

# The TRAW Update

April, 2015

Volume 3, issue 2

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## Special Features

- “Being there” for our fellow towers is good policy and good for our industry. Mike’s turn in the pulpit.
- 2015 Education calendar of schools
- Our TRAW family says good-bye to two members
- Our lobbyist has many talents and interests
- Stay informed with the April/May Events calendar updates
- 2015 NW Tow Expo continues to expand and grow as sponsors line up to participate

## Lead Story Headline



## Back to school!

Mike Bressi, Todd Peterson, Brian Borland and a number of students plan a recovery on this overturned semi trailer at TRAW’s Heavy Duty class in Gig Harbor.

Your biggest investment in your towing business is your equipment. Most trucks easily cost 6 figures these days, and your equipment is your on-road advertising, your main source of income, and your identity. And unless you are an owner-operator, you give that important part of your company to your employee to use every day of the week. Is that employee using your equipment properly? Are they working safely and efficiently and showing your customer that your company cares about being the best?

Driver training has been shown to improve the safety for your employees and those who work with them. It is proven that well trained drivers are easier on equipment, do less damage to customers vehicles, and work more efficiently. TRAW’s proven education program has trained hundreds of men and women to be competent, safe and professional tow truck operators and we will continue that tradition in 2015. Inside this issue, you will find the complete schedule of classes and information on new training that will be introduced this summer.




## **“THE GRAPEVINE”** FROM THE DESK OF Mike Walcker

*This is one of the most competitive business I have ever seen. It’s a business where signs go up, signs come down, and it’s not uncommon to see a truck from any corner of the state show up anywhere else in the state. The WSP has rotational zones, but even then, you could get an owners request for a company that is out of that zone, as long as the arrival time is reasonable, and a driver from Tacoma might be at an accident scene with a driver from Seattle or Olympia and they may know each other well, or they may have never met. It would be like a Trooper from Yakima showing up at an accident scene with Troopers from Vancouver on I-5, not knowing each other, and not even having experience working on an interstate. There is somewhat of a “dance” that has to go on in order for things to go smoothly.*

*So what makes it possible for those incidents to go smoothly, and what is the common thread that we can all look for that will help us navigate difficult situations with people we don’t know? In the case of the Troopers, it’s the common training and uniform that gives them the confidence that the other person is going to react and perform in a predictable way. That should be the common thread with towers. It should be common training and understanding of the job at hand that should make any driver comfortable working with other drivers. The common uniform of a tow truck driver, the common language and terms of the industry, and by all means, a common respect and a shared feeling of a brotherhood amongst drivers should be the order of the day.*

*But in all too many cases, there is that competitive barrier, the feeling that the other guy is taking money out of your pocket, that they don’t operate the way you do, and in many cases, just plain dislike of the other guy. So how do we make things better? Well, for starters, it starts at the top, with the boss. If the boss continually complains about other companies, the employees will (continued on Page 3)*



*reflect these feelings on the road. We should always put our best efforts forward when it comes to working with our fellow towers. Training together is another way to get drivers to work together as a team, despite working for different companies. Being members of our association is a common thread and meetings and parties go a long way in making friends out of competitors. There is truly **NOTHING** more satisfying than to see a group of competitors sitting at a table sharing a laugh and a meal, talking about their kids, dogs, vacations, and just getting along. There is truly nothing that does our industry more good than to have those bonds between members, and to stand together as an industry. We will always be better together as a team, as no man is an Island.*

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

## **2015 TRAW Education Schedule**

**April 24th & 25th...Light duty school, Nisqually towing, Olympia**  
**One day school on Friday, April 24th.**

**May 15th & 16th...Light duty school, Mt. Vernon towing, Mt. Vernon**  
**One day school on Friday, May 15th.**

**June 12th & 13th...Light duty school, Evergreen State towing, Spokane**  
**One day school on Friday, June 12th**

**July 10th & 11th...Medium duty school, Lincoln Towing, Seattle**

**August 14th...Office management class, NW Tow Expo, Wenatchee**

**September 17th & 18th...Light duty school, Montana Tow Show, Bozeman**

**October 9th & 10th...Light duty school, Clark's towing, Issaquah**  
**One day school on Friday, October 9th**



# **SAYING “GOOD-BYE”**

## **Obituary for Dennis Todd**

Dennis Eric Todd

Dennis Eric Todd, 58 of North Bend, Washington passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, March 16, 2015 from natural causes.

He was born in Seattle Washington on March 31, 1956 to the late Janice and Vernon Todd.

Dennis was a beloved member of the community. He was the business owner of Todd's Towing for 25 years. He was highly respected by the Towing family of the state of Washington. He was recently filmed and interviewed by the crew of the Highway thru Hell documentary airing on the Discovery Channel.

