



# Behind the Wheel

## Newsletter of the Maine Professional Drivers Association

Volume XXIV, No. 2: *"Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism"* Jan-Feb-Mar 2009

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

#### Craig Carver Named Pottle's Employee of the Year

Member **Craig Carver** was presented with **Pottle's Transportation** Employee of the Year Award in February. This award recognizes Craig's exceptional performance for the company in the past year. He was picked from all the Drivers of the Month after being selected Driver of the Month in August 2008. The nomination for the award is presented by the Safety Director to the management team, who along with staff, votes on the recipient.



Craig finished 2nd this past year in both the Maine State Truck Driving Championships and the Northeast Truck Drivers Charity Challenge, raising funds for ST. Jude's Children's Hospital.

#### Bike Trek Across Maine

As you know, MPDA provides professional drivers to haul the bikes that go to the American Lung Association's Annual Sunday River to the Sea Bike Trek Across Maine. We are doing this again this year.

We have all the drivers we need for the actual event on June 18 and 21. What we do need is a couple of back-up drivers. No, not just to back up the trucks, but to make themselves available in case some of our volunteers cannot make it at the last minute. Can you help us out? June 18 is a Thursday and June 21 is a Sunday. We already have three backup drivers for Sunday but none for Thursday. If you can help out with this, call **Denis Litalien** at 468-7373 or e-mail at [dentruck@hotmail.com](mailto:dentruck@hotmail.com).

#### Motor Carrier Review Board

In March, the MPDA Board of Directors accepted the request of **Ron Hutchins** to not be reappointed to the Maine Motor Carrier Review Board and the MPDA Board approved a recommendation by President **George Colby** that **David Littlefield** be considered for the appointment. Dave was appointed in April by Governor Baldacci to replace Ron on the Review Board. Dave has experience in Augusta, having served as MPDA Legislative Officer in the past, testifying at hearings and meeting with various legislators and State officials in that position. He also was a member of the MPDA ROADTEAM, speaking at various events on behalf of MPDA. Ron has represented the truck drivers' point of view for MPDA with utmost professionalism on this State Board since 1995 and you can see much of his involvement if you check the minutes of their meetings. They are available online at: [www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/commercial/mcrb.html](http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/commercial/mcrb.html)

The Motor Carrier Review Board was created in 1995 to review the records of motor carriers operating in Maine with the most significant histories of truck-related safety violations. The Board is empowered to recommend to the Maine Secretary of State that a motor carrier's right to operate in Maine be suspended.

The Board consists of seven members. Five members represent various aspects of the motor carrier industry. One member is from the commercial insurance field, and one represents the general public. Board members are appointed by the governor, and serve three year terms. By statute, MPDA gets to provide one member to represent the truck drivers' prospective.

The Board has developed rules to assign points to each type of motor carrier violation. Total points for a twelve-month period are divided by a carrier's annual mileage to yield a relative severity

Board may vote to conduct a detailed review, issue a warning, or vote to take no action. Carriers selected for a detailed review receive a public hearing where they may present information to the Board.

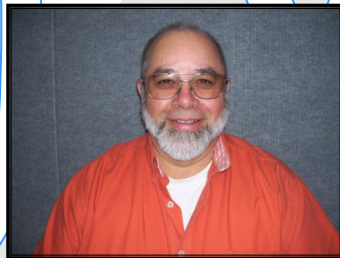
Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap recently addressed the Board and commented that he has always been interested in the concept of the Motor Carrier Review Board. He stated that he was very pleased with the Board's work to date and thought their deliberations, observations, and difficult decisions provided a great service to the driving public. The Secretary said that he was always proud to support the Board, even when doing so was difficult or unpopular, because he always felt like he was saving lives.

### Carrier Ratings

On a related note, if you want to check on a motor carrier's ratings at the Federal level, you can go to the following website and put in their DOT number and see how they stack up on various levels of safety ratings, including accident records, driver records, etc. Go to: <http://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/SafeStat/SafeStatMain.asp?PageN=results>

### President's Message

I will be redundant and remind you that the Maine Truck Driving Championships are coming up very soon, May 16, 2009. We can use help in many areas.



Officers are elected for a two year term and this is our election year. Please be thinking ahead as this will come upon us sooner than we think. The elected officers of the Assn. shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, TDC Officer, Publicity Officer, Legislative Officer and Membership Officer.

There is also the position open of Executive Director which is an appointed office. The term of appointment or employment shall be at the pleasure of the Board.

