



# Southern Weights & Measures Association

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138th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

October 2014

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## **69<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SWMA MEETING**

The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual SWMA meeting was held in Raleigh, NC Oct 5-8. We had 50 registered attendees, including some new members from the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission and the Institute of Materials, Inc. We also had a new representative from the Texas Dept. of Agriculture, Philip Wright.

The weather was beautiful and the meeting was productive, including moving forward updates to the taxi meter code, belt-conveyor systems and a test method for chitterlings! About 15 people went on a tour of the Metrology Lab and I heard some good feedback about it.

I would like to thank my staff, the committee chairs and all of our presenters and speakers for contributing to the success of our meeting. Gene Robertson, with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture, is our new president and host in 2015. We also got definite maybes from Texas (2016) and Tennessee (2017) as future hosts. ♪

## **JURISDICTIONAL NEWS**

### **GEORGIA**

We at the Georgia Department of Agriculture have a very busy fall coming up. The Georgia State Fair in Perry, GA is in October and we always have a big presence there. Following the fair the Sunbelt Expo will take place in Moultrie, GA. The expo is the largest farming show in the southeast and we are heavily involved in it as well.

Fuel & Measures Division Director Rich Lewis along with Asst. Director Doug Killingsworth will be attending the Southern Weights & Measures Association meeting in Raleigh, NC in October. Rich is serving on the L&R committee and Doug on the PDC committee.

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We recently issued a stop sale order for several brands of motor oil; including Bull's-Eye, Super XXX, Ever Clear, Black Knight, and U.S. Economy. The stop sale order also included automatic transmission fluid and antifreeze of the same brands.

We recently made the front page of the Augusta Chronicle newspaper. They ran a very informative piece about our retail fuel program in a recent Sunday edition.

We have recently been in contact with the Renewable Fuels Association. They have informed us that two convenience store chains in Georgia have expressed interest in bringing E15 into Georgia. We will be meeting with them in a few weeks to discuss this and hopefully make the transition as smooth as possible.

We are looking at purchasing a new heavy scale truck test unit. All of our units are getting some age on them and we believe this may be a good opportunity to replace one.

Steve Brannon and Mike Norris recently attended the fall meeting of the Georgia Propane Gas Association in Athens, GA. The main topic was looking ahead to make sure we don't have a propane shortage this winter. ✚

## MISSISSIPPI

### Weights and Measures Division

After thirty-seven years with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Weights and Measures Division, David Rice retired on June 30, 2014. He has driven a Heavy Scale Truck in the Delta Area testing truck scales for all these years. He will be greatly missed and we want to wish David success in his new endeavors.



Doug Moak

Weights and Measures Division purchased a new Kenworth truck for testing tanks in the state. Doug Moak will be driving this new Kenworth and testing tanks at Dairy Farms all over Mississippi.



David Rice

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A couple of our inspectors Greg Gholston and Brent Bowman recently attended a NIST Handbook 133 "Checking the Net Contents of Packaged Goods - Basic" course. The five (5) day course was hosted by the Arkansas Bureau of Standards at their office in Little Rock, Arkansas. The instructors were David Sefcik (NIST) and Steve Galvan (Michigan Dept of Agri. & Rural Development).

The first two (2) days of the course were classroom lectures and in-depth coverage of NIST Handbook 133, as well as relevant portions of NIST Handbook 130. The third and fourth day consisted of hands on package checking. A large variety of packages were provided for checking. Examples of some of the items checked were cans of shaving cream, dried pasta, potato chips, hard candy, flour, toothpaste, ice glazed shrimp, crab legs, frozen fish, cans of soda, cartons of milk, canned tomatoes, and canned vegetables. The students were broken up into small groups and went from station to station checking different packages at each station. This allowed everyone in the class to gain experience checking each type of package. The Arkansas Bureau of Standards had several experienced inspectors on hand that assisted in this process, which provided an even greater learning experience for everyone. The final day was a review of the covered material, followed by a final exam.

Our inspectors felt the class was exceptional and that the instructors did an excellent job providing a great learning experience for everyone, regardless of their level of experience. We would like to thank NIST Office of Weights & Measures and the Arkansas Bureau of Standards for hosting the class and allowing our inspectors to attend.



### **Petroleum Division**

The petroleum division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture recently received new HP elitebooks. The new tablets are slimmer and lighter than those previously used in the field and along with the new version of WinWam, will allow inspectors to "sync" daily, providing almost instantaneous reporting in the office. Training was conducted by the Petroleum Supervisor, Clay Hammons, and MDAC IT staff. The training included new versions of Microsoft Software programs, updated internal reports and the new processes required for the "sync" process of WinWam.

Michael Kusch, Sr. is the latest petroleum inspector to receive National Certification in the category of “Retail Motor Fuel Dispensing Systems” offered through the National Conference, bringing total certifications for the division to four.

