



# *Behind the Wheel*

## **Newsletter of the Maine Professional Drivers Association**

Volume XXI, No. 1

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

April 2011

### **Championships News**

The Maine State Truck Driving Championships will be held on May 14 at Dysart's Truck Shop. There was some confusion over the date but this is the right one. Rooms have been blocked off at the Best Western White House, Holiday Inn and Sheraton and the banquet and written test will be at a place called Spectacular Events. There will be no activities at the Bangor Motor Inn as they are already booked for something else for that weekend.

The Championships are put on by the Maine Motor Transport Association with assistance from the Maine Professional Drivers Association.

#### **Schedule of Events for the Championship Weekend:**

##### **Friday, May 13**

Noon – Set up Team meets at  
Dysart's Truck Stop  
5:00pm – Hospitality Room at  
Best Western White House (Catered by Dysart's)

##### **Saturday, May 14**

5:30am – Driver Registration at  
Spectacular Events  
6:15am – Driver Course Overview at  
Spectacular Events  
7:00am – Written Test at Spectacular Events  
8:00am – Driver Equipment Review at  
Dysart's Trailer Shop  
9:15am – Driver course Walk-Through at  
Dysart's Trailer Shop  
9:30am – National Anthem  
9:45am – First Driver on the course and Pre-Trip  
Inspections  
6:00pm – Social Hour at Spectacular Events  
7:00pm – Dinner & Awards Banquet at  
Spectacular Events

##### **Sunday, May 15**

9:00am – MPDA Members Meeting at  
Holiday Inn, Bangor  
(Breakfast Buffet available for \$10.00)

#### **Things you should know:**

- ▶ Spectacular Events is located at 395 Griffin Road, Bangor
- ▶ Dysart's and the Best Western are located on Coldbrook Rd. in Hermon
- ▶ Hospitality Room is open to all involved with the Championships
- ▶ The Holiday Inn is located at 414 Odlin Road in Bangor.
- ▶ Coffee and muffins will be served at driver registration.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the competition, please contact **Randy DeVault** with MMTA at 423-4128 or [randyd@mmta.com](mailto:randyd@mmta.com)

#### **MPDA contacts for the TDC:**

**Randy DeVault** – All MMTA aspects of the competition, judges, scoring, etc.

**John Waisanen & Alan Paradis** – Course set up  
**Denis Litalien** – MPDA Trailer & Course Equipment

**Roger & Wanda Wilcox** – MPDA Food Booth

**George Colby** - Hospitality Room

**Dave Littlefield** – Pre-Trip Inspection

**Nate Lewis** – Driving Equipment

**Dick Brown** - Raffle

## 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 May 1 at the Emery-Waterhouse parking lot in Portland to acclimate drivers to the procedures for the competition.

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

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

## Message from the President

The annual State Truck Driving Championships are coming up fast, May 14, 2011. This event helps bring a more professional perception to our industry. The past couple of years we have garnered some good press from Maine papers and TV stations that have taken the time to see what the Championships and trucking are all about. It also a valuable learning experience for both participants and judges.

Friday night we will have a hospitality room at the Best Western White House beside **Dysart's** catered by **Dysart's** from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. We will also have an MPDA meeting Sunday morning starting at 9:00 at the Holiday Inn, 404 Odlin Rd Bangor, Me. This meeting will be open to members and any other drivers interested in joining.

Because schedules and life in general has changed MPDA has a real need for more volunteers to participate. In particular we need a permanent Secretary, and an Executive Director. **Denis** would also like to have someone take over the newsletter.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at the Truck Driving Championships.

*George Colby*

## Driving Competitions Schedule

### May

- 1 Hannaford Driving Competition
- 1 Championships Open Practice Session
- 14 Maine State Truck Driving Championships
- 15 Shaw's/Methuen Driving Competition

### June

- 4 New Hampshire State Truck Driving Championships
- 12 Massachusetts Truck Driving Championships

### July

- 24 Maine State Champions Practice

### August

- 9-13 ATA National Truck Driving Championships

### September

- 10 11th Annual Charity FunDrive - Lexington, VA
- 11 12th Annual Northeast Charity Challenge - Devens, Mass
- 17 Linde Regional Driving Competition

## MMTA Shipper's Night

Jim McCurdy emceed the Annual Maine Motor Transport Association Shipper's Night held last winter, welcoming everyone, and overseeing the presentations of many awards including the following:

