

# Trucking News

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2023

*Trucking's Voice In South Dakota Since 1935*

A portrait of Seth Sigafoss, a man with light brown hair and a beard, wearing a dark suit, a blue patterned shirt, and a purple patterned tie. He is smiling and looking slightly to the right of the camera.

## South Dakota TDC's 2023 Grand Champion SETH SIGAFOOS

**44TH ANNUAL SOUTH DAKOTA  
TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Page 8

**MEMBER REVIEW:  
2023 WHEEL JAM TRUCK SHOW**

Page 18

### ROUTE TO:

- Owner
- Safety Manager
- Controller
- Driver Lounge



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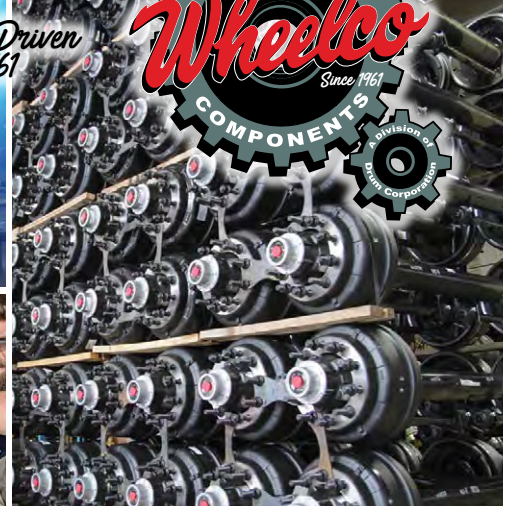


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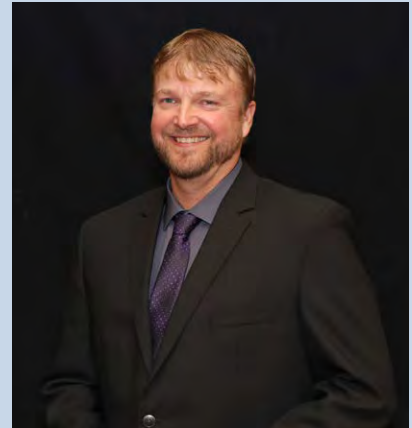
- A Goodyear Preferred Fleet customer is a dealer's local book account that has been granted national account privileges because their credit worthiness is being guaranteed by a Goodyear dealer.
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- To enroll as a Goodyear Preferred Fleet customer, contact your local Goodyear Commercial dealer.



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## On the cover



*Photo: Steve Hoffman*

Seth Sigafos, FedEx Freight, Inc., South Dakota TDC's 2023 Grand Champion.

A promotional banner for the 88th Annual Convention of the South Dakota Trucking Association. The banner features a dark red vertical bar on the left with white and yellow text. The main background is a wide-angle aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with buildings and streets illuminated by the warm light of the setting sun. The text is overlaid on the image.

• **SAVE THE DATE** •  
**SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2023**



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## MESSAGE FROM THE **Chairman**

Good day, ladies and gentlemen. We had our spring/summer board meeting along with our annual Calcutta and a fishing tournament on May 11th and 12th. The Calcutta raised a good share of money for workforce development. As you probably know, we did some reorganization in the SDTA office, and Jay is no longer employed by the association. Since the print shop has not been as profitable as it has in the past, the position of print shop manager has been eliminated. Patty and Michelle can do a lot of what Jay did. We will still have forms, business cards, and other items available. We have just streamlined what items we will have on hand.

On June 3rd, we attended Wheel Jam in Huron. This was my first time there. All I can say is, "Wow, there are some very beautiful trucks out there." It's hard to believe they are work trucks. Hopefully, this will grow into a great relationship. Christine addressed the crowd on Friday night, and then on Saturday evening I addressed the crowd with some updates from Washington, DC. Congratulations to Danny Oswald on being chosen for this year's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Summer has arrived, which means increased traffic from campers to motorcycles, so we have to remember to be patient and allow plenty of room to maneuver in traffic.

Please stay safe! We are looking forward to seeing you at our annual convention in Sioux Falls on September 13-16.

**Bob Willey**

Bob Willey Trucking

[bwilleytrucking@gmail.com](mailto:bwilleytrucking@gmail.com)



# SDTA'S ANNUAL GOLF EVENT



**JULY 20, 2023**  
**BRANDON GOLF COURSE**  
2100 E Aspen Blvd • Brandon, SD



Check-in from 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start  
Lunch will be provided and prizes awarded immediately following golf.

**\$125 PER PERSON**

*(includes green fees, cart rental, two mulligans, two drink tickets & lunch)*

**PLEASE REGISTER BY JULY 12TH.**

Below is our foursome    OR     Please assign me/us to a foursome

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

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MESSAGE FROM THE  
**President**

**Christine's Corner**

The sun is shining, and we are finally able to enjoy the nice weather after that brutal winter. Speaking of warm weather, SDTA employee Michelle Wells and I traveled to Huron, SD, to attend the 20th Annual Wheel Jam Truck Show. This event was a first for me, but one I hope to attend again. SDTA was in work mode, getting to meet some of our longest-standing members and learning about the history of the association. The trucks were shined up for the parade through town. I was invited to ride along and had a great time throwing candy to all the kids. Scott welcomed us with open arms and gave myself and Chairman Bob Willey the microphone to address the audience about what SDTA does. Thank you to the six board members who were able to make the trip as well. SDTA showed up! While Michelle and I didn't get hazard pay for playing tennis in the campground, we shared lots of laughs and wouldn't have changed anything. We truly got to reconnect and meet some great people along the way. We are hopeful of bringing some new members back to SDTA. We ARE stronger together.

