



Southern Weights & Measures Association

83rd Edition

SWMA Newsletter

October 2000

55TH Annual SWMA Conference

**Radisson Hotel and Suites
Austin, Texas
October 7 – 11, 2000**

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Ed Price	President
Larry Hatfield	President –Elect
N. David Smith	Secretary-Treasurer
Vernon Massey	Sergeant at Arms
Robert Eaves	Historian
William Lagemann	Chaplin

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Bill Brasher	Editor, Newsletter

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Scott Whittaker, Chairman Cargotec, Inc.
N. David Smith, North Carolina

Saturday, October 7, 2000

10:00-5:00 PM Registration & Information

Sunday, October 8, 2000

7:00-12:00 PM Golf Tournament
Meet in Lobby by 7:00 AM
12:00-5:00 PM Registration
1:00-5:00 PM Standing Committee Meetings
Executive & Nominating
Administration & Public Affairs
Laws & Regulations
Specification & Tolerances
GPMA
6:30-8:00 PM President’s Reception

Monday, October 9, 2000

7:30-8:30 AM Coffee, Danish, Juice
8:00-5:00 PM Registration
8:00-5:00 PM General Session
Steadman Hollis - Presiding
8:30-10:00 AM Committee Reports
Specification & Tolerances
10:00-10:20 AM Break
10:20-12:00 PM Committee Reports (Continued)
Specification & Tolerances
12:00-1:00 PM Lunch (on your own)
1:00-2:00 PM Committee Reports (Continued)
Administration & Public Affairs

2:00-2:20 PM Break
 2:20-4:00 PM Committee Reports (Continued)
 Laws & Regulations
 4:00-5:00 PM Association/Industry Members Meeting
 E-Commerce Discussion
 Tom Coleman – NIST
 Elizabeth Tansing – FMI
 Bob Williams – Chairman Nat'l L & R

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

7:00-8:30 AM SMA/NTEP Breakfast
 (by invitation only)
 7:30-8:30 AM Coffee, Danish, Juice
 8:00-5:00 PM Registration
 8:30-10:30 AM Opening Ceremonies
 Ed Price – SWMA President
 Presentation of Colors
 National Anthem
 Pledge of Allegiance
 Bill Lagemann - Delaware
 Invocation
 Bill Lagemann – Delaware
 Welcome To Texas
 Martin Hubert
 Welcome To Austin
 Mayors Office
 Role Call of States
 N. David Smith-N Carolina
 Association Response
 Larry Hatfield – Kentucky
 Industry Response
 Scott Whitaker - Florida
 Report on the NCWM
 Lou Straub – Maryland
 Report on OWM
 Henry Oppermann – NIST
 10:30-10:50 AM Break
 10:50-12:00 PM New Measuring Technology
 12:00-1:00 PM Lunch (on your own)
 1:00-4:00 PM Breakout Meetings
 Executive & Nominating
 Administration & Public Affairs
 Laws & Regulations
 Specifications & Tolerances
 6:30-6:30PM Conference Outing

Casual Dress

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

7:30- 8:30 AM Coffee, Danish, Juice
 8:30-10:00 AM General Session
 voting on Final Reports
 Carol Fulmer – Presiding
 Specification & Tolerances
 Administration & Public Affairs
 Laws & Regulations
 Executive
 Associate Membership
 10:00-10:20 AM Break
 10:20- 12:00 PM General Session (continued)
 SWMA Newsletter
 Report of the Resolutions Committee
 Report of the Auditing Committee
 Report of the Nominating Committee
 Installation of New Officers
 Adjournment
 12:00-1:30 PM SWMA Board of Directors Luncheon

GUEST AGENDA

Sunday, October 8, 2000

7:00-12:00 PM Golf – Riverside Gold Club
 12:00-5:00 PM Registration
 6:30-8:00 PM President's Reception – Pool side
 (casual dress)

Monday, October 9, 2000

8:00-8:30 AM Continental Breakfast
 (with spouse/guest)
 9:30-2:30 PM 2000 Austin Highlights Tour
 (meet in Lobby at 9:00 AM)

Experience the charm of Congree Avenue & Sixth St. with their historical buildings and old Austin Legends. Tour the dynamic State Capitol and gain insight into the workings of Texas Government and view the historic Governor's Mansion. Journey the streets along Waller Creek explored by our founding fathers and see Waterloo Park, Custer's Headquarters & symphony Square. View the campus of the University of Texas and the LBJ Presidential Library. Take a driving tour of the elegant historic homes in the Woodlawn area and explore our Texas Hill Country as you travel to the top of Mr. Bonnell for a panoramic view of the skyline of Austin. (Lunch on your own).