The 2010 Maine State Truck Driving Champions were recognized as well as each Driver of the Month. State Police Chief Patrick Fleming presented the Annual Driver of the Year Award to David Yates of C.N. Brown. Yates has recorded over 3 million miles with no accidents. **Tom Theriault** of **Irving Oil** was also recognized as Safety Director of the Year. Fleet safety awards were presented to On Target Utilities, **J&S Oil** and Brockway-Smith in the Less-than-million mile category. **PAF Transportation**, **Poland Spring** and Superior Carriers were recognized in the 1-to-4-million mile category. **H.O. Bouchard** was recognized in the 4-to-7-million mile category and **R.C. Moore**, **Clifford W. Perham, Inc.** and **Walmart** were recognized in the over 7 million mile category.

Grand Champion Awards were presented top **Walmart** and Superior Carriers.

## Member News

**Cliff Gray** is retiring from the Maine Motor Transport Association after 26 years of service. He will therefore be ending his term as TDC Officer for MPDA along with his retirement from MMTA. At the last meeting Cliff was thanked for his service and for being with MPDA as an officer since the founding of the organization in 1989. He served as the MMTA Liaison Officer from to January of 1989 and as TDC Officer from January 1998 to the present. President **George Colby** appointed **Randy DeVault** as the TDC Officer at the last meeting to fill out Cliff's term. Our thanks and appreciation to Cliff for all his efforts and time over the years contributing to MPDA's success.

Former driver and member **Barry Mullen** has been named the Regional Transportation Supervisor for **Linde, LLC**. He is responsible for overseeing the Northeast region, including New England, New York and New Jersey. He will be bringing the truck driving competition back to Kittery this year, inviting drivers from all their terminals in the Northeast to compete in the September 17 event. MPDA has been asked to help put on the competition and provide equipment.

Member **John Labonte** is back to work after having open heart surgery in Boston. Back on the road again after months of recuperation.

## Trucker Buddy

Trucker Buddy International is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to helping educate and mentor schoolchildren via a pen pal relationship between professional truck drivers and children in grades 2-8. Trucker Buddy matches classes of students with professional truck drivers. Every week drivers share news about their travels with their class.

Once a month, students write letters to their drivers. Students' skills in reading, writing, geography, mathematics, social studies, and history are enhanced and learning is fun. Since 1992, Trucker Buddy has helped educate over a million schoolchildren and introduced them to caring, compassionate men and women, professional truck drivers. You can see Trucker Buddy news at [www.truckerbuddy.org](http://www.truckerbuddy.org) or log on directly to the on their Trucker Buddy eMagazine.

## Splitshifting by *Denis Litalien*

Here comes my favorite time of the year, that is, the time when we see all the Truck Driving Championships. Many companies and drivers are gearing up for the company competitions and the State competitions. Drivers are getting in some practice time, studying the rules, brushing up on their pre-trip inspections and generally learning a lot about their profession that will help them for years to come. Companies are also developing a better relationship with their drivers as they organize family events around the competitions. A win-win for everyone.

For me it's a chance to see a lot of old friends at the State competition and catch up on what has been happening with them over the past year as we get together and tell some "real" trucker stories. The competition itself almost becomes secondary as we enjoy each other's company in a setting that benefits everybody.

If you have never tried your hand at the competition, drop by our practice session at Emery-Waterhouse in Portland on May 1 and see what it is all about. This would give you a chance to give it a try before an official competition and see if you like it.

Shifting gears, please note that we have discontinued the MPDA telephone number as it was rarely used and turned into an unnecessary expense. So if you have this number (207-318-7395) in your cell phone or on any documents or other places, including letterhead templates, please delete it from your records.

And finally, shifting into high gear, I want to apologize for not getting a newsletter out a little sooner. Time has been in short supply since last fall when my work schedule changed and I have been putting this together in bits and pieces since then. I would welcome anyone's help in writing the articles and organizing them into a coherent format. **Pete Mortensen** always does a great job of the layout and printing and would help anyone who would like to try their hand at editing this newsletter. Call me if you have an interest.

In the meantime, keep on truckin' ..... safely, and I'll see you in Bangor for the State Championships!

*Denis*

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



## Sunday River to the Sea Bike Trek

It's getting near that time again for the American Lung Association of Maine's Annual Sunday River to the Sea Bike Trek. The Maine Professional Drivers Assn. has again committed to providing professional drivers to help with this great fundraising event. Help is needed on Thursday, June 16 and Sunday, June 19 for hauling the bikes to and from the event. As of April 16, there were already over 2,000 riders registered to ride their bikes from Sunday River to Belfast for this great fundraiser.

