



# The Distributor

Smokey Point Distributing, Inc.



April 2006

Volume III, Edition IV

## Happy Easter

Easter falls on April 16<sup>th</sup> this year. Look for an Easter surprise in your mailbox!

## Happy Birthday!!

So many birthdays this month! Wishing you a happy birthday and a great upcoming year!

- ★ John Geiger #35 April 1<sup>st</sup>
- ★ Jim Whittaker (shop) April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- ★ Sheri Green #19 April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ★ Mike Barela #86 April 5<sup>th</sup>
- ★ John Ade #12 April 9<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Scott Carswell #78 April 10<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Steve Buck (office) April 12<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Dave Dyke (office) April 13<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Dan Wirkkala (office) April 19<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Rich Braden #92 April 19<sup>th</sup>
- ★ George Gaimster #34 April 26<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Glen Hammarstedt (shop) April 26<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Dan Green (shop) April 27<sup>th</sup>

## Happy Anniversary!!

Thank you for your hard work and dedication! You guys are great!

- Team Logg O/O #513 2 years
- Gerry Lee #49 3 years
- Henry Lacount #69 7 years

## Why did the Easter egg hide?

He was a little chicken.



## Truck Talk

### Idle Time

When fuel prices are higher than \$2 a gallon, it's best not to leave a truck in idle. Drivers are better off shutting down, because each hour idling burns one gallon of fuel. Idling just three hours a day, six days a week at today's prices, each driver could burn away more than \$2,700 in one year.

(Article borrowed from a magazine)

## Slow Down

Drivers often say they make more money driving faster because they can cover more miles. It's a myth. The loss in fuel economy is actually greater than any time savings then a truck barrels down the highway at more than 60 miles per hour. It uses more horsepower, thus more fuel.

If driving is kept five miles under the speed limit or to no more than 60 mph when prices are high, drivers will cut fuel consumption and save money. How much? Consider this example: If fuel is \$2.60 a gallon, on a 500-mile trip, the difference between 5.5 miles per gallon at 70 mph and 6.5 miles per gallon at 60 mph is nearly \$40.00. It makes no sense driving faster if doing so doesn't put at least \$45 a day back into your cash box.

Sure, drivers may add an hour of time to each 11-hour driving stretch, but the fuel money saved is worth the slower speed if they want to help keep the company profitable.

(Article borrowed from a magazine)

## Safety Corner



### Our New Safety Director!

Please welcome our new Safety Director, Ken Deroshea! We looked for a new director for eight months, encountered a couple possible matches, planned on one gentleman joining us, but never with any success. We knew that when we found the right person all the pieces would come together. We are lucky to find that match in Ken.

I'm asking the fleet to exercise patience with the Safety Department as we will be going through a transitional period for a short time.

Please stop by the next time you are in during office hours and introduce yourself to Ken. I think you will find that he is a really nice guy and very easy to talk to. I know he is looking forward to meeting and getting to know all of you!

Please, let's not scare him off, keep the incidents down (nonexistent would be nice) people! Thanks!

## Safety Rating

Our SaferStat safety rating is currently up to 39. The lowest the rating has been is 34. We want to keep our rating as low as possible in order to ensure a “pass” recommendation to the scales and discourage a DOT audit.

Whether you know or not, our safety rating and all of our inspection information is available on the internet for anyone, including customers and potential customers, to see. This means that your out of service violations and clean inspections are viewable to anyone who looks us up on the Safer website.

Here is a recap of how January and February 2006 look on the site:

Insp. Date	State	Level	OOS Violations
01/06/06	SD	2	0
01/12/06	CA	1	0
01/15/06	WA	2	0
01/15/06	TX	2	0
01/21/06	SD	2	1
01/24/06	MO	2	2
01/25/06	CA	1	2
01/25/06	NY	2	0

\*\*Three out of the eight inspections in January had OOS violations. This equals 38% of the inspections.

