry's story. Whether educating students about highway safety, working with state and federal legislators, or spearheading a community project, Pottle's is always there. Pottle's is long-time Supporting Member of MPDA. "Good stuff. Trucks Bring It" is an industry-wide campaign aimed at improving the image of trucking. By emphasizing the relevance of trucking to all aspects of American society, the image campaign presents the public with a positive, modern image of the professional driver and industry. Everything we use comes by truck. "Trucks bring It" is how the industry informs the public of its importance. Learn more about the program at www.trucksbringit.com.

- Info from Transport Topics Online

Obituaries

Ed Greenleaf recently passed away. Ed was a past Chairman of the State Truck Driving Championships. Ed worked in the office at Hannaford Trucking for many years.

Ed Thayer, owner and founder of Ed Thayer Trucking recently passed away. He had built the company in Oxford, Maine and added terminals in New Jersey, hauling all over the East Coast. Our condolences to the families and friends of these notable trucking icons.

Hartt Recognition

In a recent issue of OOIDA's Land Line Magazine, member **Hartt Transportation** and especially their human resources manager, Rose Rogers, were recognized by one of its drivers as a company with people who take a special interest in their drivers. Kudos to Hartt for hiring such wonderful people.

Trooper Frank Mongue Retires

The Maine State Police announce the retirement of four veteran troopers, as of the end of August, including Trooper Frank Mongue of Springvale. Frank served 30 years, having joined the department in 1979. Since 1986, Mongue had been in the commercial vehicle enforcement section, inspecting tractor trailers and the men and women who operate them. Many of our members interacted with Frank at the York and Kittery scale houses.

Rt. 302 Fatality

Authorities have identified the motorist killed in a crash on Route 302 in Naples in December as a Gray man who was driving for UPS. Shannon B. Ronan, 44, was driving west and had stopped to take a left turn when he was hit from behind by a cable company utility truck, according to the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office.

The collision drove the UPS delivery van into oncoming traffic where it collided with an eastbound tractor trailer truck hauling propane, the sheriff's office said. The crash occurred at 1101 Roosevelt Trail, which is also Route 302. The tractor trailer was driven by Dewight Pickard, 54, and is owned by Pickard Transportation Inc.

No charges have been brought in the case which is being investigated by the sheriff's office, the State Police commercial vehicle enforcement unit and an accident reconstruction team from the Windham Police Department.

July to December 2009 Membership Anniversaries

20 Years

Denis Litalien, David Gagne, John Labonte, Charles Nadeau, Donald Timpany, John Waisanen, Ernest York, Marc Belanger, Ron Hutchins, Robert Letellier, Clifford W. Perham, Inc., Hutchins Trucking Co.

15 Years

Richard Goodwin, Daniel Bergeron, Peter Mortensen, Irving Oil Co., Poland Spring Bottling Co.

10 Years

Philip Lewis, David Weeks, Peter Dube, Scott Edwards,

5 Years

Roger Scott, Edward Darling, James Shunk, Cumberland Farms, Walmart Transportation

Welcome New Members

Matthew Richardson, Daryl Baker, Lynne Billings, Marc Dupuis, Eddy Naples

Maine Using Cameras, Scales to Catch Weight Violators

The Maine Department of Transportation has installed cameras and scales in an attempt to catch weight violations in trucks that avoid a weigh station on Interstate 95, the Portsmouth (N.H.) Herald reported in September. The system uses cameras and scales on Route 236 in Eliot and on Route 1 in York.

If the York weigh station on southbound I-95 is open, the scales will look for trucks in violation of weight regulations, while the cameras will take photos of the trucks, the Herald said. State police can then take appropriate action against the violators.

The scales and cameras are part of a \$2 million project by the Maine officials in cooperation with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the Herald said. In another part of the project, the I-95 weigh station is now equipped with technology that allows state police to enter truck information more quickly, in an effort to reduce backup.

from Transport Topics Online

- Maine News -

Lt. Kelly Appointment

Lt. Thomas Kelly of Lewiston has been named a vice president for the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), which promotes truck safety in North America. Kelly oversees the State Police commercial vehicle enforcement unit in Maine, and in his new role with the alliance, he will represent 13 northeast states. Kelly was named VP at the group's annual meeting in Baltimore. CVSA is made up of motor carrier safety officials from the 50 states, Canada, and Mexico. Kelly now is in line to become president of the organization in two years.