We are adding a truck from Yarmouth to Sunday River on Thursday and a truck from Belfast to Yarmouth on Sunday if anyone is interested in that combination. Also, **Cliff Gray** is retiring from the Trek so his trip from Belfast to Sunday River on Thursday and from Belfast to Yarmouth on Sunday is available.

Cliff was one of the first drivers from the Maine Professional Drivers Association to volunteer to help with our involvement with the Trek. He has volunteered since 2003 and drove every year. As much as he wanted to and had already registered, his health precludes him from participating. He will be missed.

If you are able to help us, please register online and send **Denis Litalien** an email at [secretary@mpda.org](mailto:secretary@mpda.org) to confirm that you have registered if you haven't already done so. Following are the instructions for registering this year:

Go to: <http://www.lungusa.org/associations/charters/new-england/events/cycle/trek-across-maine/> Click on "Volunteer" on right side, then fill out the volunteer registration. And don't forget to click on "Submit".

## Trucking for Kids Convoy

With limited space available, we will leave the Trucking for Kids Convoy results to be made available on the MPDA website. You can log onto [www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org) and click on the Convoy logo to see all the winners of the truck show awards, the driving competition winners and the fundraiser awards. There are also pictures of last year's event. Don't forget to check on the 2011 information and mark your calendars for September 25 for the 2011 Trucking for Kids Convoy!

## Northeast Charity Challenge

The Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge will be held on Sunday, September 11th at Sherman Square, Devens Massachusetts.

The 12th Annual Charity Challenge in 2010 was a huge success! Our net contribution to St. Jude's Children's Hospital was \$23,000! This was one of the best years ever! Thanks to the efforts of the drivers and the generosity of the contributing companies. Over the years 65 companies have participated and over 1200 drivers have competed and raised funds that bring our total raised since 1997 to \$384,000.

Listening to St Jude's' Jill Workman just before the awards presentation talk about the tremendous strides that the Research Hospital has made over the last 5 decades and the kids that are alive today because of the medical discoveries made possible by our donations, when it is all added up we all help make it happen. St. Jude has one of the lowest expense ratios of any charity.

*-Fred Schenk*

## ATRI Updates Idling Regulations

The American Transportation Research Institute has updated its online guide of state and local anti-idling regulations, the group said Thursday. ATRI is providing the guide both as a card to be carried in a truck cab and on its Web site, [www.atri-online.org](http://www.atri-online.org)

*- From Transport Topics Online*

## New Hampshire News

The New Hampshire Professional Drivers Association recently elected its officers for the coming year. Results are as follows:

Chairman – Hank Jewett  
Vice- Chair – Don Williams II  
Secretary – Helen Dame  
Treasurer – Paul Robichaud  
Membership Chair – Wayne McClella  
Past Chair – Mickey Rafeal

## In Memory of:

**Reggie St. Pierre** - Former MPDA member Reggie St. Pierre, a driver for **Walmart** passed away in February. He had driven for **Walmart** for the past 4 years and had driven for **Emery-Waterhouse** and **Kris-Way** in the past and had been a volunteer for Wreaths Across America for a number of years. Reggie leaves a wife, Misty, three daughters and a son and a grandson. He was only 43. Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Assoc, 51 US Route 1, Scarborough, ME 04074 or Wreaths Across America, PO Box 256 Harrington, ME 04643

**Alfred Rouleau** - Many of you used to see this driver every day coming up the 'pike and saw him peddling freight as far north as Bangor and surrounding areas, coming up from Nashua, NH. You probably noticed that his truck always stood out from the crowd. This truck had the chrome front bumper, hub caps and was always shiny clean. His handle was Haymaker and his name was Alfred "Freddie", "Al", Rouleau and he died behind the wheel of his truck on I-295 in Falmouth. He was 70 years old and had driven for Nashua Motor Express for over 38 years. He leaves wife Joan, three daughters and one son and nine grandchildren. His wife writes, *"He was a terrific person who truly loved his family and job. He was exactly as you pictured him. A true professional trucker who died doing what he loved most, in his Big Rig NMX Number 79. He was loved by all who knew him. He is sorely missed."* Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Tithing fund, C/O Our Lady of Mercy Church, 16 Baboosic Lake Rd, Merrimack, NH 03054 or to the Animal Rescue League of NH, 545 Route 101, Bedford, NH 03110.