Insp. Date	State	Level	OOS Violations
02/01/06	ME	2	0
02/02/06	WA	2	1
02/06/06	WA	2	0
02/08/06	ID	2	0
02/13/06	WA	2	1
02/13/06	IA	2	0
02/20/06	CO	1	1
02/21/06	WA	2	1

\*\* Four out of eight inspections in February had an OOS violation. This equals **50%** of the inspections.

## Health Watch: Stroke Warning Signs

It is imperative to get immediate help for anyone showing signs of stroke. Watch for the following:

- Sudden numbness/weakness in the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking
- Sudden trouble seeing in one/both eye(s)

- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

A simple way to test someone whom you suspect of having a stroke is to:

1. See if they can smile
2. See if they can raise both arms and keep them up
3. see if they can speak a simple sentence coherently

Be sure to note the time the symptoms first appeared. It's very important to take immediate action. If given within the first three hours of the start of symptoms, a clot-busting drug can reduce long-term disability for the most common type of stroke.

## Spring Word Search

There are 18 words hidden in the word search below. Can you find them all?

April	Easter	Kite
Basket	Egg Hunt	Parade
Bloom	Flowers	Seed
Bud	Grass	Sprout
Bunny	Grow	Sunshine
Daffodil	Hatch	Warm



D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L
G	R	O	W	O	N	M	B
S	B	U	N	N	Y	B	U
F	L	O	W	E	R	S	D
P	O	H	R	F	E	M	D
H	O	P	A	R	A	D	E
A	M	L	I	K	S	E	G
T	K	I	T	E	T	A	G
C	B	A	S	K	E	T	H
H	W	D	P	G	R	O	U
G	A	P	R	I	L	G	N
R	R	C	O	B	A	I	T
A	M	H	U	S	E	E	D
S	G	W	T	R	L	Y	H
S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E



## Barn Pro Deliveries

More so than with any other regular customer we experience a wide range of delivery situations with Barn Pro orders.

With diversity of delivery points these orders see, we seem to be experiencing an increase in damages to the tractors and in the amount of drivers getting “stuck” at the receiver.

As professional drivers it is your responsibility to access each receiver’s location before entering for any safety issues. If you do not feel that you can safely enter and exit the site without causing damage to your equipment or cargo or without getting stuck, you need to contact your dispatcher immediately; this means before entering the site.

Please assist us in proactively reducing the number of bent bumpers, high-centered trailers, cargo losses, and the like with your good judgment!

## Just for Laughs



## Great West Casualty Award

Smokey Point Distributing was recently awarded a Gold Fleet Award for achieving a low accident rate in 2005. This is our 5<sup>th</sup> gold award!

Congratulations and thank you to all the drivers that contributed to this achievement in 2005 and in previous years! You are all superstars! SPD likes to boast that we have the best drivers in the industries and such accomplishments allow us to do so.

In 2006 we would like to see an all time low rate of accidents in order to obtain our first Platinum Fleet Award. We’ve had a couple recent incidents, but I think that we can do it! I believe that you all are capable of reaching this goal. So let’s “make it happen”!

## Safety Training

I will be away getting my CSS (Certified Safety Supervisor) training April 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in Puyallup.

## Transponders

Just a little note: If you are getting red lights, your transponder is working; when you stop getting lights, your transponder is no longer working.

Although we have a safety rating of 39, which is recommended to pass, it is not a requirement for the scales to allow you to pass. They can pull in any truck that they want, even if multiple of the same company trucks are traveling together, they can pull in only one if they want.

So, if you are getting red lights every once in a while, remember that if they choose to give you an inspection, it’s your chance to make a quick 25 bucks! Piece of cake people!

## Kudos!

We’ve been seeing lots of error logs being corrected and turned in to the proper file! Thank you to the drivers who have been on top of things! You are all fantabulous!



## Driver Files

I am in the process of going through all the driver files and checking for completion. I may need some additional paperwork from you, even if you have been employed with SPD for a while, to complete your file(s).

I would appreciate your cooperation in trying to accomplish this. It is quite a large task, so I will be working on it for a while.

## Egg-Mazing!

