

Southern Weights & Measures Association

134th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

October 2013

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

MARYLAND

Maryland is in the midst of testing propane delivery trucks and home heating oil trucks. Since the last newsletter, three new field inspectors have been trained on both RMFD and VTM and are now training to inspect scale devices. Maryland is also in the process of hiring three currently vacant positions (two field inspectors and a program manager).



CNG dispenser under test by Clean Energy Fuels Representative

Maryland staff, Ken Ramsburg, Zach Tripoulas and Joe Eccleston, conducted preliminary testing of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) dispensers at a Baltimore Washington Airport refueling station on September 17 with the assistance of NIST personnel Juana Williams, Rick Harshman and Jodie Pope. All attendees reviewed and practiced inspection using the testing criteria and


procedures specified in NIST EPO 28. The MDA and NIST participants will perform additional testing at this site and at additional sites in the region.

Just a few days ago, Maryland held a safety training program in Annapolis. Staff learned that the leading workplace injury is a result of slips, trips and falls and how to be safe on walking and working surfaces. Everyone also learned about proper ladder use and proper use and care of PPE. Additional staff training session will be in February.



MD Weights and Measures field staff raise their safety awareness

The following summarizes field activities in Maryland for Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013).

	Field Inspection and Test Efforts					
	2011		2012		2013	
	Total	% in	Total	% in	Total	% in
	Tests	Violation	Tests	Violation	Tests	Violation
Weighing Systems						
Large Scales	829	22.9%	881	23.6%	850	25.9%
Medium Scales	925	17.0%	574	17.6%	557	16.5%
Small Scales	8,530	16.4%	8,291	13.7%	6,900	16.1%
Liquid Measuring Systems						
Gasoline Dispensers	30,018	18.9%	25,837	18.2%	28,894	24.1%
L P Gas Meters	284	18.9%	527	18.2%	400	15.3%
Vehicle Tank & Other Large Meters	1,169	16.2%	1,278	13.0%	1,120	15.4%
Other Inspections						
Grain Moisture Meters	131	19.1%	120	13.3%	112	13.4%
Programmed Tare Inspections	1,852	9.9%	120	13.3	1,686	12.3%
Price Scanning & Method of Sale	10,645	3.7%	19,942	5.0%	9,977	3.1%
Delivery Tickets	2,658	0.8%	1,326	1.9%	1,849	1.2%
Package Lots	11,716	20.8%	9,256	20.9%	8,733	16.4%

In addition to device inspections, Maryland Weights and Measures staff also perform package testing and price verification activities. On June 7, MDA received \$2,000 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to H Mart, Gaithersburg, MD 20877..

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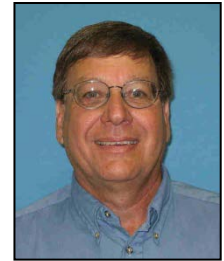
The Department is working diligently to provide the bureau’s employees with opportunities to excel in their individual areas. As you can see below each division is taking steps to move in that direction.

Weights and Measures Division

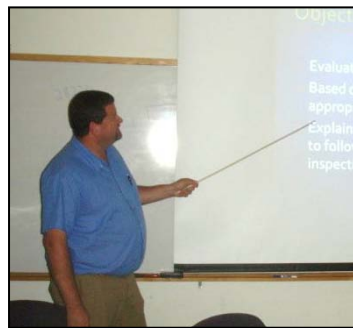
Supervisors Randy Triplett and Craig Allgood successfully completed the small scale and package checking Professional Certification Programs offered by NCWM respectfully.