**John Austin** - It is with sadness that we pass along the news that our friend John Austin, owner of **Portland Air Freight (PAF Transportation)** has passed away after a brief illness. John and the folks at his company have been longtime supporters of the Maine Professional Drivers Association, giving of his time and resources to help the Association and especially the Trucking for Kids Convoy each year. He was a past Chair of the Maine Motor Transport Association. John leaves behind a wife, Beth, and two children.

**Bill Hinkley** - passed away this past year. He was currently employed by **Clifford W. Perham** on a part time basis. Bill had owned his own truck for 25 years and had driven for **Shaw's**, King Cole Foods, Bachman's and Cushman's Bakery in the past. He was the Three Axle State Champion while driving for King Cole Foods in 1975. Our condolences to Bill's wife Pat and his family.

**Dan Paradee** - The longtime spokesman for the **Maine Turnpike Authority** passed away last November after a months-long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 54.

Dan Paradee was a friend of the MPDA and included our organization in many of the Turnpike's activities, especially when safety was involved. He was well known to many of our members when the third-lane restriction was implemented, taking the brunt of many drivers being upset with the new policy.

He was well known to the motoring public, not only as the voice and face of the Turnpike, but also was seen each year at the York Tollbooth during the Labor Day weekend dressed up as Miles the Moose, handing out token gifts to the tourists leaving Maine. It typified his attitude.

Kelly Bouchard of the Portland Press Herald wrote a feature article about Dan. You can research the Press Herald archives and see how he was recognized. Dan leaves a wife and two children.

## Wreaths Across America

This program, initiated by Merrill Worcester in Maine has made news across the country. What started as a way for him to use his leftover Christmas wreaths to decorate the headstones at Arlington National Cemetery has become a nationwide program to recognize our deceased veterans.

Over 200,000 wreaths were distributed by over 100,000 volunteers starting with a convoy of trucks leaving Maine to travel all over the country. Many local carriers have gotten involved, including members **Pottle's Transportation, Walmart, Hartt Transportation, Cianbro, Dysart's, and PAF Transportation**, among others.

## Hours of Service Change Proposals

To promote safety and to protect driver health, FMCSA proposes to revise the regulations for hours of service for drivers of property-carrying commercial motor vehicles (CMVs). To achieve these goals, the proposed rule would provide flexibility for drivers to take breaks when needed and would reduce safety and health risks associated with long hours. The proposed rule would make seven changes from current requirements.

First, the proposed rule would limit drivers to either 10 or 11 hours of driving time following a period of at least 10 consecutive hours off duty; on the basis of all relevant considerations, FMCSA currently favors a 10-hour limit, but its ultimate decision will include a careful consideration of comments and any additional data received.

Second, it would limit the standard "driving window" to 14 hours, while allowing that number to be extended to 16 hours twice a week.

Third, actual duty time within the driving window would be limited to 13 hours.

Fourth, drivers would be permitted to drive only if 7 hours or less have passed since their last off-duty or sleeper-berth period of at least 30 minutes.

Fifth, the 34-hour restart would be retained, subject to certain limits: The restart would have to include two periods between midnight and 6 a.m. and could be started no sooner than 168 hours (7 days) after the beginning of the previously designated restart.

Sixth, the definition of "on duty" would be revised to allow some time spent in or on the CMV to be logged as off duty.

And seventh, the oilfield operations exception would be revised to clarify the language on waiting time and to state that waiting time would not be included in the calculation of the driving window.

To read the proposed rule, go to <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rules-regulations/TOPICS/hos-proposed/HOS%20NPRM.pdf>

## Hazmat Training...It's The Law

Title 49, code of Federal Regulations, Part 172, Subpart H, mandates training for individuals involved in the transportation of hazardous materials (hazmat). New hazmat employees must be trained within 90 days after employment.

Who else should get training? Hazmat employees who need recurrent training; within three years of initial hazmat training; employees whose position directly affects hazardous materials transportation safety, employees who load, unload, or handle hazardous materials, employees who prepare hazardous materials for shipment or operate a vehicle used to transport hazardous materials. Also, self-employed personnel who transport hazardous materials and employees who are responsible for the safety of transporting hazardous materials.