Also upcoming September, 27<sup>th</sup> is the Trucking 4 Kids Convoy at Scarborough Downs. I am looking forward to seeing you.

George Colby

### Help Poland Spring Driver

John Harmon Sr. is a member of **Poland Spring Bottling's** Private Fleet and is based out the Hollis Me location. John was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in December 2008. Poland Spring employees have been raising money at both the Hollis & Poland Spring facilities to help support John and his family through this tough time, and support John in his fight against Cancer.

John's co-workers, friends and family held a benefit night on March 28th for John in Buxton ME and were supported by over 300 people attending on John's behalf. We continue to support John and if there is anything you would be able to donate we would greatly appreciate it. All the proceeds collected have and will go John Harmon and his family.

Thanks in advance for any support you could give.

Chris McKenna  
Northeast Inside Fleet Manager  
Nestle Waters North America  
Office: 207-998-6486  
Cell: 207-240-4250  
[chris.mckenna@waters.nestle.com](mailto:chris.mckenna@waters.nestle.com)

### High School Drivers Compete

On April 30 and May 1 the statewide organization that encompasses all the high school level truck driving schools will be holding their annual student truck driving competition between various high schools. This will be held again at Westbrook High School under the direction of **Dick Dolloff**.

**Dick Brown** and **Pete Mortensen** have already committed to lending a hand. If anyone else would like to help judge various aspect of the competition, please get in touch with Dick at [rbrown9@maine.rr.com](mailto:rbrown9@maine.rr.com) or 415-4734 or Pete at 229-4983 or at [membership@mpda.org](mailto:membership@mpda.org) or Dick Dolloff at [dolloffr@westbrookschoools.org](mailto:dolloffr@westbrookschoools.org)

### CDL Manual Online

Anyone ever ask you where to get a CDL manual or other information provided by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Maine? You can find it all at [www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/licenses/](http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/licenses/)

## 2nd Annual TDC Practice Session

**Sunday, April 26th, 2009 Starting @**  
**8:00 AM**

**Location: Emery - Waterhouse Parking Lot**

**Sponsored By: Maine Professional Drivers Association**



**Location:**  
**Emery-Waterhouse**  
**7 Rand Rd., Portland, ME**



Click on map for larger view

**Contact:**

Alan Paradis—207-289-0328

Denis Litalien—207-468-7373

George Colby—207-577-5181

MPDA has put together a group of past State Champions to conduct a practice competition to give new and experienced drivers an opportunity to **"BRUSH UP"** their driving skills coming into the summer truck driving competition season.

There will be a **pre-trip inspection** seminar, practice written test, and **driving courses** to **"HONE"** your skills!

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

**It is FREE to all drivers!!**

**Bring a Friend too!!**

**Pre-Trip Seminar—8:00 AM**

**Written Test—to follow**

**Driving all day!**

**Come and Join the Fun!!**



**Promoting Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism**

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



## Maine State Truck Driving Championships

The Maine State Truck Driving Championships will be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at Dysart's Trailer Shop in Hermon and at the Bangor Motor Inn in Bangor. Every member of the Maine Motor Transport Association has been mailed an application and information sheet on the competition. If you or your company has not received one, contact Cliff Gray at MMTA at 623-4128 or grayc@mmta.com.

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

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

Contact one of the following members to help:

**Cliff Gray & Randy DeVault** – All aspects of the competition, judges, scoring, etc.

**John Waisanen & Alan Paradis** – Course set up

**George Colby & Mike Frith** – MPDA Trailers & Course Equipment

**Roger and Wanda Wilcox and Dick Brown** – Food Booth

**Pete Mortensen** – Information and Sales Booth

**Everett Macmaster** – Hospitality Room

**Dave Littlefield** – Pre-Trip

**Gary Clark** – Raffle

**Nate Lewis** – Driving Equipment

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

**Poland Spring, Hannaford and Sysco** have already committed to donating food items. If you can provide any of the stuff needed at the food booth, contact Roger Wilcox, or you have items that you can donate for the raffle, contact Gary Clark.

Continued on top of page

If you are bringing equipment for the competition, please contact Nate Lewis.

Also, don't forget to join your fellow drivers at the hospitality room at the Bangor Motor Inn on Friday night before the competition. That will be in room 230 from 5 to 10pm.

