



Southern Weights & Measures Association

108th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

January 2007

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

ARKANSAS

The Arkansas Bureau of Standards Petroleum Products Division is progressing rapidly in our bio-diesel testing program. We are in the process of training on some newly-acquired equipment.

We have obtained an automated Pensky-Martin flashpoint unit; a high-speed centrifuge which will allow us to appropriately determine the presence of water and sediment in bio-diesel samples. Our newly-purchased gas chromatography unit will be for determination of the presence of free-glycerine in the samples.

We have had some personnel changes at the Bureau since our last newsletter.

Veteran Investigator II James E Weaver who has been with Bureau in some special testing capacity for 27 years has decided it is time for retirement. James has been responsible for testing everything from high-volume meters to vehicle and platform scales.

James Chastain, former State Standards Laboratory Supervisor has transferred to the agency's Seed Certification Division.

Ray Curtis, Metrologist has been promoted to State Standards Laboratory Supervisor.

James Glauser, Weights and Measures Division has been promoted from Investigator I to Investigator II. ♣

MARYLAND

- The Maryland State Fair was held in Timonium, Maryland from August 25, 2006 through September 4, 2006. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) theme this year was "Farm to City". Our section's display was scaled back from previous years. We had on display a gasoline dispenser, a package inspection scale and a test weight kit. We also had an electronic medium capacity scale which was used by our

staff members to provide those attending the fair with their official "certified" weight. We have a total of 28 in our field, laboratory and management staff and 16 worked one or more days at the fair.

- On October 17, 2006, the annual Maryland Department of Agriculture awards ceremony was held in the MDA Headquarters Building, Annapolis, Maryland. Members of our staff who were honored for years of service are: Inspector Bob Fisher (10 years), Inspector Chuck Coleman (20 years), Program Manager Bob Eaves (35 years) and Field Supervisor Gene Baumann (40 years).
- We enjoyed hosting the 61st Annual Southern Weights and Measures Conference during October 22-25, 2006. We were pleased with the large number of people in attendance and with the success of the conference. It appears from the comments that were made, that those in attendance enjoyed their stay in Maryland. (Although, we did fail in our attempt to teach many of you how to eat steamed crabs.)
- On December 14, 2006, we had a staff meeting at our facility in Annapolis. Certificates of Appreciation were given to staff members who inspected the highest number of devices and/or had the highest overall production for the last twelve (12) monthly periods. These certificates were issued to inspectors David Andrews (1), Rick Bristow (4), Chuck Coleman (2), Bill Hall (1), Barbara Miller (7), Ed Payne (1), Ed Santana (1) and Aaron Webb (7). Award "days off" were rewarded to inspectors who inspected the highest number of devices and/or had the highest overall production for six (6) and twelve (12) month periods. These days off were given to Rick Bristow (1), Chuck Coleman (2), Leila Smith (1), Barbara Miller (1) and Aaron Webb (1). Several members of the Maryland Department of Agriculture Administrative staff and members of other sections joined our staff for lunch. We invited retired members of our staff to join us and were pleased that former Chief Lacy DeGrange, former Metrologist Charles Stockman, former Program Manager Dick Shockley, former Inspector Harry Jones and former Secretary Joan Forsythe attended.

This article on Maryland's recent activities will be the last one that I will be submitting for inclusion in the SWMA Newsletter. I will be retiring on March 1, 2007. My last day at the office will be February 28, 2007. As of March 1, 2007, I will have been with Maryland Weights and Measures for 37 years and 2 months. I was a Field Inspector for approximately 10 years, Field Supervisor for 15 years and Program Manager for 12 years.

I have enjoyed my career in weights and measures, and have been fortunate enough to work for and with some great people.

I will be spending my retirement helping take care of my grandchildren, working on my house, going fishing, doing some traveling and other things that I enjoy but don't have the time to do now.

I wish you all the best, and hopefully I'll get a chance to see some of you again.

Respectfully,
Bob Eaves

Recent Civil Penalties

- On June 29, 2006, we received \$100 for a civil penalty assessed against Wa Wa #556, Ocean City, Maryland. The civil penalty was assessed due to short weight violations found during test purchases conducted at the establishment.
- On July 20, 2006, we received \$750 for a civil penalty assessed against Redner's Market #59, Elkton, Maryland. The civil penalty was assessed due to short weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.
- On August 14, 2006, we received \$100 for a civil penalty assessed against Petco #83, Laurel, Maryland. The civil penalty was assessed due to short weight violations found during test purchases conducted at the establishment.
- On August 29, 2006, we received \$150 for a civil penalty assessed against EZ Quick Food Market, Bel Air, Maryland. The civil penalty was assessed due to short weight violations found during test purchases conducted at the establishment.
- On August 29, 2006, we received \$750 for a civil penalty assessed against Han Ah Reum, Catonsville, Maryland. The civil penalty was assessed due to short weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.
- On September 18, 2006, we received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed against La Mart, Silver Spring, Maryland. The civil penalty was assessed due to short weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.

