



“Behind the Wheel”

The newsletter for the professional driver since 1989

Maine Professional Drivers Association

Volume XXIV Number 2

“Committed to Safety, Courtesy, and Professionalism”

December 2014



SPLITSHIFTING (a message from the President)

Let me shift gears a few times here. As you can see by the information in this newsletter, there is a lot going on in the Maine Professional Drivers Association and we hope you are part of it. There are so many ways to involve yourself in what is going on that there is no excuse for anyone saying they can't find something to do.

I hope the holidays bring glad tidings to all our members and their families. I hope that we can sit back and reflect on what kind of year we have had as we prepare for 2015. I can't help but think that there are many positives out there to encourage us to have a very positive attitude. Gas and diesel prices are down, the stock market is up, and we know companies are having a harder and harder time finding qualified drivers. The shortage of professionals is no longer a rumor and your value as a driver can go nowhere but up. That is all good!

If you hear news that we are in demand, then you'll also know that we must maintain our professionalism, putting our best foot forward, doing all those things that make us safe, courteous, and professional. The events we undertake put our best foot forward, but we must act accordingly as individuals. Those who judge us on the highways know when we tailgate, when we speed, when we cut in too close, when we don't maintain our equipment, when we don't properly inspect it and repair it and clean it.

The events that showcase our positive side and our continued involvement can help convince the public of our essentiality, which in turn helps raise our level of professionalism and add to our value as drivers. You can check out the results of some of these positive activities on our website, www.mpd.org. Click on the various links, like the “Trucking for Kids Convoy”, the “NE Charity Challenge”, and the “Championships” to see what has been going on. We try to keep these as updated as possible. You can also look at our “Calendar of Events” to see what is coming up in 2015.

Changing gears, our best wishes to out to our old friend “Buzzy” Hanscom, who after more than 50 years of serving truckers, is getting out of the truck stop business. The sale is final and he no longer owns the truck stops on both sides of the Rt. 1 Bypass in Portsmouth, NH. Buzzy will still run his fuel delivery service and has a standing invitation for a free lunch anytime at the truck stop. The new owner plans to run the business as is while reopening the tire shop and the road service aspects of the business. Good luck, Buzzy, on the new chapter in your life and thanks for all you have done for truckers over the past 50 years. Your reputation will long outlive you for all the good you have done.

Changing gears again, I want to thank **Pete Mortensen** and the members of our Membership Committee for stepping up to help organize our membership recruitment efforts and hope that our members see us grow as we promote what is good about safety, courtesy and professionalism. I also want to thank all the drivers and their families for all their support of our goals throughout the year, taking their personal time to make a difference in our industry.

Again, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy and wealthy New Year to all!

- Denis Litalien



Banquet News

The 25th Anniversary Banquet of the Maine Professional Drivers Association was a huge success! The event, held at DiMillo's on the Water on Long Wharf in the Old Port section of Portland, was a celebration of the past 25 years of activities of the MPDA and emceed by John McDonald, Maine Storyteller and WGAN radio host.

A delicious meal, provided by DiMillo's, was enjoyed and awards were presented to the following:

Harry Stiffler Lifetime Achievement Award – Fern Richard

Driver of the Year – Rob Fernald

Special Recognition Award – George Colby

Sportsmanship Award – Mona Costa

A special presentation was also made to Camp Sunshine by members of MPDA and the South Portland Lions Club. A check for \$10,000 was presented to Michael Katz, Executive Director of the Camp.

Tim McElwaney, a Captain of America's Road Team was also on hand to share some professional driver stories with us, reminding us that we all have shared the same experiences in our careers. A special video presentation, produced by Past President **Dave Stuart**, was a great reminder of all the MPDA activities over the past 25 years. The evening concluded with John McDonald entertaining us with a few Maine stories, leaving everyone with a great feeling for the ride home.