## DOT Requiring E.O.B.R.s

Transport Topics reports that the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) this fall issued a new rule that will require interstate commercial truck and bus companies with serious patterns of hours-of-service (HOS) violations to install electronic on-board recorders (EOBRs) in all their vehicles. Nearly 5,700 interstate carriers will use EOBRs after the final rule's first year of implementation, which will take effect on June 1, 2012.

## On Board Recorders are Coming?

On January 31, The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) proposed a regulation that would require interstate truck and bus companies to install electronic onboard recorders in vehicles to monitor drivers' hours of service and would apply to all companies that are currently required to use logbooks to record compliance under federal hours-of-service regulations, DOT said in a statement Monday.

Under the proposal, carriers that violate the regulation would be fined up to \$11,000 per offense. Violations would also have a negative effect on a carrier's safety ratings and federal operating authority. The rule would also relieve carriers of the requirement to retain documentation such as toll receipts to verify HOS compliance.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has extended to May 23 the comment period on its proposed on-board electronic recorder mandate. FMCSA had originally set an April 4 deadline for comments to its proposal released in late January that would expand an EOBR mandate to about 500,000 carriers, from an estimated 5,700 under an earlier plan.

## Fatality Rate Falls to Record Low

The rate of highway fatalities from accidents involving large trucks fell 14.1% to the lowest level on record, according to an American Trucking Associations analysis of Department of Transportation data released on April 11. ATA's analysis of vehicle miles traveled showed 1.17 deaths per 100 million miles traveled in 2009, down from a 1.37 rate in 2008. It marks the lowest rate on record since DOT began compiling such data in 1975.

- From Transport Topics Online

## Waiting Time

According to Dave Nemo on Sirius Radio, FMCSA reports there is a \$3 billion cost to the trucking industry and a \$61/2 billion cost to society from drivers having to wait at shippers and receivers. This reflects the loss of productivity. GAO will do a year-long study to determine what if anything can be done to alleviate this costly problem in our industry.



## Maine Turnpike News

**Maine Turnpike Authority** interim Director Peter Mills said the turnpike issues facing southern York County, including the York toll plaza and the three bridges connecting the state to New Hampshire, are in aggregate "the single biggest issue facing me right now. I regard it as a high priority."

Mills has taken over the top job at the MTA, following the resignation in mid-March of longtime director Paul Violette. The MTA was at the center of an investigation by a state watchdog agency, which uncovered a number of questionable practices by top authority officials and Violette in particular. Mills has since discontinued many of those practices.

Since taking over, Mills said it's become apparent to him that southern York County is key to what will be driving MTA bonding decisions next year and in years to come. "One of the things driving our financial projections will be the anticipated cost of solving the York County issues," he said. "I'm very much concerned about the long-range projections of the pike. What happens if gas goes to \$6.00 a gallon and stays there? Can we tolerate that and still do everything the public expects us to do?"

Think Again and the town of York favor keeping the existing plaza until all-electronic tolling becomes feasible. The MTA has been favoring a new plaza that contains both booths and open-road tolling, like the setup in Hampton, N.H.

One of the key hang-ups to all-electronic tolling, Mills said, has been state-to-state reciprocity. He said, "I cannot believe that there are 17 states that have E-ZPass, and we don't have reciprocity after all these years." In just in the last few days, he has written proposed legislation that would allow the MTA to enter into agreements with other tolling authorities, and intends to file it in the Legislature this session. The MTA's role in the three bridges crossing the Piscataqua River is also top on his list of priorities. Last December, the Bi-State Funding Task Force released a report that calls for significant involvement of the MTA. The MTA is to purchase 1.9 miles of road between the York plaza and the New Hampshire state line for \$28 million, which will be used in large part to fund the rehabilitation of the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge in seven years. Moreover, the MTA is to pay \$1 million a year for 30 years into a long-term fund to repair and maintain all three bridges.

Also, In a recent article in the Portland Press Herald, the Chair of the Maine Turnpike Authority stated that there will be open road tolling at the New Gloucester toll booths by Memorial Day of 2012.

Also, the Maine Turnpike Authority has recently installed new technology for truckers at the West Gardiner Service plaza by installing 30 Truck Stop Electrification (TSE) units. These units provide the trucker with a low cost power unit that heats or air conditions the cab, has electrical plug ins and offers internet access via an Ethernet plug-in jack, all for a modest hourly fee of \$2.