6:00- 12:00 AM SWMA Confernece Outing
Sixth Street

Old Pecan Street Café – the historic carriage house for the St. Charles Hotel, Austin’s first boarding house.

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

8:00-8:30 AM Continental breakfast
(with spouse /guest)

8:30-10:30 AM Opening Ceremony

10:30-2:30 PM 2000 Wimberly Excursion
(meet in Lobby at 10:15 AM)

Tucked into the hills and valleys of Central Texas, this thriving arts and crafts community of Wimberly is located on the Blanco River. It offers a delightful afternoon of shopping in the quaint old historic structures typical of this small Texas Town. (Lunch on your own).

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

8:00-8:30 AM Continental breakfast
(with spouse/guest)

12:00PM Adjournment

Committees

Administratation & Public Affairs Committee

Jerry Flanders, Chairman
GA 2000 404-656-3605

Carol Fulmer SC 2001 803-737-9690

Larry Hatfield KY 2002 502-564-4870

Rusty Robins MS 2003 601-359-1149

Steve Hadder FL 2004 850-487-2634

Laws & Regulations Committee

Wayne Bamsch, Chairman
TX 2004 713-666-8491

Bob Williams TN 2001 615-837-5109

Mike Hile AR 2002 501-570-1159

John Tillson MS 2003 601-359-1148

Steve Casto WV 2004 304-722-0602

Specifications & Tolerances Committee

Tim Chesser, Chairman
AR 2000 501-570-1159

Randy Wise KY 2001 502-564-4870

Ken Fraley OK 2002 405-321-3864

Richard “Will” Wotthlie
MD 2003 410-841-5790

Archie Lambert LA 2004 225-925-3780

Executive & Nominating Committee

Max H. Gray, Chairman
FL 2000 850-488-9140

Karl H. Angell, Jr. WV 2001 304-722-0602

Mike Hile AR 2002 501-570-1159

Ronnie Harrell LA 2003 225-925-3780

Auditing Committee

Vernon Lee Massey, Chairman
TN (Shelby County) 901-545-3906

Ronnie Harrell LA 225-925-3780

Resolutions Committee

Terrance McBride, Chairman
TN 901-528-2905

Charles A. Burns, Jr. AL 205-254-2246

Julie McLemore MS 601-354-1111

Chaplin

William “Bill” Lagemann DE 302-739-4811

Historian

Robert D. Eaves MD 410-841-5790

Sergeant At Arms

Vernon Lee Massey TN 901-545-3920

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

ARKANSAS

We are looking forward to attending the SWMA meeting in Austin, Texas in October of this year. Our state will be well represented with tentative plans to bring six weights and measures people. They will include Mike Hile, Tim Chesser, Roger Frazier, Leon Prince, Loyd Frazier, and W.O. Shelton. We appreciate all the hard work and efforts of President Ed Price and his staff.

The Office of State Standards received and put into service several new laboratory balances in the Precision Testing Laboratory. The new Mettler electronic balances, which include 111gram, 1109gram, and 30-kilogram mass comparators, replaced our original mechanical balances that were over 30 years old. The new balances, along with laboratory renovation work completed a few years ago, has greatly improved our work output and testing environment.

Randy Burns attended a National Type Evaluation Technical Committee meeting (NTETC) in Kansas City, Missouri the week of August 23. At the top of the agenda was the proposed test weight regulations. Arkansas will be participating in a laboratory standardization of test weight apparatus with the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS). Once standardization is established, we will participate in a field study to determine the validity of the tolerances.

David Guest, Petroleum Products Test Technician, attended the annual ASTM committee meeting on Petroleum Products and Lubricants (D02) in Seattle, Washington on June 25-29. David participated in meetings to develop standards for gasoline, fuel volatility, vapor pressure, and octane using NIR spectroscopy.

Wilford Jones, Chemist, attended an octane operation course at the Waukesha Engine Product Training Center in Waukesha, Wisconsin on June 12-16. The course included hands-on operation of the research/motor octane engines including a basic engine and instrumentation setup; standardization fuel qualification requirements; and compression ratio testing procedures. Classroom lecture and discussion covered the theory of octane testing and a review of basic preventive maintenance and troubleshooting techniques.

