

Southern Weights & Measures Association

73rd Edition

SWMA Newsletter

April 1998

Dear SWMA Members and Friends

As the 1998 SWMA Conference is rapidly approaching, I would like to give you the information on the location and rates. The 53rd Annual Conference will be held Sunday October 25th through Thursday the 29th, 1998 at the Hilton Hotel in Lafayette, Louisiana. Reservations need to be made by October 9th, 1998. Reservations and questions concerning accommodations can be obtained from:

Lafayette Hilton and Towers
P. O. Box 52286
1521 Pinhook Road
Lafayette, Louisiana 70505
Telephone: (318) 235-6111
Fax: (318) 261-0311

The room rates will be \$70.00, single or double occupancy; \$70.00 triple or quad. If you would like to come early, we have a few rooms blocked for your convenience.

I am pleased to announce the following chairman appointments:

Administrative and Public Affairs Committee

Charles Carter, Chairman OK
Phone: (405) 521-3864
Fax: (405) 521-4912

Laws and Regulations Committee

Karl Angell, Jr., Chairman W V
Phone: (304) 722-0602
Fax: (304) 722-0605

Specifications and Tolerances Committee

Richard Wotthlie, Chairman MD
Phone: (410) 841-5790
Fax: (410) 841-2765

Executive and Nominating Committee

Carol Fulmer, Chairman SC
Phone: (803) 737-9690
Fax: (803) 737-9703

Auditing Committee

Carol Fulmer, Chairman SC
Phone: (803) 737-9690
Fax: (803) 737-9690

Resolutions Committee

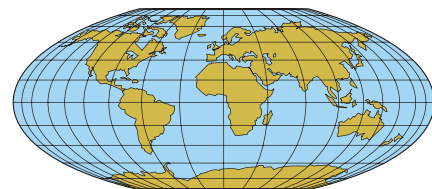
Charles Burns, Jr. Chairman AL
Phone: (205) 254-2246
Fax: (205) 254-2925

Associate Membership Committee

Doug Carlton, Chairman Micro-Motion
Phone: (800) 522-6277
Fax: (303) 530-8209

If there are any other topics that need to be addressed, please phone or fax your comments to the appropriate committee chairman. Additional committee appointments will be made in the near future.

Sincerely,
Ronald Harrell
President



**ANNOUNCING
The SWMA Website**

SWMA Website <http://www.swma.org>

The Southern Weights and Measures Association has established a website that will be used as a tool to better inform the public about the activities of SWMA and as a working site for the various committees to post information of upcoming proposed changes and considerations to the National Conference on Weights and Measures Handbook 44.

Home Page

The Home Page is the location of the SWMA Logo and Name. Under the Logo is a line of colored hyper links that are underlined. By placing the mouse cursor on any of the hyper links and clicking the left mouse button, the page identified by the hyper link will be downloaded from the website to your computer for your review.

The second line contains a MineNetwork box with a rotating world, a visitor counter and a date. By placing the cursor on the MineNetwork box and clicking the left mouse button, a completely different website will be downloaded to your computer. On this website, you can view activities and related websites that may be of interest to you. You can return to the SWMA website by clicking on the "back" button found in the upper menu of your web browser or for those with netscape, click and hold the right mouse button and move the cursor to the word "back" and release the right button. Netscape users can also click the "back" button on the menu.

The Visitor counter automatically updates each time the SWMA home page is accessed. It is provided as a tool to record the activity of the site. The date provides information on the last time the website was amended .

The underlined words on the next two lines are hyper links to locations on the Home Page and are different than the hyperlinks listed above that takes you to locations on other pages within the SWMA website. Hyperlinks offer a fast method for moving directly to the area on the page. Another method to view the page is to scroll down. By placing the point of the mouse cursor on the down arrow at the bottom of the scroll bar on the right side of the screen and single clicking for slow movement or click and hold for fast movement, the entire page can be viewed. Reverse the process with the arrow on top of the scroll bar to move up.

The SWMA Mission Statement and Membership Statement are listed followed by the Officers, Board of Directors and Committees.

The bottom of the page lists additional hyperlinks to either return to the top of the homepage or go directly to other pages on the site.

Hyperlinks

Hyperlinks located at the top of all other pages, within the SWMA website, are represented in two different forms. Colored rectangles with other page names and words that are underlined. Clicking on the rectangles will take you to the page listed within the rectangle. Clicking on the underlined word will take you to the location within the same page as indicated by the word. The Interim page will contain the final report, when available, from each Committee as developed at the National Conference on Weights and Measures Interim Meeting.

Executive Committee, Laws & Regulations Committee, Specifications & Tolerance Committee, Resolutions Committee and the Administration & Public Affairs Committee Pages

Currently the above Committee pages provide the Final Reports of the Committee's as published in October, 1997 at the Annual Meeting in Hot Springs, AR. Each committee will be responsible for providing information to update their webpage. Since we have just established the website, it has not yet been determined how often each page will be updated or what information will be available on each of the committee pages. The Final Report may be

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replaced with the voting results of each committee at the NCWM and could list the specific changes to Handbook 44. The committee may also elect to use their page to inform the public of items under consideration for the next Annual Meeting of the Southern Weights and Measures Association.