-Info from Transport Topics Online

Increased Weight Limits

Trucks over 80,000 pounds will now be allowed on I-95 from Augusta to Houlton as President Obama signed a bill allowing a one year test program. Senator Susan Collins, who was instrumental in getting the legislation through the legislative process, says that there will be a study of the pilot program's effect on safety, commerce and wear-and-tear. The bill also allows heavier trucks to use Vermont's interstate highways.

Info from Portland Press Herald

National News

FMCSA to Reconsider HOS Rule

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has agreed to reconsider, and potentially change, its oft-challenged hours-of-service rule for commercial drivers, putting on hold a federal court challenge by a coalition of interest groups.

The agreement, filed at the end of October, gives FMCSA nine months to submit its review to the White House and up to 21 months to issue a new final rule to replace the current one. Until that time, the current rule remains in effect.

- from Transport Topics Online

National Driver of the Year

In September, the American Trucking Associations has named Keith Suits of the Rite Aid Distribution Center in Rome, New York as its National Driver of the Year. Keith has spent nearly three million miles behind the wheel and has never gotten into an accident or received a citation.

Keith spends a lot of time doing charity events and does the No Zone Trailer and Share the Road program with the New York State Motor Truck Association where he goes to schools and teaches kids about truck safety and blind spots.

- from Transport Topics Online

Volvo to Continue Sponsorship of America's Road Team

Volvo Trucks North America will continue to sponsor American Trucking Associations' America's Road Team for its 2010 season, the truck maker said in October. "We view America's Road Team as one of the most important proactive safety efforts in existence today," Scott Kress, Volvo Trucks senior vice president of sales and marketing, said in a statement. Volvo is the sole sponsor of America's Road Team.

The Road Team uses a Volvo tractor to bring ATA's image trailer to events around the country, educating the public about the trucking industry, Volvo said. ATA selects 18 truck drivers, known in the program as captains, to tour the country for two years and serve as ambassadors for the industry.

Stimulus Funds 10,000th Highway Project, DOT Says

On December 28th, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said that the Federal Highway Administration has approved 10,000 highway projects funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, marking "a major milestone in creating jobs and improving the nation's infrastructure."

"What better way to cap off the year than with 10,000 highway and bridge projects putting people back to work, strengthening the economy, and making travel safer for everyone," LaHood said in a statement. \$21.8 billion has been obligated to 10,000 projects nationwide for highway projects through the act, also known informally as the stimulus package.

- from Transport Topics Online

N.J. Enacts Law on Snow Removal from Vehicles

New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine signed a law in October that would set fines for vehicles with "dangerous accumulations" of snow or ice on them, though enforcement will not begin for a year, the Associated Press reported. Fines will range from \$25 to \$75 and the enforcement grace period will allow truckers time install snow-clearing equipment, AP said. The law is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, though New Jersey and several other states already have laws that impose stiff fines on drivers if snow flies from their vehicles and causes damage or an injury.

- from Transport Topics Online

Did you know...?

The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one-mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.

National Truck Driving Championships News Maine Driver Results 2009 Nationals

Straight Truck	Brad Bartlett	31 st
Three Axle	Nelson Girard	38 th
Four Axle	Vincent Cote	29 th
Five Axle Van	Eric Foster	47 th
Flatbed Class	Rick Magnuson	40 th
Tank Class	Don Mitsmenn	11 th
Twins Class	Matt Richardson	18 th
Sleeper Class	Richard Hill	19 th
Step Van	Jason Brooks	12 th

MPDA member **Mickey Rafeal** finished 10th in the Three Axle Class representing the State of New Hampshire. New Hampshire finished third in the Team Award scoring, one point behind Texas and 8 points behind Minnesota.

Thanks to Barry and Shawn and their security crew at **Emery-Waterhouse** for the use of their lot for the State Champions to practice for the Nationals. Also thanks to **Warren** and **Claudette Lewis, Denis Litalien** and **Cliff Gray** for their assistance with the written tests, course set up and pre-trip inspection help.

National Champions

Con-way Freight driver Dale Duncan was named the 2009 National Truck Driving Grand Champion. Duncan, based in San Diego, exhibited driving skills and knowledge of truck safety in topping 415 other professional drivers from across the United States at the National Truck Driving Championships, held in Pittsburgh. The 72nd annual "Super Bowl of Safety" is sponsored by the American Trucking Associations. Duncan has logged 26 accident- and injury-free years as a driver, with over 1.25 million miles behind the wheel. Dale also won the Five Axle Van Class.