Mr. Thomas Grant, Senior Service Technician with G&G Octane Services in Houston, Texas, spent three days at our petroleum laboratory overhauling one of the octane engines and instructing our chemists in maintenance procedures. The purchase of a portable near-infrared octane analyzer, has allowed the Petroleum Quality Division to expand its on site testing of gasoline octane.

On July 7th, weights and measures personnel picked up a new large scale test unit at Kogler Equipment Service in Olive Branch, Mississippi, following installation of a hoist system for lifting 1000 pound test weights. The new test truck will carry 32,000 pounds of test weight.

Farmers in southeast Arkansas notified us of problems they were having with field irrigation motors burning out. We analyzed fuel samples from farm tanks, distributor tanks, and pipeline terminals. Farmers lost approximately thirty pumps which cost around \$1,000.00 each. Lion Oil Corporation met with farmers and fuel distributors in order to pin point and correct the problem, which may have come from a fungus growing in the diesel fuel.

In November, we will be conducting a four-day Handbook 133 training class. Tim Chesser and Roger Frazier will be the instructors. So far this year, we have had training courses involving Handbooks 44, 130, and our state regulations.

We were saddened to hear of Mr. Tom Kirby's recent death. Tom was a longtime member of the SWMA who contributed greatly to the organization's success; especially as editor of the SWMA Newsletter. He was a good friend who was always willing to listen to any issues or concerns you might have. We wish to express our condolences to Mrs. Kirby and family members as well as members of the Georgia Weights and Measures program. †

GEORGIA

The division has recently put the second slide on calibration unit in service. These units were mounted on standard Dodge Ram pickup trucks. Springs were added to the vehicles to increase the load capacity by 1800 pounds. A shelf was added to the unit and all is enclosed with an industrial camper cover. These units work well in larger inspection areas achieving about 20 mpg. A third will soon be added.



The division will soon receive "undercover calibration units". This will strengthen the division's capability to detect dispensers set to deliver short measure to the retail purchaser of motor fuels.

The fuel lab is about to complete the environmental testing program for Atlanta Summertime gasoline. Samples were ob-

tained from 560 stations from June 1 to September 15, 2000 and tested for vapor pressure and sulfur content. The lab used a new method acceptable to EPA, ASTM D5453 to determine the sulfur content.



The lab will begin preliminary implementation plans for the installation of a Lab Information Management System. The vendor for the LIMS is Atlanta Systems Consultants. The database and programs will be on servers maintained by departments IT staff in Atlanta. Currently the Departments Seed Lab located in Tifton is operating on this system. It's been a long wait for a LIMS replacement at the lab (3 years) and we really look forward to having one again.

Judy Dudley, Senior Lab Technician at the fuel laboratory since September 1995 will be transferring to the Pesticide Division. We wish her great success in her new position. She will be missed here.



Jerry Flanders, Director and Marnie Pound, Supervisor will be attending the SWMA Conference in Austin this year and both are looking forward to visiting "The Great State of Texas."

M.A. Drake retired August 31, 2000 after over thirty plus years with the Department. "Papa Drake" as he was known to all had, exceeded the young age of three scores and ten plus another ten or fifteen and at the retirement luncheon he showed he could still carry the fifty pound standards with ease. Commissioner presented him with an "Honorary Commissioner of Agriculture" for the State of Georgia.



(Papa Drake right)

An award was named in his honor, called the "Golden Drake Award" and will be given to the outstanding employee of the Fuel and Measures Division at the annual seminar. Good luck Papa. 🍀

MARYLAND

- On June 15, 2000, we had a staff meeting at our facility in Annapolis complete with a cook-out for lunch. Dick Shockley and Bob Eaves prepared hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, sausage and deer meat on the grill. Chief Lou Straub presented certificates of appreciation to the staff members who inspected the highest number of devices, and had the highest overall production rating during the last 12 month period. Inspectors Chuck Coleman and Mike Frailer each received two (2) award days off for their outstanding efforts.
- We offer our condolences to the family, friends, and associates of Debbie A. Joines, of Dresser Wayne Industries, who passed away on June 10, 2000 at the age of 45.
- Maryland Weights and Measures Laboratory
A recent and relatively small investment for our data acquisition process in our mass laboratory has made the task of collecting data a little more convenient. Power backup units have been purchased for our fleet (five) of portable computers. A power backup system for portable computers is a prudent and good investment since the opportunity to accidentally disconnect power or the occurrence of an actual power outage, even for an instant, can cause the highly undesirable event of the loss of data. Another beneficial quality of a power backup