Randy Triplett

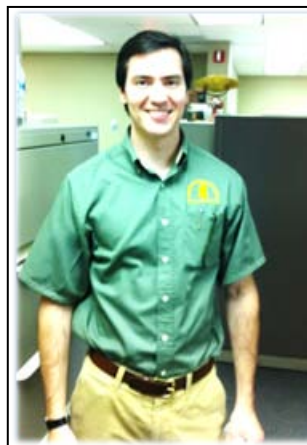


Craig Allgood

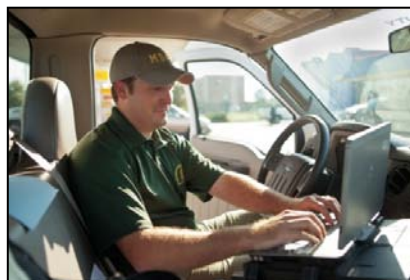


Greg Gholston recently returned from Maine where he assisted in a NIST vehicle/axle scale course.

Consumer Protection Division



Adam Choate joined the Department in August as Director of the Consumer Protection Division. Prior to joining the Department, Adam served as Director of Health and Regulatory Affairs for the American Horse Council in Washington D.C. He has also served as legal counsel for the MS Department of Human Services.



Clay Hammons, an inspector with the petroleum division since 2006 has been promoted to Supervisor within the Petroleum Division. We look forward to working with Clay and implementing

his ideas in the field. Clay was instrumental in designing a platform for use in the metrology lab as well as designing flat

beds that will replace truck beds on the pickups used with slide-in units for petroleum inspections in the field. Clay also will be taking the Retail Motor Fuel Certification offered by NCWM.

In other news, \$3,000 in administrative fines has been collected to date for Fiscal Year 2014.

A collaborative effort from both the Petroleum and Weights and Measure Divisions to inspect two new CNG fueling sites was a success. As this is new to our state, supervisors and inspectors from each division were on hand for the test with all participating to make sure the correct procedures were followed. Both locations were approved.

Metrology Lab

Mel lasigi, state Metrologist is happy to announce that the metrology lab can now accept on-line e-check or credit card payments.

NORTH CAROLINA

Measurement Section

Fall is here again, busy time of the year for everyone. Farmers are gathering their crops as hard as they can, trying to beat the hurricane season. Looks like we are going to have a "Bumper Crop" of corn this year. I believe it's the best I've ever seen in North Carolina and I've been around awhile and was raised on a farm (use to have to help pull corn by hand!). How many of y'all can say that? Only a few of the bigger farmers had "snapper" combines. Our Heavy Scale Inspectors are testing grain scales as quick as they can to insure the farmers are properly paid for their hard work.

The rest of us have our regular duties, which we never can quite seem to complete, as well as the Western State Fair going on as I write, and don't forget the NC State Fair here in Raleigh, and the Southern Weights and Measures Conference coming up around the corner in October. All three require a lot of hours away from our regular inspection duties. Yes, the three events require a lot of time and work but, they are a whole lot of fun too.

These yogurt shops, which are popping up everywhere, are taking a lot of time. Most of the folks don't know about "tare" and "price posting". Our inspectors are taking the time to help education them and get their programs correct. As some of the first investors are selling franchises, our time is turning out to be well spent.

Errors and civil penalties in price scanning are way down. From January 1, 2013, until now, we have had only 9 locations that were issued civil penalties for a total of \$12,388.00. For the same period last year, we had 33 locations that we issued civil penalties with a total of \$74,328.00. Eight of those 33 had multiple penalties; of the 9 this year, none have had repeat penalties. I hope it continues to improve, because not having to return to locations for follow-up inspections saves us a lot of time.

Since last reporting, we have three new inspectors, Mark Lanning, Jeff Bullard and Scot Wallace. Welcome aboard guys!!

Jerry Butler

Standards Laboratory

We also filled our vacant metrologist position with one of our previous employees from the late 1980', Sherry Teachey. We look forward to the many years of experience she brings back to our metrology and quality assurance program. Now that we are fully staffed, quicker progress will be made to restore our Echelon I & Echelon II programs. We will request our thermometry program to be restored once we successfully complete a proficiency test.