I will be traveling at the end of June to Washington, DC, for the American Truck Dealer (ATD) fly-in. The ATD is a part of the National Auto Dealers Association, and as you know, South Dakota is the ONLY state that has auto, heavy-duty trucks, and trucking companies all under one roof. Laura with ATD has been gracious to highlight this for other states and welcomes SD to play a role in this. More to report on that when I return.

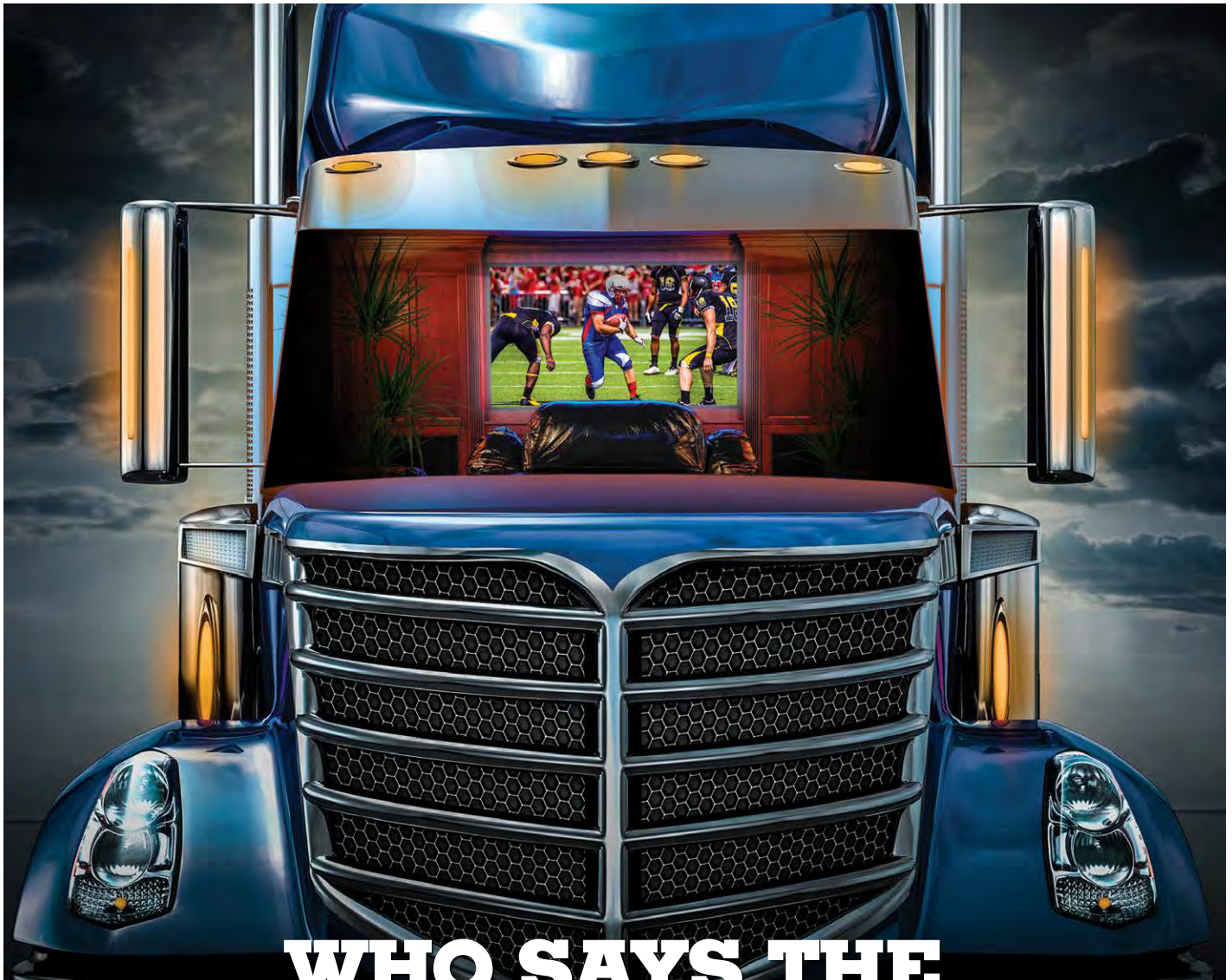
The SDTA Annual Golf Event is quickly approaching. Round up a foursome and get signed up. The event will be held on July 20th at the Brandon Golf Course. Unfortunately, I won't be golfing this time, but I plan to tool around on a golf cart, bringing some goodies. My middle son is super excited to join this year. I may have bribed him to give the welcome, as I will be flying in the morning and heading straight to the golf course.

I always end my message with, "Do not hesitate to reach out to our office." We have seen many changes, but good things are happening. You have a committed staff wanting to make sure our Association is successful long into the future.

