

**ISSUE:**  
February 2008

**Calendar:**

Board Meeting Dates-

- March 27
- May 15
- June 26
- August 21 at EXPO
- October 23
- December 13

Other events-

- **Wreckmaster May 6, 7, 8 & 9, 2008**
- **CTTA Tow Show May 29 to June 1, Reno**
- **September 16-17 Traffic Incident Management Conference, Lacey Community Center**

**Inside this Issue:**

Legislative Report	2
BOD Minutes	2
2008 BOD	3
2008 Committee Chairs	3
Credit Card Fees	3
Membership Directory	3
Overweight Permits	3
A Superior Attitude	4

# The Dispatch

An Official Publication of:

## TOWING & RECOVERY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON



Presented By




**August 22nd & 23rd**  
**The Silver Reef Casino & Spa**  
Ferndale, WA - I5 Exit 260  
866-383-0777 Ext. 254  
reservations@silverreefcasino.com  
**TOWING & RECOVERY**  
ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON  
509.782.7170 - fax 509.782.1203  
www.towingandrecovery.org

### NORTHWEST TOW EXPO: HOLD THE DATE

Planning is underway for the 2008 Northwest TOW Expo, scheduled for August 22-23, 2008 at the Silver Reef Hotel, Casino & Spa in Ferndale, Wash.

If you wish to purchase a booth, or have questions please contact Jackie Currie at Columbia Towing at 800-303-2535 or call the TRAW office at 509-782-7170.

### 2008 TOW SCHOOL DATES

- March 7, 8, 9, 2008**  
Light Duty - Seattle/Lincoln
- May 6, 7, 8, 9, 2008**  
Wreckmaster (Level 2-3 & 4-5) - Wenatchee  
**May—Date TBD**  
One Day Refresher Course—Yakima
- June 6, 7, 8, 2008**  
Light Duty—Rouse's Towing
- July 15**  
One Day Refresher Course—Columbia Towing
- September 5, 6, 7, 2008**  
Heavy Duty—Lincoln
- October 3, 4, 5, 2008**  
Light Duty—Specialty Towing

Hunter Gets Plaque Delivered In Person, L to R: Stu Halsan, TRAW Lobbyist; Elena Johnson, Johnson Towing; Dan Johnson, Johnson Towing; Rep. Ross Hunter, TRAW Legislator of the Year; Stacey Tucker, Chico Towing; Ron Madler, Kitsap Towing.



## TRAW BOARD MINUTES

**TOWING AND RECOVERY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**THE MERCATO RESTAURANT, OLYMPIA  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008 8:55 a.m.**

**Board Present:** Jackie Currie, Dan Johnson, Kurt Gillard, Mike DeSpain, Ron Madler, Doug Faber, Stacey Tucker, Paul Bressi, Rolfe Johnson,

**Proxies:** Kurt Gillard for Theresa Gault, Bill Sullivan for Tom Lomis, Rich Steele for Mike Bartolotti,

**Members present:** Rich Steele, Billy Stansfield, Bill Sullivan

**Absent:** Tom Lomis, Bettie Simmons, Theresa Gault, Mike Bartolotti, Ken Schmidt

**Guests:** Elena Johnson, Satpal Sidhu from BTC.

**Staff:** Vicky Scharlau, Stu Halsan

Chairman Kurt Gillard called the meeting to order at 8:55 a.m.

**Minutes:** Stacy Tucker moved with a second by Doug Faber to accept the minutes of the January 15 board meeting. Unanimous.

**Financials:** Ron Madler moved to accept the financials to date as presented with a second by Stacey Tucker. Unanimous.

**2008 Committee Chairs:** Committee chairs were appointed by Chairman Kurt Gillard.

### **Education Proposal:**

Dan introduced Satpal Sidhu, Dean of Professional Technical Education, Bellingham Technical College (BTC). The BTC is proposing a program that would provide credibility and documentation of training as well as a formal process. The college provides recruitment and registration. They could also offer Continuing Education Programs and refresher courses.

**WreckMaster request to be in the trade show-** Jackie Currie moved with a second by Dan Johnson to send them a vendor request. Unanimous.

