



Southern Weights & Measures Association

128th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

April 2012

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

FLORIDA

It's official: The Bureau of Weights and Measures and the Bureau of Petroleum Inspection have merged into what is now the Bureau of Standards. Additionally, both programs were in the Division of Standards along with the Bureau's of LP Gas Inspections and Fair Ride Inspections. As a result of legislation passed in the recently completed 2012 session and recently signed by the Governor, the new Bureau of Standards and the other two programs will move to the Division of Consumer Services July 1, 2012.

Many states already have petroleum and weights and measures regulatory functions under one program, and the close working relationship between those two programs in Florida resulted in a similar operating structure. Plans are for improvements in efficiency to be realized through the merger and to be able to address budgetary concerns while maintaining an appropriate level of testing and regulatory services.

The names on the new Bureau's management team have not changed although some of the titles and responsibilities have. Dr. Matthew Curran (Matt) is now Chief of the Bureau of Standards, and Max Gray and Rick Kimsey are now Environmental Administrators. Max's primary responsibility will be the field regulatory and inspection activities while Rick will manage the testing laboratories and fuel quality issues. Steve Hadder continues in his role as Field Program Administrator with responsibility for the combined activities in North Florida, and former W&M Assistant Chief Henry Lopez is the Field Program Administrator for South Florida.

We look forward to continued participation in the SWMA, NCWM and ASTM. Matt and Max plan to attend the upcoming NCWM meeting in Portland, Maine. †

GEORGIA

The Fuel & Measures Division of the Georgia Department of Agriculture currently finds itself with many interesting items. The Department has recently started a new department wide leadership program. A few employees who are deemed to have future leadership potential are selected from each division to participate in the program. We are very pleased to have Doug Killingsworth, Mike Stafford, and Barry Edmundson in the program representing Fuel & Measures. Our Division Office Manager, Amber Coney has been working to update our Atlanta Office. New carpet, furniture, blinds and fresh paint will all be a welcome sight in the office, especially since our last upgrade was during the Ford Administration.

Under our Weights & Measures program we are working with several wholesale seafood companies to educate them on the proper procedure for testing and declaring net weight on their packages of ice glazed seafood. Also, we are seeing some issues at several retail chains with glitches in their price scanners related to pricing discounts.

Under our retail fuel program we have recently adopted a new fuel advertising regulation. The new regulation addresses when there is an advertised price on the billboard sign that is not readily available to all customers at the time of purchase, such as club prices. The regulation requires that a note of explanation be visible from every dispenser explaining the steps to obtain the discounted price. Recently we

have been working alongside the U.S. Department of Transportation in an investigation of a rash of diesel fuel thefts. Local authorities uncovered a ring that was using stolen credit card information to buy large amounts of diesel fuel at retail stations. They were using makeshift holding tanks mounted inside vans. The cases were turned over to US DOT and they brought us on board to assist them with testing and verifying the stolen fuel at our State Fuel Lab. We are very pleased that eight of our retail fuel inspectors will be in new trucks very soon. These will be ¾ ton pickups with slip-in units mounted in the bed. Most of the guys getting new trucks are currently driving vehicles with over 200,000 miles.

We would like to welcome aboard Arnold Ivey, our new middle Georgia heavy scale inspector. Also Jason Kennedy, our new metro Atlanta area retail fuel inspector. Last but certainly not least we want to give big congratulations to Division Office Manager Amber Coney. Amber and her husband Tommy are expecting their fourth child in October. One more and they can start a basketball team! †

NORTH CAROLINA

Motor Fuels Lab

The lab is preparing for low vapor pressure gasoline season, which begins on June 1. Many stations in NC are selling gasoline with 10% ethanol now. We are allowing a 1 lb. vapor pressure tolerance for ethanol blends.

The lab has added a second Cannon MiniAV-X automatic viscometer to our motor oil testing program. With two instruments, we will be able to more than double our viscosity testing capacity as we will be able to test samples at 40°C and 100°C simultaneously.

East wing HVAC renovations are nearing completion. The project includes a new air handler that provides continuous air circulation, new hoods and a new ceiling. The lab continued operations while renovations were in progress with only a few temporary dislocations and down days for certain lab areas.

The Motor Fuels Section continues to investigate over three hundred consumer complaints and/or requests for quality assurance testing per year. The dollar amount of damages associated with consumer

complaints has increased to the point that \$10,000 in damages per single vehicle complaint is not uncommon.

Art Rupard

Standards Lab

The first of the year is always a busy time of the year for us. We reserve this time on our schedule to calibrate our working standards to get ready for customer calibrations. This year we faced no major challenges and we were able to start outside calibrations on time. I applaud the efforts of our metrologists (Tal Anderson, Van Hyder, and Ashley Lessard) for a job well done.

Again this year we will be participating in the Carolina Star Program Conference. We are assigned to the Northeast regional team and we had our first meeting March 6, 2012 in Glen Raven, North Carolina. This was an opportunity for us to network with other non government agencies who have committed themselves to the common goal of keeping safety first. This year's topic is "Safety at Work, Home, and Play." Our safety team representatives are Tal Anderson and Joe Huntley.