Onward,

**Christine M. Erickson**  
SDTA President  
cverickson@southdakotatrucking.com





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## JUNE 2023 DRIVER OF THE MONTH



Ron Johnson, Johnson Feed Inc., Canton, SD, was selected as the June 2023 Driver of the Month by the South Dakota Safety Management Council.

Ron has given JFI 32 years of experience in his 41-year career as an owner-operator. If you were to give a history lesson as to how the trucking industry started and grew, Ron would surely be there. He has logged 5.1 million miles in his career and 4 million miles with JFI. He has worn out 8 trucks and is currently on his 9th.

Operations states they wish there were more like Ron, give him his dispatches and count on it being done on time with no issues. Customers love him. He's always willing to do anything and go anywhere. Ron is a true professional in everything he does, a true safety role model, attends all safety meetings and reviews, and has only had one non-preventable deer accident in his career.

His truck's maintenance and upkeep are meticulous. When asked what he likes to do in his spare time or for fun, he would tell you that he enjoys spending time with family, going out to dinner, and watching TV.

Ron and his wife Betty reside in Sioux Falls, SD. They have three adult daughters: Jamie (45), Elizabeth (41), and Angela (37). They are also blessed with three grandchildren.

The South Dakota Trucking Association joins the Safety Management Council in congratulating Ron Johnson for being selected as the June 2023 Driver of the Month.

*Sponsors of Driver of the Month Program:*

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**& SDTA'S SAFETY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## HONOR YOUR BEST DRIVERS!



### Nominate them for Driver of the Month

A nomination form & rules can be found on page 25 or online at [www.southdakotatrucking.com](http://www.southdakotatrucking.com) under Membership Opportunities.



For more information, please contact the SDTA office at 605-334-8871 or [michelle@southdakotatrucking.com](mailto:michelle@southdakotatrucking.com)

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Photos: Steve Hoffman

# 44TH ANNUAL SOUTH DAKOTA Truck Driving Championships

The 44th Annual South Dakota Truck Driving Championships were held on Saturday, May 20th, 2023, at Southeast Technical College in Sioux Falls. This event offers our state's best drivers to showcase their talent and skills in a competition that highlights what it takes to be a safe driver on today's streets and highways.

We had 40 drivers compete this year, with fifteen of them being rookies. Each driver had to maintain an accident-free driving record for the previous 12 months in order to be eligible to compete. During the competition, drivers had to complete a written exam, a pre-trip inspection, and a driving skills course.

To prepare for this competition, drivers study the latest "Facts for Drivers" book, federal regulations, and keep up to date on the latest happenings in the trucking industry. They have also given up per-

sonal time to practice their driving skills. Most importantly, all these skills come together to make them the professionals they are, both on and off the road.

The nine classes offered this year were Step Van, Straight Truck, 3-Axle, 4-Axle, 5-Axle Van, Sleeper Berth, Flatbed, Twin Trailers, and Tank. The champions from each class will represent South Dakota at the American Trucking Association's National Truck Driving Championships, where each driver competes for a National Title and the title of best in the United States in his or her class of competition. The 2023 National Championships will be held in Columbus, OH, from August 16th–19th.

Truck drivers from all over the country compete in truck driving competitions like this one every year. These driving competitions have played an important role in the development of our professional drivers, who have the best safe

driving record of any highway user group in the country.

The South Dakota Motor Carriers Services held their Annual Inspectors' Challenge in conjunction with the South Dakota Truck Driving Championships. Six inspectors competed for the chance to represent South Dakota at the National Inspection Competition. These inspectors were assessed on their ability to conduct vehicle inspections as well as their regulatory knowledge. The National Inspectors' Challenge is held in Columbus, OH, in conjunction with the National Truck Driving Championships.

Mark your calendars! The 2024 South Dakota Truck Driving Champions will be held on Saturday, May 18th, at Southeast Technical College. If you would like more information regarding this event or would like to get involved, please contact Michelle Wells at 605-334-8871 or [michelle@southdakotatrucking.com](mailto:michelle@southdakotatrucking.com).



# Truck Driving Championships Winners By Class

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR 2023 COMPETITORS!

## STEP VAN CHAMPION

Teri Spencer, A&A Express



From Left: Bryan Olson, FedEx Ground, Inc. (3rd), Christopher Martin, FedEx Ground, Inc. (2nd) and Teri Spencer, A&A Express.

## 4-AXLE TRUCK CHAMPION

Jeremy Senger, FedEx Freight, Inc.



From Left: Jeremy Senger, FedEx Freight, Inc., Jim Kostal, K&J Trucking, Inc. (2nd), and Eric Johnson, FedEx Ground, Inc. (3rd).

## STRAIGHT TRUCK CHAMPION

Troy Swenson, FedEx Freight, Inc.



From Left: Cortney Haugen, Cliff Viessman, Inc. (2nd) and Troy Swenson, FedEx Freight, Inc.

## 5-AXLE VAN CHAMPION

Seth Sigafoos, FedEx Freight, Inc.



From Left: Craig Ellingson, K&J Trucking, Inc. (3rd), Todd Anderson, Johnson Feed, Inc. (2nd) and Seth Sigafoos, FedEx Freight, Inc.

## 3-AXLE TRUCK CHAMPION

Dan Norgaard, Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.



From Left: Barry Arpan, FedEx Ground, Inc. (3rd), Todd Fletcher, FedEx Freight, Inc. (2nd) and Dan Norgaard, Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.

