

The Distributor

Smokey Point Distributing, Inc.
May 2009 Volume VI, Edition V



Happy Birthday

"After all, what are birthdays? Here today and gone tomorrow."-- Eeyore

Belated Birthday wishes to: **Steve Buck Apr 12th**

- ◆ Jennifer Mc Allister May 12th
- ◆ Robert VanPelt May 13th
- ◆ Gordon Estabrook May 15th
- ◆ Ray Larson May 16th
- ◆ Scott Olsen May 16th
- ◆ Tyler Johnson May 18th
- ◆ Ian Bagshaw May 20th
- ◆ Janey Long May 23rd
- ◆ Gregori Dallas Metzger jr May 25th
- ◆ Twylene Webb May 28th
- ◆ Stevin Green May 30th

Happy Anniversary

"Anybody can make history. Only a great man can write it."-- Oscar Wilde."

- ◆ Kim Coultas 2 Yrs May 21nd
- ◆ Steve Coultas 2 Yrs May 21nd
- ◆ Frank Gerke 2 Yrs May 22nd
- ◆ Linn McCormack 2 Yrs May 21nd
- ◆ Mark Nomeland 2 Yrs May 18th
- ◆ Tracy Schmitt 2 Yrs May 17th
- ◆ Gordon Estabrook 3 Yrs May 4th
- ◆ Randy Haberman 3 Yrs May 10th
- ◆ Robben Finch 4 Yrs May 31st
- ◆ Dan Green 17 Yrs May 18th



Bravos!

I would like to thank D.T., Ozie, Glenn and all others that helped to fish out my bike keys!!!! Thank you fellers very much :) Honor Mother Earth ~ SHADOW!!!

SPD WELCOME WAGON for the month of May

We would like to welcome a few new hires here at SPD. Drivers:

- Terry Roth Truck #69
- John Lenher Truck # 101

And we cannot forget the farewells & well wishes:
Team JD & Scott Truck #39



From The Payroll Corner

JUNE 1ST DRIVER PAYROLL CUT OFF

With Memorial Day falling on Monday May 25th, payroll will be limited to accepting trip packs thru **5:00pm on Friday the 22nd of May**

PAYROLL: CHANGE OF BANKS

Effective immediately, payroll will be disbursed through our new bank located in Texas, PNC Bank. With the sale of Smokey Point, all accounts are now with PNC Bank. We expect the final transition of payroll to be as seamless as the other accounts. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris or Michelle.

Southwest Border Violence

Violence amongst Mexican drug cartels in the Border States, on both sides of the US-Mexico border, has exponentially increased in the past years. More than 200 Americans have been killed in the area since 2004. Murders, drug smuggling, human smuggling, beatings, tortures, and most notably kidnappings, are all on the rise. The majority of these crimes are occurring within the borders of Mexico, but when the gangs and cartel members begin to relocate operations, the violence follows.

Why Should You Care??

Being a highway professional carries extra potential for involvement in these experiences. Truck drivers carry a risk as they are involved in operations that might interest these criminals. Law enforcement personnel also run an elevated risk of attack by Mexican gang members. Whether traveling to Mexico for personal reasons or simply making scheduled deliveries or pickups, you must maintain situational awareness at all times and be extremely conscious of your environment. Knowing the background of the route you will be taking, the types of neighborhoods encountered, and even the company history you are working with will prove beneficial in your safety. If ever approached by unknown individuals always maintain a sense of guard and assess the level of suspicion of their intentions. If a situation does not feel right to you, do not hesitate to avoid the circumstances at all costs

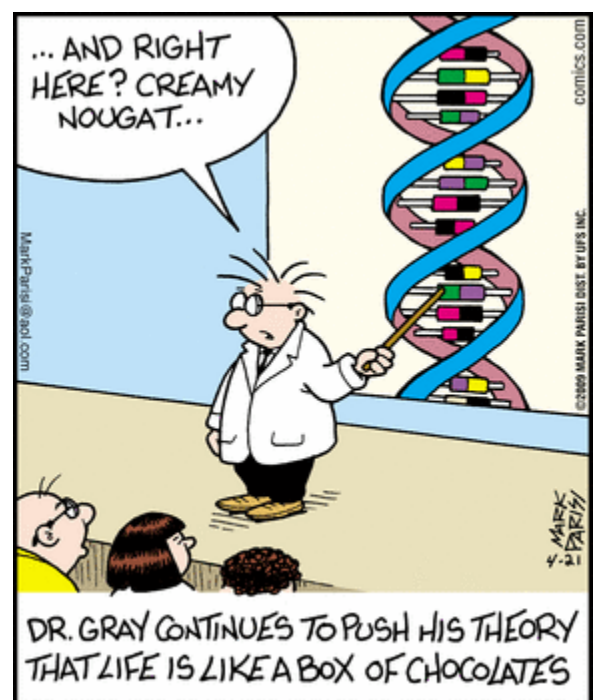
The U.S. Department of State has issued a nationwide travel alert for U.S. citizens traveling to, working, or living in Mexico. It states:

- It is imperative that travelers understand the risks of going to Mexico, how best to avoid dangerous situations and who to contact if one becomes a victim of crime.
- The greatest increase in violence has occurred near the U.S. border, however all areas of Mexico should be visited with caution.
- U.S. citizens who believe they are being targeted for possible kidnapping or other crimes should notify Mexican officials and the nearest American consulate or Embassy as soon as possible.

