



# LEARNING

Volume 12, No. 1  
Spring 2011

# Curve

NETWORKING THE FINEST EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

## Featured School Tennessee Technology Center @ Nashville



The Tennessee Technology Center (TTC) @ Nashville started a truck driver-training program 20 years ago that has grown into a six-truck, three-instructor program.

The program is a 216-hour, PTDI-certified course. TTC has two 3rd-party state license testers. TTC conducts six class sessions per year

and boasts a near perfect graduation, licensure, and placement rate.

The school's curriculum is constantly expanding to stay current with industry changes – as well as continuing to offer topics that are pertinent and critical to students and their ability to compete and succeed in today's world. For instance, the curriculum includes work ethics topics such as attendance, communication, teamwork, organization and appearance. These areas help build a good attitude and an eyes-open approach to the industry.

However, TTC continues to cover what the school feels are the basics: shifting, backing, log books, basic road control, pre-trip inspections, coupling and uncoupling, trip planning, cargo securement, sliding tandems and fifth wheels, and accident scene protocol. Additions to the curriculum include an overview of

## Welcome New Members!

Full Membership:  
Rock Valley College  
Rockford, IL

Tennessee Technology Center  
Nashville, TN

## 2011 National Convention

Marriott Savannah Riverfront  
April 6-8, 2011  
Savannah, Georgia

the new CSA 2010 rules that are being implemented, and guest speakers from ACES. This is a Tennessee Highway Patrol program designed to educate drivers about effective driver/officer relations – and also includes a defensive-driver class conducted by an A.J. Gallagher Insurance representative.

TTC has also developed computer-based permit training through ROCE of the Tennessee Board of Regents. It is available nationwide to anyone with a computer, and includes PowerPoints for more consistent coverage. (For more information, e-mail [roce@tbr.edu](mailto:roce@tbr.edu)).

TTC recently acquired two new field trucks and a new road truck. The field trucks have less than 1,500 miles on them and are an excellent addition

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to the school's fleet. With their shorter wheelbase, the trucks are useful for basic backing skills and pre-trip practice. The newest road truck is a 2010 T660 Kenworth, which is equipped with student seating in the back for three as well as an instructor brake on the passenger side. Moreover, facilities have been completely remodeled to update offices and classroom alike. New lighting has also been added to the practice field for night training.

The TTC instructors attend seminars on a regular basis to keep current and involved with the trucking

community. They have attended seminars about cargo claims, HOS, auditing processes, inspection and maintenance, driver qualification, drug and alcohol awareness, and a Bendix brake seminar at their facility outside Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The Tennessee Technology Center @ Nashville is excited to be a member of the NAPFTDS and looks forward to participating in the instructor certification program.

*For more information, contact the Tennessee Technology Center @ Nashville, 100 White Bridge Road, (615) 425-5600, [abentley@ttcnashville.edu](mailto:abentley@ttcnashville.edu).*

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## Ruling Updates

By Robert McClanahan

About the first of February, FMCSA released their final rule on Electronic on Board Recorders (EOBRs). Under this ruling, all motor carriers will be required to install electronic recording devices to track driver's hours of service. There is also a new proposal for Hours of Service. So whatever the new HOS rules may be, it will now be tracked electronically. This does not mean that we can now stop teaching logs. Until everyone converts to EOBRs, instructors will still have to teach how to use a log book. Many carriers have already started installing this equipment, but it will take some time for everyone to be in compliance. I'm not sure if any school has this equipment installed on any of their trucks, but it will be interesting to see if schools go to this type of technology.

The CDL Learners Permit rule from FMCSA is due to be released sometime late February or early March. We will see if this occurs on that time schedule. You know how the feds have a way of delaying some of their final rules. Entry Level Drivers Training is an example. We have been waiting on that ruling for way too long. The learners permit rule will have an effect on all of us

## RULES & RIGs

and I think we have discussed this before. By the time you receive this newsletter the ruling may be out. You can go to [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov) to read this rule.

These are lots of changes that will be hard for schools and states to comply with, but I'm sure we will comply. Other issues that may happen this year are the medical examiners certification and changes in medical qualifications for drivers. These are all new requirements for medical examiners to do DOT physicals only if they have been trained, certified and listed on a National register. Qualifications for drivers may include sleep apnea testing and body weight mass assessment. That would eliminate a lot of divers.