## SLEEPER BERTH CHAMPION

Josh Worthington, K&J Trucking, Inc.



From Left: Dean Bowar, FedEx Freight, Inc. (3rd), Brian McCoy, Dakota-land Transportation (2nd) and Josh Worthington, K&J Trucking, Inc.

Continued on page 10.

## FLATBED CHAMPION

Joel Gruis, FedEx Freight, Inc.



From Left: Joseph Ellis, United Rentals (2nd), Joel Gruis, FedEx Freight, Inc. and Brian Mazza, Johnson Feed, Inc. (3rd).

## TWINS CHAMPION

Mike Whitehead, FedEx Freight, Inc.



From Left: Mike Whitehead, FedEx Freight, Inc., Robert Spitznagel, K&J Trucking, Inc. (2nd) and Tim Zulauf, Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc. (3rd).

## TANK CHAMPION

Gary Schmidt, Cliff Viessman, Inc.



Gary Schmidt, Cliff Viessman, Inc., Theron Thompson, K&J Trucking, Inc. (2nd) and Nan Harguth, Cliff Viessman, Inc. (3rd).

*Thank You!* to our **VOLUNTEERS**

We appreciate the time and service you give to the South Dakota Truck Driving Championships. We couldn't do it without you!

## 2023 GRAND CHAMPION Seth Sigafos FedEx Freight, Inc.

*Highest Cumulative Score Overall*



### CHUCK FJELLIN AWARD

*Highest Written Test Score*

Bryan Wold  
Cliff Viessman, Inc.

### RON GREEN AWARD

*Highest Pre-Trip Inspection Score*

Dan Norgaard  
Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.



### LARRY THURY AWARD

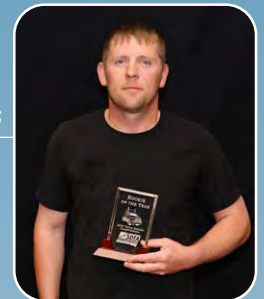
*Highest Skills Course Score*

Jeremy Senger  
FedEx Freight, Inc.

### ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

*Highest Cumulative Score Of All Rookies*

Christopher Martin  
FedEx Ground, Inc.



### CHAMPIONS CLUB COMPANY AWARD

Rude Transportation, Inc.



**COMPANY AWARD**  
FedEx Freight, Inc.



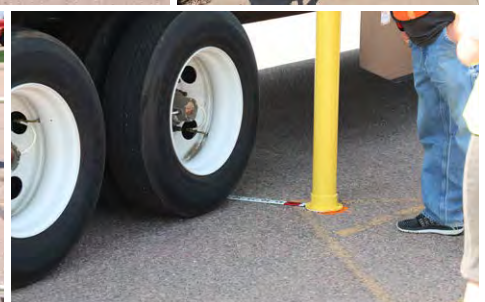
From Left: Gary Jones, Gregory Purchla, Joel Gruis, Mike Whitehead, Troy Swenson, Jeremy Senger, Seth Sigafoos, Todd Fletcher and Dean Bowar.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
Glade Evenson



Glade has been involved with the South Dakota Truck Driving Championships since 1989. First as a competitor, and then as the course designer from 2008 to 2022. Congratulations, Glade, on this well-deserved honor!

**A Quick Glance at the Day's Activities**



Continued on page 13.



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# 2023 SDHP Inspector Challenge Winners

## CHAMPION:

**Inspector Brian Stenbak**



## 2ND PLACE:

**Trooper Trey Bedford**



## 3RD PLACE:

**Trooper JT Paris**



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MEET OUR NEWEST

# Team Member

---

**Trevor Johnson**

Greetings,

My name is Trevor Johnson; I am the new Communications and Marketing Specialist at the South Dakota Trucking and Auto Dealers Associations. I'm excited about this role, and I'm eager to create new programs that better match the evolving digital landscape. I was born and raised in Rapid City, SD, where I graduated from Stevens High School in 2018. After high school, I attended University of Wyoming for my first 2 years of college. (Go Pokes) But due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I moved home and enrolled at Black Hills State University.

I graduated from Black Hills State University in December of 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management. I was drawn to a business management degree because of my entrepreneurial spirit. At this point, I had built 2 brands: Outlook Industries and Scooterantics. I really have enjoyed the process of building these brands, and getting a business degree has helped me to understand more of the legality and economics associated with business operations.

The Outlook Industries Podcast, which I launched in 2021, is a platform where I can engage in in-depth conversations with athletes, business owners, and sponsors within the action sports community. Scooterantics Pro Scooter Shop, which I opened prior in 2016, was a retail storefront and e-commerce shop in Rapid City that catered to the needs of local enthusiasts by offering professional-grade kick scooters.

I became acquainted with the South Dakota Trucking Association last summer during my internship with the American Trucking Associations. Being from Rapid City, when I heard that the South Dakota Trucking Association was attending their Call on Washington, I made a point to come and meet everyone. During my time at ATA, I had the privilege of gaining exposure to various departments and witnessing firsthand how they collaborated to achieve organizational goals. Eventually, I found myself working mainly with the Transport Topics content creation team, where I contributed to the development of promotional videos.