- excerpts from story by Deborah Mcdermott of *SeacoastOnline.com*

## Fines Continue at I-95 Bridge in R.I.

Truckers are continuing to get slapped with fines of up to \$3,000 for crossing a bridge on Interstate 95 in Rhode Island that has been off-limits to big rigs for more than two years, the Providence Journal reported. More than 20,000 trucks have been stopped in the Seekonk River crossing in Pawtucket, R.I., since November 2007, with an average of more than 400 per month this year alone, the Journal said. Total fines levied since the ban began have totaled almost \$7 million in the past two and half years, the paper reported in a front-page story Thursday.

The ban on vehicles weighing more than 18 tons or with more than two axles has been in place since November 2007. Most of the fines have been \$3,000 penalties to the trucking companies and \$85 tickets to drivers for not following multiple detour signs set up miles away on I-95 and other roads feeding into the main north-south passage through the state, the Journal said.

The bridge, in Pawtucket between I-95 exits 27 and 28, is scheduled to be replaced by a new, \$90-million span by June 2013, the Journal said. RIDOT recommends that trucks traveling on I-95 with destinations in Attleboro, Mass. and north, or Warwick, R.I. and south, use I-295 to avoid the bridge. RIDOT says trucks with destinations in the Providence metropolitan area, or in Rhode Island's East Bay region, should use I-295 South to Route 146 South, reconnecting with I-95 in Providence with access to I-195 East.

*By Transport Topics*

## CSA 2010

Following is a recap of the CSA 2010 Basics that will scored under the new rules.

- **Unsafe Driving** — Dangerous or careless operation of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs). Data includes driver traffic violations and convictions for speeding, reckless driving, improper lane change, inattention, and other unsafe driving behavior. (FMCSR Parts 392 and 397)
- **Fatigued Driving (Hours of Service)** — Driving a CMV when fatigued. This is distinguished from incidents where unconsciousness or an inability to react is brought about by the use of alcohol, drugs, or other controlled substances. Data includes (1) HOS violations discovered during an off-site investigation, on-site investigation, roadside inspection, or post-crash inspection, and (2) crash reports with driver fatigue as a contributing factor. (FMCSR Parts 392 and 395)
- **Driver Fitness** — Operation of a CMV by drivers who are unfit to operate a CMV due to lack of training, experience, or medical qualification. Data includes (1) inspection violations for failure to have a valid and appropriate CDL or medical or training documentation, (2) crash reports citing a lack of experience or medical reason as a cause or contributory factor, and (3) violations from an off-site investigation or an on-site investigation for failure to maintain proper driver qualification files, or use of unqualified drivers. (FMCSR Parts 383 and 391)
- **Controlled Substances and Alcohol** — Operation of a CMV while impaired due to alcohol, illegal drugs, and misuse of prescription medications or over-the-counter medications. Data includes (1) roadside violations involving controlled substances or alcohol, (2) crash reports citing driver impairment or intoxication as a cause, (3) positive drug or alcohol test results on drivers, and (4) lack of appropriate testing or other deficiencies in motor carrier controlled substances and alcohol testing programs. (FMCSR Part 392)

- **Vehicle Maintenance** — CMV failure due to improper or inadequate maintenance. Data includes (1) roadside violations for brakes, lights, and other mechanical defects, (2) crash reports citing a mechanical failure as a contributing factor, and (3) violations from an off-site investigation or an on-site investigation associated with pre-trip inspections, maintenance records, and repair records. (FMCSR Parts 393 and 396)
- **Cargo Related** — Shifting loads, spilled or dropped cargo, and unsafe handling of hazardous materials. Data includes (1) roadside inspection violations pertaining to load securement, cargo retention, and hazardous material handling, and (2) crash reports citing shifting loads, or spilled/dropped cargo as a cause or contributing factor. (FMCSR Parts 392, 393, 397 and HM Violations), and
- **Crash Indicator** — Histories or patterns of high crash involvement, including frequency and severity. Data includes law enforcement crash reports and crashes reported by the carrier and discovered during on-site investigations.

Recent roadside violations and violations that correlate most with crashes will be weighted more heavily than other violations. SMS will then rank carrier scores relative to their peers to determine which entities have specific safety problems.

- from an article in "The Trucker" by Derek Hinton.

