



“Behind the Wheel”

The newsletter for the professional driver since 1989

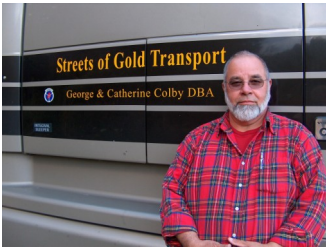
Maine Professional Drivers Association

Volume XXII Number 1

“Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism”

March 2013

President's Message



I apologize that we have not had a newsletter for awhile. We need members to step up to the plate and help out. We are also in need of a permanent secretary, and an executive director.

We are looking for 5 to 6 people (one being in charge) to help with the food booth at the Truck Driving Championships on May 18, 2013. The person in charge will have to be there Friday the 17th to get set up. This is the biggest fundraiser that we have for the year.

A reminder that annual dues are due and we really appreciate and thank all of you who've already sent in your dues. Thank you.

The next meeting is March 17, 2013 at Walmart Transportation, 239 Goddard Rd., Lewiston, Me 8:00 AM. Come in the truck entrance and check in at the guard shack and they will tell you where to go. All are welcome!

Thank you,

George Colby

Home: 926-4217

Cell: 577-5181

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FMCSA

Hours of Service Delay Denied

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration said it will not delay enforcement of the latest changes to the hours-of-service rules for truck drivers, saying that American Trucking Associations did not demonstrate enough harm to the industry and law enforcement to merit such a delay.

ATA had asked FMCSA in a Jan. 25 letter to hold off enforcing the rule until three months after ATA's pending lawsuit is decided. Appeals court arguments are scheduled to be heard on March 15. In a lawsuit filed in February 2012, ATA asked the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to overturn the changes, saying the agency overstated the role fatigue plays in truck crashes and that the new rule is too restrictive. The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance also asked for the delay, and the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association agreed.

The changes, set to take effect July 1, restrict how drivers can use the optional 34-hour restart to reset their weekly driving limits of 60 hours in seven days, or 70 hours in eight days. Drivers will be able to use the restart only once every seven days, and it must include two periods from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. Under the new regulation, drivers will also have to take a 30-minute break before driving more than eight hours continuously.

- from Transport Topics Online

Hours of Service Info

For a good description of the Hours of Service rules, check out this link:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-12-27/html/2011-32696.htm>

Splitshifting - by Denis Litalien

This newsletter is long overdue and I am endeavoring to start getting a quarterly newsletter out again. A number of things have happened in the past two years in my life, not the least of which has been the theft of my laptop containing a nearly completed newsletter and other valuable info. Add identity theft and a few other personal setbacks and we got pretty far behind. While some of the info here might be dated, some members may have missed some of this news.

I am hoping, that with the help of other MPDA members, that we can pick up where we left off. Being a member of MPDA has expectations of getting regular communications on our activities and without that, some members may think we are inactive. That is far from the truth!

When you see the new decals on our new trailer you will realize we have a number of activities for our members to get involved in. Activities that bring up the level of professionalism in our careers. Opportunities to volunteer your time for good causes and chances to improve your driving skills. Check out the Calendar of Events and see where you will see us!

If anyone wants to get involved in any of our activities, please don't hesitate to call me for info at 207-468-7373. We have a desperate need for someone to take on the food booth at the State Truck Driving Championships. We need to have that settled by March 17. We also need some drivers for the Bike Trek in June.

You'll see on the next page an article about member Warren Lewis retiring. While most retirements go nearly unnoticed, this one bears recording as Warren's career was not that of the usual truck driver. Please join me in congratulating him on his accomplishments.

I am proud to be a trucker and hope all the members of the MPDA feel the same about their profession and join me in continuing this great organization. For a reminder of what we have accomplished in the past you can go to YouTube and view the video that was shown at our 20th Anniversary Banquet. You can click on the following link or copy it into your computer browser: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFDfwzTqI7I>



Maine & Vermont Finally Get Truck Weight Exemption!

