

TRUCKER



BUDDY

NEWS

www.truckerbuddy.org
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SPRING 2004

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Trucker Buddy Drives Home a Lesson On Love

They learned to read from his letters. They learned about geography from his postcards. And the kindergarten students at Del Prado Elementary got a lesson on love from their Trucker Buddy Bret Wicker.

Bret, referred to by his student pen pals as “Bam Bam,” honked the horn of his 18-wheeler as he pulled into the bus circle – and this time he brought a girlfriend. The eager students applauded wildly, jumping up and down, and began a steady “Bam Bam” chant. Each kindergartener from Lenae Breger’s gifted class held a rose for Nina Rosseau, known to them as “Pebbles.”

After welcoming the trucker, Lenae called up a group of her “Honey Bears” to unveil a poster they created on Bret’s request. The crowd was silent as the poster was slowly unrolled, and when the message was revealed, Nina broke into tears. The sign read, “Nina, Will You Marry Me? I Love You.” Stunned and flattered, she embraced Bret, but there was more to come.



Three young ring bearers dressed in suits were then called to present the diamond engagement ring. Bret got down on one knee and asked Nina for her hand in marriage. “I want to spend the rest of my life with you,” he told her in front of more than 300 students, parents, and teachers.

Bret wrote the classes from 46 different states, sending at least 15 postcards a week signed by Bam Bam, Pebbles and their new dog, a boxer named Roxie. Meanwhile, the class tracked their 23-year-old Trucker Buddy on a large colorful map, giving them a compelling reason to care about geography. “The

children showed a very quick interest in where the states are located,” said Lenae. “Many children can tell you 40 out of the 50 states by heart.” She also cited Bam Bam as the reason that her classes from the past two years have shown significant improvements in language skills.

The kids are excited about the program, but the parents are even more impressed with the innovative teaching methods of the teacher. “The fact that she had them all play a role made them feel very special,” said parent volunteer Michelle Bamdas. Parents, teachers, and kids said they got tingly feelings just watching their trucker hero fulfill his dream, but it was Bret who experienced it first hand. “Everything went great,” he said, smiling. “Bam Bam” had been keeping his plan a secret from “Pebbles” for nearly two months.

*Excerpted from Boca Raton News, by Ashley Harrell
published Thursday, January 29, 2004*



Kenworth Calendar Contest for Kids

Attention all Trucker Buddy kids. Has your Trucker Buddy driver taught you any safety messages regarding trucks and cars? Create a page for our 2005 Trucker Buddy calendar which is sponsored by Kenworth.

Start with an 8 1/2” x 11” piece of paper and turn it the long way (wide). Then draw and color your picture. Make sure your name, age, teacher’s name and school, and Trucker Buddy driver’s name are on the back of your poster.

All entries must be received by June 15, 2004. Mail them to Trucker Buddy Calendar Contest, P.O. Box 527, Waupaca, WI 54981. Each of the 12 winners will receive a free 2005 Trucker Buddy calendar. Posters will not be returned and may be used for other purposes by Trucker Buddy.

Sponsor News



As Trucker Buddy International enters its second decade of bringing the transportation industry into classrooms, the need for support continues to grow. Freightliner Trucks has recognized the value in partnering with Trucker Buddy and has become the newest Gold Level sponsor of the program.

“Freightliner has been an industry leader for a number of years,” said Bruce Smalley, Freightliner’s General Manager of Marketing; “I want to lend the time and resources to associate Freightliner with another industry image building leader ... Trucker Buddy.”

Freightliner Trucks (www.freightliner.com), is a leader in the manufacture of heavy-duty Class 8 diesel trucks in North America and a leading manufacturer of medium-duty vehicles. The Freightliner Group designs, builds, and markets a wide range of Class 3-8 vehicles including long-haul highway tractors, heavy-duty construction and vocational trucks, mid-range trucks for distribution and service, school and transit buses, fire and emergency service apparatus and chassis for step vans, school and shuttle buses and motor homes.