system is that the computer can be momentarily (up to 40 min. depending on the power consumption of the computer and capacity of the battery backup system) disconnected from the wall outlet and repositioned to a new location within the laboratory without shutting down and restarting the Windows operating system and returning to the working application and file. The time required to reboot a personal computer can add up especially in a situation where a computer needs to be moved to a new location several times a day. The backup system allows the file to remain in working memory with no interruption. The file should be saved (although the backup system has been proven to be extremely reliable, files should be saved often as a good measurement practice; computers can still be accidentally turned off, etc.) as a precaution since the backup system is only being used to maintain power to prevent the need to reboot the operating system. Also the computer should be carefully repositioned since it is in an active state during this time. Some backup systems include software which can give extremely useful information such as line voltage measurement, event logs, and a “fuel gauge” indicating time used and time available.

Another useful investment added to the mass laboratory is a wireless cable system for the RS-232 data link to the portable computers. The wireless cable system consists of a pair of transceivers which can be ordered as a pair in a transparent mode and in a non-programmable state so that they act as an ordinary cable, passing serial data in both directions. This allows complete freedom in positioning the computer in the least intrusive location without restrictions of distance (up to 300 feet, indoors). The transceiver pairs ignore information from other pairs and are programed to receive and send serial data only to its matched partner. The power output for the indoor model is low and safe according to the manufacturer.

- On June 14, 2000, our office provided training to our field inspectors on point of sale (POS) systems for electronic cash registers interfaced with scales. The inspectors rotated through three training sites, receiving hands on training in the testing of POS systems utilizing the latest technology: primary weight displays on CRT monitors, self-checkout POS systems, and multi-level window-based ECRs. Maryland Weights and Measures has an excellent relationship with the industry in our state. The assistance of Safeway, Super Fresh, and Mars Super Markets during this training was greatly appreciated.



Will Wotthlie- Self-Checkout POS System training at Super Fresh



Andrea Buie- Flat screen weight indicator training at Safeway



Jim Price- BASS POS system software training at Mars Supermarket.

- Our metrology laboratory submitted its application to NIST for NVLAP accreditation on August 29, 2000. We requested accreditation in 4 areas: mass, volume, length, and temperature.
- Joseph Hyla has been selected for the position of Metrologist I and will start on September 20, 2000. Mr. Hyla is a graduate of Saint Louis University with a BS Degree in Aeronautics. Barbara Williams, a part-time secretary with the section resigned August 3, 2000 and accepted a full time position with the Maryland Health Department. Barbara spent 13 years with us and we wish her well in her new position.
- We have recently made numerous changes to some of our regulations to update them, so that they are consistent with our Weights & Measures law and NIST HB 130 Regulations. The regulations that were changed are: 15.03.01 "A Commercial Weighing and Measuring Devices and Procedures for Testing Packaged Goods"; 15.03.02- "Packaging and Labeling"; 15.03.03 - "Method of Sale of Commodities"; 15.03.04 - "Farm Milk Tanks"; 15.03.07 - "AFees Charged to Test Standards and Other Equipment Used by Technicians"; 15.03.08 - "Registration of Commercial Weighing and Measuring Devices"; and 15.03.09 -"Approval and Type Evaluation Requirements."
- Dr. Chuck Ehrlich, Chief, NIST Technical Standards Activities Program visited our office on August 24, 2000 and toured our NTEP and Metrology Laboratories. Also accompanying Chuck from the Technical Standards Activities Program were Dr. Ambler Thompson, Wayne Stiefel, Ralph Richter, Kevin McIntyre, and Ken Butcher.
- Lou Straub would like to thank the Virginia Weights and Measures Association for the invitation to participate on a Weights and Measures Panel Discussion at their 65th annual conference held in Virginia Beach, VA on August 27-28, 2000. Lou, with Wes Diggs, Va. and Ron Murdock, NC, discussed a number of issues common to all three states.
- Congratulations to NTEP Program Manager Andrea Buie-Branham and her husband John on thebirth of their son Collin Alexander born on August 25, 2000. He weighed 9 lb. 9 oz. and was 22 inches long.
- On April 21, 2000, we received \$150.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Candy Circus, Waldorf, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during test purchases performed at the establishment.
- On April 21, 2000, we received \$300.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Food Lion #1211, Salisbury, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.
- On April 26, 2000, we received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Lauer's IGA #3, Upper Marlboro, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.
- On July 12, 2000, the trial of firewood seller Mr. John Daniel Southard was held in Frederick County District Court, Frederick, MD Mr. Southard was charged with delivering less firewood than the amount delivered and with failure to issue a delivery ticket. Mr. Southard pleaded guilty to the short-measure delivery charge, and the failure to issue delivery ticket charge was nol prossed by the state=s attorney. Mr. Southard was assessed a fine of \$500 (\$400 suspended) plus \$55 court costs, was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$85 to the buyer, and was placed on 6 months unsupervised probation. Charges were filed against Mr. Southard by Inspector John Barton.
- On July 28, 2000, we received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed against Fresh Fields #26, Baltimore, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.
- On July 31, 2000, we received \$750 for a civil penalty assessed against Shoppers Food Warehouse #26, Coral Hills, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during a routine package inspection performed at the establishment.
- On September 11, 2000, we received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Super Fresh #813, Baltimore, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment. †