At the end of 2011, President Obama, signed the Fiscal Year 2012 Transportation funding bill that includes a provision, written by Maine Senator Susan Collins, that will allow 6-axle 100,000 lb. trucks to travel on all federal interstates in Maine and Vermont for 20 years instead of forcing them off the highways and onto Maine's secondary roads and downtown streets.

Trucks weighing up to 100,000 pounds are authorized to travel the interstate highway system in Maine as well as in Vermont. This will result in a reduction of accidents involving heavy trucks on local roads and keep them where they will be safer.

Senator Collins has worked tirelessly on this issue for many years, and we thank her for her efforts.

Kittery Bridge Update

Demolition of all of the old concrete piers that made up the Memorial Bridge connecting New Hampshire and Maine is now complete. Archer Western, the main contractor, says steel for the new Memorial Bridge has arrived and drilled foundations and concrete work are being worked on. The NH side span has been installed.

The firm continues monitoring vibration noise levels in Portsmouth and Kittery. They have remained at satisfactory levels. The new bridge is expected to be completed by July 2013. The old Memorial Bridge connected the two communities for nearly 90 years.

Interesting fact: The old Memorial Bridge was opened August 17, 1923, dedicated by 5 year old Eileen Foley, who would later become the Mayor of Portsmouth. She will be on hand in July to dedicate the new bridge, 90 years later!

You can see videos of the project and get more info at: <http://www.portsmouthbridges.com/NewMemBridge.cfm>

- from the Associated Press

Warren Lewis Retires

The end of a significant era has passed. Driver **Warren Lewis** of **Hannaford Trucking** has retired from driving after 40 illustrious years behind the wheel.

Warren's mark on the trucking industry is going to be very difficult to document because his extensive activities to help others in our industry are unprecedented. I will take a stab at the highlights as this is someone we will not want to forget.

Warren has had much success in the truck driving competitions over the years, winning State Championships from 1975 all the way through his final year in 2012 making him a well-known celebrity in competition circles. He can even claim National Championships at both the American Trucking Associations' and the Professional Drivers' Championships, something very few people have accomplished.

His greatest accomplishments have more to do with his everyday driving activities, helping other drivers improve their professional attitude, knowledge, skills, appearance and abilities. He was always available when someone needed help practicing their skills. He was often the one to call others to get together to set up simulated driving situations and going over hazardous situations. I know I got those calls and I don't even work for the same company he does.

His reputation at Hannaford Trucking is unmatched. From his own personal stature and appearance to the condition of his tractor, to his interactions with others on the highway and with the public, his demeanor is unmatched. Letters have come in over the years from motorists he has helped and others who have been affected in positive ways by his actions. His record of over 3 million miles of safe driving is a testament to his care and consideration of others on the highway.

He was a Founding member of the Maine Professional Drivers Association (MPDA), realizing early on that he could do good among his fellow drivers, regardless of who they worked for, knowing that the actions of all drivers reflect on all of us. Whenever you look at the MPDA logo, you can be reminded of Warren as he designed the logo when it was first created.



His toy truck collection is unmatched as many have seen him design and build trucks to match those seen on Maine's highways. His display of them in the Maine Mall to promote the Trucking for Kids convoy drew rave reviews.

Many thoughts and memories are recalled about Warren but the feeling that lingers is that he embodied the American Trucker during his years behind the wheel. You would be hard pressed to go into a diner or truck stop from Pennsylvania to Northern Maine that didn't have some recollection of Warren and his attitude. He left impressions on everyone he met, and always on a positive note.

His activities representing the Association and his fellow drivers were literally unlimited. From helping put on competitions for other companies, to being very active in the Road Team, speaking to groups about the safe, courteous and professional driver. I can't remember many activities put on by the Association where he was not present and involved in various presentations.

I remember when I first started driving outside New England. Warren was the first one to fill me in on all the short cuts and great places to eat. His instructions never failed to impress me as I knew he had made the effort to find the best places to share with his fellow drivers. When CB radios were the only means of communication between drivers he was always the first to spot you coming down the road and say hi. When phones and computers became popular, he was always one to stay in touch and maintain those friendships with other drivers, networking about what was going on in the industry.