## Practice Session

The Maine Professional Drivers Association will give all drivers the opportunity to try their hand at the Truck Driving Championships. A practice session that is open to all drivers will be held on April 26 to acclimate drivers to the procedures for the competition. See the enclosed flyer.

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

State Championship Course Steward **Alan Paradis** with help from a number of Past State Champions will put together a practice driving course set up so drivers can try their hand at the driving part. We will also set up a mock pre-trip inspection with Past Grand Champion **Denis Litalien** bugging a truck and reviewing inspection procedures.

## Important Statistic?

There are 1,871,991 registered tractors and 5,304,567 registered trailers and semi-trailers in the United States in 2005, according to statistics from the Federal Highway Administration.

- from Portland Sunday Telegram

### NTDC Veteran Tips

*FedEx distributed this notice to all their drivers and included some valuable information, including a section by our own National Champion, Everett Macmaster.*

#### **National Truck Driving Championships veterans share some tips.**

##### **Overview**

The first step to the national competition is to compete at the state level. To qualify for state competitions, you must be accident free for 12 months prior to entry; hold a valid CDL with endorsements for the class of competition entered; be employed or contracted with (a company) for at least 12 months; and enter in only one class of competition. These criteria may vary somewhat state to state. But if you're a safe driver and meet these basic qualifications, you're already a winner before you begin! Though each state runs its own show, most test your abilities through (three) different tests: a written examination, a pre-trip inspection and a field course – regardless of your competition class. Below, some FedEx NTDC veterans offer their advice on how to prepare for each portion of the competition:

##### **Multiple Choice Exam**

Mike Nardone, now a maintenance manager for FedEx Ground based in Hartford, Conn., placed second in the Twins class at the 2004 NTDC. He won the national title in the same class in 1999 when he also captured the Driver of the Year honor. Mike logged nearly 3 million miles during his 27-year driving career, having spent 14 of them with FedEx Ground as a linehaul driver.

All states make competitors take a multiple choice exam that tests your general knowledge about trucking and your understanding of safe driving rules, first aid and fire fighting. The exam might ask you how many seconds it takes you to check your mirrors, or what percentage of people in the country depends on trucks to deliver their goods. You'll be faced with a broad array of questions, most of which are straightforward. Remember – you don't have to be the smartest person in the world. Your knowledge is being tested. Study the material in the Facts for Drivers Handbook, and don't sweat it! What's even better news is that you know most of the answers because you're a professional, and you use these materials each day.

##### **Pre-trip Inspection**

**Everett Macmaster**, a retired ramp transport driver with FedEx Express based in Portland, Maine, has earned five state TDC titles. A professional driver for more than 20 years – over 19 of them accident free, he won the 4-Axle national crown at the NTDC in 1998.

I think it's a safe bet that most of you will feel more comfortable with this portion of the contest. After all, a pre-trip is something you do most every day. Competition pre-trips, however, will be a little more intense as the testers will be planting safety hazards on the unit. Your mission is to find them all and loudly identify them as defects – in six minutes or less. You might say: "Defect – loose lug nut!" Other examples: you may find a missing emergency triangle, an out-of-date fire extinguisher, an inside flat tire, defective lights or a host of other possibilities. The key is to conduct as thorough a pre-trip as possible – and do it quickly. Remember: your comfort level may be higher during the pre-trip phase of the contest, but that's all the more reason to stay on your toes and consider every potential defect. The best way to prepare is to practice, practice, practice. That should be a slam dunk for most of you!

##### **Field Course**

Bruce and Kathy Shepherd comprise a contractor team that's been with FedEx Custom Critical for nearly five years. Bruce competed at the 2004 NTDC, and Kathy has competed against him at the Nevada state competition.

The first rule about field courses is that no two are quite the same. All of them, however, will be fashioned to simulate actual driving conditions you might encounter in terms of braking, parking, backing, maneuvering through tight spots and other typical conditions. During the field course, you'll be asked to maneuver through six scenarios. All six tests must be completed accurately and, of course, safely within a prescribed time limit. You might recognize a few, like backing up to a dock, navigating a serpentine barrel course, right turns, front bumper stops and 90-degree turns. Some drivers say they're nervous driving in front of an audience. But hey, you do this in front of an audience every day. Your audience is the motoring public, and they're watching you all the time.

## Member Passes Away

Member **Normand Beaulieu**, 56, of Lisbon Road, Sabattus, passed away on February 25, 2009 at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center after an unexpected illness.