RECENT CIVIL PENALTIES AND COURT ACTIVITIES

- On April 7, 2000, we received \$250.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Penn Supermarket, Baltimore, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.

MISSISSIPPI

Consumer Protection Division

The Consumer Protection Division has recently completed inspections of catfish plants and wholesale distribution centers check weighing the accuracy of frozen packaged whole catfish and catfish products.

John Tillson looks forward to attending the SWMA meeting in Austin.



Petroleum Division

The Petroleum Division currently has five of the Zeltex octane analyzers. Model tests are currently underway to establish parameters for the analyzers, which will provide a more accurate model for the petroleum inspectors to follow. The division has hopes of acquiring seven additional analyzers, one for each of the inspectors in the division. Since obtaining the units earlier this year, the number of samples taken has increased by

50%. This will allow us to screen more samples, and only questionable samples will be taken to the laboratory for chemical analysis.

Weights and Measures Division

The Weights and Measures Division recently filled the vacant position of State Metrologist. Dariton Robinson of Port Gibson, Mississippi is our new Metrologist. Dariton is a graduate of Alcorn State University, at Lorman, Mississippi, the location of our laboratory.

Construction of the new laboratory is progressing well, even though the project is running behind schedule, we're in hope that it will be completed very close to the projected date.

We are very saddened as we mourn the death of Mitcheal Hutson, a former inspector in the Weights and Measures Division. Mitcheal died of a heart attack on September 3rd, he was only 47 years old. His death was certainly a shock to everyone in the Department. Mitcheal worked several years as a live-stock scale inspector and later as an intermediate scale inspector before finally transferring to work with the Board of Animal Health. Mitcheal shall be remembered by all of us as a really fine person with a big heart, who will be greatly missed.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in October at Austin for the Annual SWMA Meeting. See you there! 🍀

North Carolina

A valuable employee of the Standards Division has decided to retire. Winston Sutton, manager of the motor fuels inspection program, retired at the end of August. Winston's contributions to the program are many and his co-workers and the many folks who came to depend on his knowledge and gentlemanly manner will miss him. After taking a few weeks off Winston hopes to join the consultant ranks. He has been pitching his knowledge and skills to many organizations and we are confident Winston will make a go of his new venture. Fortunately for the program Steve Benjamin was waiting in the wings. Steve began his career with the Standards Division in January 1992 as a field chemist. In June 1996 he was promoted to the position of chemist at the motor fuels laboratory and in January 2000 he was promoted to laboratory director. He assumed his new duties as motor fuels program manager on August 29. It was very common for state officials to contact Winston with questions on petroleum products. We hope you will contact Steve if you think the Standards Division can assist you.

In the "another good one got away department", Glen Davenport has resigned to become the Laboratory Director for the State of Oregon. Glen managed most of the precision calibration at the Standards Laboratory and his experience will be missed. Oregon is getting a fine employee and they will benefit from Glen's dedication and knowledge. Sharon Denning Woodard has stepped back in to manage the precision workload. Sharon has worked closely with Glen since her return to the laboratory. Because the precision workload exceeds what one metrologist can handle, Tal Anderson will be working with Sharon until we hire Glen's replacement. We are hoping to find an experienced metrologist to fill the vacancy without the severe training curve we encounter with an inexperienced person. All inquiries should go to LF. North Carolina is a wonderful place to live and you could start work in time for the basketball season. LF may even share his UNC tickets with you.