During the past quarter we attended several conferences and a lot of training went on for various staff members. In the month of July, Van Hyder attended NCSL International Workshop & Symposium, which took place in Nashville, Tennessee. During that time, he was appointed co-chairperson to the Legal Metrology Committee with Dr. Steve Harrington of the Minnesota state laboratory. In the latter part of July Fluke Calibrations held a two day training session at our laboratory for thermometry training. Robert Rogers, Sharon Woodard, Sherry Teachey and Kris Simino were in attendance. In August, Sherry Teachey attended the Fundamentals of Metrology training held on the campus of NIST. We also had a follow-up NVLAP assessment. Finally, in the month of September our annual Carolina Star Safety Conference took place in Greensboro, NC. The theme for this year's conference was "Evolution of Safety". Van Hyder and Sharon Pulley represented the Standards Laboratory during this period. Special thanks to all the staff members for a job well done and for continuously keeping safety a top priority.

The Grain Moisture section just completed its corn harvest. We have collected adequate samples for the upcoming year, despite the interesting weather patterns this summer. We are hopeful

that finding samples during soybean harvest will be less problematic than wheat and corn harvests.

Sharon Woodard

Motor Fuels Laboratory

The North Carolina State Fair will run this year from October 17-27 in Raleigh. The theme of the Standard's Division booth is focused on the Motor Fuels Section's Motor Oil Quality Program. This display is aimed at not only highlighting the successes of this 20+ year program, but also on educating consumers on what they should look for when purchasing a bottled motor oil. Chemist Marcus Helfrich recently discussed North Carolina's Oil program at Warren Oil's Customer & Vendor Appreciation event in South Carolina. Many of the comments received focused on the industry's desire to see the Motor Fuels lab expand its program to cover other types of lubricants as well as the need for other states to add lubricant testing into their quality inspection programs.

Over the last few months, North Carolina has seen a considerable increase in the number of retail fueling stations moving towards selling diesel fuel that has been blended with 5-20% biodiesel. There have been some requests to review our labeling requirements, which includes the specific level of biodiesel present rather than the range of 6-20%.

LP-Gas Section

On August 7 and 8, 2013, our LP-Gas Engineer, Richard Fredenburg, participated in the NFPA 59, *Utility LP-Gas Plant Code*, technical committee meeting in Denver, CO. This was the final scheduled meeting of this committee before the next edition of this code is released.

In September, Richard participated in the NPGA Technology, Standards, and Safety Committee meeting in Newport Beach, CA. There was continuing work on developing changes to various codes and standards. Later that month he attended the NCPGA Annual Conference in Asheville, NC, and made a brief presentation at the board meeting of the top ten violations on propane tanks and installations, according to inspections performed and queried from our computer-based inspection program that became nearly fully functional the first of 2013.

During the summer, some LP-Gas Inspectors attended some of the district meetings of the North Carolina Propane Gas Association. A wide variety of topics are discussed at these fairly informal meetings, including technical, licensing, legislative, and safety issues. We were actually invited to attend, so it would seem they want to communicate and have a desire to be in compliance.

At the end of September the distribution of Toughpad tablets to the LP-Gas Inspectors was completed. These tablets replace second-hand Toughbook computers that have been in use a little over a year. The tablets are a smaller and lighter computer capable of entering inspections and modifying contact data while the inspectors are onsite performing inspections. Hopefully this will be a better tool for them in using our web based inspection program, which produced 552 warning letters and 82 civil penalty assessments so far this quarter.

Richard Fredenburg

Contact SWMA: The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly. Annual dues are \$50. Membership inquiries should be directed to: N. David Smith, SWMA Secretary-Treasurer NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1001 Phone: 919-707-3031 Fax: 919-715-0026 E-Mail: David.Smith@ncagr.gov www.swma.org News may be submitted to: SWNA, 1904 Mission Road, Birmingham, AL 35216 E-mail: wdbrasher@charter.net

SWMA Newsletter
1904 Mission Road
Birmingham, AL 35216