I will miss Warren on the road as I know many, many drivers will share those sentiments. I wish him the best in health and happiness in his retirement and will know that wherever I go, he has set a high standard for me and my fellow drivers to maintain.

- Denis Litalien

Friends Who Have Gone

Clifford W. Gray, age 77, passed away on June 24, 2011 following a long illness. He served as a Maine State Trooper for 20 years before being hired at MMTA. He is survived by his wife of 17 years, Sharon P. Gray of Augusta; two step-daughters, four step-grandchildren and a sister. At his request, a committal service was held at the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Augusta. Donations in Cliff's memory may be made to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN, 38105.

Many comments were sent in about Cliff and his activities with MPDA. He was at everything MPDA did, from the convoys to the Bike Trek to the Championships and missed very few meetings, if any. He was the one guy we could always count on to be there when things needed to be done.

Cliff had recently retired from the Maine Motor Transport Association after 26 years of service. He consequently retired as TDC Officer with MPDA. At the last meeting he attended, Cliff was thanked for his service and for being an MPDA officer since the founding of the organization in 1989. He served as the MMTA Liaison Officer from January of 1989 and as TDC Officer from January 1998 to the present.

MPDA President **George Colby** appointed **Randy DeVault** as the TDC Officer to fill out Cliff's term. Our thanks and appreciation to Cliff for all his efforts and time over the years for contributing to MPDA's success was expressed at that last meeting.

Here are a few comments we either got or saw concerning Cliff's passing:

Member **Charles Powers** writes: "Thank you for the news with the article on Cliff Gray. Personally, I think his ongoing professional and creditable involvement with all the transportation industry has been excellent including the companies, owner-operators, drivers, etc. with respect for the motoring public. I thank all of you and organizations, the best always."

New Hampshire Drivers Association Past President **Mickey Rafeal** writes: "We first met Cliff in 1998 in Long Beach, CA. Since then we have traveled to Maine from Pittsfield, NH every year to help out, as that is the kind of hospitality we received from him and everyone in Maine. We would all meet at Dysart's on Sunday morning after the competition for breakfast. Cliff was a good man, and a great man. He will always be with us in our minds and our hearts. We are so very saddened by Cliff's passing. We have worked with Cliff for many years through the NH Professional Drivers Assoc and were friends besides. Cliff was a man of integrity and honor. He is an icon who stood tall and proud among the all the truckers in New England. We will miss his infectious smile, his sense of humor and his great work ethic. We send our deepest sympathy to Sharon and family."

Massachusetts Drivers Association President and Charity Challenge Chairman **Fred Schenk** writes: "What a sad day for Cliff's trucking industry friends. I can imagine the hundreds of people over the past couple of days thinking back to the best of times with Cliff. I knew Cliff mostly through the driving competition, always there to support "his" drivers. In 2006 at the ATA Nationals in New Orleans Cliff invited me to join the Maine group at the banquet. I had a front row seat to see the Maine drivers take the National Team Trophy. There is Cliff smiling like the proud papa with his drivers! What a moment! He must have been smiling for days. Cliff was at the last St Jude Charity Challenge to help judge and just to be with his friends."

Sunday River to the Sea Bike Trek Business Manager Gale Auclair writes: "I am so sorry to hear about Cliff. He was a very special man. Cliff volunteered for the Trek Across Maine/American Lung Assoc. for a number of years supporting cyclists who ride for healthy air he had a big heart. We will all miss him."

Member **Dale Rowe** writes: "As a truck driver I had numerous encounters with Cliff during the 70's and 80's when he was with the DOT truck enforcement division. It was always a pleasant experience. Later as a member of the MPDA I was able to work with Cliff during the Trek Across Maine, again, a pleasant experience. He will be missed."

MPDA Past President **Denis Litalien** writes: "I met Cliff over 40 years ago and consider him a true friend, both personally and professionally. He could always be counted on to help out with any project that MPDA took on, being so supporting of truck drivers' activities. Nobody knows how much he did and accomplished over the years on behalf of truck drivers as he enjoyed working behind the scenes. A true unsung hero! There will be an empty space in my heart for a long time."

