

**ISSUE:**  
**March 2008**

**Calendar:**

Board Meeting Dates-

- April 17
- 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**

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# The Dispatch

An Official Publication of:

## TOWING & RECOVERY

### ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

### MARCH TOW SCHOOL

The first light duty tow school of 2008 in Seattle was a success, with 21 students. Mike Bartolotti of Lincoln Towing hosted the class, and Steve Cardinale instructed. A BIG THANK\_YOU to Robert Farmer of Centerpoint Insurance Services for providing the meals during the weekend, and to all our volunteers including:

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Randy Dexter  | Automotive Transport |
| Ray Caveness  | Randy's Towing       |
| Mike Bressi   | Nisqually Towing     |
| Paul Bressi   | Nisqually Towing     |
| Bill Sullivan | Liberty Towing       |
| Mike Peters   | Lakewood Towing      |
| Bubba Peters  | Lincoln Towing       |
| Rich Steele   | Dick's Towing        |

\*If you are interested in volunteering for an upcoming school please call Bill Sullivan at Liberty Towing (253) 565-1300

**Students:**

- Dan Lister, Grants Towing  
 Michael Bertram, Randy's Towing  
 Blain Cook, Shull's Towing  
 Randy Reed, Airport Towing  
 Jeremy Miller, Airport Towing  
 Andrew Dexter, Automotive Transport  
 Ralph Anderson, Ron May Towing  
 Warren Rowton, Ron May Towing  
 Bruce Pedigo, Leavenworth Auto Care Inc.  
 Lee Marion, Leavenworth Auto Care Inc.  
 Greg Martin, Eastside Towing Service Inc.  
 Andy Hernandez-Garcia, Port's Towing  
 Mike Houk, Port's Towing  
 Rich Boyer, Lincoln Towing  
 Kevin Jensema, Dick's Towing & Road Service  
 Earnie Martel, Dick's Towing & Road Service  
 Daniel San Nicolas, Ibsen Towing  
 Scott Schultz, Eastside Towing Service Inc.  
 Ted Brown, Pro-Tow  
 Jesse Dunlap, Pro-Tow  
 James Sanders, Nisqually Auto & Towing



## **TRAW BOARD MINUTES**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
CLE ELUM FIRE STATION  
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008  
9:00 a.m.**

**Board Present:** Jackie Currie, Dan Johnson, Kurt Gillard, Theresa Gault, Mike Bartolotti, Ken Schmidt, Doug Faber, Stacey Tucker, Rolfe Johnson, Tom Lomis, Mike DeSpain

**Proxies:** Terry Weaver for Bettie Simmons, Ron Jake for Ron Madler

**Members present:** Ron Jake, Terry Weaver, Al Runte, Paul Bressi

**Absent:** Bettie Simmons, Ron Madler

**Guests:** Jamie Younce (Ken's Auto Rescue)

**Staff:** Vicky Scharlau, Stu Halsan

Chairman Kurt Gillard called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with introductions. The meeting began with a discussion of the WSP proposed WAC changes. Full board meeting agenda resumed at 2:00 p.m.

**Minutes:**

Mike Bartolotti moved with a second by Stacey Tucker to accept the minutes as presented. Unanimous.

**Financials:**

Mike Bartolotti moved with a second by Jackie Currie to accept the financials as presented. Unanimous.

WSP fuel surcharge

Tom Lomis moved to request opening the WSP contract for a fuel surcharge with a second by Mike DeSpain. Motion withdrawn.

Jackie Currie moved for staff to contact WSP in regards to a fuel surcharge with a second by Theresa Gault. One opposed. Motion passed

Next meeting is scheduled for noon on Thursday, April 17 at the Cle Elum Fire Station and then June 26.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

## **BEAUTY CONTEST FOR TOW TRUCKS**

Tow Times and Ford Trucks kick off this year's Shine 'n Star Contest, the towing industry's premier tow truck beauty contest. One lucky grand prize winner will receive a trip for two to the 2009 Daytona 500, courtesy of Ford Trucks, and their winning truck will appear on the Tow Times November 2008 issue cover. All first place winners will appear on a 2008 or 2009 cover of Tow Times magazine. The Contest is open to towing companies in the U.S. and Canada. There are two easy ways to enter:

1. Mail a photo of your truck with a completed entry form to: Shine 'n Star Contest 203 West SR 434 Winter Springs FL 32708
2. Or enter online at [www.towtimes.com](http://www.towtimes.com) . Select the Shine 'n Star logo and follow the instructions.

There is no entry fee. Towing companies can enter as many of their tow trucks as they like, but each truck can only be entered into one category and each photo must have an entry form with it. Entry forms are available in the April, May and June 2008 issues of Tow Times, online at [www.towtimes.com](http://www.towtimes.com) or we can fax one to you. Entries must arrive at the Tow Times office no later than June 30.

Just call at (800) 308-3745 or e-mail [dwatkins@towtimes.com](mailto:dwatkins@towtimes.com) for more information about the Contest. Don't miss this opportunity to see your truck in the winner's circle!