Normand served in the Army reserves for over 20 years and saw duty in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Some of us remember him when MPDA honored the Transportation Company in Auburn where he was stationed at the time. MPDA had welcomed all the members of the company as Honorary Members and Normand continued his membership after he returned. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #106 in Lewiston.

Normand had been a driver for **Poland Spring** out of their Hollis facility.

## Trucking for Kids Convoy

Hi everyone,

I hope everyone is well and having a good spring! With luck this April shower will do away of the last of our snow banks! Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 28th at 6 PM in Old Country Buffet at the Maine Mall in South Portland.

As far as I know things are coming together nicely for this year's event, we got a number of things to work out and get ready for this year. Please feel free to invite anyone you can think of that might be interested in working with us. I hope a lot of you can make it.

Thank you,

**Kevin J. Battle**, Chair, Convoy Committee  
Cell: 207-831-6962; E-mail: [TRUCK-ING4KIDS@aol.com](mailto:TRUCK-ING4KIDS@aol.com)

*Editor's note... Updated Convoy information is available on the MPDA website including a new feature to make online donations to the event. We are also still looking for someone to co-chair the event with Kevin from the MPDA side. Also, please don't forget that the Old Country Buffet Restaurant at the Maine Mall, a long time Convoy supporter,*



## Company Driving Competitions

MPDA has committed to helping as many companies put on driving competitions as possible. **Walmart, Shaw's, Hannaford** and C. N. Brown have already set dates (see calendar). We have committed to provide equipment for each of these and to provide the manpower for the C. N. Brown competition to set up the course and put on the written test and pre-trip inspection portions. If you can help out with the C. N. Brown competition, let **Mike Frith** know. You can reach him at 680-0173 or [catawba-cats@roadrunner.com](mailto:catawba-cats@roadrunner.com).

## New York Convoy

There will be a Convoy for Kids taking place in New York this year for the first time. It will be held in Lake George, NY and will feature Nashville talent, fireworks, Super Rigs Calendar trucks among other attractions.

Organizer Charlie Claburn sends a note inviting all to attend this event on June 29 and say, "for the kids there will be bouncy houses, face painting, clowns, etc. and it's all in Lake George, a beautiful place to spend a day." For more info, contact Charlie Claburn at 518-810-1776 or [claburncharles@gmail.com](mailto:claburncharles@gmail.com)

([www.truckersandcitizens.web.com](http://www.truckersandcitizens.web.com))

## New Publicity Officer

Member **Roger Wilcox** was appointed as the Publicity Officer for the Maine Professional Drivers Association. Roger has been a member of MPDA for 5 years and has been active at meetings. He and his wife **Wanda** are in charge of the food booth this year at the State Truck Driving Championships. He was often seen in past years handling the equipment at the State competitions and hopes to have enough help at the food booth this year to be able to help there again.

## Local Truck Driving School Certified

The Professional Truck Driver Institute, Inc. which sets the industry's gold standard for approved truck driver training courses, recently certified the training program at Oxford Hills Technical School. The program is the only such certified in the entire New England region.

- from MMTA's Maine News



**New "Bonecrusher" Burger**

WLBZ TV in Bangor reports that last month, Dysart's Truck Stop in Hermon named a burger after Brian Nutting, a truck driver who is featured on Discovery Channel's "American Loggers". The "bonecrusher" as Brian is known on the CB, is one pound of beef, served on an eight-inch bun, with all the fixings, including cheese, bacon and onion rings. It also comes with a side of french fries.



American Loggers, which is about the Pelletier family's logging operation in Northern Maine, has become a very popular show on Friday nights, with nine episodes already finished production. Brian drives one of the logging trucks in the show. He dropped in at Dysart's last month to test out the burger named after him. He says he's surprised that he has received so much attention. His appearance at Dysart's can be seen at <http://www.wlbz2.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=102138> from WLBZTV2 Website

**Move Over Law**

Massachusetts law requires motorists to change lanes to avoid emergency vehicles. The new law, dubbed the "Slow Down, Move Over" law, went into effect March 21. The law asks drivers approaching emergency situations to leave the lane closest to the incident, if possible, and slow down to a reasonable rate of speed.

State Police say there is no specified speed limit in the law, but violators face a fine of up to \$100. Massachusetts is the 44<sup>th</sup> State to pass such a law. Maine and New Hampshire also have similar laws on the books.