Constitution

Underlined words at the top of the Constitution Page are hyperlinks to specific areas of the document and provide easy access within the Constitution. It has not yet been determined if future proposed changes to the wording of the Constitution will be provided on the website.

Feedback Form

The Feedback Form has been provided as a means for anyone to communicate with the SWMA. You can indicate the type of comment and the category. A space is also provided for you to type your comments or concerns. Please complete the information requested on how SWMA can contact you. Click on the "Submit Feedback" rectangle to send your comment to SWMA and a confirmation screen will inform you that your comments were successfully sent. Click on the "Reset Form" rectangle to obtain a blank form.

Newsletter

The Newsletter webpage represents the quarterly Newsletter mailed to SWMA members of good standing in January 1998. It has not yet been determined if the newsletter page will be continued on the website.

Your comments and suggestions for the SWMA Website are welcomed. ☪

Ronald Harrell
President

Jurisdictional News

ALABAMA

We have recently purchased a new Mettler-Toledo Ultra Micro Balance with printer for the Weights and Measures Laboratory. Plans are to install new environmental controls and possibly replace another of our old balances before the end of this fiscal year.

We are in the process of hiring a new Heavy Duty Weights Inspector for Southwest Alabama. This area has been without an inspector for several years.

We recently hosted classes on checking milk by NIST Handbook 133. The instructor for these classes was Ed Coleman, Tennessee Weights and Measures. We had a total of 21 participants - state regulatory, dairy industry and package manufacturer representatives. There were a lot of very positive comments concerning the classes. ☪

Arkansas

During the week of March 2, 1998, Tim Chesser, Field Investigator Supervisor, and Mark Bell, Special Testing Inspector, met with Large Scale Inspectors from the Mississippi Department of Agriculture to witness an NTEP test on a Weigh-Tronix vehicle scale installed at Eagle Mills, Arkansas. NTEP Inspector Bill West with the Ohio Department of Weights and Measures supervised the official inspection. This inspection gave our inspectors the opportunity to witness an actual NTEP test. We would like to thank Bill West for his willingness to take the time to explain to our inspectors in detail the tedious NTEP procedure. We also appreciate the opportunity to work with Rusty Robins and Timmie Welch with Mississippi. Our hats are off to Bill Eldridge for employing such knowledgeable people. We all certainly benefitted from the knowledge gained.

Three Field Investigators, Leon Prince, Harlin Wheeler, and Roger Frazier, have been evaluating the new EPO No. 1 (Examination Procedures Outline for Small Capacity Scales). The field assessment is part of an NCWM Administration and Public Affairs Committee study to evaluate the EPO for suitability, usefulness, and format during field inspection activities. Our investigators will submit written evaluations to Tom Coleman and Joan Mindte at NIST / OWM by April 1, 1998.

Randy Burns, Grain Analysis and Research Laboratory Technician, attended a meeting of the National Type Evaluation Technical Committee Sectors for Grain Moisture Meters and Near Infrared Grain Protein Analyzers. The meeting was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 14-17, 1998.

FLORIDA

The Bureau of Weights and Measures has now officially adopted in regulation the procedures found in NCWM Publication 19 as the standards for pricing accuracy. Also adopted are the package testing procedures of Handbook 133, including all four supplements. Rules adopting administrative fines for specific violations are currently be-

ing developed after statutory authority for such fines was established during the last legislative session.

Beginning in April of 1997, all pawn shops in the state were required to be licensed by the Division of Consumer Services. The Pawn Brokers Act also prohibited pawn shops from operating between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. and from making automobile title lawns from business involved in pawn transactions. At the request of the Division of Consumer Services, Weights and Measures field inspectors conducted a one week sweep focusing on pawn shops to assure compliance with the Pawn Act and Handbook 44. Over 500 pawnshops were visited during the week and few violations of the Pawn Act were found. However, over 175 scales that do not meet Handbook 44 requirements for commercial devices were discovered. Most of the illegal scales were found at pawn shops that had applied to Consumer Services for licenses but had never reported their scales to Weights and Measures. Weights and Measures will continue to visit pawn shops for the next month until all have been inspected to assure compliance with both laws.

Additional focused inspection activities are being planned in an attempt to utilize our existing resources more effectively. Not only can industry compliance be better determined, but our presence in some market areas that have normally not had frequent inspections assists in bringing voluntary compliance by businesses that may or may not be aware of weighing and measuring requirements.

Weights and Measures inspectors have also been assisting Consumer Services in inspecting automotive repair shops and in surveying businesses for recalled items in cooperation with the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

The Weights and Measures law requires that we charge fees for metrology lab calibration and testing to recover the actual costs of providing those services. For the first time since 1994, we have had to increase the fees to offset higher operating costs. The new fees went into effect March 18.