In my free time, I can likely be found at the skatepark. I have been riding kick scooters professionally for a company called Madd Gear for a little over a year now. I also enjoy playing music. I like to think I'm pretty good at guitar and piano. I try to read when I have time, and I'll leave you with 3 of my favorite books: *Zero to One* by Peter Thiel, *Rich Dad Poor Dad* by Robert Kiyosaki, and *The Sunny Nihilist* by Wendy Syfret.

I'm excited to be a part of the team, and I can't wait to learn more about the trucking and auto dealer industries. I hope I get to meet every one of you!

Warm Regards,

**Trevor Johnson**

SDTA Communications and Marketing Specialist  
trevor@southdakotatrucking.com



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RAPID CITY, SD



**TACHA ARTZ**  
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(605) 224-1611  
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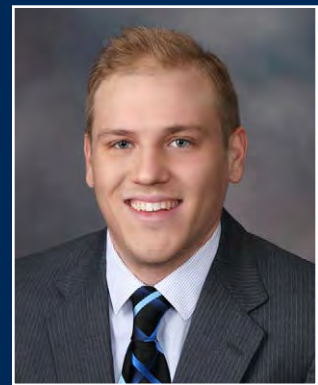
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## MEMBER REVIEW

# “Wheel Jam Truck Show is a definite **MUST SEE** for anyone in the trucking industry”

*Photo: Steve Hoffman*

**Shanna Gray | S&B Transportation**

**T**he 2023 Wheel Jam Truck Show was held June 1–4th in Huron, SD, for the 20th year. The show was again absolutely amazing! They started the kickoff with a complimentary steak dinner for the drivers and vendors at Scot Marone’s house with live music. Friday night they offered a free concert with Paul Marhoefer AKA Long Haul Paul and Tony Justice. It was a great time and even had the first ever train of dancers during the show. The light show on Saturday night was something everyone should experience. Another added feature to the show this year was having Andy’s Drone Service constantly doing videos and still shots of all the amazing trucks.

Words cannot describe the camaraderie between the participants, families, and vendors. This event is for the whole family, everyone supporting each other. The level of pride these drivers take with their equipment is top notch. It was incredible just watching the kids’ faces light up as they watched the parade! The coordination of the event staff to get all the trucks out of the show area and lined up was a feat to say the least. The parade route was filled with hundreds of people supporting the trucks and the men and women that drive them with pride. The drivers kept people entertained as they blew their horns, it was impressive to see that level of joy in so many people. I am still blown away by how long the parade route was and how many people come out to watch. It is a definite **MUST SEE** for anyone in the trucking industry.

Just sitting, listening to the stories of so many drivers who have done and seen so much was one of the highlights of this show for me. I finally got to meet a longtime friend of the SDTA, Charlie Flowers; between him and Bob Wiley, they had Long Haul Paul taking notes. Who knows, maybe there will be a new song with some of their experiences soon. If you did not get to make it this year, I would highly recommend you join us for next year’s show June 6–9th in Huron, SD! This show does not disappoint!!

There are several more pictures you can view on the Wheel Jam Truck Show FB Page <https://www.facebook.com/Wheel-JamTruckShow>.



*From Left: Charlie Flowers, Vernon “Pete” Peterson, Joy Peterson, Alton Palmer, Donnalee Palmer, Mike Habeck and Janét Eastman*







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# FMCSA Launches “Your Roads, Their Freedom” Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign

The South Dakota Trucking Association (SDTA) is proud to work alongside the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and fellow transportation and travel industry leaders to combat human trafficking.

As SDTA knows all too well, America’s transportation systems are often exploited by human traffickers. To combat this heinous crime, FMCSA launched the “Your Roads, Their Freedom” human trafficking awareness campaign. The campaign is designed to empower the nation’s 8.7 million commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers to confidently identify and report suspected cases of human trafficking — ultimately saving lives and making America’s roadways safer for all.

As an agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) whose mission is to ensure road safety, FMCSA is uniquely positioned to educate CMV drivers on how to protect their roadways against a crime that poses a threat to transportation safety in every state across the U.S. In addition to complementing the work our organization is doing to stop human trafficking, the “Your Roads, Their Freedom” campaign works in tandem with the Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking initiative and other federal efforts against human trafficking, such as FMCSA’s grant programs, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign, to build on the important work that is already being done in this space.

Please help get the word out about “Your Roads, Their Freedom.” A library of shareable resources, including full details about the campaign and downloadable materials, can be found at: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/stophumantrafficking/resources>.

**Human traffickers use America’s transportation systems to facilitate unimaginable crimes.**

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U.S. Department of Transportation  
 Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

**PUT THE BRAKES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

## 2023 Raffle Winners

<b>1st Prize - \$300</b> Rod Viessman	<b>2nd Prize - \$200</b> Troy Anthony	<b>3rd Prize - \$100</b> Aaron Wold

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# Upcoming Events



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## JULY 20, 2023

SDTA East River Golf Event  
9:00 a.m.  
Brandon Golf Course  
Brandon, SD

## AUGUST 16 - 19, 2023

National Truck Driving Championships  
Columbus, OH

## SEPTEMBER 10 - 16, 2023

National Truck Driver  
Appreciation Week

## SEPTEMBER 13 - 15, 2023

SDTA 88th Annual Convention  
Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center  
Sioux Falls, SD