Trucking Delivers America

The ATA (American Trucking Association) is now hosting and maintaining the Trucker Buddy website. In addition to putting Trucker Buddy on the world-wide-web and providing access to millions,

this secure service enables drivers and teachers to sign up and renew online. The in-kind donation designates ATA as a Gold Level sponsor, and a major contributor.

Don Nehring, Trucker Buddy’s President of the Board and a former Captain on ATA’s America’s Road Team, was pleased with the agreement. “This is an exciting time at Trucker Buddy International. We found ourselves in need of a host for our website, and the ATA stepped up and filled this need.” Don added, “Governor Graves and his staff have again proven their commitment to Trucker Buddy, and we look forward to many years together. Our joint effort with the ATA will help us to bring Trucker Buddy to a new level.”

TBI Annual Meeting

The Trucker Buddy International annual meeting was held in March in Louisville, KY. Four members were added to the board: Don Darden, Bridgestone/Firestone, Bruce Smalley, Freightliner, Eric Harley, Midnight Trucking Radio, and Mary "Mel" Fox, teacher.



Trucker Buddy welcomes new members of the Board of Directors (left to right): Don Darden, Bruce Smalley, Eric Harley, and Mary "Mel" Fox, teacher (not shown)

Due to term limits, Tom Hawks, driver for Overnite and Larry Spain, Sentry Insurance are no longer eligible to serve on the board. Four directors resigned due to professional and personal commitments: Wendy Leavitt, Driver Magazine, Jim Mele, Fleet Owner Magazine, Steve Sturgess, Newport Communications, and Joan Kasicki.



Trucker Buddy Officers (left to right): Kate Peal, Secretary, Randy Schwartzenburg, Treasurer, Greg Shipman, Vice-President, and Don Nehring, President

The election of officers was also held, and the re-election of Don Nehring, FedEx Ground Owner-Operator as Board President was unanimous. Greg Shipman, Delphi, was re-elected to the position of Vice President; Randy Schwartzenburg, Randall Publishing, retained his position as Treasurer, and Kate Peal, TransCore, was elected to the position of Secretary.

Generous Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors:

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PROTRUCKER

OTR
OVER THE ROAD

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The recruiting magazines of choice for the trucking industry.

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Recent Contributors:

- Anderson Trucking (ATS)
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- Diamond Transportation
- Fikes • Gully/ICX
- Hemcheck Trucking • Koolatron
- MCT • Osborne & Sons
- PocketMail
- Tire Retread Information Bureau
- Trailer Bridge
- TruckMiles.com
- Western Star Trucks
- WI Motor Carriers Assn.



Ellen receives a check from Al Koenig, Midwest Specialized Carriers, a long time supporter of Trucker Buddy.

DAC for Safety

The safety of the children in the Trucker Buddy program is a top priority. One of the ways this is implemented is by checking driver applicants for a history of negative behavior. This is done through the generosity of DAC services which provides background checks as a complimentary service to our organization. By verifying that a driver has not participated in violent or abusive behavior, we can pair him or her with an elementary class with confidence that these children and their parents are safer because of DAC Services' involvement.

DAC Services, a USIS Company (www.usis.com/commercialservices/transportation), is located in Tulsa, OK and has been providing screening services to the trucking industry for more than 20 years.

MultiMedia Sponsors Drivers of the Month

MULTIMEDIA

Driver of the Month - January, 2004



Jerry & Ann Rierson, Belews Creek, NC drive for Richard Petty Enterprises. They are matched with Deeann Kidd's kindergarten class at Sedge Garden Elementary in Kernersville, NC.

Driver of the Month - February, 2004



Tim Maryniak, East Amherst, NY is matched with Barb DeHorn's 2nd graders at Campbell Elementary in Muskegon, MI. Tim drives for Roadway Express, Buffalo, NY.