Special thanks to the Banquet Committee headed up by **Alan Paradis**, and including **Pete Mortensen, Jim Costa, Randy DeVault** and **Dave Stuart** for all their efforts in making this a success. And a huge thank you to our sponsors for the evening, who made it possible for this event to happen at a reasonable price for our members. Those sponsors include: Maine Motor Transport Association, **Walmart, Cumberland Farms, Dysart's Transportation, Irving Oil Terminals, Dale Rowe, Casco Bay Transportation, Pottle's Transportation, and Portland Air Freight.**

It was great to see a lot of old friends there, especially some of the Founding Members, who were there when we started this whole thing, and again, thanks to all who made this evening possible and to those who attended and enjoyed this special night. Several pictures are posted on the MPDA website.

Membership Dues are due in January

Just a reminder that we will be sending out Membership Dues notices in January. If you wish to pay your dues online, please go to www.mpda.org and click on "Dues Payments" button. It's quick and easy.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Thank You,

- MPDA Membership Committee



Electronic Log Clarification

The Trucker reports that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has revised its regulatory guidance concerning records-of-duty status (RODS) generated by logging software programs on laptop computers, tablets and smartphones.

The notice in July removes the requirement that drivers print and sign paper copies of RODS generated through such logging software, provided the driver is able to sign the RODS electronically at the end of each work day and display the electronic record at the roadside.

The notice said drivers will be required to have the prior seven days of electronically signed logs available to be viewed on the device's screen during an inspection. Law enforcement can request printed copies of the logs, and the driver must be given an opportunity to print the current and prior seven days, the FMCSA said.

If an electronic signature is not used, the driver will be required to print the electronic logs and manually sign them daily. Drivers will also be required to retain the prior seven days of manually signed logs – just as required now.

Final ELD Rule in 2015

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) does not expect to publish its final rule mandating the use of electronic logging devices for carriers until Sept. 30, 2015, the agency said in its November significant rulemakings report.

The rule would not be effective until two years after it is finalized.

Other regulatory projections affecting truckers:

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it will send its heavy-duty truck speed-limiters proposed rule to the Office of Management and Budget next month, and publish the rule March 16, 2015.
- FMCSA plans to send its carrier safety fitness determination rule to OMB in late December and publish its proposed rule April 2, 2015. The rule would replace the current SafeStat system using Compliance, Safety, Accountability data to rate carriers as satisfactory, conditional or unsatisfactory.
- FMCSA left unchanged its plan to publish an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking this month that will explore whether to raise the current \$750,000 insurance minimum for carriers. The ANPRM will seek comments from carriers to assist the agency in deciding whether to move forward with a proposed rule.
- FMCSA expects to issue its final drug and alcohol clearinghouse rule Oct. 30, 2015, and a final rule prohibiting the coercion of drivers by carriers and brokers on Sept. 10, 2015.

- *From Eric Miller, Staff Reporter*
- *Transport Topics Online*

ATRI SEEKS MOTOR CARRIER INPUT ON DETENTION TIME IMPACTS

Arlington, VA –

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), the trucking industry's not-for-profit research organization, today launched a new data collection effort on Detention Time Impacts on Industry Safety and Productivity. The survey seeks motor carrier input to evaluate the impact that shippers and receivers may have on the industry's safety and productivity.

This latest data collection represents the second phase in ATRI's research to quantify the impact of detention times on carrier and driver operations. Earlier this year ATRI collected over 600 commercial driver responses to its detention impacts driver survey. Additionally, ATRI is analyzing empirical safety and performance data through carrier case studies and completing an analysis of its extensive truck position database to model the impact of driver delay on truck travel times at key distribution points around the country.

The online survey is available on ATRI's homepage at www.atri-online.org. The survey will be open through early January 2015.

2014 Trucking for Kids Convoy

The 2014 Trucking for Kids Convoy was a huge success as we convoyed approximately 50 trucks and raised nearly \$11,000 to benefit Camp Sunshine and local youth programs!

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in this great day! Thanks to all who work behind the scenes, getting raffle items, soliciting donations, preparing truck show ballots, getting awards, reserving tables and chairs, distributing flyers and publicity, getting food and cooks lined up, cooking the food, getting traffic control, preparing a parking plan, cleaning trucks, working in the hot sun all day, setting up the day before, cleaning up at the end of the event, as we end up with a feeling of satisfaction that we accomplished something special! You can see pictures of everyone and the trucks at this year's event at www.mpda.org/trucking4kids.

