

Southern Weights & Measures Association

145th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

July 2016

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

GEORGIA

Season greetings from Georgia!! It has been a busy year for our Division; we have crossed some bridges that we have never crossed before. Along with everything else that we regulate, we've started testing cotton spindle grease meters this year. We also have taken over the mobile fuel lab again from the Lab Division and are currently testing samples from all the terminals in the state. We have over 20 CNG and LNG sites being operated in the state currently with plans of 20 to 30 more being built.

We have been able to purchase new equipment this year including a 500 gal. prover with trailer, retail fuel slip-in unit, CNG testing unit and a new large scale test unit. We are very thankful to have these new items especially the new large scale unit, the one that it replaced was not going to pass another annual crane inspection.

Over the last two years we have been able to replace many of our older vehicles, but we still have a few that need replacing. Hopefully we will get to do this next year, along with more equipment purchases. We are fine in personnel accept for a Field Supervisor position that we hope to fill soon.

With that being said, we would like to congratulate Steve Brannon on his recent retirement, Steve was our North Ga. Senior Field Supervisor. He had served the State of Georgia for 35 years and we would like to say thank you for your service. We would also like to congratulate Cedric Lloyd on his recent promotion to Senior Field Supervisor.

We would again like to thank Gene Robertson and his staff for their hospitality in hosting the SWMA Conference in Mississippi this year, it was a great meeting. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thanks,

Rich Lewis

Doug Killingsworth 卐

MARYLAND

Maryland Weights and Measures is sad to announce the retirement of Ed Payne. Our staff as well as the citizens of Maryland will most certainly miss Ed's knowledge, expertise and dedication during his 33 years in the field and office. Ed started as an Agricultural Inspection Technician I and worked his way through the ranks to become our NTEP Evaluator for the Weighing Sector. We would like to thank Ed for all of his hard work and wish him best of luck with whatever he chooses to pursue in the future.



Congratulations to Katie Hall who attended and passed the LPG Liquid Measuring Systems seminar which was held in Raleigh, North Carolina. Katie inspects LPG meters on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and is anxious to implement all that she learned during this one-week class.

Experienced inspector and Queen of Productivity Barbara Miller has finally returned to work after being out since the Fall. Barbara inspects the three counties in Southern Maryland and we are thrilled to have her back.



Tong Hsu recently attended the volume metrology seminar at NIST in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Tong has now completed Fundamentals of Metrology, the mass metrology class and the volume metrology class. We look forward to having Tong splitting his time between field inspections and our metrology lab.

We also welcome Roger Martin to our staff. Roger is currently training on LMDS and package inspections, and we plan to have him on VTMS and LPG in the near future. We are very excited to have a new addition on our team.

Our entire field staff will be coming to the office on June 29 and 30 for our annual Summer training school and luncheon. We will be focusing on VTM training and reviewing the appropriate sections of Handbook 44 as well as the VTM EPO. Our inspectors will then take the NCWM VTM test. Everyone on staff enjoys our training schools because this is the time when our inspectors from all areas of the state have the opportunity to get together for a few days.

We currently have three open field inspector positions which we hope to fill during the Summer months. 🇺🇸

MISSISSIPPI

Consumer Protection

On March 28, Michael Daley joined the Department as an inspector with the Consumer Protection Division. Michael will work in Mississippi's three coastal counties. In addition to having food safety and sanitation and food labeling duties, Michael will also focus on weights and measures issues at grocery stores, convenience stores, and farmers markets.

So far this fiscal year, the Consumer Protection Division has performed 1,377 UPC inspections, 5,356 device inspections, and 745 net weight package check inspections. Two stores have been fined for repeated UPC violations.



Michael Daley

Petroleum Division

It is official. The Petroleum Division has been diligently working towards all inspectors receiving Professional Certification in the area of Retail Motor Fuel Dispensing Systems administered through the National Conference on Weights and Measures. We are proud to announce that Caleb Stone, Toby Hill, Terry Hill, Jake Newman and Clay Mason have helped us accomplish that goal and as of June 21st the division is 100% certified. What an accomplishment for our field inspectors.