### Connecticut Rest Area Makeovers

For those drivers who travel to Connecticut there is good news for those who use the rest areas. Twenty three of the state-owned plazas will be overhauled for the first time since the 1980's. According to an article in the Boston Herald, the buildings will be upgraded and, in some cases, replaced. They'll feature Subway locations, convenience stores, other restaurants and a Dunkin' donuts at every stop. McDonald's will remain at the eight of the larger rest stops.





# Trucking 4 Kids Convoy 2011

**Sunday – September 25<sup>th</sup>**

8 am to 4 pm

Come join us at

**SCARBOROUGH DOWNS in Scarborough Maine**

**\* \* RAIN OR SHINE "WE CONVOY" TO HELP KIDS \* \***

**\*\*\* OPEN TO ANY AND ALL SIZE TRUCKS \*\*\***



TO BENEFIT:

**CAMP SUNSHINE**

A Retreat for Critically Ill Children and Their Families  
&



**D.A.R.E & OFFICER FRIENDLY**

Local D.A.R.E., Officer Friendly and Community Policing Programs for Children

**Drivers Competition, 50/50, BBQ, Prize Raffles and More!**

Pre-registrations & Donations accepted by mail.

Please make checks payable to: Trucking 4 Kids Convoy

**\$25 - \$50 - \$75 - \$100 or more! IT ALL GOES TO HELP KIDS**

**Trucking 4 Kids Convoy / 364 Maine Mall Road Box 814**

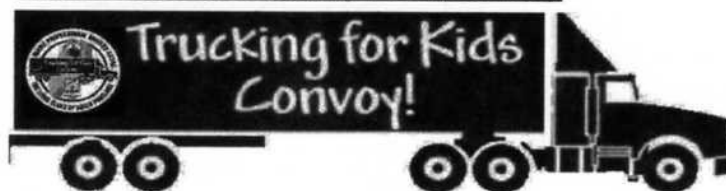
**South Portland, Maine 04106**

For more information, please write to us at the above address or

E-mail us at: [Trucking4kids@aol.com](mailto:Trucking4kids@aol.com) Voice Mail: 207-831-6962

Check out our web page: <http://www.mpda.org/trucking4kids/>

**FACE BOOK: Trucking 4 Kids Convoy**



**MPDA Calendar of Events – 2011 (As of 4-15-11)****May**

- 1 **Hannaford Driving Competition** – Hannaford Bros. Warehouse, South Portland – 8:00AM – Contact Dick Brown at 415-4734 or [gbrown@hannaford.com](mailto:gbrown@hannaford.com)
- 1 **TDC Open Practice Session** – Emery-Waterhouse - 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))
- 13 **Maine State Truck Driving Championships Set Up Day** – Dysart’s Truck Terminal, Hermon - Noon - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or [randyd@mmta.com](mailto:randyd@mmta.com) ([www.mmta.com](http://www.mmta.com))
- 13 **MPDA Hospitality Get-together** (for everyone involved in competition) – Best Western White House Inn, Hermon - 5:00 to 9:00pm – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or [secretary@mpda.org](mailto:secretary@mpda.org) ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))
- 14 **Maine State Truck Driving Championships** – Dysart’s/Spectacular Events – 5:30am - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or [randyd@mmta.com](mailto:randyd@mmta.com) ([www.mmta.com](http://www.mmta.com))
- 15 **MPDA Members Meeting**, Holiday Inn, Bangor – 9:00am- contact George Colby at [gcolby@maine.rr.com](mailto:gcolby@maine.rr.com) or 577-5181 ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))
- 15 **Shaw’s/Methuen Truck Driving Competition** – Shaw’s Distribution Center, Methuen, Mass. – 8:00am
- 24 **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))

**June**

- 4 **New Hampshire State Truck Driving Championships – Associated Grocers, Pembroke, NH** - contact Vera Tucker at 603-224-7337 or [vera@nhmta.org](mailto:vera@nhmta.org) or Mickey Rafeal at [micrafeal@aol.com](mailto:micrafeal@aol.com)
- 12 **Massachusetts Truck Driving Championships** – Con-Way Freight Terminal, Chicopee, Mass. – Contact Jillian Zywiec at MMTA (617) 695-3512 [jzywiec@lynchassociates.net](mailto:jzywiec@lynchassociates.net) ([www.mass-trucking.org](http://www.mass-trucking.org))
- 15-20 **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))