The motor fuels section has been very busy the last few months. In the last three months there have been three incidents requiring the stop sale and recall of bottled motor oil. In June, a stop sale order was placed on a brand found in western North Carolina. This involved the 30 grade, 10W30, and 10W40 oils being sold under the brands Value and Super Value. One lot of 30 grade did not meet Kinematic viscosity specifications. Three lots of 10W30 and one lot of 10W40 failed to meet cold crank specifications. A total of 264 cases (3168 quarts) were returned to the bottler. In July, another brand of oil, Cruise Master, being sold in the western part of the state was removed from store shelves. Only two stores of a large chain were affected, all the other locations were out of state. Samples purchased at these two sites all failed to meet Kinematic viscosity specifications. There were four lots each of 10W30 and 10W40. A total of 5 ½ cases (66 quarts) were returned to the bottler. The same company bottled the oil involved in these two instances. A statewide stop sale and press release were issued in late August concerning some 10W40 motor oil sold statewide under the Uni-Lab brand at a chain of discount stores. Of the approximately twenty lot numbers tested, four failed to meet cold crank specifications. The oil was actually a single

viscosity 40 grade but labeled as 10W40. The number of cases removed is unknown at this time due to the number of sites involved and not knowing what lots are available at each one.

We have just received funding to rewire our four octane engines and our cetane engine. All five engines still have the original wiring in them, the oldest was built in 1954 and the "new" one was built in 1976. This is a little overdue and made even more important as we are in the process of changing to the bracketing method with computer controls. While this may not seem significant to many folks, the rewiring will cost about \$120,000. Once the work is completed, the engines should be good for another 40 years.

The low vapor pressure season is almost over in North Carolina. Seven counties and parts of two others fall into the EPA mandated program requiring gasoline to have a maximum vapor pressure of 7.8 psi from June 1 through September 15. Gasoline sold in other counties is limited to 9.0 psi during this period. Most of the violations in this program are at stations that pump low volumes of product and therefore get fewer deliveries. Bills of lading indicate that the proper fuel was delivered but the volumes are often not enough to blend out the old stock to bring fuel into compliance. Blending is not always a viable option for corrective action. Sometimes this involves pumping out a tank and hauling the fuel to a county in which it can be sold legally. Occasionally, the pumps with the condemned product will be placed out of order until September 16, when it will be legal again. The choice of action is left to the oil company or station involved, as long as the fuel meets specifications for the area it is to be sold. We understand the EPA is doing a sweep of the Raleigh, Greensboro, and Charlotte metropolitan areas during the week of September 11-15 to conduct testing for compliance to their program. They were specifically looking at gasoline vapor pressure and nozzle flow rates. At this time it is not known what, if any, problems they found.

The North Carolina Attorney General recently won a major case in the North Carolina Court of Appeals. The case involves a company engaged in the business of door-to-door sales of home food service plans, freezers, cookware, and other services and goods. On April 2, 1998 the Attorney General filed a civil action on behalf of North Carolina consumers against the food service company, individuals associated with the company, and three finance companies. On May 12, 1999, the trial court dismissed the finance companies from the suit. This was a major blow to the state's consumer protection efforts. The three judge Court of Appeals unanimously reversed and remanded the suit on August 29, 2000 reinstating the finance companies as defendants. Contact David Smith if you want a copy of the Court of Appeals' decision.

Our NVLAP application was submitted on September 6 along with our newly revised quality manual. Val and LF are in the process of examining the laboratory's systems to ensure that

everything is being done as stated in the quality manual. In an interesting coincidence, a customer audit was performed on the same day the NVLAP application was mailed. That audit revealed four concerns. We had already noted that changes were needed in those four areas but the customer audit added to the urgency to get on with what must be done if our application is to be successful.

Our computer programmer, Susan Myrick, has gone one step beyond converting our Calibration Certificates from WordPerfect to Word and has automated the tolerance test spreadsheet (converted from Lotus 123 to Excel) to automatically generate a Calibration Certificate. She is working on the same automation for the precision calibration spreadsheet. This will eliminate over 1400 Calibration Certificates per year that the laboratory secretary has had to generate based on information on the calibration data sheets. These improvements are all steps in the development of a total laboratory scheduling and workload management system that Susan is building for the laboratory.

LF sends his regrets at not seeing everyone at the NCWM metrology meetings but he is glad he was able to participate in the demonstration of the NIST MEASUREnet system. He again thanks Mike Krammer for stepping in to fulfill his duties as SEMAP representative to the metrology committee. LF thanks everyone for the assistance given to Ken Fraley for the Year 2000 Metrology Survey. This information is proving very useful in the justification for improvement and even continuation of programs. Ken has done considerable analysis and based on a draft he has shared with LF, everyone should be impressed with the analysis of data. If you did not submit data this year, LF encourages you to be putting your statistics together to submit next year. To keep everyone's extra work to a minimum, the annual survey will change very little in format and content.