*-info from Boston Globe*

**Moose Alert**

Be wary of moose on the highways as this is the time of the year when they start coming onto the roads to lick the leftover highway salt. These animals are nearly invisible in the dark as their eyes and skin do not reflect light as deer do. From dusk until dawn are their favorite times to be out foraging so be careful.

**ATA Economic Stimulus Report**

February 13, 2009 10:00 AM

President Obama plans to sign the \$792 billion economic stimulus bill by February 16. House and Senate conferees agreed to a compromise bill on February 12 and the House approved the bill the following day.

The House approved the conference report by a vote of 246-183, without a single Republican vote. The Senate planned to vote Feb. 13 on the mix of tax cuts and domestic spending. Democratic leaders hope the legislation, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will create or save 3.5 million jobs.

ATA supports the following tax breaks included in the legislation:

Extended bonus depreciation, allowing businesses to make a tax deduction of 50 percent of the cost of depreciable capital expenditures within the first year of the property's purchase;

An extension of enhanced small business expensing; and  
Incentives to hire unemployed veterans and disconnected youth.

One tax break that ATA supported was drastically reduced in the final version of the bill. The Net Operating Loss Carryback provision in the final version of the legislation limits the tax break to businesses with less than \$15 million in annual receipts and provides credit only for 2008 losses. Both the House and Senate bills extended this carryback period from two years to five years for all businesses, providing a tax cut of \$17 billion. The reduced provision in the conference report saves American businesses only \$947 million.

The bill includes \$27.5 billion for highway and bridge construction investments. States are required to obligate at least half of the highway/bridge funding within 120 days. Further infrastructure investment includes \$1.5 billion for competitive grants to state and local governments for transportation, \$8.4 billion for investments in public transportation, \$1.3 billion for investments in our air transportation system and \$9.3 billion for investments in rail transportation, including Amtrak, High Speed and Intercity Rail.

For the individual, the plan provides a refundable tax credit of up to \$400 for working individuals and \$800 for working families for 2009 and 2010, an increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit, a \$8,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers, and an one year Alternative Minimum Tax "patch," which prevents middle-income taxpayers from being subject to a tax increase in 2009.

Other domestic spending in the stimulus package provides states with Medicaid assistance, extends unemployment benefits, and provides funds for electrical grid repair.

**High Visibility Safety Apparel**

Effective November 24, 2008, a new FMCSA rule requires all workers working within the right of way of Federal aid highways, including truck drivers making deliveries to construction projects, must use high-visibility safety apparel.

While under normal operations, truck drivers will not be required to wear the high visibility vests unless they are making a delivery or overseeing a delivery in a construction zone for an extended period of time.

## ATA Names 2009-2010 America's Road Team

American Trucking Associations has named the 18 truck-driver captains of its 2009-2010 America's Road Team. The group was chosen from 34 finalists who came to ATA's headquarters in Arlington, Va., ATA said on January 14. The 18 captains have together driven over 30.7 million accident-free miles in their collective 468 years on the job, said Elisabeth Barna, ATA's vice president of strategic planning.

A panel of industry and government leaders evaluated the drivers on topics such as safety, communication and community service before choosing the final 18. The captains will spend the next two years traveling across the country to educate the public about safety, the trucking industry and driving.

### The 2009-2010 America's Road Team Captains

- **Gerald Charron**, Con-way Freight, Danville, VT
- **Tim Dean**, Werner Enterprises, Griswold, IA
- **Rich Ewing**, Yellow Transportation, Bellingham, WA
- **John Foran**, UPS Inc.; Saint Albans, VT
- **James Gallagher**, Roadway Express, Williamsville, NY
- **Paul Gattin**, ABF Freight System, Benton, AR
- **Ronald Hawkins Jr.**, K-Limited Carrier, Perrysburg, OH
- **Mark Hassemer**, Yellow Transportation, Whitehall, WI
- **Barry Holland**, UPS Freight, Hurlock, MD
- **Edward Hosegood**, Publix Super Markets, Lakeland, FL
- **Keith Johnson**, Roadway Express, Eatonville, WA
- **Gary Leu**, Wal-Mart Transportation, Shelbina, MO
- **Greg Nauertz**, Roadway Express, Peoria, AZ
- **Kurt Pedersen**, Con-way Freight, Surprise, AZ
- **Ben Saiz**, ABF Freight System, Estancia, NM
- **Frank Silio**, Covenant Transport, Miami, FL
- **Jeffrey Thompson**, FedEx Freight, Olathe, KS
- **Ron Van Bibber**, Roadway Express, South Jordan, UT

- from Transport Topics Online

### Splitshifting by Denis Litalien

Here comes my favorite time of the year. It is the time of the year that we prepare for the Truck Driving Championships. There are company competitions, State Championships and even official practice sessions. As you can see on the calendar, there are plenty of opportunities to take a check on your driving skills.