Driver of the Month - March, 2004



Russ Dougherty, Manson, IA is matched with Holly Andrews' 5th grade class at Barrie Elementary in Fort Atkinson, WI. Russ drives for Johnsrud Transport, Des Moines, IA.

Driver of the Month - April, 2004



Kathleen & Jay Notz, Green Bay, WI drive for Don Drews Trucking, Oconto Falls, WI. They are matched with teacher Jan Murphy's special education class at Tulare Elementary School in Tulare, SD.

To read entire Trucker Buddy of the Month articles, visit our website at www.truckerbuddy.org.

As the Driver of the Month sponsor, MultiMedia provides a jacket for the driver, along with a check for \$300 to be spent on the driver's class. The Driver of the Month also receives \$200 to spend at the Trucker Buddy store.

Drivers are nominated by his or her class for this honor. The teacher and students submit letters highlighting the driver's contribution to the class and why they feel their driver should be awarded. Nominations **MUST** include a clear **photograph** of the driver. **Printed digital camera photographs and Polaroid pictures will not be accepted.** Please include the driver's jacket size and your Trucker Buddy match number.

Print a **NOMINATION FORM** from our website or call to request the form. Mail your nomination form and materials to: Driver of the Month, Trucker Buddy, P.O. Box 527, Waupaca, WI 54981.

Buddy Bites



Get your Billy Beaver Road Scholar. One dollar of each item sold will be donated to Trucker Buddy. Call 800-292-8072 or www.writeuptheroad.com.




Teachers, would your students be willing to write a thank you letter to one of our sponsors? If so, please contact Ellen via email (ellen@truckerbuddy.org).



Recording artist and songwriter Joey Holiday performs for truck driving audiences nationwide. Joey has written *The Trucker Buddy Song*. It will be available soon on our website store (www.truckerbuddy.org).



Drivers, check out all of the  Mike Ryan gear at the new Freightliner eStore opening soon. Register for a Grand Opening deal at www.freightlinertruckstore.com and you will receive a 10% discount on your first order of Freightliner merchandise. From hats to jackets to collectibles, visit the Freightliner eStore soon.



Congratulations to Trucker Buddy Suzanne Jordan-Sasso who married Paul Sasso at the Louisville, KY truck show!

Truck Shows

The Tennessee Truck Show

A Tribute to The Trucking Music Hall of Fame Members

Friday Concert • 4 - 7 pm • Joey Holiday, Red Simpson, Mustang Sally, Carl Knight, TC Bush, Clue of the Honkey Tones, & The Lister Brothers

Free Lunch
1st 500
CDL holders

Show Trucks Judged by Trucker Buddy Class!
Special Guest Dave Nemo

Registration Packet:
www.joeyholiday.com
615-307-4525

May 7: 10 am - 5 pm & May 8: 9 am - 4 pm

Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville (I-65, Exit 81)



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Donated by
JB Scott Publishing
and TransCore.

Set of
Bridgestone
R280
Premium
Steer Tires

Set of
Firestone
FS590
Plus
Premium
Steer Tires

The auction at 11 am on
Saturday will benefit Trucker
Buddy. Here's a preview of
some of the items available.



Mike Ryan Collector's Race
Truck set autographed by Mike
Ryan AND Richard Petty



Get your Mike Ryan
autograph at a truck
show listed below.



The Truck Show, June 10-12, at the Las Vegas
Convention Center is the place to
network with companies in trucking.
Highlights include a Stars &
Stripes Truck Beauty Contest, seminars
and workshops, and daily gift drawings.



America's convention of
trucking professionals and
second largest trucking
show in the industry, GATS is September 10-12.
On-site truck parking. Friday performance by
Diamond Rio.



ITS, September 23-25, is in
Anaheim, CA. The show theme
is "Let's Get Down To Business"
and the show makes it easier than ever before to do
business. Promotional events and activities
throughout the day. Open until 7 p.m.