- On September 18, 2006, we received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed against Shoppers Food Warehouse #7562, Owings Mills, Maryland. The civil penalty was assessed due to short weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.
- On October 10, 2006, we received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed against LaMart, Baltimore, Maryland. The civil penalty was assessed due to the short weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.
- On October 12, 2006, we received \$250 for a civil penalty assessed against Avalon Market, Ocean City, Maryland. The civil penalty was assessed due to short weight and labeling violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.
- On December 7, 2006, we received \$100 for a civil penalty assessed against Petco #1705, Bel Air, Maryland. The civil penalty was assessed due to short weight violations found during test purchases conducted at the establishment.
- On December 8, 2006, we received \$100 for a civil penalty assessed against Petco, Annapolis, Maryland. The civil penalty was assessed due to short weight violations found during test purchases conducted at the establishment. ✪

NORTH CAROLINA

Happy New Year everyone. The division will be busy this year. We were able to add 2 new positions to the Measurement Section this fiscal year; 1 weights and measures inspector and 1 gas and oil inspector. Keeping positions filled seems like constant effort for some sections and we are looking to improve equipment and vehicles to help out the workload.

We also began to collect information on a division wide database for our various inspections. Susan Myrick, our programmer is working on an Access database for us while we look at commercial software. We expect the purchase of any commercial complicated, both due to funding and involvement of our state ITS office, but we think Susan's version to be very functional and a good transitional step from the current system – paper.

We have requested funds for the planning of new labs; the Motor Fuels Lab due to its age and space restrictions and the Standards Lab due to impending construction projects, and the resulting facilities, that will interfere with testing and calibrations. We are now looking to combine them into a semi-consolidated lab and may include the administrative offices as well in a campus setting. We will spend this spring pushing for these funds in 2007-08 and have requested the construction money in 2008-09.

Standards Lab

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. January is set aside each year to calibrate all laboratory working standards, review and update procedures, amend software to reflect the new calibration values, and validate programs as changes are made. It is always a busy month.

L.F. and Van attended the Combined Regional Measurement Assurance Program (C RMAP) meeting in Broomfield, Colorado. Wow! What a conference! Even the weather was beautiful with 60-degree days sandwiched in between an early snow and back to back blizzards. This was by far the best of the three C RMAPs (1996, 2001, and 2007). Georgia Harris, Val Miller, and all of the other NIST WMD staff who put together and coordinated this meeting did an incredible job. The support and participation of WMD Chief, Carol Hockert added much value to the meeting. The visit and remarks from NCWM Chairman, Mike Cleary were appreciated. The technical presentations and ad hoc meeting opportunities were all very informative and professional. The mix of presentations from NIST and BIPM scientists, State laboratory metrologists, and industry representatives provided a wealth of timely and applicable information. For the old timers in the group, the development of the State Laboratory Program over the past ten (okay twenty for some of us) years has been incredible. Yes, the technology has changed, but the growth in depth and quality of the laboratories is even more extraordinary. Having all of the labs together for a meeting like this really brings the achievements of the program into perspective. North Carolina would like to add our vote to have these combined meetings more frequently.

Based on the results of an international laboratory intercomparison of magnetic susceptibility testing as presented by Dr. Richard Davis (BIPM) during the C RMAP, we purchased a Sartorius Susceptometer. It is working well. We hope this instrument will help us to identify and understand mass uncertainty components of weakly magnetic weights.

We are joining the ranks of the State Laboratories that test lottery balls. Susan Myrick is currently modifying existing computer programs to handle the calibration and reports needed by the new North Carolina Educational Lottery. We will weigh and measure the lottery balls used for the "Carolina Pick 3" or "Carolina Cash 5" every six months. We may also be called on for special tests anytime there is any question with a local drawing.

L.F.'s paper, "Gravimetric Calibration of Volumetric Standards with Capacities Exceeding Five Gallons" was chosen and published in the December issue of NCSLI *Measure* magazine. As a published author L.F. is hoping for a significant pay raise or at least tenure.

Measurement Section

2006 has come to an end. We have had a pretty productive year with our inspectors completing 18,054 inspection visits along with 1,437 complaints or special requests.