Our Grain Moisture Program Supervisor, Caroline Chewning, accepted a position in the Virginia area, so she departed our staff January 6, 2012. Currently we are advertising her vacant position. Early indications say the wheat crop is looking good. Unless we have a late frost or excessive rain the wheat crop is predicted to be the best in years. We are very optimistic.

Sharon Woodard

Measurement Section

Spring has arrived after a mild Winter. Seems things got off to an earlier start. Fertilizer, mulch and potting soil inspections have already been completed with the exceptions of a couple of locations where we need to return after having found short weight problems. We just need to return to insure they have made corrections. Overall problems were minor compared to past years.

We are in the middle of produce scale inspections with local strawberries coming off before Easter. First time I remember local strawberries being ready before Easter and I've been here 27 years.

Next seasonal job will be blueberry packaging and cucumber scales. It's just around the corner.

Mr. Donald Byrd has just retired after almost 27 years service. I'm sure many of you remember him from the annual Southern Weights and Measures Meetings. He had an outgoing personality and never met a stranger who wasn't soon a friend. He started in 1985 as a Gas and Oil Inspector was promoted to a Retail Weights and Measures Inspector a few years later and served as our Central Area Weights and Measures Supervisor for the last 9 years. Mr. Byrd was an excellent employee and an outstanding leader. We are going to miss him.

Mr. Wayne Compton has been promoted to supervisor to fill Mr. Byrd's vacant position. He also has many years' service as a Gas and Oil Inspector and Retail Weights and Measures Inspector. He has some big shoes to fill but I'm sure he is up to the task.

We are advertising Wayne's former position as well as a Gas and Oil Inspector position, which we hope to have filled by mid June.

Jerry Butler ✉

NIST VEHICLE CLASS

North Carolina will be hosting a Vehicle Scale Class, John Barton provided the information below. This will be held in Raleigh, a hotel close to the classroom spaces is about \$79 / night, but we may be able to get that down some. We are willing to pick up folks at the airport and provide transportation to the weigh station for the field portion of the class. The plan is to start on the afternoon of Monday, June 11 and end about lunchtime Thursday June 14th. At the moment we have 9 seats available and would like to invite you to join us.

Please email Jerry Butler if you would like to send someone or have any questions or you can call him at (919) 733-3313. After May 25th I will send the invitation to all state directors.

Thanks,

Stephen

NIST - Vehicle and Axle-Load Scales Class

June 11 - 14, 2012

A learning opportunity sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer

Services will be provided on June 11 - 14, 2012. The seminar will be presented by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and will provide in-depth instruction on the inspection and testing of vehicle and axle-load type scales.

The class will include lecture and demonstration on the methods and techniques used for evaluation of these types of large capacity scales. The scope of the class includes basics of design and construction of vehicle and axle-load scales, inspection and test procedures used during official examinations, and the application of NIST Handbook 44 specifications and requirements.

This class will be focused on the interests and needs of regulatory officials, service agents, and the users of vehicle and axle-load scales. The seminar will encompass a variety of mechanical and electronic weighing instruments and include specific topics such as: device suitability; application of tolerances; specialized tests procedures; and installation, maintenance, and use requirements.

The NIST instructors for the class bring well over 40 combined years of experience to share with participants in the class. This is a valuable opportunity for those involved with testing, servicing, and operation of these types of weighing devices.

Stephen Benjamin
Director, Standards Division
NCDA&CS ✉

WEST VIRGINIA

Gas Service and Supply won the bid to build us a second 100/25 gal. propane unit. The unit will be stationed in the northern part of the state and will replace the single 100 gal. unit. We hope to use the new 100/25 gal. unit to upgrade our coverage of small, stationary propane meters.

Recently, three of our staffers traveled to New York State at the gracious invitation of Chatauqua Co. Weights and Measures to witness the gravimetric testing of CNG meters. We hadn't done this particular testing for a generation and were glad of the opportunity to attend.

We've been given approval and assurances of funding by the Labor Commissioner for a restart of our Retail Motor Fuels Quality random sampling program. We are actively engaged in this start-up and

hope to have boots and sample bottles on the ground in the first quarter of the next FY.

At the moment, we feel like we've hit the lottery with our heavy truck units- all three trucks are running, buggies and weight movers are working, and we have three inspectors with CDLs.! †

SWMA Annual Meeting

By Steve Benjamin

We have tentative plans for hosting the Annual SWMA meeting in Louisville, KY October 7-10. We are currently working on getting a contract for the hotel.

Pay By Credit Card

The SWMA is now able to accept credit card payment for dues and registration. Access to this payment feature is available on the SWMA website. During the annual dues renewal period in September/October, a reminder will be provided in case you want to take advantage of this feature.



Why Women Live Longer

Contact SWMA

The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly. Annual dues are \$50. Membership inquiries should be directed to:
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