His hobbies were, sleeping, rolling pennies, and collecting toy tow trucks, pigs, and jokes. He loved hanging out with his friends at local restaurants and bars. He was well known for his quick wit, practical jokes, his devious smile, and his overalls. Dennis had a big heart, he would help any one in need, and he was a very loyal and devoted friend who will be greatly missed by all those who had the honor of knowing him.

He is survived by his daughter Shilo Todd, of Federal Way, Washington, his brother Brian Todd, of Spokane, Washington.

A celebration of life will be held at the Eagles club in Snoqualmie, WA on April 18, 2015 at 2:00pm.

Arrangements are under the direction of Flintofts Funeral Home and Crematory. Friends are invited to share memories and sign the family's on-line guest book at [www.flintofts.com](http://www.flintofts.com).



## **Obituary for Christopher Strain**

**Chris Strain**

**October 3, 1972 ~ March 15, 2015**

**Chris Strain, 42, of the Wenatchee Valley, died Sunday, March 15, 2015. He was born October 3, 1972, in Seattle, WA. In 1984, he moved to Elida, NM, where he completed his education. In 1993, he moved to the Wenatchee Valley. On November 13, 1993, he married ShamRae Signor in Okanogan, WA. They made their home in East Wenatchee, WA. Chris was a hard worker, working numerous jobs, including ranch hand, operator of paving equipment, and vehicle recovery specialist for Randy's Towing. He enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid fisherman and hunter. He enjoyed spending time at Wenatchee Valley Super Oval.**

**He is survived by his wife, ShamRae Strain, one son, Kalab Strain, and one daughter, Mackelci Strain, all of East Wenatchee; his father and step-mother, Mack and Cherryll Strain of Lubbock, TX; his mother, Kathryn Strain of East Wenatchee; two brothers, Matthew Strain of Cashmere, WA and Stephen Strain of East Wenatchee; and one sister, Michelle Dobson of Wenatchee.**

**In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum, 3315 Broad, Chattanooga, TN 37408. Arrangements are assisted by Telford's Chapel of the Valley, East Wenatchee.**



**Lobbyist Stu Halsan speaking at the Secretary of State's office as he presents the 42 star flag.**

Above is an original 42 star Washington Statehood flag.. And this is the 125th anniversary of Washington becoming a state in 1889. Stu loaned it to the Washington Secretary of State's office for this year. Attached is a photo of Stu speaking at the November 11th Statehood celebration with Secretary of State Kim Wyman listening (she's in red). The flag is 6-1/2 feet by 13 feet and one of the largest still in existence.

Also on exhibit in the Secretary of States office from Stu's collection are an 1889 Legislative Manual from the First Legislature and some artifacts commemorating the 150th Anniversary of President Lincoln's Assassination. A derringer similar to Booths, a scrap of Mary Todd Lincoln's Mourning Dress and a fragment of wallpaper from the room where Lincoln died.. Additionally there are period pictures of Lincoln and Booth and the funeral procession for Lincoln in New York city.

Stu is on the Washington State Heritage Center Board of Trustees appointed by former Secretary of State Sam Reed and retained by current Secretary of State Kim Wyman and also on the Board of Trustees of Centralia College appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire. They have around 2,500 students in Associates, Technical Certificate and Bachelors degree programs including the only Bachelors program in Diesel Technology other than the University of Montana - Havre West of the Mississippi. Stu has been the TRAW lobbyist for over 20 years and also lobbies for other groups and companies. Stu was a State Legislator and a State Senator, one of the few people elected to both sides of the isle.

# April/May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>District 3-Yakima Meeting</i>	2	3  <i>Good Friday</i>	4
5  <i>Easter Sunday</i>	6	7	8 <i>District 1-Tacoma Meeting</i>	9	10	11
12	13	14 <i>District 5-Kalama (Vancouver)</i>	15 <i>District 6-Wenatchee Meeting</i>	16 <i>District 4-Spokane Meeting</i>	17	18
19	20	21 <i>District 3-Pasco Meeting</i>	22	23	24 <i>LD School Nisqually Towing</i>	25 <i>LD School Nisqually Towing</i>
26	27	28 <i>District 2-Seattle Meeting</i>	29 <i>District 8-Pt. Angeles Meeting</i>	30		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 <i>District 3-Yakima Meeting</i>	7	8	9
10  <i>Mother's Day</i>	11	12 <i>District 5-Kalama Meeting</i>	13 <i>District 1-Tacoma Meeting</i>	14	15 <i>LD School Mt. Vernon</i>	16 <i>LD School Mt. Vernon</i>
17	18	19 <i>District 3-Pasco Meeting</i>	20 <i>District 6-Wenatchee Meeting</i>	21 <i>District 4-Spokane Meeting</i>	22	23
24/31	25  <i>Memorial Day</i>	26 <i>District 2-Seattle Meeting</i>	27 <i>District 8-Bremerton Meeting</i>	28	29	30