### Consumer Protection Division

Consumer Protection Director Adam Choate recently completed *NIST Handbook 133 “Checking the Net Contents of Packaged Goods” Basic* course at the Arkansas Bureau of Standards in Little Rock, Arkansas. The class itself was a valuable learning experience, and the materials and content provided by NIST will help to ensure greater understanding of net weight package checking by the entire division.

Pictured is Inspector Jacky Moore performing net weight inspections on random weight meat packages. On this inspection, inspectors compared the automated results of WinWam to those of manual random package reports. The average error proved to be identical. ⚖



Jacky Moore

### NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina State Fair will run this year from October 16<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh. Many of the employees in the Standards Division have volunteered to work at various NCD&CS exhibits. As this is when the department gets to showcase what we do, to the public, it is an “all hands on deck” event. We also have inspectors help with fruit and vegetable weighing for prizes, inspect the candy scales in use,

inspect all propane tanks on the fairgrounds twice a day and yes, those are our weights at the tractor pull (ok, they’re our old weights).

### Motor Fuels Section

We are awaiting the delivery of a new Ford Transit van to replace one of our Dodge Sprinters that we use as mobile labs. This summer was the first time they have built the longer Transits, but it is very similar in size to our Sprinters so it should work just fine.

We have been trying to hire a new field supervisor since May. We had a much larger pool of candidates on this last advertisement so we hope we will be successful this time. We have made an offer and, as I write this, are waiting for a response.

I will be retiring September 30. My career with the Motor Fuels Section began in 1988 when I was hired as a field inspector. I have enjoyed my time here, and I like to think that I have made a lot of contributions and helped a lot of people. For the near future, I plan to spend my time on the family farm. The program will be in good hands, as I'm leaving behind a pair of very capable lieutenants, Melissa Spencer and Marcus Helfrich. Many of you have already met them at ASTM meetings.

Art Rupard

### **LP-Gas Section**

Richard was able to attend a TS&S meeting in Las Vegas in early September and then a NFPA 58 Technical Committee in Quincey, MA in early October. We have a very active LP-Gas inspection program and we automatically adopt the *LP-Gas Code*, so having representation at these meetings is valuable to us. It also allows us to seek input on situations in which we need to make an interpretation of the *Code*.

### **Standards Laboratory**

During the past quarter we attended several conferences and a lot of training for various staff members. In the month of July metrologist Van Hyder attended NCSL International Workshop & Symposium, which took place in Orlando, Florida. In September Fluke Calibrations held a three day training session at their Utah facility and metrologist Kris Simino was in attendance. Also in the month of September our laboratory manager, Sharon Woodard attended NCSLI Carolinas in Charlotte, NC. Finally in the month of September, our annual Carolina Star Safety Conference took place in Greensboro, North Carolina. The theme for this year's conference was "Safety Life". 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 continuously rainy weather. Soybean harvest is already underway. We are hopeful that finding samples during soybean harvest will be less problematic than wheat and corn harvests. We are also seeing a slow transition to new UGMA technology in the field. This has been a learning process for everyone involved.

Sharon Woodard

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## Measurement Section

Monday, the last day of Summer, the temperature was 84 degrees. Tuesday, the first day of Fall, the high was 64 degrees. Usually when the seasons change you don't even notice unless you look at calendar. I think this year Fall wants us to notice "I'm Here, Get Ready".

That's just what we are doing. We have been checking tobacco scales, cotton scales, peanut scales, grain scales, and other seasonal scales trying to stay ahead of the calls wanting to know when we are going to get to their scales. We finally have all four Heavy and Vehicle Scale Inspectors in place. We are still playing catch up from being three short out of four but, we are getting there.

The Mountain State Fair was just completed last week and as usual our guys in the west had a lot of time invested. Gerald and his guys did another great job. The State Fair here in Raleigh is coming up in a couple of weeks along with NC hosting the Southern Weights and Measures Conference. Both events will take a lot of our time away from our usual duties but we have fun doing both. Stephen has been planning and preparing for the Southern for months. I think the folks that attend are going to enjoy.

We still are in the midst of trying to get back to a full staff in the Measurement Section. We have made selections for two of our vacant positions, just waiting for approval before announcing them. That leaves two vacancies along with a couple of guys that have announced leaving before the end of the year. On top of that rumors are flying that a few more plan on leaving early next year. Looks like it will be awhile before things will begin to settle down.

Jerry Butler 🇺🇸

## WEST VIRGINIA

Rich McComas

WV Weights and Measures has been very fortunate to acquire three new Heavy Truck Units to replace our 18 year old trucks. These units will be valuable tools for years to come. Everyone in the weights and measures community knows how expensive equipment is, and anyone operating on general revenues, knows how tight budgets have become. It seems either like amazing luck , or a miracle that we were able to obtain these trucks. It certainly didn't hurt that a former Director of WV W&M, John Junkins, is now the WV Commissioner of Labor. 🇺🇸

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