## NOVEMBER 9, 2023

SDTA Annual Pheasant Hunt  
8:00 a.m.  
Meet at Hutch's Cafe  
Presho, SD

## NOVEMBER 10, 2023

SDTA Fall Executive Committee Meeting  
8:00 a.m.  
AmericInn  
Fort Pierre, SD

## NOVEMBER 10, 2023

SDTA Fall Board of Directors Meeting  
10:00 a.m.  
AmericInn  
Fort Pierre, SD

## DECEMBER 6, 2023

West River Legislative Reception  
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Minervas, Lincoln Room  
Rapid City, SD

## DECEMBER 12, 2023

NextGen Reception  
4:30 p.m.  
East River Legislative Reception  
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Minervas  
Sioux Falls, SD

## FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Annual Legislative Reception  
and Sundae Bar  
6:00 p.m.  
Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center  
Pierre, SD

## FEBRUARY 13, 2024

SDTA Winter Executive  
Committee Meeting  
10:00 a.m.  
Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center  
Pierre, SD

## FEBRUARY 13, 2024

SDTA Winter Board of Directors Meeting  
12:30 p.m.  
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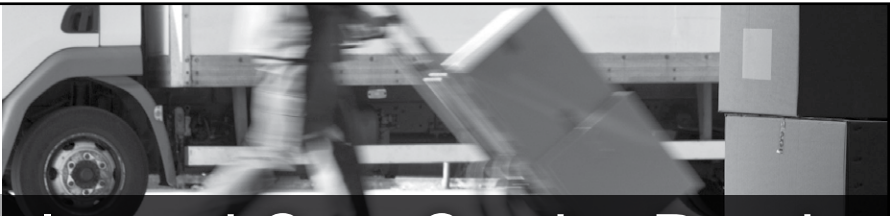
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# DRIVER OF THE MONTH NOMINATION FORM & RULES

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Jacket Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Driver: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Address (in full): \_\_\_\_\_

Children & Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Terminal Address (in full): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Employed by Present Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Years of Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Equipment Operated:  Truck  Tractor-Semitrailer  Doubles  Other

Type of Driving:  Over the Road  City  Other

Total Mileage: \_\_\_\_\_ Mileage with Present Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Accidents: \_\_\_\_\_ Chargeable Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Chargeable Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Has your driver ever been selected as a Driver of the Month or Driver of the Year in South Dakota or any other state?

Yes  No If yes, when?: \_\_\_\_\_

Participation in truck driving championships or other transportation related activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Basis of Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

With this entry, company agrees to send their driver, if selected as Driver of the Month, to the South Dakota Trucking Association Annual Convention, where the driver will participate in a personal interview. Drivers not being interviewed will not be eligible for the Driver of the Year honors. Interview times will be scheduled Friday afternoon during the convention.

With this entry, the company agrees to submit Driver of the Year Entry Form for National Competition if your driver is selected as the South Dakota Driver of the Year.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

## RULES:

Driver may be nominated for Driver of the Month for any outstanding act of heroism, a contribution to highway safety, an extraordinary act of courtesy, an exceptional deed or act of service to mankind within the community reflecting positively on the motor carrier industry, or for a long period of safe and courteous driving. An outstanding act shall be deemed to mean unusual or other than the normal every day courtesies afforded by truck drivers.

## ELIGIBILITY:

1. The nominated driver must be an employee of a member in good standing of the South Dakota Trucking Association.
2. The nominated driver must have been an employee of the present employer for at least two years and have a minimum of five years overall experience.
3. South Dakota domiciled\* drivers are eligible for nomination for an outstanding act performed in any state. \* The intent of the word "domiciled" shall be interpreted to mean: Any driver reporting to or regularly dispatched from a terminal within the state of SD (in keeping with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations definition of his/her home terminal) regardless of where the driver may dwell.

4. A driver may receive the Driver of the Month award only one time in any contest year. He/she may be renominated in any subsequent year.
5. Nominations for outstanding acts on the highway shall be accompanied by supporting evidence (letters, statements, news clippings, etc.). A clear, factual account is absolutely necessary. Vague generalizations will not be accepted.
6. A copy of recent driver motor vehicle record check must accompany the nomination.
7. Drivers nominated and not selected as Driver of the Month will be held over and used in the following month's selection.
8. Entries must be in the SDTA office no later than the 10th of each month for that current month's contest.
9. Nominations may be made by any party, but must be approved by the employer or a representative of the employer.
10. The annual contest will run from September of the previous year through August of the current year.
11. Company agrees to submit a professional head and shoulders photo of the winning driver.

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A photograph of a man and a woman shaking hands in a professional setting. The man is on the left, wearing a light blue shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is a bright, out-of-focus office environment with large windows.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | JUNE 15, 2023

## Breaking Ground: NCI Builds Brand New Facility in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Sioux Falls, South Dakota - Elevating the level of service North Central International (NCI) offers its customers has been a commitment as part of its growth in recent years. This has involved new builds, remodeled locations, and added dealerships.

The NCI-Sioux Falls location quickly outgrew its 20,000 square foot building and we knew that to offer exceptional service met we needed to redefine our growth and location.

“We simply outgrew our space to service our customers and offer what we consider the NCI standard,” says Jesse Fox, NCI Partner. “We are excited to get into this new building and open this fall.”