Again, go to FMCSA's website to read more on these and other proposed or current regulations – especially if you have trouble sleeping at night. This reading will help.

Plan now to attend this year's annual convention in Savannah, Georgia. All of these new regulations or proposals will be discussed by people in the know.

### NAPFTDS MEMBERSHIP PRE-APPLICATION

Organization/Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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- FULL MEMBERSHIP (\$175): Any publicly funded school or representative employee of that school engaged directly in providing truck driver training.
- ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (\$350): Any industry or representative employee of that industry which indirectly supports public truck driving schools, limited to agencies such as trucking companies, insurance companies, publishers, and equipment manufacturers interested in the welfare of publicly funded truck driving schools.
- AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP (\$250): Limited to administrators or staff at a publicly funded school interested in the trucking industry or administrators in schools that contract with proprietary organizations to provide truck driver training.

THE NEXT STEP: Application for membership shall be made on an application form as may be required by the Board of Directors. A majority vote of the Board of Directors is necessary for the acceptance of an application for membership. All applicants who have been accepted into the membership of the Association must submit a fully completed and signed application form that, by doing, signifies their adherence of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of said Association. Membership in the applicable class shall be complete upon application of the Association, approval of the Board, and payment of the appropriate dues.

Return form to:  
Tina Frindt, Treasurer, NAPFTDS  
1900 Corporate Center Drive East, Suite 100  
Tobyhanna, PA 18466  
Fax: 570-839-3534

Questions about membership may be directed to:  
Crissie Moffet, Board Technical Assistant, [cmoffet@napftds.org](mailto:cmoffet@napftds.org)

### Important notice to those who are not yet members of NAPFTDS

If you are not a member of the Association, and you would like to continue receiving the *Learning Curve* and other benefits of membership, please complete the MEMBERSHIP PRE-APPLICATION FORM in this newsletter and return with your payment of appropriate dues. While we have generous supporters, member dues are the backbone of our Association.

# Region Conference Reports

## Region # 5-7 Conference

### Hosted by:

- Cuyahoga Community College Truck Driving Academy, Cleveland, Ohio  
**Date:** Nov. 18-19, 2010

### Speakers/Presentations:

- *Overview of Driver Wellness Program* – Scott Weidner, President and CEO, Transport for Christ International
- *Benefits of Proper Tire Choice for Position and Tire Inflation* – Ted Keith, Terry's Tire Town
- *Most Influential Woman Award*; also, Salute to Women behind the Wheel and update about WIT accomplishments – Ellen Voie, President and CEO, Women in Trucking (WIT)
- *Liabilities and Issues for the Trucking Industry*; also, TIDA grants endowment for student tuition – Paul Berne, Past President of the Trucking Industry Defense Association (TIDA)
- *CDL Permit Rules, Inspection Requirements*; also, CSA and Ohio issues – Lieutenant Brian Reigle, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Office of Licensing and Commercial Standards
- *Air Brakes, Brake Adjustment, and Accident Investigation &*

*Reconstruction* – Steve Belyus, Ohio Department of Public Safety

- *Driver Shortage and its Impact on Schools, Carriers, and Industry*; also, information on the pay scale just adopted by US Xpress Enterprises – Homer Paul, US Xpress.

**Sponsors:** US Xpress, Cuyahoga Community College

**Attendees:** There were approximately 20 people representing 9 schools in attendance.

### Summary

US Xpress hosted the meal and snacks for the Thursday session, while Cuyahoga Community College provided the snacks and meal for the Friday session. It was a great menu including roast turkey, ham, and more. An after meeting get-together was held at Vittorio's Italian Restaurant on Thursday night. The food was great and the company was even better. TIDA presented the NAPFTDS member schools attending with a beautiful chrome-plated tractor-trailer clock – just right for setting on a desk or shelf.