But as much as it is fun to "play" with the trucks, it is a time to see old friends that we may have not seen for a year or more. How many times do we spend a lot of these competitions just catching up with old buddies and their families? While this year may be a little different with the economy being what it is, I still expect that many of the same faces will reappear at the various events. Some of the "old timers" may retire and other drivers may move onto management jobs and some may even change professions, but the Championships have become that fixture in our professional careers that get us to bring networking to the next level.

The Championships not only provide that networking opportunity but they also consist of one of the best ways to elevate the professionalism in our chosen careers. This competition accomplishes much that we do not realize. It does sharpen our driving skills and it does force us to study the "Facts for Drivers", making us more knowledgeable and it does make us become more familiar with our equipment as we inspect the vehicles. It also creates an opportunity to get some very positive publicity for drivers and the industry.

MPDA was created 20 years ago by a group of former State Champions around the concept that if we promoted the Championships and encouraged drivers to get involved, many good things would come of this. More good than anticipated was our reward for the efforts that went into this. Talk to any member who has spent time with MPDA and the Championships and you will see someone who is proud of his career, speaks well of his job, his company and his profession.

It is often said that there are two reasons for holding the Championships. One is their educational value to the drivers and the other is the opportunity to showcase our best drivers to the public. I'd like to think there is a third reason. That is - what the driver gains in his or her personal and professional life. And don't forget the fun!

While I will miss the State Championships this year because my daughter (yes, the one in the carriage at the competitions 20 years ago!) graduates from college in North Carolina that weekend, I will see a lot of you at the company competitions and the practice sessions.



## MPDA Calendar of Events – 2009 (As of April 14, 2009)

**April**

- 25 **Practice Session Set-up** – Emery-Waterhouse Lot, Portland - 10:00am - contact Alan Paradis at 289-0328 or [aatkg@maine.rr.com](mailto:aatkg@maine.rr.com) ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))
- 26 **TDC Open Practice Session** – Emery-Waterhouse Lot, Portland - 8:00am - contact Alan Paradis at 289-0328 or [aatkg@maine.rr.com](mailto:aatkg@maine.rr.com) ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))
- 28 **Convoy Committee Meeting** – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall-6:00pm - contact Kevin Battle at [trucking4kids@aol.com](mailto:trucking4kids@aol.com) ([www.mpda.org/trucking4kids](http://www.mpda.org/trucking4kids))
- 30 **Walmart Driving Competition** – Lewiston – Contact Nate Lewis at 577-2988
- 30 - 1 **State CDL Student Truck Driving Competition** - Westbrook High School, Westbrook - contact Dick Dolloff at [dolloffr@westbrookschoools.org](mailto:dolloffr@westbrookschoools.org) or Dick Brown at 415-4734 or [rbrown9@maine.rr.com](mailto:rbrown9@maine.rr.com)

**May**

- 1 **State CDL Student Truck Driving Competition** - Westbrook High School, Westbrook - contact Dick Dolloff at [dolloffr@westbrookschoools.org](mailto:dolloffr@westbrookschoools.org) or Dick Brown at 415-4734 or [rbrown9@maine.rr.com](mailto:rbrown9@maine.rr.com)
- 1-2 **Walmart Driving Competition** – Lewiston – Contact Nate Lewis at 577-2988
- 3 **Great Grocery Grudge XIII** – (Hannaford/Shaw's Driving Competition) Shaw's Truck Terminal, Scarborough – 8:00AM – Contact John Waisanen at 1-800-66SHAWS or [john.waisanen@shaws.com](mailto:<john.waisanen@shaws.com>)
- 15 **TDC Set-up Day** – Dysart's Truck Terminal, Hermon – Noon - contact Cliff Gray at 623-4128 or [grayc@mmta.com](mailto:grayc@mmta.com) ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))
- 15 **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](mailto:emac@maine.rr.com) ([www.mpda.org](http://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](mailto:grayc@mmta.com) ([www.mmta.com](http://www.mmta.com))
- 17 **Officers & General Meeting**, 8:00 & 9:00am, Bangor Motor Inn Room 230 - contact George Colby at [gcolby@maine.rr.com](mailto:gcolby@maine.rr.com) or 577-5181 ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))
- 30 **C.N. Brown Driving Competition** – Norway Fairgrounds, Norway – contact Mike Frith at 680-0173