The new building, located at 5131 North Healy Lane, will more than double the current space at 54,000 square feet and features new spaces including a large driver’s lounge, 16 heated and air-conditioned shop bays, an innovative showroom and expanded parts floor.

“We are committed to the community we call home in Sioux Falls and the trucking industry we proudly serve,” says Fox. “This new build is part of our dedication as an International Trucks deal-

ership, but also to keeping our customers on the road and their businesses running.”

The new location is planned to open early fall and will celebrate with a grand opening event at that time.

“We are eager for the move over to the new location but are still delivering excellent parts and service in our current location until then,” says Fox.

For more information about this build or North Central International, please contact Sara Hewitt, Marketing Manager, at [sara.hewitt@northcentralintl.com](mailto:sara.hewitt@northcentralintl.com)

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# Driving Green Trucks Ahead at the Right Speed

While Industry Wants Cleaner Vehicles, EPA's Aggressive Targets Don't Provide Adequate Lead Times

**Scott McCandless** | Chairman | American Truck Dealers

June 20, 2023 – Truck dealers are all-in on electric commercial motor vehicles and want cleaner, greener, and safer trucks on our roadways. We're doing our part to be ready for the coming electrification of commercial fleets.

However, we also understand that fleet owners have major factors to weigh when considering an investment in electric or alternative-powered vehicles. Medium- and heavy-duty truck dealers like me sell vehicles to businesses, and the ultimate question our customers ask is whether these vehicles can meet their needs and expectations. Commercial customers will adopt electric vehicles when the investment makes sense for them financially.

Against this background, it is troubling that the government is pushing the regulation of fleet electrification in a way that could slow down rather than accelerate electric adoption by truck customers.

An example of this flawed push to regulate is the Environmental Protection Agency's new proposal targeting fleetwide greenhouse gas reductions for heavy-duty vehicles for model years 2027-2032. While the proposed rule does not dictate the alternative technologies OEMs must use, it does mandate aggressive targets that will force the industry toward electrification regardless of whether the necessary charging infrastructure is there, or if America's commercial fleets are ready to buy.

In the U.S. today, fewer than 1% of new commercial vehicle sales are zero-emission vehicles, but EPA's proposal aims to bring large numbers of battery, plug-in hybrid and fuel cell vehicles to the market by setting extremely aggressive targets in their new GHG Phase 3 rule.

To get these trucks on America's roads, fleets must first purchase the vehicles and put them in service, even though affordability of these trucks is an issue. Looking at this through the lens of a potential purchaser, a Class 8 electric truck costs roughly three times as much as a traditional internal combustion engine truck; at the same time, while a ZEV can go up to 330 miles per charging, a diesel has the ability to travel 1,500 miles before needing to refuel. It's not hard to do the math; the price and range simply don't "pencil out" for fleet operators.

Furthermore, commercial vehicles must be reliable and affordable. Prospective customers will avoid the unknowns related to EV downtime, because trucks that don't move don't make money. These trucks must be affordable and reliable to succeed in the marketplace.

Charging infrastructure also poses a serious challenge to adoption. Dealers are doing their part by investing millions of

dollars in the infrastructure, training, and equipment to sell and service electric heavy-duty trucks. However, EPA's proposed rule ignores that fleet owners need sufficient public charging and refueling infrastructure. Alternative charging and fueling infrastructure must be in place to spur customer adoption.

Reducing emissions requires more than just setting new standards. The EPA must provide adequate lead times across all market segments to decrease the cost of innovative technologies, and allow customers and governments to make critical infrastructure investments. Additionally, more federal, state and local incentives will help drive customer demand. Repealing the federal excise tax on all heavy-duty trucks would be a good place to start.

At the Advanced Clean Transportation Expo in May, Daimler Truck North America President and CEO John O'Leary said it best: We need to move at the "speed of right." Now is the time to find the right speed and path to drive cleaner greener trucks forward.

*Reprinted from Transport Topics.*



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# NHTSA and FMCSA Propose New Safety Standard Requiring Automatic Emergency Braking Systems in Heavy Vehicles

Proposed rule could prevent over 19,000 crashes, save 155 lives, and prevent thousands of injuries every year

**NHTSA** | Washington, DC

June 22, 2023 –The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that would require heavy vehicles to have automatic emergency braking (AEB) systems that will mitigate the frequency and severity of rear-end crashes.

“Advanced driver assistance systems like AEB have the power to save lives,” said NHTSA Chief Counsel Ann Carlson. “Today’s announcement is an important step forward in improving safety on our nation’s roadways by reducing, and ultimately eliminating, preventable tragedies that harm Americans.”

An AEB system uses multiple sensor technologies that work together to detect a vehicle in a crash imminent situation. The system automatically applies the brakes if the driver has not done so, or, if needed, applies more braking force to supplement the driver’s braking. The proposed standard would require the technology to work at speeds ranging between low-speed (6 miles per hour) and high-speed (roughly 50 miles per hour) situations.

“Establishing AEB standards is a key component of the Department’s National Roadway Safety Strategy,” said FMCSA Administrator Robin Hutcherson. “This technology can enhance the effectiveness of commercial motor vehicle crash reduction strategies and reduce roadway fatalities.”