- Never take chances that put you at risk, if you feel uncomfortable, attempt to return to the U.S.
- Avoid driving on certain roads and as a general rule stick to the toll (cuota) roads when possible, as they are normally more secure.
- Travelers should leave their itinerary with a friend or family member not traveling with them
- Check cell phone providers prior to departure to confirm that their cell phone is capable of roaming on GSM or 3G international networks.
- Do not display expensive looking jewelry, large amounts of money, or other valuables.

When operating in areas that are subject to criminal/violent activity it is always recommended to have reporting procedures established throughout the duration of the trip.

- Every scheduled/non-scheduled stop, report in with operations
- Report on location, and next destination
- Establish a time period to report in, every 4 hours for example
- When stopping/delivering in such areas, call in prior to delivery and after delivery is made
- Establish a duress code for the prescribed route
- If in trouble, you are able to communicate such in the presence of those who are threatening you.



Ask The Law™ - May 2009

Questions about a CHP Myth, Logging Split Sleeper Berth Time & More Answered by Law Enforcement Officials (as of May 2009)

Warning: Laws are subject to change without notice. These interpretations were made on April 9, 2009

Brought to you as a public service by Ol' Blue, USA and 10-4.

Submit your questions to www.askthelaw.org

JOIN US IN LAS VEGAS

Our Ask The Law™ team will be in our Safety Center™ along with troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol to help drivers and fleets understand various laws at The Great West Truck Show in Las Vegas, NV on June 25-27. Visit www.safetytour.org for more details.

CHP MYTH SET STRAIGHT

Q: I have heard rumors that the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has been issuing tickets to drivers for not having their logbook "current" every four hours, even with no change-of-duty status. Is this true? I drive from Phoenix to Los Angeles three times a week, leaving out at 9:00pm. My company makes me drive non-stop to beat the morning rush-hour traffic. My company tells me under Federal law 395.8, if my duty status has not changed, I do not have to update my logbook. Please clarify. Thanks – Pat in Arizona

A: Provided by Sgt. Pete Camm, California Highway Patrol, Commercial Vehicle Section, Sacramento, CA: Title 13, California Code of Regulations, Section 1213(g)(1) reads: "Driver responsibility. The driver's activities shall be recorded in accordance with the following provisions: (1) Entries to be current. Drivers shall keep their record of duty status current to the time shown for the last change of duty status." Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 395.8(f) reads: "The driver's activities shall be recorded in accordance with the following provisions: (1) Entries to be current. Drivers shall keep their records of duty status current to the time shown for the last change of duty status." It appears California and federal regulations pertaining to the recording of driver's activities are exactly the same in this instance. If federal and state laws are the same, then federal interpretations may be used for clarification. The CHP does not have departmental policy contrary to what is in the above regulations.

LOGGING SPLIT SLEEPER BERTH TIME

Q: I am a driver that is having a disagreement with my

dispatcher over split logging. I need an interpretation of the 11-hour driving rule. I start with a fresh 10-hour break and then drive 8 hours. I then take 8 hours off in the sleeper. My interpretation of the rule is that I can then drive for a maximum of 3 hours before I must take a minimum of 2 hours off again (and by doing this, the first 8-hour driving period falls off). My dispatcher's interpretation is that if a driver drives for 8 hours and then takes 8 hours in the sleeper, he can then drive up to 11 hours before having to take another break. In 395.1(g)(1)(ii)(B) it is a little murky, using the wording "compliance must be recalculated," whereas 395.1(g)(2)(ii) is a lot clearer. Thank you – Robert in Maryland

A: Provided by Jim Brokaw, formerly a Staff Sergeant with Nebraska State Patrol, Carrier Enforcement Div, Lincoln, NB: You are correct. 49 CFR 395.1(g) explains how sleeper breaks may be used to obtain the equivalent of 10 hours off-duty. If you'll note in your example, with only an 8-hour sleeper break, you haven't achieved the equivalent of 10 hours off, leaving you with only 3 more driving hours. When you do take 2 hours off, along with the 8-hour sleeper break, you now have the equivalent of a 10-hour break. 49 CFR 395.1(g)(1)(ii)(B) now tells you to recalculate your 11-hour driving limit from the end of the first of the two periods used to achieve your equivalent of 10 hours off-duty. This would be after the 8-hour sleeper break. Following a 2-hour break, you'll have the equivalent of 10 hours off and, according to the rule, you'll have 8 hours of driving time available.