Carlos D'Arcy has been appointed to Field Supervisor in the South Florida area. Carlos has been with Weights and Measures over 12 years as inspector and trainer. Some SWMA members may know Carlos as he has attended several regional training sessions as well as instructor training at NIST. †

GEORGIA

BRENDA Whitener, State Metrologist, and Tino Bradford, Assistant State Metrologist, attended the SEMAP annual meeting in Knoxville, TN on March 23-28, 1998.

Due to the recent retail service station pump over-registering violations found, Georgia has developed and implemented an inspection procedure where if 80 percent or more of the active station pumps are over registering (short measuring) at or exceeding minus 4 cubic inches the device shall not be considered "maintained in a proper operating condition". Georgia appreciates our friends from Gilbarco Inc., Tokheim Corporation, Schlumberger Technologies, and Wayne Div-Dresser Industries for their participation in our recent February meeting pertaining to predominant error.

Harry Loosier, Weights and Measures Lab, has been promoted to Metrologist II.

The Georgia State Fuel Oil Laboratory is finalizing equipment purchasing for this year. The laboratory is looking to expand its flash point capability by purchasing an additional automatic flash point tester. Under consideration is a small volume unit. In addition field and laboratory test measures are being considered.

The Fuel Laboratory currently is conducting vapor pressure testing for Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is looking into the possibility of including sulfur in gasoline testing. A hearing was attended March 20, 1998, where changes to Georgia's air quality regulations was proposed. EPD is considering adding 30 more counties to the current 13 metro Atlanta counties requiring 7.0 psi vapor pressure and 150 ppm sulfur content during the summer months starting in 1999. The proposal also includes lowering the sulfur content to 30 ppm, limiting aromatics to 22% by volume and olefin content to 4% by volume effective in 2003. These requirements are meant to reduce summer time ozone problems. As you can imagine, there were many comments received from the affected industries.

Curt Williams hopes to attend the June ASTM Petroleum Committee Meeting. Gasoline volatility changes will be of major concern. †

Kentucky

Things have been busy with the Legislature in session until April 1. Two pieces of legislation effecting our division has passed. An update of the egg inspection law concentrated on consumer safety issue and a restructuring of the fees for inspection and licensing. The license fee for tobacco warehouses was reduced from \$275 to \$125. We use to receive only \$25 of the \$275, with the remainder going to the Attorney General. Now we will receive the entire fee.

The Division has completed the first phase of implementing a conversion to Microsoft Access operating system. The second phase will begin in May and will complete the conversion of the office. We are looking now at equipping all field inspectors with laptops as third phase. This is part of department wide conversion to one operating system and the networking of all divisions.

Michael Baker will be attending the SEMAP meeting in Knoxville the week of March 23, 1998. ☞

Maryland

- A training class was held for our field staff at our facility during February 10-13, 1998. The session on scales and NTEP was conducted by Program Managers Will Wotthlie and Andrea Buie, the session on metering systems was conducted by Program Manager Dick Shockley, the session on packaging & labeling was conducted by Program Manager Bob Eaves and the session on administrative matters was conducted by Chief Lou Straub.
- Program Manager Bob Eaves assisted Tom Coleman of NIST present an Instructor Training Course on Handbook 133 Category "A" Training (Liquid Commodities) at the Ellington Agricultural Center, Tennessee Dept. Of Agriculture, Nashville, Tennessee on March 1-6, 1998. Thirty-two students, representing 31 weights & measures jurisdictions attended. Representing members of the Southern Weights and Measures Association were Harlin "Pappy" Wheeler, Arkansas; Oscar Garrison, Georgia; James Kemp, Kentucky; "Bo" Nelson, North Carolina; David Ellisor, South Carolina; and Archie "bobsled" Corbett, Virgin Islands. Many thanks to Bob Williams, Ed Coleman, Eddie Woods, "Mule" Drinnon, Danny Scott and others from the Tennessee Weights & Measures staff for their hospitality.
- On March 11, 1998, Anthony Anderson and Leila Smith began work as members of our field staff. They filled the vacancies created by the departure of former inspectors Dave Heider and Fred Schwallenberg.
- Mehran Alemi, who has been with our section for 8 years as a field inspector and laboratory technician will be leaving our section and begin working for Keane, Inc., a software consulting firm in early April, 1998. We will miss Mehran, and wish him well in his new job. As a result of Mehran's departure, we will now have two vacancies in our laboratory. Anyone out there interested in working in Maryland's Weights & Measures Laboratory? Please call Lou.

RECENT CIVIL PENALTIES

On February 10, 1998, we received payment of \$250.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Liberty Box N' Save, Randallstown, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the store.

On February 12, 1998, we received payment of \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Super Fresh #875, Salisbury, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during test purchases conducted at the store.

On February 17, 1998, we received payment of \$2,000.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Fresh Fields Market, Annapolis, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during a routine package inspection performed at the store. This is the third civil penalty assessed against this store within a 12 month period (total of \$3,250.00 in civil penalties).