TOW EXPO 13TH–15TH  
WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT TOW TRUCK PARADE  
AUGUST 15 DOWNTOWN  
WENATCHEE AVENUE  
REGISTER @ [WWW.TOWINGANDRECOVERY.NET](http://WWW.TOWINGANDRECOVERY.NET)

- DEMONSTRATIONS
- PIG ROAST
- KIDS ACTIVITIES
- TOW TRUCK PARADE
- AUCTIONS
- AWARDS BANQUET
- BEAUTY CONTEST
- SEMINARS
- VENDORS
- CONTESTS

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## “WHAT’S UP AT THE OFFICE”

Some of you long timers have not sent in you dues yet, invoices were mailed at the beginning of the year. Remember it is \$178.00 per truck with a 10 truck cap. You can go to the website and pay your dues on a secure server. You can set up for half payments as well. <http://www.towingandrecovery.net/JOIN-TRAW.html> Invoices are going out again this week.

It’s time to start thinking TOW EXPO, Did you know we roughly have 688 people in the state of Washington that list their occupation as a Tow Truck Driver? With 1,518 trucks registered in the state? So listen up, no excuses for us not to break the world record Tow Truck Parade with 325 trucks. Please go to the website today and commit 1, 2 or 3 trucks to be in the parade., the sooner you register determines your spot in the parade. If you register last, you are last in line.

<http://www.towingandrecovery.net/2015-REGIONAL-EXPO---TOW-TRUCK-PARADE.html> The Office has sent out 865 invitations to cover Washington, Idaho, Oregon, & Montana this could be the biggest event of our history, come and be a part get registered.

What’s for dinner you ask? On Friday we will be having Chef Kurt Gillard’s famous Pig BBQ right in the parking lot behind the convention center. If you have never had this get registered so that we can know how much we will need. On Saturday night at the Banquet each guest will have a choice of Wenatchee Apple Chicken, Bacon wrapped Salmon Filet or Rubbed Skirt Steak. Each one of the awesome dinners has been pre-tasted so that we could assure that you will have the best food ever. Please note that you can go to the website and pick your dinners now. All last minute dinners at the banquet will be Chicken.

We have some great activities planned and we are going to be very kid friendly, There is going to be an operating railroad, activities, a clown and more. We have seminars that will be informative and not to mention some great vendors. Wenatchee is a great place to vacation. So plan on spending some time with us and enjoy, relax and be with your family and friends. You can make your hotel reservation through our webstie <http://www.towingandrecovery.net/2015-REGIONAL-EXPO---TOW-TRUCK-PARADE.html> About half way down the page click on :make your hotel reservation at the West Coast Hotel. Contact the office if you need help or want other hotel choices.



# sponsors

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### GOLD SPONSOR



### SILVER SPONSOR



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## YOUR BUSINESS LOGO HERE/WEBSITE/ETC!

Help support the Towing and Recover Association and your business, Get a booth at the Expo and participate! Register online at [www.towingandrecover.net](http://www.towingandrecover.net). We have sponsorship opportunities contact Joanne at TRAW Office 509-782-7170. We are doing printed items with sponsorship so June 1st will be deadline for those wanting there business name/logo to be included.

**THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE OUR TOW EXPO MAGAZINE, DEADLINE WILL BE JUNE 1, 2015 FOR ADVERTISING**

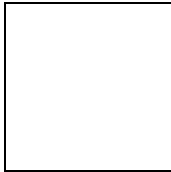
Business Card Ad B/W :	\$ 60.00
1/2 Page B/W:	\$110.00
Full Page B/W:	\$210.00
Full Color Back Page:	\$510.00
(first come basis)	

All ads are generated in black and white, however for an additional charge we can do your ad in color.

# **We need Auction Donations**

**The Tow Expo and Banquet Auctions are your Association fund raiser for operation. Please donate an item for this event. No Item is too large or too small. You can also donate money for this event. If you wish to donate money call the office or find the donate button on the Expo page of the website. You can download a donation form at [www.towingandrecovery.net](http://www.towingandrecovery.net) or Call Joanne @ TRAW Office 509-782-7170 or 877-600-TRAW (8729) or shoot an email to:**

**[joanne@towingandrecovery.net](mailto:joanne@towingandrecovery.net)**



**CONTRACTED STAFF**

**Mike Walcker**

Association Director

**Joanne Walcker**

Administration Assistant

**Legislative Issues**

Stu Halsan, Attorney

**We're On the Web!!!**

Here are some of the things you will find at:

[www.towingandrecovery.net](http://www.towingandrecovery.net)

- Membership – alphabetically & by location
- Current Events
- Education Schools & link to registration forms
- Legislative Updates
- Online Payments
- District Meetings
- Link to RTTO Manual
- Supplier Partners & Link
- Link to Dispatch Publication