We will post all the award winners soon.

(continued on top right)

The first meeting for the 2015 event will be held on January 10 at 8:00am at the HomeTown Buffet Restaurant at the Maine Mall. At that time we will discuss the distribution of the funds and go over the 2014 event and see if we can come up with suggestions to improve things for next year. Please bring your ideas and your appetite!

Citing Congressional concern, FMCSA to clarify driver sleep apnea screening, testing

By James Jaillet @trucknewsJJ

Medical examiners in FMCSA's National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners will soon be receiving a bulletin from the agency to clarify current federal rules — or lack thereof — regarding screening and testing drivers for sleep apnea, according to a letter from acting FMCSA Administrator Scott Darling. According to Darling's letter, the bulletin will remind examiners there is no FMCSA guidance regarding apnea testing — hammered home by a 2013 law — and will encourage examiners to explain to drivers that referring them to sleep apnea specialists is being done based on their judgment as medical professionals and not from FMCSA regulations.

The letter was sent to Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-La.) and Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-Ill.) in response to a letter from the two Congressmen to Darling in October. Bucshon and Lipinski sent their letter after they heard that FMCSA-approved medical examiners were not adhering to the 2013 law prohibiting the agency from issuing guidance (in lieu of a formal rule) regarding sleep apnea screening and testing for truck drivers.

They blamed some organizations responsible for training the medical examiners to perform driver physicals for the apparent sidestep of the Congressional order.

Darling, however, said in his response letter that while FMCSA has a list of topics that must be covered in training courses, it does not bar organizations from presenting more information to the examiners. Moreover, FMCSA "neither reviews nor approves training materials or programs," he wrote.

The current FMCSA guidelines that medical examiners use were issued in October 2000, Darling said, and it directs examiners to refer drivers to sleep apnea specialists if they detect respiratory dysfunction, like sleep apnea, that could impact a driver's safety.

Darling also said the agency plans to publish a notice this year that will request information from industry stakeholders to help the agency determine the costs and safety benefits of a rule to address sleep apnea screening

National Championships Results

Straight Truck Class

First Place: Brendan Sharp, FedEx Freight (Henderson, Colo.)

3-Axle Class

First Place: Basher Pierce, FedEx Freight, (Sophia, N.C.)

4-Axle Class

First Place: James Quarles, Walmart Transportation LLC (Laurens, S.C.)

5-Axle Class

First Place: Wayne Gootee, Walmart Transportation (Brooklyn, Mich.)

Flatbed Class

First Place: Paul Brandon, FedEx Freight (Oxford, Conn.)

Tank Truck Class

First Place: Christopher Miller, United Petroleum Transports (Cowetta, Okla.)

Twins Class

First Place: Jeffrey Langenhahn, Con-way Freight (Plover, Wisc.)

Sleeper Berth Class

First Place: Matt Awbrey, Walmart Transportation LLC (Franklin, Ga.)

Step Van

First Place: Christopher Shaw, FedEx Express (Albuquerque, N.M.)

Special Award Winners:

Grand Champion: Jeffrey Langenhahn, Con-way Freight

State Team Trophy: North Carolina

Vehicle Condition Award: Jeffrey Payne, Reddaway

Neill Darmstadter Professional Excellence Award: Jeffrey Payne, Reddaway

Life-Time Volunteer Award: Sam Gillette

National Rookie of the Year: David Guinn, Publix Super Markets, Inc.