Since the last newsletter the measurement section has added two new employees. Mike Bolinger and Phillip Byrd are in training as Standards I inspectors. Mike will be assigned to the Salisbury area and Phillip to the Burlington area. Their responsibilities will involve dispenser inspections at retail locations in the counties surrounding these two cities. Mike comes to us with an extensive background in the petroleum /convenience store business and Phillip comes to us from the Louisiana weights and measures program. We are excited about the skills these gentlemen bring to the program.

We have just taken possession of new Dodge replacement cab and chassis for three of our multi-product dispenser test units. The old units are getting a little worn and the inspectors who will be getting the new units are looking forward to sporting the new trucks. We expect to have the replacement units on the road by the end of October. 🚛

SOUTH CAROLINA

We were truly saddened to hear about the death of Tom Kirby and extend our sympathy to his wife and family. There are a few of us still with SCDA that knew him and his dedication and service to weights and measures, metrology and the Southern Weights and Measures Association.

In July we began inspecting scales used to weigh tobacco at the tobacco warehouses and since then some of our inspectors have been checking the weight of sheets and bales of tobacco. This will continue until approximately the middle of October. The age-old tradition of marketing tobacco in sheets that weigh 150 to 250 pound is giving way to bales that weigh 500 to 800 pounds. The majority of the tobacco being sold is now in bales and sheets may be entirely eliminated by next year. Also, some farmers are now contracting with tobacco companies for direct sale of their crop and not sending it through the auctions. It is expected that more and more tobacco will be sold this way and could possibly eliminate the long-established method of conducting auctions on the warehouse floor.

The increased gasoline prices also brought an increase in the number of complaints received on service station. Maybe the higher prices made customers more aware or maybe they were just not accustomed to putting that dollar amount of gasoline in their vehicle. Could it possibly be that customers felt a need to retaliate against the price increase by reporting a violation if they had any suspicion that something may be wrong? During July we received and investigated 26 complaints concerning the accuracy of dispensers and seven concerning the quality of gasoline. We only found three violations due to these complaints. Water was found in the gasoline at one station, another had a leaking nozzle, and one had the incorrect price per gallon programmed in the credit card machine. One might wonder whether the stations have devised some method to cheat the customer that our inspections do not uncover, such as was the case in California. However, this does not appear to be the case since the only station that we received more than one complaint on was the one that had water in their gasoline. Also, no chain of stations received more than one complaint.

In an earlier issue of the Newsletter, we reported that a bill had been introduced in our Legislature that would amend our Weights and Measures Law to require the inspection of price scanner systems. As proposed, this legislation would have required the Department to inspect, at least once per year, the scanner systems in all retail establishments with three or more scanners. After the committee voted to end debate on the bill, it never came up again during the legislative session and essentially died. In order to be considered during next year's legislative session, the bill would have to be re-introduced. Our concern with the bill was the fact that it required the Department to inspect these devices at least once per year. †

TENNESSEE

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Mr. Tom Kirby following his recent death. Mr. Kirby was very active in Georgia Metrology Program and was extremely helpful to various Metrologists who called upon him for assistance.

Bob and Randy recently attended the NCWM in Richmond, VA and reported that it was a very beneficial and educational conference. It is now almost time for the SWMA in Austin, TX. I am confident that Ed Price and his staff will continue to the tradition of Southern Hospitality! Following the SWMA, the NCWM Interim will only be a few short months away.

Fall livestock scale inspections and cotton gin scale inspections have been underway for several weeks with few problems being encountered. Mr. Brian Payne recently joined our staff as a large scale inspector in Middle TN.

We are currently utilizing cellular telephones for several employees on a trial basis and hope to expand to all inspectors if this proves to be effective.

Randy Jennings, Petroleum Administrator, recently obtained portable octane analyzers to screen selected motor fuel samples resulting in more comprehensive coverage of inspections.

Deloras Morris secretary for weights & measures retired August 15, 2000 with 16 years of service. She was responsible for all the data entry in our section. We have talked to her several times and she really seems to be enjoying retirement. We wish her the best of luck! †

Meet Our New Members

Don Lewis

Don Lewis is the manager of the Bailey, NC office of Alweighs Hamilton Scale Corporation. He started with AHSC in 1992 as a service technician and later became a partner. Bob happily reports that he recently passed the ISWM Certified Weighing Technician exam. AHSC is headquartered in Richmond, VA and has offices in Bailey, NC and Fairfax, VA.

