

TRAW Update

December, 2014

Special Features

- Registration open for the 2015 NW Tow Expo World Record Tow Truck Parade. Go to the website and get your place in line to set a new worlds record.
- Our industry says good-bye to Four friends.
- What's going on in the TRAW in January and February. See the updated events calendars included inside for your help in scheduling time.
- Mike gets his 2 cents worth, for your reading pleasure!



Our 2015 NW Tow Expo logo is shown above

It's Christmas party time!

Tis the season to be Jolly! Our 2015 Christmas party will be held on January 23rd and 24th at the Icicle Inn in Leavenworth. With snow on the ground and the beautiful Leavenworth Christmas lights coming on at dusk, it's the perfect setting to enjoy the company of friends and family, celebrate a safe and prosperous holiday season and relax. After several years at Lake Chelan, we will

return to our favorite Bavarian town to welcome in 2015 and celebrate 2014. There will be special events, awards, many thanks, a few tears, and tons of good food. Go to the website, www.towingandrecovery.net to register.



“THE GRAPEVINE” FROM THE DESK OF Mike Walcker

Looking forward to 2015...

One of the most important jobs that we have is to **always** challenge ourselves to make TRAW a better organization. We can never rest on “it’s just good enough” because our world changes, business and laws change, and people change. We must continue to look at ways to improve and provide the best services, benefits and effort to our dues-paying members. As we enter 2015, we will have new executive board members, and a few new district chairs. The biggest change will be with a new president. After two very productive years, Jackie Currie will take the position of 1st Past President and Ron Jake will assume the duties of our new President. With change comes the fear that our new president will shake things up too much, or that their ideas are going to throw our board into turmoil and panic. NOT TRUE!

Joanne and I were hired in 2009 and there have been 3 presidents since then. Kurt Gillard, Dan Johnson, and Jackie Currie. With each change, there were concerns for one reason or another, but in the end, TRAW grew and prospered under each president and board. I have no doubt that we will continue under our new president and I welcome his energy, ideas and his ability to keep you thinking that your younger than you are because he has the ability to see the good in things, keeps us smiling with his quick humor, and has boundless energy. Many people think Ron is a youngster, but in fact, he has been in the towing business for several decades and is a second-generation tow owner, taking over from his dad. I believe our best days are still ahead of us as an organization and think that 2015 will be our best year yet!

As an example of the changes you will see is right here in this magazine. We need to communicate with our members more often and this is “TRAW Update” will be the first issue in what we hope to be a bi-monthly effort. In this magazine, you will get event calendar pages for the following two months which will show meeting nights, special events, and important dates for us to remember. We will update you more on legislation, laws, and concerns around the state. We will try to weave our state together so that our borders become closer and our member company in Forks does not seem so distant from our member company in Newport. We need to remind ourselves that we are a State organization and every inch of ground from corner to corner is OUR ground where we make our living.

Our 2015 education program has yet to set a schedule, but our 2014 program was a total success. Rich Steele and the education crew did an outstanding job teaching safety, laws and procedures to over 100 students and the program continues to grow. In 2015, we have been asked to teach a two day school in Montana, as the new Montana law mandates training and it only officially acknowledges two programs...wreck-master and TRAW as qualified training programs. Quite an honor, and we are in talks to make that school happen. We are working on our “office staff” class which will be specific to office duties regarding redemption of vehicles, paperwork, RCW and WAC rules, and other topics that will help your office run more efficiently and correctly.

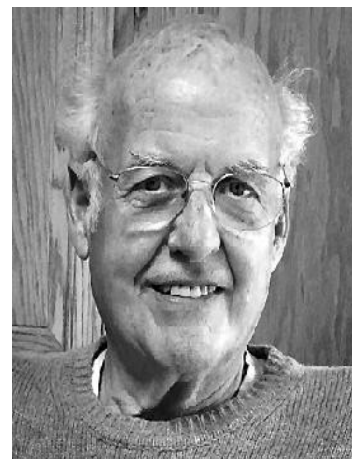
And of course, we are planning the biggest NW Tow Expo ever seen north of Reno and West of the Mississippi River with our 2015 NW Tow Expo and Worlds Record tow truck parade. August 13th through the 16th will be our time in Wenatchee as towers from all across the pacific northwest and Canada converge to celebrate our industry. You can register right now for the parade at our website, www.towingandrecovery.net and get your place in line for this grand event. You won’t want to be reading about this next fall and kicking yourself for not joining in.

All in all, we have so much to look forward to, and we are glad your part of our team.