On February 20, 1998 we received payment of \$1,000.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Walmart #2514. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the store. ☞

MISSISSIPPI

The Weights and Measures Division held a press conference at the Mississippi Fairgrounds in Jackson on January 20th to announce its placing in service new equipment valued at about \$920,000.



Commissioner Lester Spell, Jr. backed by Weights and Measures employees, made the presentation. The conference was attended by representatives of the news media, members of the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives Agriculture Committees, a number of Agri-Business Council members and staff, representatives from Freightliner Trucking Company, Harvey Lodge of Cargo-Tec, Inc., and a host of friends.

Following the press conference, attendees were invited to join the Division for a delicious catfish luncheon with all the trimmings. The luncheon was prepared and served by division and laboratory employees.



On January 23rd the heavy test trucks were officially assigned to Division inspectors. A little over an hour after the vehicles were assigned and in a span of probably less than thirty seconds one of the 33,000 pound test trucks was transformed from the above likeness to the next pictured total wreck.



The operator, inspector David Rice miraculously survived. However, he sustained a few pretty serious bruises and about seventeen stitches to his scalp. He was able to return to work after about two weeks recuperation.

Weights and Measures Week. In recognition of National Weights and Measures Week, Governor Kirk Fordice proclaimed March 1-7 as "Weights and Measures Week" in Mississippi. The division mailed a press release, a copy of the Governor's proclamation and a copy of the NCWM sponsored brochure "Getting what you pay for" to all broadcast and print media in the state. During the week a press conference designed to promote weights and measures week was held at the public scale, Central Farmers Market in Jackson. Commissioner Lester Spell, Jr. made a statement to the press and a Weights and Measure inspector operating one of the Division's heavy test units, demonstrated the testing of the scale. Following the press conference, one member of the news media expressed a desire to produce a series on our various weights and measures activities during the coming months.

Bill Eldridge announces his retirement. Bill Eldridge, Director, Weights and Measures Division will retire effective June 30, 1998. Bill was employed as a Weights and Measures inspector on February 1, 1973. He came up through the ranks, being promoted to Supervisor in the Consumer Protection Division in 1979, Weights and Measures Program Director in March 1984 and Weights and Measures Division Director in 1994. Bill has been active in the Southern Conference having served in a number of leadership positions and as President in 1989-90 as well as being active in the National Conference during his tenure. He has been a stabilizing force in Mississippi's Weights and Measures program. His disciplined and fair leadership will be missed.

Russell "Rusty" Robbins, Jr. a Division veteran of 22 years has been named by Commissioner Lester Spell to move into the Director's slot following Bill's departure. Rusty began his career as a Heavy Scale Inspector in the Consumer Protection Division. He has worked under Bill's supervision since the beginning and has for a number of years been designated instructor on law, regulation and testing procedure for the heavy scale inspectors. Rusty has supervised the pre-calibration activities and scheduling of all Division weights for laboratory calibration. He has also managed the Division office in the absence of the Director.

Rusty is a graduate of Mississippi State University and has participated in a number of weights and measures seminars over the past several years. Most recently he attended the interim meeting of the NCWM in San Antonio, TX in January, an NTEP Prototype Test conducted by William West of Ohio in Eagle Mills, Arkansas on March 3rd and will attend the Basic Metrology Training in Gaithersburg, Maryland in April. We are confident that Rusty will carry on the high standard and tradition of his predecessor.

Meeting/Conference Attendance: John Tillson, Director Consumer Protection Division and Russell Robbins, Weights and Measures Division attended the recent NCWM Interim meeting in San Antonio, Texas, January 11-15th. Field Supervisor Timmy Welch and Russell Robbins attended the March 3rd NTEP Prototype Test Conducted by William West, Supervisor, Weights and Measures, Ohio Department of Agriculture in Eagle Mills, Arkansas.

Ms. Ena Gustavius, Assistant State Metrologist, attended the March 23-27th Southeastern Measurement Assurance Program (SEMAP) in Knoxville, TN.

Ms. Gustavius and Mr. Robbins are scheduled to attend the Basic Metrology Training Seminar in Gaithersburg, MD, April 13-24th.

Consumer Protection solves a long standing problem: Though not a big one as problems go, but a nagging one none the less for the Consumer Protection Division was recently resolved. Division Director John Tillson said "For several years we have searched for an equipment carrier with a work table that would accommodate weight kits, scales and other inspection equipment and would be adaptable for use in retail food stores, malls, etc. We had received several estimates on custom designed carts but they were cost prohibitive and still did not meet the needs of the field staff. In January of this year, we found and

are now using, in our field applications, what is actually an adjustable TV-VCR table. The tables were much less expensive than the custom designed models. It has five height adjustments, from 26" to 42", with three shelves, locking wheels and approximately a 300-pound weight capacity. They look more professional than using a grocery cart with a bread tray, etc. and our field personnel are commenting that this was one of the best purchases we have made."

The purchase of the adjustable tables was one effort to increase productivity and efficiency while minimizing back injuries relating to the performance of weights and measures work. Another effort to reduce injury has been the purchase of industrial lumbar supports to further reduce the possibility of back injury.

