

Southern Weights & Measures Association

102nd Edition

SWMA Newsletter

July 2005

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

ARKANSAS

The Arkansas Bureau of Standards was fortunate to host a National Institute of Standards and Technology Package Checking Class April 18-22, 2005. The class, taught by Tom Coleman was attended by 15 of our employees along with Bill Tedder and Larry Rudisill who are field inspectors from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

It was a mixture of lecture and "hands on" that started from the very basic of concepts to the actual testing of some of the more challenging commodities, such as relish, deodorant, mustard and cocktail sauce, all of which have the real potential to present problems in their testing. These are examples which investigators face daily in the field. It was an extensive week of study, which can't help but leave our investigators better equipped to handle their duties with confidence and expertise.



At the end of the week, Jim Scott, the Director of the Arkansas Bureau of Standards, presented Tom with the prestigious Arkansas Traveler Certificate.

The Arkansas Traveler award presented by the Governor's office recognizes distinguished accomplishments and commissions the recipient as an ambassador of good will from Arkansas to the people of other states. Tom joins a list of past recipients such as Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Bob Dole, Ron-

ald Reagan, Gene Autry, Muhammed Ali, Billy Graham, Barry Manilow, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.

We all want to thank Henry Opperman and NIST for allowing the class to take place and the support they provide our state and others as well.



International trader, commercial pilot, real estate broker, Senator, state registered appraiser, consulting foresterthe list goes on. Now add to it former director of the Arkansas Bureau of Standards.

James C. Scott has accomplished more in his 70 plus years than most of us could in two lifetimes. From selling lumber in Algeria, or selling hatching eggs to Iraq, Jim's career has literally taken him all over the world.

When Jim became director of the Bureau in November of 2000 his mission was to turn us from a service agency to the regulatory agency he felt we were meant to be. His experience as a longtime State Senator proved invaluable. It didn't take him long to realize that the regulations we were responsible for would not hold up to the scrutiny of the current legal system. He undertook the task and rewrote many of the laws governing weights and measures and most importantly got the legislation passed. His experience with the "ins and outs" of sponsoring bills was largely responsible for getting our laboratory on a fee system which has gotten us on the road to the financial stability needed to become one of the leaders in this ever-changing world of technology.

Being the Bureau Director is a full-time job, but Jim managed the use of his "spare time" enough to be recognized as the 2001 Rural Advocate of the Year, be a member of the School of Forest Resources Advisory Committee for the University of Arkansas at Monticello, and maintained his status as a consulting forester and real estate broker.

His efforts to acquire nearly \$1 million in state appropriations for UAM led to the creation of the Spatial Information Systems Computer Teaching Laboratory and funding for the purchase of surveying stations and equipment used in the pro-

gram. As a result of this and other contributions the University of Arkansas at Monticello named a classroom after the former alumnus within the Forest Resources complex, the first classroom in any academic building named after an individual.

We will definitely miss him but his original plan was to stay with the agency for three years, he remained an extra two years because in his words "he didn't complete all that needed to be done..and he hated to leave." But to accomplish more would require another two years (the next session) and he had other things to do.

Jim's plans are to sell real estate and recreational land in his hometown of Warren and hopefully get some well-deserved rest. ☪

MARYLAND

Wotthlie Promoted to Chief of Maryland Weights and Measures Oversees Regulatory Activities and Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory

ANNAPOLIS, MD - May 18, 2005 - Agriculture Secretary Lewis R. Riley has promoted Richard W. (Will) Wotthlie as Chief of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures Section. As chief of the section, Wotthlie is responsible for ensuring fairness in the marketplace through the inspection and regulation of all weighing and measuring devices used in commerce in Maryland. He also oversees laboratory services, including Maryland's National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) laboratory, one of only three in the nation qualified to certify liquid measuring devices and one of only four in the nation qualified to certify weighing devices used commercially in the United States.