Member **Eric Foster** writes: "Lynda and I are deeply saddened by the loss of Cliff. Our sympathies go out to Sharon. Cliff was one of those "guiding lights" in my desire to better myself within the industry. He will never be forgotten by myself and many, many others who have been touched by his commitment."

Member **Andy Reed** writes: "We keep losing our great role models, Cliff's quiet energy and professionalism impacted all of us who had the privilege to work with him. He will be greatly missed."

Member **Pete Philbrick** writes: "I spoke to Cliff a few weeks ago and of course he didn't tell me anything was seriously wrong. Cliff was a good friend and he helped me many times over the years even when I worked for myself. He will be sorely missed."

Erv Bickford

Erving Bickford of Yarmouth died in May, 2012 at 79 years old. He was well known in trucking circles for all his activities, especially relating to his collection of antique trucks, which numbered over 300.

Bickford's family plans to build an open-air pavilion in the center of town to display a few of the 50 exhibition-ready trucks in the collection. The pavilion will be the realization of Erv Bickford's dream and a gift to the communities that held him in high regard, including patrons of the Owl's Head Transportation Museum, which dedicated its annual Truck & Tractor Meet, held this summer, to him.

Before he died, Bickford, who served eight terms as a town councilor, secured the municipal permits needed to build the pavilion at the former Bickford Transportation Inc. headquarters at Railroad Square, just off Main Street. Member **Wayne Devoe** and Jimmy Hall, who were longtime Bickford employees will help Bickford's family manage the truck exhibit at the pavilion.

Bickford was known across the country as a true gentleman and an expert truck restorer, even as the work grew more difficult.

- Info from Mainetoday.com

Dick Dolloff

Richard (Dick) A. Dolloff, 67, of Gorham, passed away on July 21, 2012. In 1984, he married Cathy A. Walker. Shortly after that Dick obtained his Commercial Driver's License and teaching certificate, and became a truck driver and educator. Dick drove commercial trucks for Hood and Kris-Way, and taught at Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) before landing his dream job at Westbrook Regional Vocational Center. It was there that he spent 16 years teaching commercial truck driving classes before finally retiring in 2010. Dick recalled fondly the great group of kids he taught throughout the years and was very proud of the accomplishments of many of his students. Dick was a proud member of MPDA and always included the Assn. in his activities with his students.

Dick is survived by his wife and three children. His celebration of life service was held on July 29, 2012. Any memorial donations may be made to the Good Shepherd Food Bank (www.gsfb.org)

Jethro Harrell

Jethro (Jet) A. Harrell passed away on Oct. 17, 2012, after a long and valiant battle with cancer. He was 83 years old. He was a veteran of the Korean War and enjoyed driving millions of safe miles during his 55-year career as a professional truck driver. He was a Maine State Champion in 1969 in the 5-Axle Tank Class while driving for Adley Express. Jethro is survived by his wife of 56 years, Joan, daughter Dianne and 2 sisters.

His funeral was held on Nov. 4, 2012.

Jason Phipps

Jason “Jake” Phipps died unexpectedly on November 2, 2012. He was 36 years old. He was the son of **Bill Phipps** and Patricia Phipps. Jason graduated from Greely High in 1995 and most recently worked as a shop assistant at **Yarmouth Lumber** but most of us will remember him as a judge at the State Truck Driving Championships, usually with his step-mom, **Pam Rogers**.

Over the years he enjoyed participating in Special Olympics, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and harness racing. He was often seen in the Yarmouth Lumber truck with all the lights, riding with his dad, Bill.

His funeral was held on November 9, 2012. Memorial donations may be made to Highland Cliff Advent Christian Church, 96 Highland RD, Windham, Me, 04062 or to the Autism Society of Maine, 72B Main ST, Winthrop, ME, 04364.

- from the PressHerald.com

Al Charbonneau

Albert (Al) J. Charbonneau Jr., 68 of Cohoes, NY, passed away January 29, 2013.