Be safe and enjoy what you have.....Mike

PASSINGS

Charles "Skip" Bitterling Skip passed away peacefully on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2014. He was born in Tacoma and attended Stadium High School. He was the second of three generations to own and operate Bitterling's Auto Service. Skip started working at the shop as a young man, initially working for his father before taking over in 1974. He ran the business for more than 20 years before retiring and leaving it to his son, Don. Even through his retirement, Skip loved the shop and helped out every morning. In his free time, he enjoyed riding motorcycles with the Roadrunners Motorcycle Club, camping, snowmobiling, and taking road trips with friends. Skip is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Karen, his two children, Don Bitterling (wife Nancy) and Kathy Parrish (husband Brian), grandchildren, Amy, Sara, Brice and Blake, great granddaughter, Norah, and brother Mike (wife Sylvia). The family invites you to celebrate his life at New Tacoma Cemetery on Thursday, Oct. 30th, from 4-7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Heart Association.



Timothy Joseph Beamish a.k.a. "Bubba" passed away on 11/03/2014 after a brief illness. Born 09/19/1960, Tim attended St Anne's grade school, McClure Jr High, Queen Anne High School, and was an owner/founder of Beamish Towing. Tim is reunited in the stars with his mother Margret Lagreid, and survived by his loving wife Tracy Beamish (Micek); sons Mark Andrew Beamish, Kevin Michael Beamish, and Cody Just; father Neil Beamish and his wife Karen Beamish; sister Molly Kirkpatrick (John), sisters in law, Pam, Cindy, Linda, Kathy, and many aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws. Tim was an extraordinary man who knew everyone, and everyone knew Tim. He will be greatly missed. PM at St Elizabeth Ann Seton's church, 2316 SE 180th St, Bothell WA.

Michael D Crane Sr

November 10, 1943 - August 28, 2014

Michael David Crane, age 70, passed away August 28, 2014 in Seattle, WA, while returning from a tow job. He was born November 10, 1943 in Seattle, WA, to Ethel V. (Brisbane) and Delbert S. Crane. Del and Ethel owned Crane Towing, Crane Trailer Convoy, Seattle Towing, Northgate Towing, A-1 Trouble Shooting, Shady Tree Trailer Park (previously Murphy's Corner Trailer Park) in George, WA, Skip-pers Grotto and Her Place Restaurant.

Mike graduated from Lincoln High School then was drafted into the Army in 1965. He was a paratrooper stationed in Germany, and won a medal for sharp shooting. Just before shipping out, he married Irene Barbara (Franzen) on June 11, 1965. They had first met when Irene was acting as Trophy Girl at the local race track, and he performed the unexpected honor of escorting her for a day. After discharge from the Army, Mike started his own towing company, Towing, Etc. and later AM-PM Towing.

Mike enjoyed playing chess, gardening, swimming, and "hot rodding" in his Mustang.

He is survived by Irene, his wife of 49 years; children Mike Jr. and Roshelle; grandson Curtis (CJ); 3 great-grandchildren, 3 nieces, and 1 nephew.

He is preceded in death by his brother Ron.



Larry Gene Clark II, 53, passed away suddenly on November 10, 2014 in Wilbur, WA. He was born to Larry and Linda (Duncan) Clark on April 15, 1961 in Moses Lake, WA. When Larry was 6 years old he started helping his father in the body shop, he even had his own special coveralls with the body shop logo. After his family moved to Wilbur in 1970, Larry spent his summers and his free time in Ernie's Body Shop helping his dad. During his junior and high school years Larry worked as a janitor at Wilbur High School, pumped gas at Densley's and the Bonnie Ray gas stations, sold auto parts at the Wilbur Auto Parts and worked with his dad at Clark's Sanitation. Larry's true calling was owning and operating Clark's Body Shop and Towing for the past for 34 years. Larry was a member, and the Wilbur Fire Chief for the Wilbur Fire Department for over 19 years.

Larry had a gift with anything that had a motor. His motto was "if it doesn't have a motor, he doesn't do it!" He knew every car, year, make and model inside and out. If anyone in town had a question about a car he was the go to guy. He gave freely of his shop space, his time and advice to any young driver to help them get their first car on the road. He was a NASCAR expert. He would make time for you any day of the week except NASCAR Sunday. Larry enjoyed the Seattle Seahawks. He read the sports section online every morning, but only after he took inventory of his Craigslist and ebay sites. Summer at Lake Roosevelt was a special time for Larry and his family and friends. His friends never knew if he was going to show up in the wakeboard boat, the "Go Fast" boat or the party barge. Thankfully, he always had his tool box for those in need of repair. After long days on the beach, everyone was always invited for hamburgers barbequed on his Tregar, and his home was always open for those who could spend the night. Christmas was one of Larry's favorite times of year. You could see his light display from the space station. Family meant everything to him. His wife, daughters, son-in-laws and granddaughters were the lights and loves of his life. There was nothing he wouldn't do for them. There will be a huge hole left in the Wilbur community without Larry's quick smile, ready advice and willingness to lend a hand.