Additional equipment modifications have been made to the flatbed units used by petroleum inspectors. Sample case storage boxes have been mounted on the flatbed allowing easy access when drawing

samples. Sample containers will be well protected when transporting along with an added chain of security as the samples will not only be sealed, but now be under lock and key.



New sample containers have also been purchased by the division and changes in the chain of custody paperwork to eliminate a step in the current process, reducing paperwork for inspectors and the possibility of confusion and misidentification resulting in resamples.



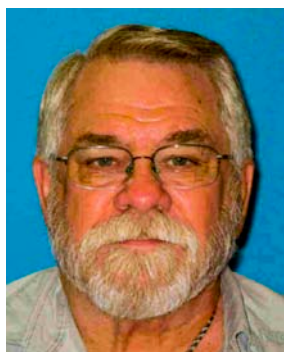
Administrative Penalties, for products not meeting ASTM specifications, have been assessed in the amount of \$23,000, to date for this Fiscal Year.

The division will hire an inspector for Hinds County hopefully by August 1st, as a result of the post being vacated by Drew Villar, who has moved on to pursue a new career in the medical field. Drew did an outstanding job of covering one of the largest areas of the state.

Weights and Measures

On January 4, 2016 the Weights and Measures Division hired Coda Medlin. He will be the intermediate scales inspector for the Northwest Mississippi Counties. Our intermediate inspectors check scales with the capacities of 0 to 10,000 lbs., preform package checks and UPC inspections.

On March 1, 2016 the Weights and Measures Division hired Ronnie Parker. He will be the heavy scales inspector for the Central Mississippi Counties. Our heavy scale inspectors check scales with the capacities of 10,000 lbs. or more. In addition they check pulpwood licenses, timber law, mass flow meters and bonded weigh masters licenses. ⚙️



Ronnie Parker
Heavy capacity
inspector (left).



Coda Medlin
Intermediate
inspector (right).

NORTH CAROLINA

The last three months have been a very active period in the Department. With the NC Connect Bond passing in March, many staff in the division have actively contributing to the planning of the new NC Agricultural Sciences Center. This complex is currently planning to house the Motor Fuels & Standards labs, Food and Drug Protection laboratory, Veterinary Sciences laboratory and the Pesticides and Structural Pest Division. The goal is to have the lab designed, built and ready to move into within the next four years. We have been collecting information on our current situations and our future needs, doing a lot of the legwork before we have a designer on board.

Standards Laboratory

During the month of April, we participated in the Southeastern Measurement Assurance Program, SEMAP, which took place in Richmond, Virginia. Van Hyder and Robert Rogers represented North Carolina during this training process. North Carolina successfully demonstrated proficiency in several areas including PT Reviews and Planning; Care and Handling of Standards; Risk Management; Quality Management Systems and Auditing.

The NCD&CS Standards Laboratory received the prestigious First Year Gold Star Award for having outstanding safety and health efforts in the work place. The recognition comes from the North Carolina Department of Labor Safety Awards Program. Special thanks to all the staff members for a job well done and keeping safety a top priority.

The Grain Moisture Section is fully staffed and have completed the majority of their inspections for the first half of the year. We completed SRWW harvest at the beginning of June. Although we had a short wheat season, we were able to collect grain in the desired moisture ranges for the 2016-2017 testing season! We were also able to collect rapeseed samples this season. This is our second year completing inspections on rapeseed. We are looking forward to a good corn harvest in late summer.

Sharon Woodard

LP-Gas Section

The Standards Division NIST class on LP-Gas meter calibrations was held the week of June 13, 2016, in Raleigh, NC. There were 22 participants who came from 12 states.