Maine Drivers Finish at National Truck Driving Championships

Ray Bucknell	Irving Oil	Tank	38
Jeff Granholm	Pottle's Transportation	Sleeper	36
Denis Litalien	Clifford W. Perham, Inc.	4-Axle Van	5
Rick Magnuson	Hannaford Trucking	Flatbed	31
Jim McKeen	YRC Freight	3-Axle Van	43
Alan Paradis	A&A Trucking	Straight Truck	18
Matt Richardson	Performance Transportation	Twins	41
Jonathan Roussel	PAF Transportation	5-Axle Van	37
Scott Wickstrom	FedEx Express	Step Van	29

State Championships Notes

Thanks to the following for the donations of trucks and for doing the raffle of the toy trucks to raise funds for the MPDA: **PAF**, Carol Burchill, **Alan Paradis**, Bethany Paradis, **Denis Litalien**, **Larry Menter**, **Walmart** and **Pottle's Transportation**.

Special thanks to **Mona Costa** and her crew of hard workers cooking for everyone during the day. We don't have all the names but they did a terrific job of keeping the judges fed and supplying food for all those who attended.

Recent Events

Thanks to those members who participated in two big events in this past few months, the Sunday River to the Sea Bike Trek and the Owl’s Head Transportation Museum Antique Truck Show.

The Annual Bike Trek saw our members hauling bicycles to and from the 3-day event, helping the American Lung Association in their largest fundraising event in the nation. This ride raised \$1.8 Million towards their mission! Members **Alan Paradis, Bob Danforth, Rob Fernald, Pete Mortensen, Denis Litalien, Jim Costa, Dale Rowe, Dick Brown, Charlie Fleurent, Ron Round, Kevin Battle and Harry Hamlin**, among others, were on hand to lend their professional driving skills or were on standby to help out at the June event.

Gale Auclair, the Director of the Development Team for the Northeast Division of the American Lung Association, thanked the MPDA and its members for our assistance over the last 12 years in meeting their goal of improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

Our members were also thanked by Toby Stinson, the Special Events Coordinator for the Owl’s Head Transportation Museum, for our participation in their annual Antique Truck Show last weekend.

Members **Jim and Mona Costa** brought the MPDA equipment trailer and **Rob Fernald** and his family were there to educate attendees with a blind spot demo. Attendees got to tour Rob’s **Walmart** truck and see all the blind spots that truck drivers have to deal with.

The antique **Shaw’s** truck as well as the **Hannaford** event trailer were at the show and many other members attended as well. Member **John Ellingwood**, who happens to be the President of the Pine Tree Chapter of the American Truck Historical Society, helped organize the event, which saw antique trucks and other vehicles show up from all over the Northeast.

What is TAT?

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) is a non-profit organization that exists to educate, equip, empower and mobilize the trucking industry to combat human trafficking as part of their regular jobs. Domestic sex trafficking occurs along our nation's highways and at its truck stops, where traffickers can sell their victims to a transient population they believe are less likely to attempt rescue. In response, TAT is asking the 3 million domestic truckers, as well as other members of the trucking industry, to become aware of this issue, and, when they suspect a human trafficking case, to call the national hotline and report it. Visit our website at www.truckersagainstrafficking.org to learn more.

Trek Across Maine Thanks the MPDA

I would like to thank **Denis Litalien** and the many drivers of the Maine Professional Drivers Association for their longstanding support of the American Lung Association and our mission to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease. Every Father’s Day weekend for the past 13 years, dedicated MPDA drivers once again volunteered for the Trek Across Maine by transporting cyclists bikes.

There are many ways to support the American Lung Association in addition to riding a bike for healthy air! One of them is assisting us in providing bus transportation from major cities in Maine to Sunday River on Thursday before Father’s Day to kick off Trek weekend, by diminishing our carbon footprint of more vehicles on the road. No other volunteer group has the impact of the MPDA.

The Trek is the American Lung Association’s largest fundraising event in the nation! With the dedication of MPDA in 2014, we were able to raise \$1.8 dollars towards our mission.

Anyone wanting to help out with this annual fundraiser for the American Lung Association should contact Denis Litalien at president@mpda.org or 207-468-7373.

- Gale Auclair and the ALA Development Team

Student Driving Competition

A very successful event was held at the Augusta Civic Center due in part to the help from MPDA members who volunteered their time to help.