Al was a truck driver, employed by Howards Express in Colonie, NY until retiring in 1997. He was the treasurer of the New York State Champions Council, Past President of local 294 Retirees where he retired from after 34 years of service. He was active in the Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge to benefit St. Jude's and was a member of the NYS Truck Driving Championship Committee.

Survivors in addition to his wife, Marguerite “Lynn”, include his 6 children, brother Ronald and sister Debra. His funeral service was held on February 2, 2013. In lieu of flowers contributions to St. Jude's Children's Memorial and Honor Program 501 St. Jude's Place Memphis, TN 38105 or www.Stjude.org.

- from Dufresne & Cavanaugh Funeral Home in Latham, NY

**Cell Phone Use Restrictions**

Last year the USDOT announced a final rule specifically prohibiting interstate truck and bus drivers from using hand-held cell phones while operating their vehicles. The joint rule from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is the latest action by the U.S. Department of Transportation to end distracted driving.

The final rule prohibits commercial drivers from using a hand-held mobile telephone while operating a commercial truck or bus. Drivers who violate the restriction will face federal civil penalties of up to \$2,750 for each offense and disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle for multiple offenses. Additionally, states will suspend a driver's commercial driver's license (CDL) after two or more serious traffic violations. Commercial truck and bus companies that allow their drivers to use hand-held cell phones while driving will face a maximum penalty of \$11,000.

While driver distraction studies have produced mixed results, FMCSA research shows that using a hand-held cell phone while driving requires a commercial driver to take several risky steps beyond what is required for using a hands-free mobile phone, including searching and reaching for the phone. Commercial drivers reaching for an object, such as a cell phone, are three times more likely to be involved in a crash or other safety-critical event. Dialing a hand-held cell phone makes it six times more likely that commercial drivers will be involved in a crash or other safety-critical event.

In September 2010, FMCSA issued a regulation banning text messaging while operating a commercial truck or bus and by intrastate hazardous materials drivers.

MPDA Calendar of Events – 2013 (As of 2-28-13)

March

- 2 **MPDA Equipment Trailer Work** – Shaw’s Scarborough Terminal – 8:00am
- 17 **MPDA Members Meeting** – Walmart Transportation, 239 Goddard Rd., Lewiston – 8:00am – contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 (www.mpda.org)
- 21-23 **Mid-America Trucking Show** - Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY
- 28 **Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Meeting** – HomeTown Buffet, Maine Mall - 5:30pm - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com (www.mpda.org/trucking4kids)

April

- 10 **Dick Dolloff Memorial Student Driving Competition** – Augusta Civic Center – contact Chris Broderick at brodericke@westbrookschoools.org or 671-2344
- 21-26 **Walmart Truck Driving Competition** – Lewiston Distribution Center – contact Nate Lewis at nathan.lewis0@walmart.com

May

- 5 **Hannaford Truck Driving Competition** – Hannaford Trucking, S. Portland - Contact Dick Brown at gbrown@hannaford.com or 415-4734
- 12 **MPDA Championships Open Practice** – Walmart Distribution Center, Lewiston – 8:00am - contact Alan Paradis at 289-0328 or aatkg@maine.rr.com
- 17 **Truck Driving Championships Set Up Day** – Dysart’s Truck Terminal, Hermon - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
- 18 **Maine State Truck Driving Championships** – Dysart’s Truck Terminal, Hermon - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
- 18 **Professional Technician’s Skills Competition** – EMCC, Bangor - - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
- 19 **MPDA Members Meeting** – Tentative at Sheraton, Bangor – contact George Colby at gcolby@maine.rr.com or 577-5181 (www.mpda.org)

June

- 13-17 **Trek Across Maine / Lung Assn. Rally**, Sunday River – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or dentruck@hotmail.com (www.lungne.org)

August

- 19-24 **North American Inspectors Championships** – CVSA – Salt Lake City, UT
- 20-24 **ATA National Truck Driving Championships** – Salt Lake City, UT - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com