Petroleum Division prevails, administrative penalty affirmed: In September 1997, an administrative hearing was held to consider charges that a petroleum dealer had on at least two occasions sold gasoline labeled 93 octane when, by laboratory analysis the product was found to be 88 octane or below. An administrative fine of \$1,000 was assessed. The dealer appealed the fine. On March 2nd the appeal was heard by the Petroleum Appeals Board. Following several hours of testimony, the Appeals Board made up of a designee for the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, a designee for the president of the Mississippi Petroleum Marketers Association and a representative of the Attorney General, ruled in favor of the Division and affirmed the assessment of the administrative fine. †

NORTH CAROLINA

Our price scanning inspection program continues to be a top priority. Last year the Standards Division inspected the price scanning systems in over 1100 North Carolina stores. To inspect the ever increasing number of stores going to price scanning, we have instituted a program to inspect certain stores (even industries) based on their historical track record. For example, we have decided to perform price scanning inspections in grocery stores on an every other year basis. This approach permits us to put the highest priority on those stores and industries which are showing the highest overcharge error rates. This inspection scheme requires us to break some long-standing habits and look at our inspection process in a much different light. However, in a fast growing state and with little likelihood of adding more staff, we must look for ways to get the biggest bang for our buck.

It's not good enough to just perform inspections and report the results. Occasionally you must take stronger ac-

tion. In March the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services collected a civil penalty of \$1500 from the CVS Corporation for overcharge price scanning errors at a Fayetteville, North Carolina Revco Store. An inspection in January found 13 overcharge scanning errors from an inspection lot of 300 items. This was the third inspection at this location in which the overcharge error rate had exceeded 2 percent.

We have decided to participate in the latest milk survey. One of our trainers has attended the OWM train the trainer school on liquid products. Prior to starting the milk inspection program, we plan to get all weights and measures inspectors together to ensure that everyone understands the testing process. It's critical that all of us (that means weights and measures inspectors throughout the country) perform inspections in a uniform manner.

Additional training will occur later in the year. In May, gasoline and oil inspection personnel will receive training on electronic meter calibration and refresher training on the environmental inspections we perform for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. With the deadline for complying with underground tank standards less than one year away, each inspector is receiving more and more questions about what must be done to put tanks in compliance. In June the heavy duty scale inspectors will undergo a refresher course on large capacity and livestock scales. Also in the month, vehicle tank meter calibrators will gather in Charlotte to receive training on new meter proving systems, such as compact provers. Following the National Conference in July, retail weights and measures inspectors will receive training on changes to Handbook 44. Sprinkled into all training opportunities are sessions on employee safety and certain policies of the department and division. We spend a great deal on money and time on training. We think the benefits of a well-trained staff offset the costs.

New employees have recently joined the program. They seem to be adapting to our style of doing things. We are confident they will become efficient weights and measures inspectors. Although many jurisdictions have women inspectors, our efforts to attract women have not gotten very far. One of the new inspectors is female. We hope we have now broken through the gender barrier.

The Standards Laboratory will soon undergo a little renovation. The chiller for the laboratory and the HVAC system in the small mass lab will be replaced. We have been assured that the work will go smoothly with a minimum of disruption to our operations. Right! LF is planning on Murphy's Law rearing its ugly head once the project begins. If all goes according to plan, we should be able to

more closely control temperature throughout the entire building and especially in the small mass lab.

Bids are out to purchase a modified Mettler-Toledo KG3000 scale to test weight carts. Our system will be based on one used in Michigan. A complete report on our system will be in future editions of the newsletter.

In prior newsletters we have mentioned problems with air bubbles in water when we test and calibrate five gallon test measures. After much talk we are finally on the verge of installing a water holding tank which will serve as a "settling tank" to remove the air bubbles. There is even talk of taking the system on the road when we travel to various cities to calibrate the test measures used by private technicians. We will provide periodic reports on how the system is working.

Van, Sharon, and Glen plan to attend the SEMAP meeting in Knoxville. Glen has just returned from the intermediate metrology training at NIST and if all goes well, we hope to send our newest metrologist, Tal Anderson, to the basic metrology seminar in April. ☞

SOUTH CAROLINA

Two new mass comparators are being purchased for our Metrology Lab. One of these will have a capacity of 600 kg and will hopefully speed up our calibrations of large mass standards. The other has a 110 gram capacity and will fill a void in the electronic balances that we have in our small mass lab. John Pugh and Robert McGee will be attending the SEMAP meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee. We have purchased a new computer to run the PMAP software being provided to state labs by NIST and hopefully the training at this meeting will be very beneficial.

With the warmer weather approaching, we have inspected the net contents of packages of bark mulch at our two largest packers. We found all the different lots inspected at these to plants to average more than the labeled net contents. Further inspections of bark mulch will be conducted at the retail level as time permits. The increased inspections of bark mulch over the last couple of years has had an impact the percentage found out of compliance.