The Maine Commercial Driving Instructors Association put on the Dick Dolloff Memorial Student Driving Competition which saw over 50 students from high schools and tech schools from around the State compete for awards and prizes. There were driving tests and a pre-trip inspection portion judged by the Maine State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division officers. Maine State Driving Examiners were also on hand along with a number of MPDA members to judge the course set with driving obstacles.

MPDA provided the equipment trailer and people along with the Maine Motor Transport Association, which provided their mobile training unit for the event. Thanks especially to those members who spent the day there to help make the event a success. They included: **Mike Coulombe, Dick Brown, Randy DeVault, Rob Fernald, Eric Foster and Denis Litalien**.

Instructor **Vicki Kimball**, who was in charge of the event, was very pleased with the turnout and thanked the MPDA and MMTA for their assistance as well as the State Police and State Examiners along with the driving school instructors from around the State.

Obituaries

May They Rest in Peace

Michael Mullen – Driver, died early in the morning on March 25 at the Irving Truck Stop on the Route 1 Bypass in Kittery after suffering a medical issue that was likely heart-related, police said.

Police responded to the scene at about 5 a.m., and found Mullen, 54, of Buxton, outside of his truck cab. According to police, the vehicle had been parked at the truck stop. Mullen was driving a tractor-trailer belonging to Essar Leasing of Woodbury, Minn., police said. Police said Mullen had a history of heart-related medical issues. There is nothing suspicious about the death, police said.

Mike had just joined MPDA as a result of his involvement in the Trucking for Kids Convoy event last year and was excited about joining the Convoy Committee and helping with the event in the coming year. Memorial donations to help defray the costs of Michael's funeral services may be made to: Christie Mullen, 17 Alder LN, Standish, ME 04084.

Chris Broderick - Truck Driving Instructor at Westbrook high School, passed away on May 31 after a hard-fought battle with liver cancer. Chris, 62 years old, was very active in the trucking industry, having been a truck driver, an instructor at Northeast Technical Institute, and most recently, an instructor at Westbrook Regional Vocational Center's Truck Driving Program. He was well known among truck driving schools around the State as he had organized the annual State-wide truck driving competitions for the students for a number of years.

Chris was also an avid motorcycle rider, having served as an officer of the Southern Maine Harley Owners Group and for Rolling Thunder. He had participated in many veterans' activities as well as in the Wreaths Across America Program.

Chris is survived by wife Anne and two daughters, Kelly and Amy. A celebration of Life took place on June 4 and burial was held in Windham. Chris' family suggests that memorial donations be made to Rolling Thunder, Inc., Chapter 1 ME, PO Box 1274, Sanford, ME

Cynthia Hutchins – Wife of MPDA Past President Ron Hutchins, passed away on September 3rd. Cindy was often seen at MPDA events over the years, supporting Ron's efforts on his Roadteam activities. She often helped out at the MPDA booth at various events. Ron & Cindy had been married for 54 years and have 3 children. Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Southern Maine 180 US Rt. 1 Scarborough, ME 04074.

John Labonte – Driver for International Paper in Auburn, Maine, passed away on October 1 at Mass General Hospital in Boston, resulting from endocarditis. He was 62 years old. John was a Founding Member of the Maine Professional Drivers Association where he served in a number of volunteer positions, including being the first Treasurer of the Assn. He was recently honored for 40 years of dedicated service and 3 Million Accident Free Miles. He was a member of the Maine Professional Drivers Association and won several State and National Truck Driving Championships over the years. He had also been named Ryder's Driver of the Year. The Annual MPDA Good Samaritan Award will henceforth be called the John Labonte Good Samaritan Award to recognize John's service to the trucking industry. John is survived by wife Sue of Leeds and children Rick and Michelle and five grandchildren.