"Will is a strong manager who has done just about every job in the Weights and Measures Section and is known as a national leader in his field," said Agriculture Secretary Lewis R. Riley. "We are very pleased to have the opportunity to promote him."

Wotthlie began working for the department in 1979 as a field inspector for Frederick County, responsible for all weights and measures activities in that area as well as for the inspection and testing of all liquid propane gas (LPG) and loading rack meters located west of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. In 1989, he was promoted to field supervisor for the western and central parts of the state. In 1994, he was promoted to program manager for all activities pertaining to small and large scales in the Maryland and also performed NTEP evaluations for Liquid Measuring Devices. In 2003, Wotthlie additionally assumed the duties as program manager for liquid measuring devices and has served as Acting Chief of Weights and Measures since the retirement of Louis Straub in October 2004.

Throughout his career, Wotthlie has actively participated in technical and policy-making committees of professional associations, including the National Conference of Weights and Measures (NCWM), the Southern Weights and Measures Association, and the NCWM/NTEP program. He currently serves on the NCWM's Professional Development Committee. Wotthlie also has conducted many liquid measuring device and LPG training classes across the United States for the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Will lives in Mt. Airy, Maryland with his wife of 35 years. They have two children, and one granddaughter. They raise Angus beef cattle on their farm. He is an active member of the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company serving for 38 years as a firefighter and president for three years. ☪

NORTH CAROLINA

Measurement Section

Summer is here! More people are traveling and vacationing through and within our state. Grass is growing rapidly and the lawn mowers are running. Gas prices are up. This means more gas and fuel sales for vehicles and equipment with more people filling up those "blessed" red plastic gas containers that hold more than the labeled 5 gallons. Of course all these reasons combined mean more complaints and concerns from the consumer, which we give top priority. I guess you could look at it as "job security".

As usual, we have had several changes in our inspection staff since our last newsletter. Samuel Cain began employment June 15 replacing Gerald Price in the Raleigh area as a Standards I Inspector in which he will be testing fuel dispensers and related equipment. Gerald was promoted to fill the vacant Standards II position in the Raleigh area. We have selected someone to fill Terry Tatum's old position as a Standards I Inspector testing vehicle tank, rack and terminal meters as well as high-volume retail motor fuel dispensers. We are just waiting conformation from our Human Resources Division before we announce his name. Ed Williams, a Standards II Inspector in the central part of the state, retired July 1 after twenty plus years of outstanding service to the Department. We are hoping to be able to fill Ed's vacant position along with the vacant positions in the Charlotte and Greensboro in the near future. With these additions and good health we should be fully staffed and in great condition to maybe catch up some of our backlog of inspections.

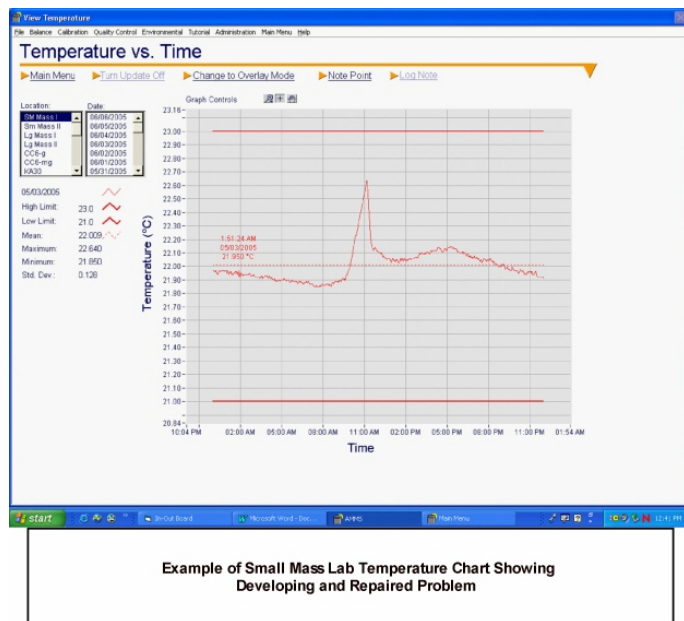
Standards Lab

Everybody at the lab is busy preparing for NVLAP audit June 27 – 29, 2005. For some reason, neither Cliff nor L.F. have requested vacation before the end of June?!