Inspection Type	Tested	Failed	% Failure
Motor Fuel Dispensers	108,054	11,752	10.83
Vehicle Tank Meters	2,895	445	15.37
Scales	27,728	2,482	9.28
Scanning	1,937	269	11.47
Packages	2,428,444	137,522	5.66

55 civil penalties for price scanning system violations (exceeding 2% overcharges on a 300-item inspection) were issued and collected for a total of \$106,779.50. The school systems in the counties in which the penalties were assessed receive the funds for their use.

Considering we have been short staffed by an average of three inspectors for the year, I think our numbers speak well of the work our guys have completed for the year. With the addition of 2 new inspector positions we are hoping that for 2007 we can even do a better job for our consumers.

Motor Fuels Section

Stephen Benjamin and Art Rupard attended ASTM meetings in Orlando, FL. The hotel was near Disney World and we used our free time (what little of it there was) at the parks. The meetings were very productive and there is a lot of interest in E85 and biodiesel specifications and the test methods for them. This is of particular interest to us since we are gradually expanding our testing capabilities to include these products.

We have recently taken delivery of three new mobile lab vans. We are replacing some of the step vans with Dodge Sprinters. The new vans are diesel instead of gas and should get much better mileage than we used to see, although they cost a bit more. We are in the process of outfitting them and hope to have them on the road in a month or so.

Our new High Frequency Reciprocating Rig (HFRR) for diesel lubricity is in operation. Only a few samples have been tested at this time and they have all met the lubricity specification. For ultra low sulfur diesel fuel (USLD), the removal of sulfur resulted in a decrease of its lubricating properties. Additives are injected at the terminals when loaded onto transport trucks to create the finished fuel. We have not had any complaints regarding performance of ULSD, but some jobbers have raised concerns on whether all terminals are injecting the additive, including terminals outside of N.C.

LP Gas Section

The N.C State Fair runs for 10 days in October and keeps one of our inspectors very busy! He conducts over 200 inspections daily (including weekends) during the fair. He visits the fairgrounds during the week prior to the fair to inspect vendors

in the process of setting up, mostly looking for placement of tanks to close to ignition sources and the tank refilling operation. There were over 785,000 people that attended the 2006 State Fair so we feel this is time well spent.

Similar inspections are done at the Mountain State Fair in Fletcher during September. There are fewer vendors and the attendance is much smaller, but it is still a public safety concern for the division and department. †

TENNESSEE

The past months have been very busy for all of us in Tennessee with our inspectors concentrating on checkweighing and price verification prior to and during the holiday season while continuing their usual inspection of retail fuel dispensers and scales along with sampling motor fuels.

The SWMA in Annapolis, MD was a terrific meeting thanks to the planning and hard work by Will and his staff. Will and his staff did an excellent job in hosting and coordinating this event.

We recently received one of our large scale testing units back from a major overhaul of the crane and lifting assembly. The weight cart for this older unit was also brought into Handbook 105-8 compliance by the vendor. We currently have two large scale units with weight carts and two without weight carts.

Mr. Matt Sirmans recently joined our staff as a Weights and Measures Inspector 2 in East Tennessee. Matt comes to us from working with a large chain of retail food establishments and his general knowledge of our work has significantly cut down on the training time required for this position. We were saddened to see Mr. Johnny Rodgers, Middle Tennessee Large Scale Inspector, resign recently to work for a Nashville based scale service agency. Johnny was an excellent inspector and we all wish him the best in his new endeavor.

Mr. Vernon Massey, longtime Shelby County Tennessee Sealer of Weights and Measures, recently retired. You could always

count on seeing Vernon at both the SWMA and the NCWM meetings where he served for a number of years as one of the Sergeant at Arms. Vernon was a very loyal and dedicated employee and served the citizens of Shelby County in a very professional and courteous manner for many years. We have been in discussion with the Shelby County Department of Public Works regarding the future of this program. You may contact our office for Vernon's address if you would like to send him a card.

We would like to thank the states of North Carolina and Oklahoma for assisting us with calibration of mass and volume standards as our Metologist, Ken Wilmoth, continues to work towards establishing our traceability to NIST.

Randy Jennings and Bob Williams are scheduled to attend the Interim NCWM in Jacksonville, FL later on this month. A number of significant and timely issues are scheduled to be discussed. Ed Coleman, Petroleum Administrator, continues to be heavily involved with administering our sampling and testing of alternative fuels. This is a dynamic program that continues to expand and receive much media attention in Tennessee. †

Contact SWMA

The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly.

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