*Submitted by: Kreigh Spahr, Cuyahoga Community College*

## Region #4 Conference

### Hosted by:

- Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Branson, Missouri  
**Date:** Oct. 28-29, 2010

### Speakers/Presentations:

- *Supervisory drug and alcohol testing* – Jeff Walker, Eagle Training Services
- *Train the Trainer* – Paul Miller, supervisor and training coordinator for the Center for Transportation and Safety Education, Drumright, Oklahoma
- *Regulatory concerns – and an opportunity to address training concerns in an open-session forum.*

**Attendees:** Attending the conference were representatives from 7 schools (25 total): John Wood Community College, Olive Harvey Community College, Lincoln Land Community College, Eagle Training Services, Kishwaukee Community College, Rend Lake Community College, Central Tech.

### Summary

The conference was well-received by the attendees, who gave it high marks for the useful “hands-on” presentations.

*Submitted by: Don Hess, John Wood Community College*

## Conference PEEK ...

### *21st Annual National Convention*

The Association is excited this year to have the 21st Annual NAPFTDS Conference in historic Savannah, Georgia, April 6-8, 2011 at the Riverfront Marriott.

The convention committee received positive responses from last year's certified training and is again offering another certified training, “Reasonably Suspicion/Supervisor Training” on April 6. This will also be a 3-hour training starting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6 where attendees will receive a certificate as well upon completion. Be sure to make your travel arrangements so that you can attend this training. The conference reception will follow at 6:30 p.m.

Other presentations of interest include:

- Funding Opportunities (Workforce);
- Work Ethics in the classroom;
- Laws – Drugs & Alcohol Testing;
- TSA Safety & Security; and
- WIC for Commercial Drivers and CDL Testing – Now and in the future.

Check out the website, [www.napftds.org](http://www.napftds.org) for agenda specifics.

An important part of each annual conference involves the networking that is achieved; not only with other schools, vendors, etc, but also with those organizations that participate as presenters, such as AAMVA, TSA, FMCSA, TCA, ATA and more.

The registration is an insert in this newsletter or you can register online (preferred). The Association is looking forward to seeing ya'll at the conference!

## Historic Savannah River Boat Tours – Interested? Please read ...

The Association is looking for conference attendees who are interested in a Riverfront Boat Tour. Check out this link: <http://www.savannahriverboat.com/cruises.php>.

Any interested attendees are asked to email [cmoffet@napftds.org](mailto:cmoffet@napftds.org).

Depending on the interest, discounted tickets may be available.



Greetings everyone, I hope all is well. As I write this, we are digging out from record snowfall here in Illinois.

Moving all the snow this week has seemed like an overwhelming challenge, kind of like running a truck driver-training program can sometimes seem – overwhelming.

However, challenges get accomplished by giving people the right tools and knowledge to do the job. The NAPFTDS National Convention is a wonderful opportunity to gain knowledge from our colleagues and speakers, as well as learning about tools of the trade from vendors and associate members. This year our convention is being held in Savannah, Georgia on April 6th-8th.

A tentative agenda and registration information can be found at the association website

(www.napftds.org). I know the convention committee and others have been working diligently to put everything together and I want to thank everyone involved.

In other business, we are looking for member schools who would consider hosting a regional meeting. If your school has interest please contact Laura Kingsland, NAPFTDS Board Member and Chair of regional committee, at kingslandl@pcsb.org, or any board member.

On the legislative front, CSA is progressing, with some basics being adjusted and others not yet implemented. The "Hours of Service" proposal was published in December for public comment. I suppose everyone has heard that the timeline for an Entry Level Driver Training final rule has been pushed back to late November 2011.

In closing I want to invite everyone to Savannah in April. Hope to see you there!

## NAPFTDS Website – www.napftds.org...

The Association redesigned its website this year and is being diligent about keeping information updated and current information such as membership, monthly legislative updates, regional meeting and conference information, and much more.

As an NAPFTDS member, with your ID and password, members are able to create their own password and maintain their information on the website. Any member having website

issues or who has not received their ID and password should email info@napftds.org and a timely response will be returned.

Members can also send their school's truck pictures to be placed on the website banner, which rotates all pictures placed on the website. Specific information needed to place these pictures on the website are: jpg format – size is exactly 785 px wide x 180 px tall. Email this information to info@napftds.org. Check it out!

# LEARNING Curve

NEWSLETTER FOR PROFESSIONALS



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