2004 Truck Shows: Stop in to visit us at our booth
and help us sign up new Trucker Buddy drivers.
May 7-8 Tennessee Truck Show, Nashville, TN,
www.joeyholiday.com

Proceeds to benefit Trucker Buddy.

May 27-29, American Truck Historical Society National
Convention & Antique Truck Show, Fontana, CA,
www.aths.org

June 10-12, The Truck Show, Las Vegas, NV,
www.truckshow.com

June 26, Pike's Peak Hill Climb, www.ppihc.com

July 8-9 Trucker's Jamboree, Walcott, IA,
www.iowa80truckstop.com/walcott.htm

August 11-12 Expedite Expo, Detroit, MI,
www.expediteexpo.com

August 13-14 Trucker's Jamboree, Waupun, WI,
www.truckersjamboree.com

August 17-21, National Truck Driving Championships,
Salt Lake City, UT, www.trucking.org

September 10-12 Great American Trucking Show,
Dallas, TX, www.gatsonline.com

September 18, Truck Convoy for Special Olympics,
Orlando, FL, www.worldslargesttruckconvoy.com

September 23-25, The International Trucking Show,
Anaheim, CA, www.intltruckshow.com

Summer Road Trip

Lookin' Good!

Are you planning a visit to Washington DC this summer? If you will be in our nation's capitol, make sure you stop at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History and see the exhibit *America on the Move*. This display features the transportation industry and its importance to all of us.



On July 31st the Smithsonian will be hosting a festival called, "The Summer Road Trip." This event

will bring an estimated 10,000 visitors to the site, and Trucker Buddy will be part of the presentation. Board President Don Nehring and Executive Director Ellen Voie will tell the public about the Trucker Buddy program and the experiences of professional drivers. They will show students a Freightliner tractor which will be on display the day of the festival.

Join us in Washington DC on July 31 for "The Summer Road Trip" at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History!

Hi Drivers,

Let me start by thanking you for being a Trucker Buddy and for everything you do for the children. I'm very proud of you.

This is a pen pal program and an image program too. These children, and the adults with them, will form opinions of the trucking industry when you visit. Some may never have an opportunity to meet another driver.

You have only one chance to make that first impression so let's go out of our way to make it a good one! Clean up (shower & shine) before your visit; the children don't care if you look like a grizzly bear as long as you don't smell like one. Proudly wear your company uniform if they have one. Make sure your truck is washed and free from anything that can hurt children.



Trucker Buddy has safety guidelines for your class visit. Print the guidelines from our website or call and a copy will be mailed to you.

Thank you, Donald S. Nehring, President

Run Hard Gear

Around the World

Run Hard Trucking Gear is the clothing outfitter for the professional driver. You can order everything from jackets to luggage, which all include the Run Hard Trucking logo.

Run Hard Trucking Gear has designed t-shirts featuring Mike Ryan and his record setting Pike's Peak Hill Climb Freightliner, plus the Trucker Buddy logo on the sleeve. The screen-printed graphic spans the back of a 100% preshrunk cotton shirt. It's available now at the Trucker Buddy store (www.truckerbuddy.org) in sizes M, L, XL, 2XL, and 3XL for \$15. You will soon be able to order jackets so you can display your participation in the Trucker Buddy program year around!



Watch our website for updates, and visit Run Hard Trucking Gear (www.runhardtrucking.com) for other fine products for the professional driver.

Have you ever dreamed of driving a truck around the world? Tim Barton, a journalist and former professional driver, will be realizing his dream to span the globe in a semi tractor. On April 6th he began his journey in St.

Petersburg, Russia, and will continue across the continents (Europe, Africa, North and South America), and Canada and then through the Middle East, India, and China. He will be driving a Volvo truck on Michelin tires, using Shell Oil, all of which are sponsoring his world wide tour.

