



Southern Weights & Measures Association

123rd Edition

SWMA Newsletter

January 2011

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

GEORGIA

January 10, 2011 was a historic day for the State of Georgia. Mr. Gary W. Black was sworn in as the new Commissioner of Agriculture. Commissioner Black and his wife Lydia live in Commerce, Georgia where they own and operate Harmony Grove Farms. We at the Department of Agriculture are very excited and are looking forward to working with Commissioner Black. Mr. Billy Skaggs has been appointed to serve as the Departments Chief Operations Officer and former Deputy Commissioner James Sutton has been appointed Chief Administration Officer.

The State of Georgia received blast of winter weather during the second week of January. Many parts of the state received snow, sleet and freezing rain. Many schools and businesses were closed for several days as were government offices, including ours.

The progress continues with the building of our new lab complex in Tifton, Georgia. The construction is coming along right on schedule. We anticipate to starting operations there during late spring or early summer.

Our division courier, Clyde Young is still currently at home undergoing cancer treatment. We miss Clyde greatly at work and are wishing him a speedy recovery. Please keep Clyde and his family in your prayers during this difficult time. ☩

NORTH CAROLINA

Measurement Section

2010 is coming to an end and looking back at our accomplishments we are a little behind our results for 2009. We don't like to make excuses but, a couple of the guys were out for extended amounts of time with knee replacements. (Randy Snipes is still out as he is having continued complications with his surgery.) Also a couple of guys have been out with back issues. Getting old can be a drag, can't it?

What we did in 2010 –

2010	Tested	Rejected	Rejected Rate (%)
Retail Motor Fuel Dispensers	90,771	9,076	10.00
Fuel Meters	3,015	389	12.90
Small and Medium Scale	30,983	2,660	8.59
Large Scales	2,502	484	19.34
Price Scanning Systems	5,690	264	4.64
Packages	3,256,602	114,067	3.50
Stop Sales (packages)	1,364		
Total Visits	16,263		

Richard Turner retired at the end of December with over 36 years of service. Richard tested fuel dispensers, scales, price scans and net content inspections. He was also among the few that did oysters and other non-routine inspections for us. Congratulations Richard!

By the time you are reading this Christmas and New Year will be behind us. I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you received all you wanted for Christmas and that you can meet all your New Year Resolutions in 2011. Remember it's up to you!!!

Motor Fuels Section

Mr. Dinesh Tailor has joined the Motor Fuels Lab staff as a Chemist I. Mr. Tailor previously worked in the paint industry and he also worked for the NC Dept. of Corrections. The Motor Fuels Lab will soon fill a vacant Octane Analyst position.

We continue to see issues with Phase Separation. We had expected that the Phase Separation condemnations would greatly decrease once the majority of stations had gone through the conversion process to E10. Approximately ninety-five percent of the stations in NC have converted to E10; however, we continue to spend a lot of time on Phase Separation condemnations.

Standards Laboratory

The last quarter of the year is a slow time for Standards Laboratory. The holidays are approaching and vacations are in the air. But before the lab became vacant I do have a couple of success stories to report.

We completed our annual OWM submissions which were due November 15, 2010.

Joey Creasy, our Maintenance Mechanic II, left us at the end of September. I'm proud to announce Jody Desourdy accepted that position and began working for us December 14, 2010. The lab looks much tidier since his arrival.

We finished up the year with two successful Test Can Days, one in November the other in December. We conducted them in our laboratory for those last minute petroleum technicians who didn't make the sites we had set up

out in the field the first two weeks in October. We calibrated over four hundred 5 gallon test measures this fall, 428 to be exact, which was about twenty cans less than what we did last year.

Standards Laboratory is gearing up for our first annual report we must submit to the Star Safety Program committee, which is due in February. A lot of hard work has gone into being one of the first labs in our department to have this recognition and we are looking forward to sharing our success with others. Safety has always been one of our top priorities in the department and the Standards Lab staff has done an amazing job with maintaining our safety program accident free.

The grain moisture meter testing program ended its 2010 harvest with a spotty soybean crop. Yields were down and damage was up. While finding robust samples for the 2011 testing season was difficult, we were able to find an adequate amount for the upcoming year. We look forward to the beginning of a new year of grain inspection.

LP-Gas Section

The NC State Fair had record attendance this year, almost 1.1 million visitors! That means there was a lot of food being cooked for the masses and a lot of propane tanks. We inspected the propane installations for nearly 300 vendors on a daily basis, even weekends, to be sure conditions were safe for both vendors and visitors alike.

With the release of the 2011 edition of the LP-Gas Code (NFPA 58), we started enforcing it on January 1, 2011. †

Contact SWMA

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