Larry is survived by his wife of 34 years, Dwan, daughters; Lisa Eng (Trevor) and Julie Sherwood (Joel), granddaughters Kinley, Addisyn and Oakleigh, parents Larry and Kathy Clark, in-laws Roger and Bonnie Jensen, siblings Lori Ennis (Rick), Erica Hearrean (Dave), Charlie Clark (Kellie) and Lacey Cousins, brother-in-law Scott (Daleen), numerous nieces and nephews and extended family and friends surrounding the Wilbur area. He was preceded in death by his mother Linda and daughter Cindy Clark.



In lieu of flowers please make memorial donations to the Golden Rule Child Care. The family extends a special thank you to the Wilbur and Creston Ambulance Crews and Washington State Patrol Officers.

TOWING & RECOVERY

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

Winter Celebration

January 23rd & 24th, 2015

Icicle Inn & Convention Center

505 Hwy 2
Leavenworth, WA 98826

Company: _____ email: _____

Contact Name: _____ Title: _____

Contact Name: _____ Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Cell: _____

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

Dinner Tickets \$50.00 each X _____ = \$ _____

Kid's Plate (Under 12) \$20.00 each X _____ = \$ _____

I Will Make a Donation for the Auction Item _____ or \$ _____

Payment method:

Check VISA MasterCard American Express

Account Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____ V Code: _____

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Signature: _____ Billing Address Zip Code: _____

Icicle Inn Room Rates – \$139.00 Reservations: 509-548-7000 or 800-558-2438 (Ask for the Towing and Recovery Association/TRAW room block rates)



Towing and Recovery Association of Washington
JEMA Services - Mike Walker - Association Director
PO Box 281 - Cashmere, Washington 98815
509.782.7170 – fax 509.782.7108 - Toll Free – 877.600.TRAW (8729)
www.towingandrecovery.com

****Auction Items are Needed, Please advise office of the item you will be bringing for the Auction or of a monetary contribution.**



AUGUST 13TH—16TH
PARADE DAY AUGUST 15TH 2015

REGISTER ONLINE NOW
WWW.TOWINGANDRECOVERY.NET



FOR ROOMS, TRUCKS IN THE PARADE AND YOUR MEALS AND CONTESTS.

Things to do on your website.....

Sign up for Tow Expo and Tow Truck Parade 2015, Book your Room at the Wes Coast Hotel, Pay for your 2015 Dues, Register and Pay for the Christmas Party in Leavenworth January 23rd & 24th, 2015, Pay for a Tow School, find a WAC, View the RTTO Manual, See your current Board Members, Find a District Meeting, Find Contact information for our Supplier Members and Contact the Office.

Thank you for your Support in 2014 and your continued support in 2015

December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <i>District 3- Yakima</i>	4	5	6
7	8	9 <i>District 8- Aberdeen</i>	10 <i>District 1- Tacoma</i>	11 <i>District 5- Kalama</i>	12	13
14	15	16 <i>District 3-Pasco Meeting</i>	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25  <i>Christmas</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31 			

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN..OR WOMEN

If you would like to volunteer to help at the Tow Expo in 2015 please drop a note to the TRAW office (joanne@towingandrecovery.net). We will put you on the list and use you as much or as little as you would like.

REMINDER....2015 Membership Dues are due in January. The cost is \$178.00 per truck with a 10 truck cap. You can now process your dues online at our website and sign up for quarterly, 1/2 or full year processing. Your support is vital to your industry. We can also process through the office 509-782-7170. www.towingandrecovery.net

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3
4	5	6	7 <i>District 3- Yakima Meeting</i>	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <i>District 1- Tacoma Meeting</i>	15 <i>District 5- Kalama Meeting</i>	16	17
18	19 <i>Martin Luther King Holiday</i>	20 <i>District 3-Pasco Meeting</i>	21 <i>District 6- Wenatchee Meeting</i>	22	23 <i>Christmas Party Leavenworth</i>	24 <i>Christmas Party Leavenworth</i>
25	26	27 <i>District 2- Seattle Meeting</i>	28	29	30	31

YOU ARE INVITED

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION FEBRUARY 5TH, 2015

@ RED LION INN, OLYMPIA.

Come meet with your legislative representatives and have one on one discussions about what issues are important to your industry. This helps put a face to our name during the legislative decision making. Hors d' oeuvres and cocktails will be served. Please rsvp to Joanne@towingandrecovery.net. Hotel Rooms are available for \$99 Reservations 360-943-4000.