**June**

- 2-4 **Nationwide Roadcheck**
- 6 **NH/VT State Truck Driving Championship**–AG of New England, Pembroke, NH
- 17-21 **Trek Across Maine / Lung Assn. Rally**, Sunday River – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or [dentruck@hotmail.com](mailto:dentruck@hotmail.com) ([www.lungne.org](http://www.lungne.org))
- 28 **Mass. State Truck Driving Championship**–FedEx Facility, W. Boylston, Mass
- 29 **New York Convoy for Kids** – Lake George, NY – contact Charlie Claburn at 518-810-1776 or [claburncharles@gmail.com](mailto:claburncharles@gmail.com) ([www.truckersandcitizens.web.com](http://www.truckersandcitizens.web.com))

**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**

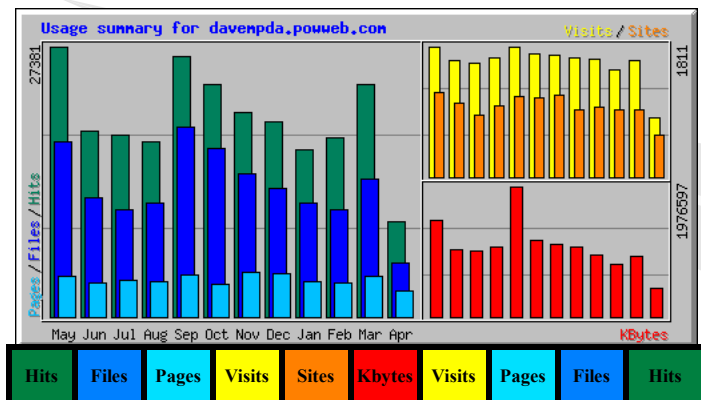
- 12 **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity FunDrive** Lehigh Travel Plaza, Lexington, VA (I-81, Exit 195) – contact Larry Davis at 336-924-1751 or [info@maptda.org](mailto:info@maptda.org) ([www.maptda.org](http://www.maptda.org))
- 12 **Charity Challenge Set-up Day** – Location TBA, Mass. – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or [dentruck@hotmail.com](mailto:dentruck@hotmail.com)
- 13 **11th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge** – Location TBA, 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**

- 22 **MPDA Annual Meeting** – (8:00am) - 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))

**MPDA Website Usage****Website Update**

MPDA continues to make our organization more productive and efficient. We now have online dues and donation payments for our members and anyone who wishes donate to MPDA.

The **NEWEST** addition to the website is a New Shopping site for members only. Here you can order member items online and have them shipped to your home. We have shirts, jackets, fleece vests or jackets, hats, decals, patches, and pins. Take a minute to visit: [www.mpdainfo.org](http://www.mpdainfo.org), click on the members only link, log in and select the shopsite link to get started.



Pete Mortensen  
Webmaster

**Upcoming Meetings**

May 17	<b>MPDA Officers(8:00am) &amp; General (9:00am) Meetings</b> Bangor Motor Inn Room 230
August 16	<b>MPDA Officers(8:00am) &amp; General (9:00am) Meetings</b> Hannaford Trucking, S. Portland
October 18	<b>MPDA Officers(8:00am) &amp; General (9:00am) Meetings</b> MMTA Office, Augusta
November 22	<b>MPDA Annual Meeting – (8:00am)</b> Hannaford Trucking, S. Portland
January 17	<b>MPDA Officers(8:00am) &amp; General (9:00am) Meetings</b> 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**

<b>Editor:</b>	Denis Litalien
<b>Layout, Design, &amp; Distribution:</b>	Pete Mortensen
<b>Contributors:</b>	George Colby, Pete Mortensen, Mark Nilsen, Charlie Claburn, Vickie Anderson, Craig Carver, Everett Macmaster, and Kevin Battle.
<b>Webmaster</b>	Pete Mortensen
<b>ROADTEAM Captain</b>	Ron Hutchins

**“Behind the Wheel”**

Our newsletter is published quarterly for our members and advertisers.

Articles of interest to members, advertising copy, inquires, 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](mailto:mpdainfo@mainepda.org)  
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