We are working with the NC State Highway Patrol to test the load cells which they will use to test the wheel load weighers used by each of their officers. This is the first program we know of that where we will test load cells that will be used to test wheel load weighers rather than the scales themselves. The State Highway Patrol will tie this program in with our field tests of their fixed scales at the weigh stations to insure all weight citations are defensible in court. The weight enforcement program has been in the news recently. A series of stories detailed how weight enforcement has decreased over the past few years due to the large number of vacancies in the weight enforcement program and legislation enabling exemptions for overloaded trucks to use secondary roads.

L.F., Cliff, and Van plan to attend the NCSL International Conference in Washington, DC in August. L.F. will present a paper documenting the large gravimetric volume calibration program in the laboratory.

After almost ten years of trouble free service, the ID5 display failed on our KC 500 mass comparator that is used to test all 200 through 1000 lb (100 kg through 500 kg) weights in the lab. In replacing the display with the new ID7, we discovered a weighing cell software change that made the new display incompatible. In the typical necessity is the mother of invention fashion, Cliff figured out that we could take the display from our KA30, replace the e-prom with that taken from the failed unit and use the new ID7 on the KA30. This has us back in business, but has upped the priority of replacing our KC 500 comparator as soon as a new budget allows.



We continue to work towards implementation of the Automated Mass Measurement System we purchased from MTL Corporation, but progress has been slow. This product definitely requires significant customization for each individual laboratory. Currently, it is doing a good job monitoring the laboratory environment. We've been able to identify HVAC system problems before the environments went out of control. We'll keep you posted as we progress with the implementation of the calibration part of the program.

We are testing all of the mass standards for our field inspectors during the month of June. Since we don't charge our own inspectors, that gives us more of a chance to collect all fees before the end of the fiscal year June 30. Wanda has done such a good job at reminding customers of past due balances, that a recent report showed we had nothing that was more than 60 days past due!

Current reports from inspectors on the coast indicate it is very nice and warm at the beach now. Anybody who suffered through the rough weather during the SEMAP meeting is welcomed to come back

Grain Moisture

The grain moisture program finally began its wheat harvest for the 2005-2006 season after a two-week delay brought about by a cool spring. We were left chomping at the bit to get started,

but not to worry. In typical North Carolina fashion, temperatures and humidity levels suddenly soared while afternoon thunderstorms delivered significant rain to some areas. Word quickly spread there could be sprout damage in this year's crop, leaving us concerned we would not be able to collect quality grain for standard samples.

After collecting most of the grain samples needed for the coming year, we are pleased to report there really has been no problem with sprout damage in the grain we collected. The test weights are also phenomenal. One 16.3% moisture sample had a test weight of 64 pounds per bushel, something elevator operators rarely see here. We look forward to a productive testing year.

LP-Gas

Richard Fredenburg, our LP-Gas Engineer, participated in the UL Gas Products Council in Chicago in May. This council provides some guidance to UL on standards development for gas (natural and LP) products and equipment.

The LP-Gas truck inspectors received calibration training from Liquid Controls on their line of LP-Gas meters in May.

Richard also participated in an advisory panel on composite cylinders and cabinet heaters at National Fire Protection Association headquarters in Quincy, MA, in June. This panel is helping to determine testing requirements and will review testing and results. The NFPA Technical Committee for LP-Gases will consider a proposal for indoor use of cabinet heaters with integral propane cylinders for the next edition of the LP-Gas Code. This testing will provide some guidance to the committee as they consider the proposal. †

TENNESSEE

Summer in Tennessee has definitely arrived with daytime temperatures in the 90's with the humidity almost as high! It seems like only yesterday that the Interim NCWM was being held in cool and comfortable Santa Monica, California and now the National Conference is only a couple of weeks away in Orlando, FL! It seems the only positive during these hot, muggy summer days is that football season can not be far away.

