

Facts of the Week

Week of 17 March

- ❖ The first of three truck safety programs was held in Grayling with roughly 60 participants from Lower Michigan. Officers from the Motor Carrier Division were on hand to discuss updates on cargo securement and size and weight restrictions. Karl Suchovsky showed a DVD explaining the Central Tire Inflation system that he has installed on his logging truck. This system adjusts the air pressure for all tires on the drive axles as well as the trailer. Adjusting the tire pressure allows the truck to travel on muddy roads without the help of another piece of equipment. Another opportunity for this system is during spring break up, by adjusting the tire pressure the impact on county road should be less than conventional tire pressures. This could be an opportunity to conduct a study with MDOT to look at this possibility. After lunch, Bob Ramels and Jan Charles from the Michigan Center for Truck Safety talked about driver qualification files. The Michigan Center for Truck Safety also had their truck simulator on site as well and many participants took the simulator for a test drive. Eric with MDA spoke briefly about Emerald Ash Borer and was available to create compliance agreements for those who needed one. The Department of Agriculture will also be at the Soo Safety Program to assist those who are in need of the agreement. Lastly, I spoke about current legislation that MAT is working on as well as the status of the Michigan Wood Producers Cooperative. I would like to thank the following sponsors; Weyerhaeuser, MATSIF, Transport Trailers and Ponsse for the Grayling program. I would also like to thank Forest Insurance Center and Reid Supply for having displays during this program. Reid Supply is MAT's newest sponsor and has been very generous with donations and door prizes for our attendees.
- ❖ I presented testimony on behalf of MAT and the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association before the House Transportation Committee regarding House Bill 5695. This bill would allow the use of crib type vehicles to transport logs or pulpwood without any chains or binders for securement. The securement of the logs and pulpwood is built into the crib vehicles. This would eliminate the enforcement of two vehicle codes by motor carrier, currently they enforce Michigan Vehicle Code, which basically mimics the Federal Code and Federal Code. Once this bill is passed Motor Carrier will only be enforcing the Federal Code. This would also reduce the potential for injury to log truck drivers who haul with crib vehicles as they will not have mess with chains.

Week of 24 March

- ❖ Spent much of the week drafting position papers for Brian Nelson to take with him on his trip to Washington DC. Brian will be attending the American Loggers Council Spring Board Meeting and also visit some of our elected officials to discuss some of our issues. The four position papers are: 1) Funding issue for the forest service timber sale program; 2) Diesel Fuel prices; 3) Child labor laws; and 4) Biomass utilization from all land ownership. These papers will be posted on our website very soon.

Reminder

- ❖ There will be vacant positions for Regions 1, 2, and 4. This is your opportunity to get involved. The convention this year will be at Boyne Mountain Resort, home of Avalanche Bay, Michigan's largest indoor water park. If your children are like mine they are ready for some summer time activities and this year's convention can satisfy some of those needs. The second mailing for convention has gone out. Get those registrations mailed in as soon as you can, or fax them to 906-293-5444.
- ❖ The Truck Safety program will be held in Baraga on Wednesday, April 2nd at the Bingo Hall, attached to the Ojibwa Casino and in the Soo on Tuesday, April 8th at the Kewadin Casino. You will receive your 8 hours of continuing education and lunch will be provided.

Upcoming Events

On Spring Break With Family	28 March – 7 April	Somewhere with No Snow!
MAT Truck & Logger Training	02 April	Baraga MI
ALC Spring Board Meeting	03 – 05 April	Washington DC
MAT Truck & Logger Training	08 April	Soo MI
Ottawa Stewardship Contracting	08 & 09 April	Ironwood MI
Hiawatha Stewardship Contracting	09 April	St Ignace & Escanaba MI
MI & WI Logger Conference	18 April	Escanaba MI
MAT Convention	24 – 26 April	Boyne Falls MI