**WreckMaster tow school-** May 6, 7, 8, 9; two levels offered at Malaga Fire Station near Wenatchee. Rich Steele moved that TRAW sponsor WreckMaster including providing registration, the \$50/student to provide lunches and to cover staff time with a second by Rolfe Johnson. Unanimous.

### **Standing Committees:**

**Education Committee:** The trailer is painted and ready to be lettered.

### **Governmental and Legal Affairs:**

Stu provided an update on bills to date and provided handouts.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 for members to meet with their legislators.

## TRAW LEGISLATIVE REPORT



*By: TRAW Lobbyist- Stu Halsan*

The legislative session is fast approaching its end, what is called "Adjournment Sine Die" or "without a (specific) day" which is on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The last two weeks have been consumed by both the House and the Senate putting out their proposed budgets and going through their proposed amendments. In truth

the budgets are the only "must pass" bills in any session because the state needs them to continue operation but many issues get tied up in the negotiations and the last two weeks of any session is much like trying to fit together the pieces of a puzzle.. a "go home" puzzle. The furor we had over two bills earlier in the session has died down with one bad bill dead, and the other modified to not only make it palatable to us but perhaps give us an advantage on an issue that has given us headaches for years.

House Bill 2633 which died because they wouldn't take us out of it, would have required us to retain all impounds and not allow redemption until the owners had paid all outstanding traffic fines. Not only would we have been the last to be paid, we would have no way of knowing if a person owed a fine as well as what court or courts would have to give permission for the vehicles release. We had amendments prepared to strip this out of the bill and lobbied the Transportation committee hard and the bill was never even brought up for a vote before the deadline.

The other bill, House Bill 2817 would for the first time have required us to impound meth contaminated vehicles off private property at the direction of local Health officials. Working with the sponsor I drafted language that clarified that if we contracted to move the vehicle for them we would get paid by the local government and not have to store, dispose of or in any way deal with them but merely deliver them to the police impound lot for the health folks to handle on their own and at their own expense. This bill is still alive, having been passed to the Senate and then out of the Senate policy committee and is scheduled to be heard in the Transportation committee on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. With our language it may set a precedent that the proper way to handle contaminated vehicles is for us to only provide towing services and not do an impound under RCW 46.55 whether from private property or even the side of the road.

Our bill to identify what vehicles with transporter plates are non-RTTO's that tow vehicles for compensation passed the House 96-1 and passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee this week. It is now in the Rules committee and we are working to get it scheduled for action on the floor of the Senate. This will be the critical first step in setting up and funding an inspection process as required by law.

Our Legislative Day was a great success and it was a wonderful opportunity for our members to meet with their Legislators. We presented the "Legislator of the Year" award to Rep. Ross Hunter for his great work in helping us to a compromise on the Streamlined Sales Tax issue last year.

A group comprised of Paul Bressi, Rich Steele, Al Runte, and Jackie Currie met with the Department of Revenue this week to discuss the proposal to "double sales tax" us for both towing services and the sale at auction. The discussion was good and they listened closely as we laid out why it wasn't proper considering the nature of our business. The Department agreed to stop for now, step back, and continue discussions while we work with them to figure out the appropriate way of levying sales tax on what really is only one continuous transaction.

## 2008 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

At the February TRAW BOD meeting, TRAW President Kurt Gillard appointed the 2008 committee chairs. This year co-chairs were selected to assist with continuity and better state coverage. The 2008 committee chairs and co-chairs are:

**Expo** – Jackie Currie and Dan Johnson

**Education** – Bill Sullivan and Rich Steele

**Professionalism** – Melody Good and Stacey Tucker

**Government and Legal Affairs** – Paul Bressi and Ron Madler (with a representative from each district), Doug Faber to assist on Liability Insurance issues

**Business Related** – Mike Bartolotti and Stacey Tucker

**Budget** – Mike Bartolotti

## CREDIT CARD FEES

*A reminder from WSP Trooper Darrin Helton – District 2*

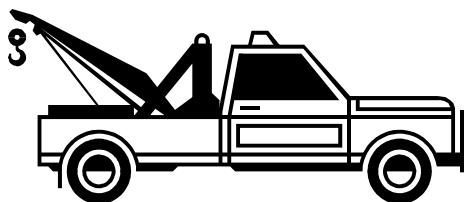
Under the law that govern credit cards, it is not legal to charge a credit card surcharge fee for using a credit card.