The computer systems in the Consumer Services Division have been updated, and we now have the capability to receive and send E-mail and access the Internet from our own offices. We are making progress here in South Carolina. Our E-mail address is either:
Conserv@scda.state.sc.us
fulmer@scda.state.sc.us. ☞

Tennessee

Ed Coleman, Weights and Measures Supervisor, recently attended the Instructors Training for Retail Computing Scales session in Maryland. He is also scheduled to be in attendance for a similar session in April regarding retail fuel dispensers. We strongly feel the instructor training sessions are very valuable and should be continued if adequate funding is available. We were also able to send Danny Scott to Instructor Training for NTEP which was very valuable to us as we recently became a NTEP state. Tina, Dick, Juana, Tom, and Ken should be congratulated as their hard and dedicated work in their areas of expertise has enabled instructor training to be successful.

March 23-27, 1998 will find Tennessee hosting the annual SEMAP meeting at the Knoxville Hilton, Knoxville, Tennessee. Our Metrologist, Tom Smith, has reported countless hours in coordinating and planning this meeting. Tom reports that he expects a large turnout with the highlight being a tour of the metrology laboratory and related facilities at Lockheed-Martin Energy Systems in Oak Ridge, TN. Tom is also serving as Chairman of SEMAP this year and we are all very excited about his activities in SEMAP.

Tom Smith recently visited the Georgia Weights and Measures Laboratory to learn more about their grain moisture meter inspection program. As one of his many duties, Tom is responsible for the operation and coordination of this program. We would like to thank the State of Georgia, especially Brenda Whitener, for allowing Tom to visit the lab and for the knowledge and expertise she shared with Tom.

We recently took delivery of a Mettler KB50 balance to be used primarily for tolerance testing and calibration of larger standards. Hopefully, as funding becomes available, we will be able to expand into other areas of metrology.

Preliminary data from statistical sampling of retail fuel dispensers has indicated that we are focusing on the dispensers that should be selected to be tested. Hopefully, this statistically valid program will allow us to greatly reduce the number of dispensers we test while maintaining or reducing the rejection rate based on prior years data. Randy Jennings and Bob Williams will be happy to share the protocol of this program if anyone is interested along with preliminary data. We are excited about this program as it allows us to use our scarce resources in other areas where they may be needed.

Tennessee was fortunate in being able to host the Instructor Training Class for Handbook 133 on March 2-6, 1998, at the Ellington Agricultural Center, Nashville, TN. Tom Coleman and Bob Eaves presented an excellent program to those in attendance. It is very evident that Tom and Bob have spent a tremendous amount of time "Practicing What They Preach" as their presentation was well prepared and shared with the group in a clear and concise manner. One of the many highlights of this session was the "Virgin Island Bobsled Team's" appearance. This team was anchored by Archie Corbett and whoever had the nerve to share a ride with him. We would also like to thank Michigan's Mike Pinagel for the timely and informative session of "How To Speak Southern" along with Hawaii's Diane Yamamoto's rendition of several southern terms. These side events proved to be very beneficial to the group while boosting "morale."

On the lighter side, we were recently contacted by Union University, Jackson, TN to measure an approximately 175 foot long cake they baked to celebrate their 175th anniversary. The university submitted our data to the Guinness Book of World Records for verification and publication.

Randy Jennings is scheduled to attend the Central Weights and Measures Association meeting in May in Columbus, Ohio to present his Premium Diesel Working Group report and findings. He will also be available for questions on this very important and timely matter. Randy was also able to schedule Mr. Curtis Muller of SGS Control Services, to present a one day training session to our field staff on hazardous material handling of petroleum products as it relates to our petroleum inspection program. This was an excellent session and we would highly recommend a similar training session to any



TEXAS

We hope that those who attended the Interim Meeting in San Antonio had a great time and found the food to be flavorful and the weather cooperative. Though there were no 90 degree days, the temperature was pleasant.

The Texas Department of Agriculture is undergoing an effort to have a Privatization Program in place for some sector of the weights and measures devices registered in the state. TDA has over 225,000 devices in the state by privatizing it is believed that a more efficient means of inspecting these devices will be achieved. In addition to the follow-up of the private inspectors, the department will be able to utilize its staff to perform inspections of packages and conduct price verification inspections and

concentrate on increasing the compliance rate in those areas. A special thanks to Constantine Cotsoradis In Kansas for the assistance he has provided.

TDA is in the process of developing a new price verification inspection plan which would allow our inspectors to perform the most recent inspection procedure as indicated in NIST Handbook 130 with the hand-held scanners rather than collecting all 50 to 100 items for sampling. Some discussion has arisen over the basis for funding the program by either implementing a fee for the inspection or collect a fee from each outlet based the number of scanners used. Any advice in this area would be greatly appreciated.

Scriptwriters are now being utilized by TDA inspectors for weights and measures inspections. The Scriptwriter allows the inspector to print information on an inspection report and because of the character recognition capability of the pad, the information is sent directly to TDA's Integrated Licensing System. The inspector appreciates the ability of the Scriptwriter to contain essential licensing information of an outlet rather than being forced to call from a location each time to request licensing information. Time is saved on the administrative side by preventing the need for personnel to data enter each inspection report and because the accuracy is much greater.