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## **Letter from TRAW President, Kurt Gillard:**

As newly elected president of Towing And Recovery Association of Washington, I would first like to thank past president Rolfe Johnson for his dedication to the association and his leadership in this organization. Also Jackie Currie for her ever present dedication, Vicky Scharlau and staff for all their continuous hard work and support, Stu Halsan for doing more than we even realize, and to all of you who serve on committees to make this association the best in the West.

I have several goals that I hope to see accomplished during my term as your president including the towers liability. I'm open to suggestions on how we may make our association even better. With all the issues we as towers deal with on a daily basis, it helps to have someone to call on when you need an answer, I hope to be that person. I don't have all the answers but I'll try to find someone who does.

All of us in the industry need to do our part in making sure that those towers who are not members see the benefits in becoming a member. Reminding them of all the legislation that has helped the industry in the past is maybe one way we can do that.

We, as TRAW, need your input and support more so now than ever. Remember, Attitude is Everything

*~Kurt*

## **SPEED TV HIGHLIGHTS** **TOW OPERATOR**

SPEED, the TV network for motor sports and automotive lifestyle programming, will focus its cameras on one of the most dangerous professions in the nation, when the summer-scheduled *Wrecked* shadows Chicago O'Hare Towing & Recovery as it services one of the busiest transportation hubs in the US.

"It's probably safe to say that just about anyone who's ever driven a car has come in contact with a tow truck driver at least once or twice, and most likely not under happy circumstances," said SPEED VP of Programming Robert Ecker. "Whether they are called upon to fix a flat tire, tow an illegally parked vehicle or clean up the remnants of a major wreck, the people who work in this inherently dangerous industry touch the lives of all of us in some way large or small, yet they remain otherwise virtually unnoticed. With this series, we intend to showcase the inner workings of one of the largest and busiest such companies in one of the largest and busiest metropolitan areas in the country. The fact that the shop is owned and operated as a multi-generational family business and populated by a large and colorful group of employees certainly doesn't hurt either.

According to the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame in Tennessee, nearly 100 tow truck drivers lose their lives on the job every year, and O'Hare responds to more than 200 calls a day in a city that reports nearly a quarter of a million traffic accidents a year.

*Wrecked*, scheduled for 10 one-hour episodes premiering in HD in July, will tell the stories behind the daily life of this major operation, accompanying drivers on high-risk calls as well as recording the daily stresses in the shop and in the family.

"This is a unique reality programming initiative for SPEED and it will be a wild ride for viewers," said SPEED Senior VP of Programming Steve Craddock. "The colorful characters at O'Hare Towing face more adversity and danger every day than most people experience in a lifetime."

In addition, exclusive *Wrecked* short-form content will be made available all season through [www.SPEEDtv.com](http://www.SPEEDtv.com), VOD cable, iTunes video podcasts, mobile phones, cable broadband sites and viral distribution

## **RULE PROTECTS WORKERS** **IN HOT WEATHER**

(L&I) proposed a new workplace rule to protect workers from heat-related illness when working outdoors in hot weather. Working outdoors in hot weather is a health hazard that can put employees at risk for serious medical consequences.

L&I proposed this rule because heat-related illness, such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke, can cause disability or death. In the past 10 years, four Washington workers are known to have died from heat stroke, and hundreds more sought medical treatment for their illnesses. Many workers become ill in hot weather and don't recognize the symptoms. The symptoms, which include dizziness, confusion and poor judgment, can contribute to other serious injuries.

The proposal would require employers with employees who work outdoors to:

- \* Update their safety program to include preventive measures to reduce the risk of heat-related illness.
  - \* Train employees to recognize the signs, symptoms and risk factors of heat-related illness and what to do if someone has symptoms.
  - \* Check the weather forecast and temperatures daily to know when it's hot enough to require preventive measures.
  - \* On days when temperatures require preventive measures, increase the volume of water provided to employees and respond to any employee with symptoms of illness.
- Employees working outdoors for 15 minutes or less in an hour are exempt.

"Working outdoors in hot weather can be a serious workplace hazard that puts employees at risk," said Dr. Steven R. Smith, an occupational medicine physician in Kennewick. "Heat exhaustion is a serious health problem and heat stroke can result in death."

The tentative adoption of the rule is June 4 following five public hearings statewide:

- \* Tumwater, April 28: 1 p.m., at the Comfort Inn, 1620 74th Ave. S.W.
- \* Bellingham, April 29: 1 p.m., at the Quality Inn Baron Suites, 100 E. Kellogg Road
- \* Yakima, April 30: 9 a.m., Clarion Hotel/Conference Center, 1507 N. First St.
- \* Richland, April 30: 2 p.m., Red Lion Hotel-Hanford House, 802 George Washington Way
- \* Spokane, May 1: 1 p.m., Red Lion Hotel at the Park, W. 303 N. River Dr.

Written comments may be mailed to Jamie Scibelli, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, P.O. Box 44620, Olympia, WA 98504-4620 by 5 p.m. May 2, or faxed by that date to 360-902-5619. Complete information is online at [www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ/HeatStress/](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ/HeatStress/) or by calling 360-902-4568.

# TOWING & RECOVERY

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

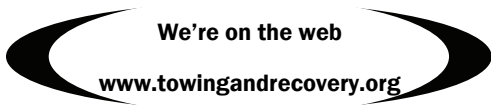
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<b>--Business Card</b> 2 x 3 1/2 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$

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