UPDATING LOG FOR NEXT DAY

Q: If a driver started driving at 10:00pm after 10 hours of sleep, and then drives for 6 hours (until 4:00am), can an officer cite the driver for not updating their logbook at midnight? Thanks – Sam in Canada

A: Provided by Senior Trooper Monty Dial (Ret.), Texas Highway Patrol, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, Garland, Texas: In Part 395.8(f)(1), it states that the driver's logbook has to be current to their last entry and in Part 395.8(a)(1) it states for each 24-hour period. So, if a driver started driving at 10pm, I would go ahead and complete all the necessary items for the next day so that if you were stopped sometime after midnight, you could bring your logbook up simply by drawing a line on the driving line.

*~ The Ask The Law™ programs are an ongoing educational effort between Ol' Blue, USA™ and commercial law enforcement agencies. Founded in 1986, Ol' Blue, USA is a non-profit organization dedicated to highway safety education and to improving relations between the motoring public, law enforcement and commercial drivers. "Ask The Law" is a registered trademark of Ol' Blue, USA. This column is copyrighted by Ol' Blue, USA. **Warning: Laws are subject to change without notice. These interpretations were made on 4/09/09.***

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U.S. Postage Rate Increase Effective May 11, 2009

Here's everything you need to know.

On May 11, 2009, the U.S. Postal Service will implement a new postage rate increase for the majority of mail services including First-Class Mail®, First-Class International®, Postcards and Special Services. Here is a summary of the USPS 2009 postage rate increase:

- The price for one-ounce First-Class™ stamps has increased to \$0.44 from \$0.42.

Mmmm ... TA launches all you-can-eat menu format at 46 locations



The format covers all meal types: breakfasts, sandwiches, entrees, salads, sides and desserts.

The Trucker News Services
5/1/2009

WESTLAKE, Ohio — TravelCenters of America has announced that 46 of its restaurants have launched an All-You-Can-Eat menu format.

The All-You-Can-Eat menu is available at certain Country Pride, Fork-In-The-Road and Buckhorn Family Restaurants branded locations.

The All-You-Can-Eat menu format is quite simple.

As guests order a meal of any kind, that guest may reorder unlimited portions of the same meal selection.

The format covers all meal types: breakfasts, sandwiches, entrees, salads, sides and desserts.

The menu contains very few limitations to the All-You-Can-Eat format.

"Times are tough and people are looking for better value; a way to stretch their dollar," Barry Richards, senior vice president of restaurant marketing and operations. "We wanted to do something a little unique and be able to deliver that extra value to all of our customers. Our restaurants serve home-style food. Well, the very definition of home-style is being able to get seconds, just like as if someone's grandmother was serving the meal."

The 46 restaurant locations each have a unique conversion date with most starting May 1 and the latest on May 11.

The locations and their start date are listed on the company's Web site at www.tatracelcenters.com.

Safety Cryptogram

Phrase that is found on a sign in the safety office.

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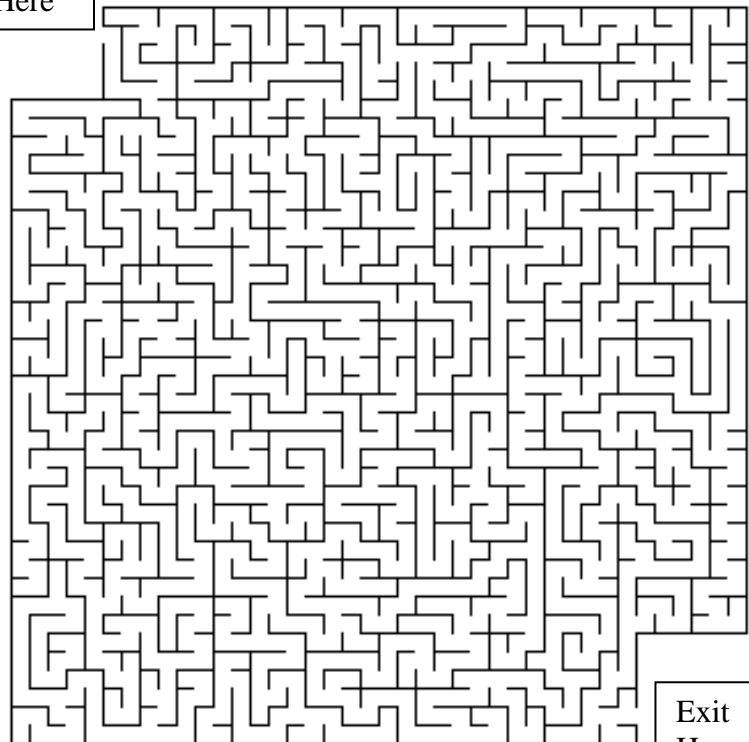
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5 10 17 18 5 19 23 7 4 12 15 8 2 10

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Bay Area Blues

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