MPDA Calendar of Events – 2015 (As of 12-4-14)**2015****January**

- 8 **MMTA Annual Banquet** – Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland – 5:00pm – contact Brain Parke at 423-4128 or bparke@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
- 10 **Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Meeting** – HomeTown Buffet, Maine Mall-8:00am - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com (www.mpda.org/trucking4kids)
(Snow date – Jan. 17)
- 18 **MPDA Members Meeting** – Hannaford, South Portland – 8:00am – contact Denis Litalien at dentruck@hotmail.com or 468-7373 (www.mpda.org)

May

- 15 **Truck Driving Championships Set Up Day** – Dysart’s Truck Terminal, Hermon - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
- 16 **Maine State Truck Driving Championships** – Dysart’s Truck Terminal, Hermon - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)
- 16 **Professional Technician’s Skills Competition** – Eastern Maine Community College, Bangor - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com (www.mmta.com)

June

- 18-22 **Trek Across Maine / Am. Lung Assn. Rally**, Sunday River – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or president@mpda.com (www.lungne.org)

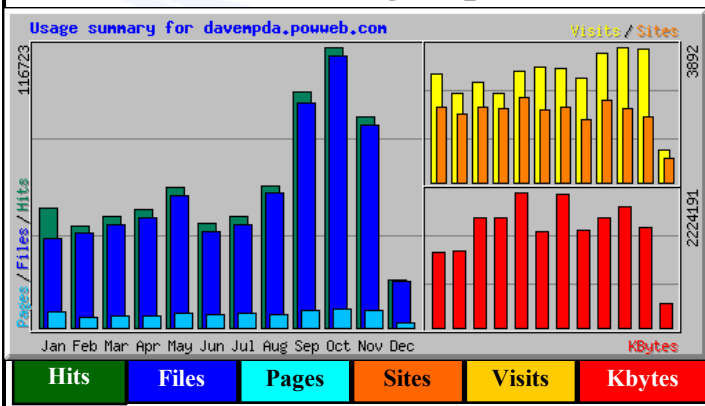
August

- 10-14 **North American Inspectors Competition** – St. Louis, Missouri - contact cvsahq@cvsa.org or 301-830-6143 (www.cvsa.org)
- 11-15 **ATA National Truck Driving Championships** – St. Louis, Missouri - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com (www.trucking.org)

September

- 12 **Charity Challenge Set-up Day** – Devens, Mass. – contact Denis Litalien at 468-7373 or president@mpda.com (www.nucharitychallenge.org)
- 13 **16th Annual Northeast Professional Truck Drivers Charity Challenge** – Devens, Mass.- contact Fred Schenk at 508-254-4948 or charitychallenge@comcast.net
(www.nucharitychallenge.org)
- 21-23 **National Professional Technicians Skills Competition** – Orlando, Florida. - contact Randy DeVault at 623-4128 or randyd@mmta.com
- 26 **Trucking 4 Kids Convoy Set Up Day** – HomeTown Buffet Rest., Maine Mall- 9:00am - contact Kevin Battle at trucking4kids@aol.com or 838-1074 (www.mpda.org/trucking4kids)
- 27 **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)

Website Usage Update



2014-2015 MPDA Board of Directors

- President:** Denis Litalien
- Vice President:** James Costa
- Treasurer:** Alan Paradis
- Secretary:** Mona Costa
- Membership Officer:** Rob Fernald
- T.D.C. Officer:** Randy DeVault
- Legislative Officer:** George Colby
- Publicity Officer:** Ron Round
- Past Presidents:** George Colby, Dave Stuart, Dick Brown, Fred Thompson, Doug Pickard, Ron Hutchins, John Waisanen, Alan Paradis

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

Membership Anniversaries

- 15 Years:** Fred Schenk, Paul Nadeau, Roland Charlton, Elwood Wilde, Bruce Heywood, Philip Emery, David Weeks, Peter Dube, Scott Edwards, Kevin Battle
- 10 Years:** Roger Wilcox, Eric Foster, Roger Scott, Edward Darling, James Shunk
- 5 Years:** Eric Barden, Matthew Richardson, Vincent Cote, Marc Dubois, Eddy Naples, Daryl Baker, Lynne Billings
- New Members :** Jonathan Roussel, Hank Jewett, James McKeen, James Vatter, Vicki Kimball, Lucien Langlois, Graig Morin, Charles Fleurant, Roger Poulin

“Behind the Wheel”

- Editor:** Denis Litalien
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 - Printing:** Randy DeVault, MMTA
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