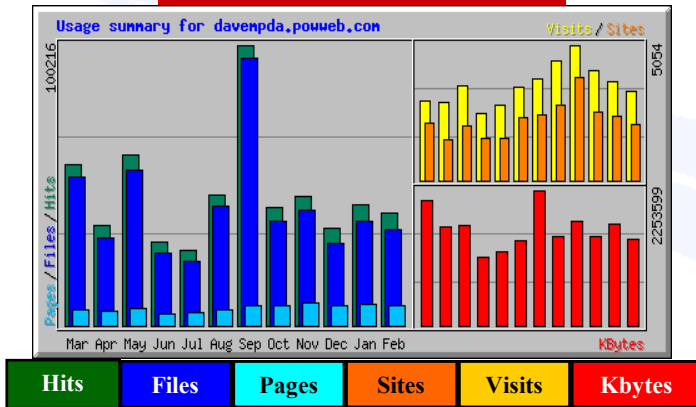
September

- 7 **Charity Challenge Set-up Day** – Devens, Mass. – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or dentruck@hotmail.com (www.necharitychallenge.org)
- 8 **15th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge** – Devens, Mass.- contact Fred Schenk at 978-453-3632 or charitychallenge@comcast.net (www.necharitychallenge.org)
- 9-12 **National Professional Technicians Skills Competition** – Pittsburgh, Pa. - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com
- 15 **Wishes on Wheels Convoy** – Willington, CT. – contact George Fellows (www.wishesonwheels.com)
- 15-21 **National Truck Driver Appreciation Week**
- 28 **Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Set Up Day** – Old Country Buffet Rest., Maine Mall- 9:00am - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com or 838-1074 (www.mpda.org/trucking4kids)
- 29 **Maine Trucking 4 Kids Convoy**, 7:00am to 4:00pm – Scarborough Downs, Scarborough - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com or 838-1074 (www.mpda.org/trucking4kids)

October

- ??? **Walmart Truck Driving Competition** – Lewiston Distribution Center

Website Usage Update



Thank You

Special thanks to **Emery-Waterhouse** in Portland for the use of their parking lot for Champi- onships practice and staging of trucks for the Annual Bike Trek for the American Lung Association. Thanks especially to Shawn Gagnon for facilitating all this.

Another special thanks to Shawn McGuinness & **Nate Lewis** at **Walmart** for all their work in get- ting our new equipment trailer ready for the road. Also a big thanks to Clifford Perham, Inc. for the use of their facility in getting the trailer decals installed. Thanks to **Alan Paradis, George Colby, Denis Li- talien** and **Bob Danforth** for their efforts in getting the decals done. Keep an eye for the trailer at all our events this year.

Thanks to member **Fred Thompson**, former MPDA Road Team Chairman, who will be training **Bob Danforth** to teach safety and awareness around big trucks to children and all interested.

CDL/Medical Card Link

Information on the new link of your medical card to your Maine CDL can be found on the State website at: www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/licenses/CDLMedCert.html

To Summarize the new rules:

- None of the regulations have changed regarding medical cards.
 - This rule will link the medical card and CDL license and thus eliminate to carry the medical card in the future.
 - Between 1/30/12 and 1/30/14 all CDL drivers must self-certify to the type of driving they do and provide BMV with a copy of their current medical card if they are required to have one.
 - The self-certification can be done as CDL licenses are renewed or MED CARDS are renewed after 1/30/12 but before 1/30/14.
 - Going forward, copies of all new medical certificates will have to be sent to BMV as they are renewed. This must be done prior to the expiration date of the current card.
- *courtesy of Maine Motor Transport Association*

Tinting Allowed in Truck Windows

In the past law enforcement officers have cited drivers for having tinted windows and some be- lieved that tint is never allowed on truck cab win- dows.

Based on a letter received from the FMCSA, the International Window Film Association recently reported that tinting is allowed in commercial truck windows as long as at least 70% of the light transmis- sion gets through the window. The reasoning is that this would help protect truck drivers arm from harm- ful ultraviolet rays, which would help prevent skin cancer in the left arm and left side of the face.

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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.**

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“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:

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