

MISSOURI TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

MISSOURI TRUCKING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SAFETY AWARDS

Branson, MO --The 2015 Missouri Trucking Association (MoTA) Annual SuperTech Competition, Safety & Maintenance Conference and Expo was attended by nearly 350 Safety and Maintenance Professionals and included 25 speakers. The two day event was sponsored by both the MoTA Council of Safety Supervisors and the MoTA Technology and Maintenance Council at the Hilton Branson Convention Center, Branson, Missouri, February 4 & 5. The event featured 23 exhibit booths.

For full-time heavy-duty truck technicians, the SuperTech Competition was held on Wednesday. A Tech Training Fair was held Thursday morning followed by an Awards Luncheon where the competitors were honored.

The conference was highlighted by the 68th annual Safety Awards Banquet honoring the trucking industry's finest safety, maintenance and driving professionals with over 200 company officials in attendance.

For thirty-four of the last thirty-five years, the **Missouri Trucking Association** has received the coveted Summa Cum Laude Award from American Trucking Associations' State Association Recognition Program for effectively fostering and promoting highway safety programs within Missouri for the greater good of the trucking industry and all highway users. Accepting the award was Todd Smith, 2014 Chairman of the Council of Safety Supervisors.

Four major fields recognized -- the Fleet Safety Contest; the Missouri Drivers of the Month; 2014 Driver of the Year; the Safety Professional of the Year -- shared the spotlight at the banquet.

The 2014 Missouri Driver of the Year is **Russell Smith**, a driver for **Transport Distribution Company of Joplin, Missouri**. Mr. Smith has been a professional driver for 19 years and has amassed over two million miles. Captain David Earney of the Missouri State Highway Patrol presented Mr. Smith with a custom designed keepsake ring and framed certificate from the Missouri Trucking Association for his excellence in highway safety and maintenance operations.

The drivers recognized for outstanding performance, each were presented with a commemorative engraved Browning Knife from the Missouri Trucking Association. Introducing each of the drivers and technicians was Jim Wingfield of Tri-State Motor Transit, Joplin, MO and Chairman of the MoTA Board of Directors.

The drivers of the month, their company, *hometown* and lifetime miles are listed below:

January	Howard Hall	Buchheit Trucking	Sedgewickville, MO	4 Million Miles
February	Leon Heater	Transland	Mountain Home, AR	3.3 Million Miles
March	Byron Bramwell	YRC Freight	Centerview, MO	2.5 Million Miles
April	Kevin Flick	Buchheit Trucking	Vienna, IL	3.3 Million Miles
May	Darin Haggett	Buchheit Trucking	Patterson, MO	1.2 Million Miles
June	Allan Raffay	Prime, Inc.	Hawley, PA	3.9 Million Miles
July	Roger Freidrich	Buchheit Trucking	Cape Girardeau, MO	.5 Million Miles
August	Charles Ross	Transland	Lebanon, MO	5.4 Million Miles
September	Don McCrite	St James Transports	Rolla, MO	5.5 Million Miles
October	Russell Smith	Transport Distribution	West Plains, MO	2.3 Million Miles
November	Henry Grider	Transland	Mount Vernon MO	4.6 Million Miles
December	Marty Provorse	Kenneth Harvey Inc.	Shelbina, MO	5.1 Million Miles

Lora Littles of Transland Inc. of Strafford, MO was presented the "Safety Professional of the Year" award for her outstanding leadership in safety related programs designed for the trucking industry, her company and the community. Presenting the plaque and an engraved clock from the Missouri Trucking Association was Julie Lane, the Division Administrator for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

The Grand Trophy winner in the "Fleet Safety Contest", a competition among motor carrier fleets for the best safety record on a fleet-wide basis during the 2013-2014 contest period, was **FMC Transport, Willow Springs, MO**, with an accident ratio of 0. Accepting the trophy on behalf of FMC Transport was Gary Picard.

Plaques were presented to the winners in each of four divisions of competition by Mike Bohon assisted by John Uhl and Susan Bryant of Great West Casualty, sponsor of the fleet safety contest awards. The winner in the "Local Division" was **D & D Sexton, Carthage, MO**. Honorable mention in the local division went to **ABF Freight System, Fort Smith, AR**

In the "Over the Road, Up to One Million Miles" category, the winner was **Twehous Excavating Company, Jefferson City, MO**. Honorable mention in the Up to One Million Miles category went to **Rooney Trucking, Inc., Polo, MO**.

The plaque winner in the "Over the Road, One to Five Million Miles" category was **Opies Transport, Eldon, MO**; honorable mention in this category went to **Frontier Leasing, Joplin, MO**.

In the "Over the Road, Over Five Million Miles" category, the plaque winner was **FMC Transport, Willow Springs, MO**; honorable mention in this category went to **American Central Transport, Liberty, MO**.

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