Richard Fredenburg attended the 2016 NPGA Southeastern Convention and International Propane Expo in Nashville, TN, on April 8-10, 2016. There were a number of education sessions. These were mostly aimed at conducting or growing a propane business, but there were some that focused on safety. The expo was a place to see what new and continuing products and services were available.

Richard Fredenburg participated as a sort-of volunteer at the WRAL Freedom Balloon Fest over the Memorial Day Weekend. His purpose was to be part of a crew for a hot air balloon in order to observe

any of the activities related to propane use and filling of the propane containers. The Technical Committee for LP-Gases added some new sections to the *LP-Gas Code* for the upcoming edition related to filling these containers. First hand observation and involvement in balloon operations yielded a number of items to address with the balloon community and to consider at future technical committee meetings.

Richard Fredenburg

Motor Fuels Laboratory

The laboratory and field staff have been working to help develop the documentation for the quality management system that will drive the future success of the program. This management system is based on the tenants of ISO 17025 and will enhance the program's credibility moving into the future. As a part of this effort, the Motor Fuels field inspector's received and were trained on their first set of new work instructions and procedures in late May.

Over the last several months there has been a dramatic increase in the number of stations in North Carolina that are carrying E15 at the pump. In response, we have worked with Gilbarco to understand the technology employed at the dispensers in order to develop a sampling procedure that accurately reflects what the consumer is purchasing without requiring a 2-gallon pump flush. We are currently studying how the base gasoline used for the blend effects the final Reid Vapor Pressure of the E15 product.

We wish to congratulate Dr. Wanxi Chen who is a chemist in the Motor Fuels Laboratory for being recognized as the Employee of the Month for the NC Department of Agriculture. Dr. Chen has been instrumental in several key projects including the E15 project mentioned above. As of this writing, Wanxi is currently travelling to Bellevue, Washington to represent our Section at the summer meeting of ASTM D02 Section on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels and Lubricants.

Marcus Helfrich

Measurement Section

Hello everyone. I hope everyone in the SWMA is having a good year so far.

The North Carolina Weights and Measures program has seen a lot of personnel changes since the last newsletter. We have new faces and new open positions due to retiring employees. Jimmy Butler with forty years of service finally decided to get some rest. Jimmy was a vast wealth of knowledge and will be missed dearly but we wish him well and hope he has a long and happy retirement. Rick LaMountain, one of our inspectors and G&O trainer is also retiring. He has been a rock for the G&O section and always willing to go the extra mile to assist our inspection department and the service technicians. We wish him a happy and long retirement. A lateral move by Scott Wallace into the calibrator position has left an opening in our western area W&M section. Jody Desourdy also made a lateral move from our Standards

Lab to fill Mark Lanning's vacant position. New faces include Joshua Roberts who will be filling Bucky Scruton's position. I would like to welcome Jody and Joshua to the Measurement Section!

I would like to congratulate Jason Wethington on receiving his NCWM certification for Retail Motor Fuel Dispenser Systems.

Hunter Hairr and I attended a week long class on testing LPG. It was very informative and thorough. There were attendees from all over the U.S. I would like to thank Tina Butcher (NIST), Michael McGoff (PA), Josh Nelson (OR) for such a great class.

Our G&O inspectors did a skimmer sweep in several areas of the state. We inspected over 900 locations and discovered 3 devices hiding out in the dispensers. Local and federal law enforcement were assisting when a skimmer was detected. We had a lot of media attention for a couple of weeks. The sweep really helped the store managers to see what is involved and some store personnel have found some since our inspections.

Even with all of the personnel changes we have still managed to complete our seasonal work and continue with our regular duties. Fertilizer was completed April; strawberry scales were started in April along with any advertising issues at the roadside stands. Taxi inspection went on for most of May with three inspectors and Supervisor Chad Parker dedicating time for this. We are getting prepared for cucumber and tobacco scale inspections.

Allen Katalinic 🇺🇸

WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE WONDERFUL PRODUCTS?



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