We have experienced several personnel changes over the past few months with Jay Melcher and Marty Smith, both Weights and Measures Inspector 2's, leaving for employment in the private sector. Marty went to work for a bottled water company and Jay sought employment in his hometown of Lynchburg, TN, with – you guessed it - Jack Daniels Distillery as an apprentice distiller. We all made Jay promise that he would personally insure that the entire staff would receive guided tours of this facility! We welcome Mr. Horace Jackson and Mr. Wendell Hughes as new inspectors and will be filling another inspector position in the very near future. Our Metrologist position is currently vacant, however we recently conducted interviews for this vital position and hope to have someone on-staff very soon. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Charles Miller and David Gibson, both East TN Inspectors. Charles is serving his country by being stationed in Iraq with his Navy Seabee Unit and David continues to experience health related problems.

Training seems to be the hot topic this summer for us. Ed Coleman, Petroleum Administrator, has arranged for a Hazardous Materials Seminar to be conducted in late June by a representative of SGS Control Services, which is the contract laboratory that analyzes our petroleum samples. Our entire field staff will be present for this important session along with a general session being presented by Ed and Bob following the SGS presentation. Ed Coleman is working with Dick Suiter of NIST to conduct a Mass Flow Meter training session tentatively scheduled for August 2005 to be conducted on the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville, TN (Our Division Director made Ed promise he would not sneak away to watch the Vols football team practice). Contact Ed as soon as possible if you or any of your staff may have an interest in attending as a large number of attendees are expected and only a limited number of slots remain open. Bob has also made preliminary plans to conduct a week-long device training session for our inspectors later on this summer.

We recently replaced our oldest large scale testing unit with an enclosed box unit including a weight cart. This unit will be based in West Tennessee where a large number of large capacity scales are located. Our inspector assigned to this unit is very pleased with its overall performance. Hopefully, we will be able to replace one of our other units next fiscal year.

Finally, it is with mixed feelings that we bid Mr. Henry Oppermann, NIST/OWM farewell. Henry has always been a very strong proponent of weights and measures and a friend to those of us who have had the opportunity to work with him. While a very qualified individual will no doubt assume his position, Henry's knowledge, leadership, and character will be very difficult to replace. The State of Tennessee wishes you and your family the best in your retirement from NIST. You will be missed!

Hope to see many of you at the NCWM!

Henry Oppermann Retires

I wish to inform you that I have made the difficult decision to retire from NIST effective July 1, 2005. NIST recently offered the opportunity for early retirement and I have decided to take the offer. My wife and I decided to move to New Orleans, LA, to spend more time together while we are both young enough and healthy enough to enjoy the many activities and events in the City.

This was a very difficult decision. I have greatly enjoyed my career in weights and measures and the wonderful people with whom I have had the privilege to work. Weights and measures is an important activity that is vital to the country. Over the years I have taken great satisfaction in that weights and measures provides a valuable service to the people and the country. One of my greatest pleasures has been to work with so many people from industry, the regulatory community, and within NIST who are dedicated to the field of weights and measures and to ensure equity and fairness in the marketplace. I have been fortunate to spend virtually my entire professional career in legal metrology. I truly value the friendships that I have made.

I plan to continue working in the area of weights and measures, although not as an employee of the Federal Government. I hope to work in the weights and measures community as a consultant and to play an active role in weights and measures. There are many initiatives in progress within NIST WMD and the NCWM that I expect will continue to move forward to strengthen the weights and measures system. I hope to continue to be involved in these activities.

I have enjoyed working with you and hope to be involved in additional activities after I retire.

Sincerely,

Henry

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