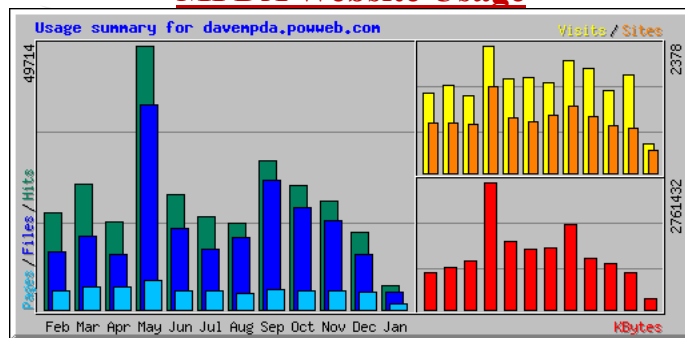
Other National Champions:

Straight Truck: Robert (Bob) J. Dolan – Con-way Freight (Catasauqua, Pa.)
 Three-Axle: Don Logan – FedEx Freight (Eskridge, Kan.)
 Four-Axle: Mike Stickley – Con-way Freight (Winchester, Va.)
 Sleeper Berth Class: Troy Swenson – FedEx Freight (Watertown, S.D.)
 Twins: Mark McLean – FedEx Freight (Gardiner, N.Y.)
 Flatbed Class: Mick Simpson – Family Dollar Trucking, Inc. (Rose Hill, N.C.)
 Tank Truck Class: Tony Spero – ABF Freight System (Stratford, Conn.)
 Step Van: David Thompson – FedEx Ground (Alexander, Ark.)

Other Award Winners:

National Rookie of the Year: Brandon E. Souder, Con-way Freight (Kentucky)
 State Team Trophy: Texas
 Vehicle Condition Award: Bernard E. Spine, FedEx Express (Vermont)
 Neill Darmstadter Professional Excellence Award: Thomas C. Turner, Martin-Brower (Georgia)
 Life-Time Volunteer Award: James and Faye Williams
 Visit the 2009 National Truck Driving Championships website: <http://ntdc.truckline.com/>

Maine State Trooper Chuck Granger represented Maine at the North American Inspectors Championships, held in conjunction with the National Truck Driving Championships. Chuck was presented with the John Youngblood Award of Excellence. The 17th Annual Inspectors Championships were attended by inspectors from the United States, Mexico and Canada.

MPDA Website Usage

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Website Update

MPDA has changed it's online payment service to PayPal. We are excited to have this service. It makes it easier for members and supporters to make their payments online for dues, donations, purchase of member items, etc. If you haven't already made your 2010 dues payment, try PayPal. It's fast and efficient. Just go to our website and click on the "Members Only" link today.



Pete Mortensen
Webmaster

**MPDA Calendar****January 2010**

- 15 **Officers Elections Deadline**
17 **MPDA Officers(8:00am) & General(9:00am) Meetings**, MMTA Office, Augusta - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 (www.mpdainfo.org)

March 2010

- 21 **MPDA Officers(8:00am) & General(9:00am) Meetings**, MMTA Office, Augusta - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 (www.mpdainfo.org)

April 2010

- 18 **MPDA Officers Meeting (8:00am)** Hannaford Trucking Office, South Portland - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 (www.mpdainfo.org)

May 2010

- 14 **Maine State Truck Driving Championships Set Up Day** – Dysart's Truck Terminal, Hermon - Noon - contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or grayc@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
14 **MPDA Hospitality Get-together** (for everyone involved in competition) – Room 230, Bangor Motor Inn – Contact Pete Mortensen at 229-4983 or membership@mpda.org (www.mpdainfo.org)
15 **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)
16 **MPDA Officers(8:00am) & General(9:00am) Meetings**, Room 230, Bangor Motor Inn, Bangor - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 (www.mpdainfo.org)

June 2010

- 16-21 **Trek Across Maine / Lung Assn. Rally**, Sunday River – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or den-truck@hotmail.com (www.maine-lung.org)

2008-2009 MPDA Board of Directors

President	George Colby
Vice President	Alan Paradis
Treasurer	Rob Fernald
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MPDA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting courtesy, safety and professionalism in the field of commercial driving.

MPDA Newsletter Staff

Editor:	Denis Litalien
Layout & Distribution:	Pete Mortensen
Contributors:	Fred Schenk Dan Schweitzer Gale Auclair
Webmaster	Pete Mortensen
ROADTEAM Captain	Ron Hutchins

"Behind the Wheel"

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Maine Professional Drivers Association

P.O. Box 5672 / Augusta, Maine / 04332-5672
Tel – (207)-318-7395 / mpdainfo@mainepda.org

www.mpdainfo.org