According to NHTSA statistics, there are approximately 60,000 rear-end crashes a year in which the heavy vehicle is the striking vehicle. Once implemented, NHTSA estimates the proposed rule will prevent 19,118 crashes, save 155 lives, and prevent 8,814 injuries annually.

NHTSA and FMCSA incorporated feedback from the safety advocacy community, industry representatives and other



Illustration: Daimler

interested parties to address this critical safety need on America’s roads. The proposed rule, which fulfills a mandate under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, defines “heavy vehicles” as those having a gross vehicle weight greater than 10,000 pounds, such as heavy-duty trucks and buses. NHTSA proposed a similar rule that would require AEB systems in passenger vehicles and light trucks.

In January 2022, USDOT released the National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS), a roadmap to address the national crisis in motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries.

DOT also launched the next phase of the NRSS, the Call to Action campaign, and released a one-year progress report with accompanying data visualizations that highlight the extent and magnitude of the U.S. roadway safety problem and ways to eventually bring the number of deaths on our roadways to zero.

Public comments on the proposed rule will be accepted for 60 days. Please go to <https://www.transportation.gov/regulations/rulemaking-process#rulemaking> to learn more about the rulemaking process.

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# Trucking Group: Study supports greater use of hair tests for drivers

25 times more opioid users found through hair testing versus urinalysis

John Gallagher | *FreightWaves.com*

## 2022 pre-employment drug screen results

June 20, 2023 – The latest update to a multiyear study commissioned by 10 major trucking companies concludes that urinalysis is missing 90% of habitual drug use among truck drivers.

The Trucking Alliance-backed study is based on drug test results of nearly 1 million drivers between 2017 and 2022. Testing for drugs using hair samples detected 25 times more opioid users than testing through urinalysis, 23 times more cocaine users, 13 times more amphetamine/methamphetamine users and five times more marijuana users, among other drugs. The results “underscores the prevalence of ‘hard’ drug use among drivers,” the study asserts.

The study also found that hair tests yielded more positive drug tests across all drugs for every age group and every state.

The Trucking Alliance points to the results as evidence that the U.S. Department of Transportation should be allowing hair testing as a stand-alone option for weeding out potential drug abusers as part of preemployment screening.

“This study concludes that our family and friends are driving alongside thousands of truck drivers who use illegal drugs,” said Trucking Alliance Managing Director Lane Kidd. “If airline pilots had similar drug test data, all planes would be grounded.”

Doug Voss, one of the study researchers from the University of Central Arkansas, said the study provides ample evidence supporting the effectiveness of hair testing for drugs in trucking, given the large sample size and the disparity in positivity rates between hair and urine testing for various drugs. “At some point it’s like arguing whether the sun will rise tomorrow,” he said.

Drug Testing Results	Hair	Urine	Difference
Number of Tests	87,642	85,946	–
Number of Positive Tests	4,727	446	4,281
Percentage Positive	5.40%	0.52%	10x
<b>Number of Positive Tests that Contained:</b>	<b>Hair</b>	<b>Urine</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Marijuana	2,123	292	1,831
Cocaine	1,634	47	1,587
Amphetamines/Methamphetamines	651	29	622
Opioids	751	23	728
MDMA (Ecstasy)	18	0	18
Phencyclidine (PCP)	5	0	5

Source: Doug Voss, Joe Cangelosi, and Ming Li, University of Central Arkansas, 2023 study

The study notes that federal regulators do not currently allow carriers to submit hair test results to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse without a corresponding positive urine or saliva test. That means carriers who choose to administer hair tests voluntarily as a safety precaution are at a cost disadvantage to other companies due to additional testing expenses.

“Further, drivers who fail a hair test can go to work for a carrier that only employs urine testing without completing the federally mandated rehabilitation process,” the study points out.

Previous research by Voss and his colleagues found that if all truck drivers submitted hair drug tests to FMCSA, an additional 276,500 drivers would be prohibited from driving.

Allowing hair testing as an accepted method to screen for drugs has been widely unpopular among owner-operators. The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association has consistently opposed its use by federal regulators, citing costs and a lack of safety evidence.

Asked to comment on the latest study commissioned by the Trucking Alliance, OOIDA questioned the research behind it, contending that previous studies backed by the group supported false narratives in the hair-testing debate.

“We suspect these latest findings are the result of more dubious research,” OOIDA said in response. “They’re probably hoping no one takes a closer look, but that’s exactly what OOIDA will do to expose the flimsiness of their claims.”

OOIDA also pointed to recent confirmation by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services of its plans to reissue the hair testing guidelines as a proposed rule rather than a final rule as evidence that there “are still unresolved scientific and technical questions for this method of drug-use detection.”

HHS’ latest proposed guidance is expected shortly.

*Reprinted from FreightWaves.com*



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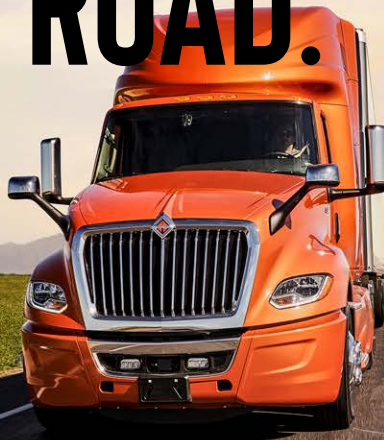




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