Tim will be corresponding with his 6th grade Trucker Buddy class at Marshall Middle School in Wexford, PA. You can follow Tim as he travels around the world on the Nomad World Truck Tour by visiting his website at www.nomadworldtrucktour.com.



2004-2005 Renewal Form

It's time to renew for the 2004-2005 school year. You can remain matched with the same teacher/driver, request a change, or indicate if you no longer wish to participate. It is **VERY** important that you notify us if you are dropping out so we can find a new participant for your driver/teacher.

Drivers and teachers may renew separately. Submit your renewal by mail (P.O. Box 527,

Waupaca, WI 54981), fax (715-341-9010), or online at www.truckerbuddy.org. Renewals cannot be accepted over the telephone. New Trucker Buddy membership cards and renewal confirmation letters will be mailed in August.

Call our office (1-800-MY-BUDDY) if any of your contact information changes, if you no longer wish to participate, or if your driver/teacher has stopped writing.

Teacher Annual Response Form

Please complete **ALL** information. Match Number (from label) _____

Teacher Name: _____ School: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Telephone: _____ School Fax: _____

Teacher's Email: _____ @ _____ School Year Begins & Ends (dates): _____

Grade Level: _____ Number of students in class: _____ Check box if Special Education

____ I wish to continue with the same Trucker Buddy (name): _____

____ I would like to be assigned to another Trucker Buddy. My current match is not working out because: _____

____ I no longer wish to participate in the Trucker Buddy program.

I have read and agree to adhere to the Trucker Buddy rules and will follow the guidelines for class visits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Driver Annual Response Form

Please complete **ALL** information. Match Number (from label) _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Carrier Name: _____

Carrier Address: _____

What year did you begin driving for your current carrier? _____

Circle: Owner/Operator or Company Driver Make of Truck: _____

Date of Birth: _____ CDL Number: _____ Social Security #: _____

Have you been convicted of a felony? _____ If yes, please provide details: _____

All information will remain confidential and will be used solely for determining eligibility for participation in the program. Nothing will be used for any other purpose. Falsification of any information will result in immediate removal.

____ I wish to remain with my class. My teacher's name is: _____

____ I would like a new class in _____ state(s). You may choose a region where you prefer to have a class, however, class assignment is subject to availability. Do not specify an area smaller than a state.

____ I no longer wish to participate in the Trucker Buddy program.

I have read and agree to adhere to the Trucker Buddy rules and will follow the guidelines for class visits. I authorize Trucker Buddy to verify background information.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



**Trucker Buddy
International, Inc.**

P.O. Box 527
Waupaca, WI 54981
1-800-MY-BUDDY

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**Trucker Buddy Drivers
Celebrate 10th Anniversary**

These drivers have been in the Trucker Buddy program since 1994. Congratulations!

- Honey & Moose Troell, Shaffer Trucking Co. matched with Patricia Shirley, Shoreline, WA for 10 years!
- Debra Stoller, Crete Carrier Corp.
- Jon H. Wojta, Schneider National
- David Anson, ICX Trans.
- Raymond Cade, Wal-Mart

**Sign Up NOW for the
2004-2005 School Year**

...
Renewal Form Inside

Trucker Buddy on Tour

Professional driver Bill Adams is a Captain on the ATA America's Road Team and a Trucker Buddy. This May when Bill visits his 5th grade class at Saint Matthew Elementary School in Philadelphia, the Volvo truck he drives for Overnite Transportation will be pulling high tech equipment mounted on the trailer. For this one-week tour, Adams' students will be able to track and stay in touch with their driver utilizing General Electric's VeriWise tracking system.



The students will follow Adams on an internet site and can participate in an interactive quiz about the places their Trucker Buddy will be touring.

May 7th, Bill will stop at W. A. Bass Middle School in Nashville where he will accompany Trucker Buddy Jerry Collins when they visit Jerry's 5th grade class. May 8th will be a day of fun in Nashville at the Tennessee Truck Show. The tour concludes when Adams returns to his class in Philadelphia.