TDA is also in the developmental stages of its octane sampling program. The preliminary plan would allow the inspector to collect a sample and send it to a lab for analysis rather than using a hand-held octane analyzer. The legislature has given TDA the authority to conduct such inspections and once funding is received, the rules will be published and the program implemented.

TDA has seen a great improvement in the compliance rate of dairy products. Since the initial Milk Study, TDA has trained nearly 100 quality assurance personnel and plant managers from over 10 dairies in the state. Our compliance rate risen by almost 40 percent in that time.

TDA has recently purchased 4 - 100 gallon provers to be used for those liquid measuring devices that have a maximum flow rate of over 25 gallons per minute. †

West Virginia

It was a real pleasure to receive the January, 1998 issue of the SWMA Newsletter, it was interesting and informative. Bill Brasher did an excellent job and deserves congratulations. Now all we have to do is support him by keeping the state news pouring into his office.

West Virginia Weights and Measures lost a valuable asset last fall when Gypsy Dodson retired. Gypsy had been with weights and measures for twenty-two years and was the rock on which we all depended, including the Commissioner of Labor, the Director, the field inspectors and the public. No matter what the question, on what subject was asked, Gypsy had the answer. She left us and is now living in Myrtle Beach with her husband Phil and planning a second career as a "head-popper" on a shrimp boat. Needless to say she left a bunch of confused, lost people. Although she did her best to train her replacements, we never really realized just how important she was to us. Now after six months things are beginning to settle down and run a little smoother, but it'll never be the same...

The emphasis in Weights and Measures is on the inspectors and their activities. We sometimes forget that a well trained and equipped inspector is the basis of any solid W&M program. How far would our programs get without them?

We have been very busy with our plans for updating equipment and programs in order to better serve the public. Karl Angell, Director of Weights and Measures, submitted a proposed budget, which was accepted by Governor Cecil Underwood, and adopted into his program for the future year.

Present plans include the realignment of areas from the present twelve areas to approximately sixteen with new inspectors assigned to the new areas. The new inspectors will be equipped with new vehicles and equipment. Personnel will also be hired for the laboratory, and the administrative section. Plans for comprehensive training of the new inspectors, and continuing training for the present inspectors, are being finalized.

By the middle of 1998 we will be scanning all reports onto optical laser discs which will give us rapid access to the information, resulting in the elimination of about twenty filing cabinets. Plans are being finalized for the construction of a large dedicated training facility at our Weights & Measures complex. This facility will be dedicated to on-going training for both inspectors and state service technicians.

The three W&M Program Coordinators happily took delivery of new Jeep Cherokees recently. They had been driving older leased vehicles which were ready to be retired. Also, the imminent delivery of three new heavy capacity test units is eagerly anticipated by their future operators.

The Commodities Program has accepted bids on five new scales for use in the package inspection program, and is awaiting delivery of these units.. This will allow our present staff to be equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. Plans are in place for our participation the FTC Milk Survey to be conducted in late March.

Dan Mace, the State Metrologist, is making great steps in upgrading the laboratory program and equipment. He has requested bids on two electronic analytical balances to replace the forty year old mechanical balances presently in use. Dan says with the increased number of calibrations he is called on to perform, these new balances will enable his staff to perform quality calibrations in a time efficient manner. †

Other News

Joint Conference

News from the Central Weights and Measures Association: Ohio is pleased to host a joint Central and Northeast Weights and Measures Association Conference in Columbus May 3-7, 1998. The joint meeting will be a unique opportunity for the two regions to participate in discussion of national issues in preparation for the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) in July. The Central Northeast Conference will represent twenty-one states and Puerto Rico and will be attended by representatives of the NCWM, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and industry representatives of the weights and measures community.

The meeting will be held at the Radisson North Conference Center. A room block is being held in the Central and Northeast Weights and Measures Associations' name and room rates are \$72 -\$76, single to quad, plus 15.75% tax. There is no charge for parking or shuttle service to and from the airport. Shuttle service can be prearranged when you make your room reservations by calling (614) 846-0300. The registration fee for the meeting is \$100.00 and may be prepaid by check payable to the CWMA. Hotel reservations and Conference registration should be made by **April 15, 1998.** †

NISA Spring Meeting

The Annual Spring Technical Conference of the National Industrial Scale Association will be April 26-27, 1998 at the Ramada Inn across from the Opraland Hotel in Nashville, TN. Pre-register for the meeting with Leon C. VanZant, Secretary/Treasurer, P.O. Box 6234, Panama City, FL 32404-0234 (904) 871-4544 Fax: (904) 874-1166 . Registration fee for NISA and AREA Members is \$ 85.00

USD, Non-Members (Includes 1998 Membership) \$150.00 USD.