Carole Wilson

Carole began working for Safeway, Inc. in 1980 and has worked in several of the backstage departments including Human Resources, Accounting, and Retail Operations. She transferred to the Risk Management department in 1992 and has been in the Food Safety/Environmental Affairs section as Manager since 1997. Her responsibilities include overseeing sanitation, pest prevention, food safety, pricing accuracy, and ensuring compliance with all regulatory agencies including weights and measures. Carole is a graduate of Towson State University. The Wilson family resides in Davidsonville, Maryland.

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Atlanta, GA 30303-5R10

Mr. Chris H. Bagley
Rice Lake Weighing System
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Southern Weights and Measures

Web Site

swma.org

The SWMA web site is constantly changing and is updated when information is available. To date, 4,065 visits have been recorded at the site. The most recent addition to the site is a link to the NIST W&M Quarterly Newsletter. The Reply Page is a useful tool for visitors to communicate with the Weights and Measures Community. All comments are forwarded to the appropriate State and person for a response or investigation. Following are some excerpts from the Reply Page:

“I just wanted to say "Congratulations" on your new web site — it looks great!! I enjoyed my first visit; the site is easy to use and has a lot of good information. I'm sure it will serve to get information out to a lot of people and encourage their participation in the Association's meetings.”

“I Work at a county road office, where the fuel pumps have not calibrated. I would like to have the fuel pumps calibrated to see what kind of error may be entering into our monthly fuel reports. Can you offer suggestions for getting fuel pumps calibrated at a government office? Thanks for such help as you can muster.”

“I am glad to see the association move forward by implementing this web site. I think it is a very good idea. Keep up the good work. Could you suggest where I might purchase a metal calibrated “standard” to verify the accuracy of a digital millimeter gauge? I'm a jeweler in Baton Rouge, LA and have no idea where to find such a thing. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.”

“First, let me offer praise on your website. It is well laid out and informative. My problem though has nothing to do with your website. But hopefully, you may help me resolve my problem. Because I do a tremendous amount of genealogy research, I likewise do a lot of mailings. Consequently, my postal scales are getting “out of synch” and in need of recalibration. I have searched in vain for a set of weights and measures. I am searching for 1 ounce through 16 ounce, and then 1 pound through 5 pounds. Maybe you can redirect me to a retailer in the United States who can help me.”

“Dear Sir,

Bureau Veritas is a 170 year old inspection and sampling company. We are interested in learning which of your members contract outside companies to perform their inspections and sampling. Please contact me at your convenience with any questions or comments.”

“My feeling is that each chairman should give you an updated report at least by the end of August for inclusion into the page. You have done an excellent job on this site! Sometimes I'm not sure the membership understands the quality and the amount of work which has gone into this project.”

"I don't know who to contact regarding a gas station, Conoco, 2620 McHard Rd, Pearland TX 77584. Several times I purchase gas there, and although the price per gallon is a little lower, I notice that the gallons I can put into my car is at least 10% more than I can usually fit into my car. This leads me to think the pumps are deliberately miscalibrated to get more money for less gas. How do I have this investigated?"

"Congratulations on developing an excellent web site, with well defined selection buttons for items of interest. I look forward to returning to the site for future updates on action items being considered in all of the committees."

"I need your direction as to how to handle the following. I purchase gas recently and found a discrepancy in the numbers.

It appears I've paid for an amount of gas but received less via the pump. IE. My car holds 16 gal. of gas per OEM Spec. I pumped 19.008 into the car, which is impossible. I was charged \$27.92 for 19.008 gal. @ \$1.469 / gal. So something is wrong based on the 19 gal into a 16 gal tank. This is not a big deal for me, but if this is a practice at this station, there is a considerable rip off of the consumer."

"I think that it is time for a law requiring doctors and hospitals to have their scales certified by qualified technicians. The reason I believe this is that several types of medication are prescribed by doses proportionate to body weight. Though it is

doubtful that prescribed medication could be fatal if the weight readings were off slightly, I still believe that there is a possibility that some prescriptions will not have the full intended effect, thus causing minor illnesses to reoccur and possibly spread.

Now, I admit, I am not fully aware of the laws and guidelines concerning medical scales, nor am I educated in the ways of medicine, but I think this is an issue that could benefit medical patients, and also create employment for servicemen. Please inform me of any existing laws and guidelines concerning medical scales." ✉

Contact SWMA

The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly.
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