Make sure you check with your credit card companies before continuing the practice. One credit card company Trooper Helton spoke with stated, “multiple violations of this can result in a business losing the ability to accept credit cards by VISA or MASTERCARD.”

Helton noted that if anyone loses the ability to accept credit cards they would not be eligible to be an RTTO under the RCW.

## TRAW 2008 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The 2008 Directory will be going to press in late March. If you would like to advertise, give us a call!



### **Why be a Member of the Towing & Recovery Association of Washington?**

TRAW is organized by towing, recovery and storage business owners to represent the interests of the tow truck industry. We stand as the authority on the industry and represent its interests in governmental and legal affairs. We promote a profitable operating climate by working with State Patrol, the Dept. of Transportation, the Dept. of Licensing, the Legislature, and organizations directly or indirectly related to the tow business. There is strength in numbers.

## 2008 BOARD & OFFICERS

### **President**

Kurt Gillard, George Washington Towing  
(509) 785-5984

### **Vice President**

Doug Faber, Mount Vernon Towing  
(360) 336-3535

### **Treasurer/Secretary**

Jackie Currie, Columbia Towing  
(206) 722-2535

### **Member At Large**

Stacey Tucker, Chico Towing  
(360) 479-7500

### **Past President**

Rolf Johnson, Jim's Northgate Towing  
(206) 364-1500

### **District 1 Chair**

Tom Lomis, Bill's Towing  
(253) 272-9393

### **District 2 Chair**

Mike Bartolotti, Lincoln Towing  
(206) 364-2000

### **District 3 Chair**

Ken Schmidt, Ken's Auto Rescue  
(509) 582-9414

### **District 4 Chair**

Bettie Simmons, AA Auto Salvage Inc.  
(509) 455-4990

### **District 5 Chair**

Mike DeSpain, Carl's Towing Service  
(360) 423-4460

### **District 6 Chair**

Theresa Gault, Ron's Towing  
(509) 662-3113

### **District 7 Chair**

Dan Johnson, Johnson's Towing  
(360) 733-4232

### **District 8 Chair**

Ron Madler, Kitsap Towing  
(360) 297-8600

## REMINDER:

TRAW will process your overweight permits for you. All you need to do is call the TRAW office at 509-782-7170 and you will be faxed a form. Once you complete the form and fax it back, the TRAW office will process it for you through the Department of Transportation and send you the permit.

# TOWING & RECOVERY

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

**CONTRACTED STAFF-  
Office Administration  
501 Consultants, Inc.**

*Vicky Scharlau, Administrator  
Debbie Sands, Business Manager  
Eileen Wilkinson, Admin. Assist.  
Andrea Baker, Communications*

**CONTRACTED STAFF-  
Legislative Issues  
Stu Halsan, Attorney**

**CONTRACTED STAFF-  
Technical Issues  
Ken Nikko**

Association Office  
203 Mission Avenue, Suite 107  
Cashmere, WA 98815  
Phone: 509.782.7170  
Fax: 509.782.1203



## TRAW NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
<b>--1/4 Page</b> 4 1/4 x 5 1/8	\$ 50.00	\$150.00
<b>--1/2 Page</b> 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 or 4 1/4 x 11	\$100.00	\$250.00
<b>--Full Page</b> 8 1/4 x 10 3/4	\$200.00	\$450.00
<b>--Business Card</b> 2 x 3 1/2	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00

Rates are non-commissionable. Camera-ready copy means all artwork and type is in place, the ad is correct size and ready to be printed. If we must typeset or design, an additional setup fee will be charged to cover costs. Call (509) 782-7170.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT: A SUPERIOR ATTITUDE

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than fact. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think, say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a school...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way...we cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is plan on the one thing we have, and that is our superior attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. A superior attitude will produce superior results.