Pre-register for rooms with Ramada at \$79.00 per night prior to the cut off date of April 1, 1998. After the cut off date the room rate will be \$81.00 a night. Please indicate that you are making your room reservations for the NISA Meeting. Sixteen rooms are blocked for Saturday night, thirty rooms for Sunday night, 60 rooms for Monday night and 15 rooms for Tuesday night. Rooms that are not reserved by April 1, 1998 will be released. Attendees should call Ramada at (800) 272-6232 or call the Ramada Inn direct at (615) 889-0800.

The Ramada Inn offers Brileys Restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner ever day. The current price for the breakfast buffet is \$4.95 and the lunch buffet is \$5.95. Hotel amenities include complimentary shuttle from the airport, room service, gift shop, indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool and new health spa.

Attractions near the hotel include: The Nashville Palace; Music Valley Wax Museum; Music Valley Car Museum; Shotgun Red's Collections; Willie Nelson & Friends Museum; Music Valley Shopping Center; Factory Stores of America; The Grand Ole Opry; and the Opryland Theme Park.

Other Concurrent Meetings With NISA:

American Railroad Engineering Association (AREA) Committee 34 Workgroups will meet on Sunday afternoon, April 26, 1998 from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. AREA Committee 34 will meet Monday, April 26, 1998 from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon and the NISA meeting starts at 1:00 P.M. †

NTEC Committee Belt-Conveyor Scale Systems Sector

The NTEC, Belt-Conveyor Scale Systems Sector is in the process of preparing a National Examination Procedure Outline (EPO). The following schedule of events were established at the meeting on November 4-5, 1997.

Draft Comments	Feb. 1, 1998
Comments incorporated to create final draft	May 1, 1998
Technical advisor sends final draft out for ballot	May 15, 1998
Members respond to ballot	June 1, 1998

If majority vote supports draft, final version sent to A&P Committee for consideration.

July 1, 1998

If no majority vote supports draft, the final version will be sent back to the sector for review again.

Fall 1998 ✚

Stuck In An Elevator

This morning I went by the office to pick up papers needed to complete some work for Monday. As I was leaving, the elevator suddenly jolted and came to an abrupt stop. I thought "great its Saturday, I hope someone is around." After trying to call several times on the elevator phone, a voice finally answered. I explained that I was stuck in the elevator and he replied "well that's not good." He wanted to know which elevator I was on and what floor was it on. I explained that I had left fourteen on the way down but the indicator was reading eighteen. He said that he would be there in less than two minutes. Later I began hearing the sound of elevator doors opening and closing as they came closer to my location. It was not long until I heard a door above me open, then the inside doors opened and could see the maintenance man. The elevator was stuck between 13 & 14 with about a 24" opening at the top. He indicated that he would get a ladder so that I could crawl out, he closed the doors and left.

After what seemed like an eternity with a very active imagination, he returned. I ask him if there was a chance that the elevator could move while I was crawling out and cut me in half. He said yes there was a chance and maybe we should not attempt to get out this way. In fact the elevator could even fall. Now that made me feel really good.

He called for an elevator repair man and was told that it would be at least 30 minutes before help could arrive. The maintenance man then said he would try to lower the elevator to the next floor. He closed the doors and proceeded to get on top of the elevator and from what I felt, he began jumping up and down. After a lot of shaking, everything became quite and still except for my heart which was still racing. The sound of the outside doors opening was a welcome change to break the silence. When the inside doors opened, the elevator had moved and now we had a 24" opening to floor below. The maintenance man said that he stopped because if the elevator fell, he did not want to be on the top of it. It would also look bad on the report if **he** were squished. I figured he must have taken classes on how to comfort people in distress. I thanked him for his attempt and indicated that I

would prefer to wait on the repair man. The doors closed again and we began the long wait.

After what seemed like hours, most likely 30 minutes, the doors opened again and the repair man said "we need to get you out of here." What an understatement! He then got on top of the elevator and starting jumping up and down on it. He jacked the doors open and closed a couple of times and I could feel the elevator moving. I gathered up all my belonging, which were scattered all over the elevator floor by this time, and was ready to bolt out of the door if it opened anywhere near floor level.

A deathly silence fell over the area. I could not hear anyone talking or moving around. Then I heard the outside doors opening, then a lot of noise outside the inner doors. I thought, what now, are the doors stuck. Finally the doors opened and I could see that the floor of the elevator was about 30" above the 13th floor, without hesitating I was through the door into the arms of the maintenance man, the repair man and a new person. It was a guard who probably didn't want to miss any of the excitement. It seemed longer but the whole experience took about an hour.

They said that I could walk down or take one of the other elevators. Since my knee was not feeling all that good, I elected to take one of the other elevators. The guard rode down with me and said that he had been caught between floors in these elevators before and it was not a good experience. I think he may have been trying to comfort me but all it did was to make think of my next elevator ride on Monday morning. It feels good to be out of that elevator and really good to be at home. I may even think twice about going to the office on the weekend, well maybe not.

Bill Brasher ✚

"The Southern Weights and Measures Association is a corporation organized as a not for profit business league under section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly. Annual dues are \$25. Membership inquiries should be directed to N. David Smith, SWMA Secretary-Treasurer, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611."

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