**July**

- 17 **MPDA Members Meeting**, Location TBA - contact George Colby at [gcolby@maine.rr.com](mailto:gcolby@maine.rr.com) or 577-5181 ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))
- 24 **New York Convoy for the Kids** – Glen Falls, NY – contact Charlie Claburn at 518-538-1740 or [claburncharles@gmail.com](mailto:claburncharles@gmail.com)
- 24 **Maine State Champions Practice** – Emery-Waterhouse - 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))

**August**

- 9-13 **ATA National Truck Driving Championships** – Orlando, Florida - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or [randyd@mmta.com](mailto:randyd@mmta.com)

**September**

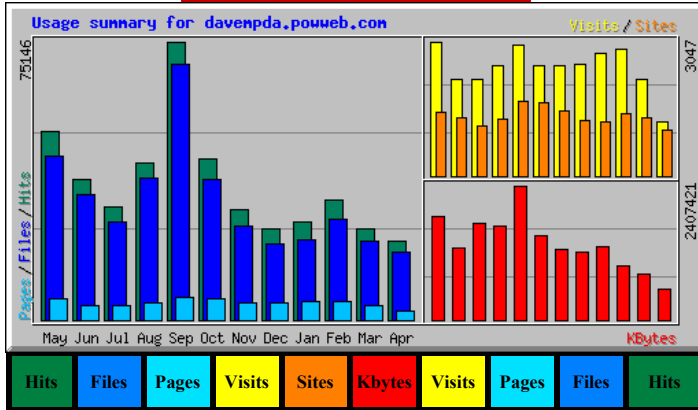
- 4 **New York Convoy for the Kids** – Fonda, NY – contact Charlie Claburn at 518-538-1740 or [claburncharles@gmail.com](mailto:claburncharles@gmail.com)
- 10 **Charity Challenge Set-up Day** – Sherman Square, Devens, Mass. – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or [dentruck@hotmail.com](mailto:dentruck@hotmail.com) ([www.necharitychallenge.org](http://www.necharitychallenge.org))
- 10 **11th Annual Charity FunDrive** Lee Hi Travel Plaza, Lexington, VA (I-81, Exit 195) – contact [info@maptda.org](mailto:info@maptda.org) ([www.mptda.org](http://www.mptda.org))
- 11 **12th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge** – Sherman Square, Devens, Mass.- contact Fred Schenk at [charitychallenge@comcast.net](mailto:charitychallenge@comcast.net) or 508-254-4948 ([www.necharitychallenge.org](http://www.necharitychallenge.org))
- 17 **Linde Regional Driving Competition** – 7:00 am - Kittery
- 18 **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))
- 24 **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 Rob Fernald at [ferald2@aol.com](mailto:ferald2@aol.com) or 838-1074 ([www.mpda.org/trucking4kids](http://www.mpda.org/trucking4kids))
- 25 **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 Rob Fernald at [ferald2@aol.com](mailto:ferald2@aol.com) or 838-1074 ([www.mpda.org/trucking4kids](http://www.mpda.org/trucking4kids))

**October**

- 16 **MPDA Members Meeting**, Location TBA - contact George Colby at [gcolby@maine.rr.com](mailto:gcolby@maine.rr.com) or 577-5181 ([www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org))

**November**

- 19 **MPDA Budget Committee Meeting**, Alan Paradis’ Home - 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****Membership Anniversaries****15 Years**

Richard Horton, Richard Emmons, Charles Powers, Craig Robinson.

**10 Years**

William Draper, Casey Gray, C. Gray Transportation

**5 Years**

Paul Beote

**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**

May 15 **MPDA Members Meeting**, Holiday Inn, Bangor – 9:00am- contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181

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

July 17 **MPDA Members Meeting**, Location TBA - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181

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

October 16 **MPDA Members Meeting**, Location TBA - contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181

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

**2010-2011 MPDA Board of Directors**

<b>President</b>	George Colby
<b>Vice President</b>	Michael Coulombe
<b>Treasurer</b>	Alan Paradis
<b>Secretary (Interim)</b>	Denis Litalien
<b>Membership Officer</b>	Pete Mortensen
<b>T.D.C. Officer</b>	Randy DeVault
<b>Legislative Officer</b>	David Littlefield
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Roger Wilcox

**All 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**

**Editor:** Denis Litalien

**Layout, Design, Distribution:** Pete Mortensen

**Contributors:** Denis Litalien, George Colby

**“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  
[info@mpda.org](mailto:info@mpda.org)  
[www.mpda.org](http://www.mpda.org)



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Augusta ME 04332-5672

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