



Palmetto Progress

Motorcoach Association of South Carolina

P.O. Box 474, Columbia, SC 29202

888.376.1150 FAX 866.376.1156

Spring 2011

President's Letter

Bob Garrett

Sunshine Travel & Express Lancaster, SC

Spring is definitely in the air! By the time you read this message, more blooms will be blooming and the trees will have new green leaves. People in my neighborhood are getting their lawns and gardens in shape, pulling out weeds which seem to grow regardless of the season, removing plants that did not survive the winter, and planting new annuals and perennials. I find myself humming and once in awhile I break out in song!

Our business is also seasonal and I find the similarities go beyond that. At the onset of spring we find ourselves cleaning up for the busier spring and summer months, perhaps pulling out the weeds by removing the worn out parts and equipment, planting new growth by sprucing up the coaches cosmetically and mechanically to ensure the comfortable, safe travel of our passengers, and maybe even a new coat of paint on the office to project the best image we can to our customers.

Spring brings heightened activity in planning for the next annual meeting and market place. I am so excited that MCASC will meet jointly with the Georgia Motorcoach Operators Association in Savannah August 21-24. The joint planning committee co-chaired by **Todd McElmurray** and **Meghan Johnson** from MCASC and **Don Adams** and **Marion Kenney** from GMOA, has been meeting regularly and planning a great experience in Savannah for the members of the two associations. I'm told by the staff that registration material will be published by the end of April and possibly earlier. The reason for the joint meeting was to respond to our associate members who have asked that we meet jointly to save travel funds and time out of the office or family time. Now it is up to you to take advantage of this opportunity to meet and visit with members from two associations. Operators, it is a good time for you to network with operators who may be your

"best friend" if you find your coach out of service in their neighborhood! I hope you have made plans to attend.

MCASC closed out the winter with its annual coach rodeo. We had a wonderful experience in Florence. **Holly Beaumier** with Visit Florence along with the CVB partners rolled out the red carpet for the board meeting, social events, and the rodeo which was held at the Florence Civic Center. I extend MCASC's gratitude to Holly for the tremendous support of Visit Florence. We had good food from beginning to end, warm, southern hospitality, and one of the best rodeo events. *(Please see the article in more detail about the rodeo in this newsletter.)*

The committees are at work keeping MCASC vibrant and productive. The true focus of the board of directors is to make MCASC one of the best motorcoach associations, if not THE best. The board's desire now more than ever is to promote good business relationships, which result in return on investment of membership dues. April 1, today, is the deadline for dues payment. I hope that you have continued your support of MCASC by faithfully renewing your membership. MCASC can only be as strong as its collective membership. We need each other more today than ever before and we need good solid business relationships.

Enjoy the spring and its beauty. Have safe travels!

Bob Garrett

In This Issue



Member Changes



Southeastern Regional Operators Meeting Review



MCASC Coach Rodeo Review



Coach News



Industry News: ABA



Industry News: UMA

NEW MEMBERS **OPERATORS**

SUNWAY CHARTERS & TOURS

3050 Dick Pond Road
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
843-293-1773
843-293-2100
FAX 843-293-0454
Web: www.sunwaycharters.com
Lee Helms, President
Richard Brown, General Manager
Email: richard@sunwaycharters.com
Donna Burgess, Charter Manager
Email: donna@sunwaycharters.com
8 Coaches, 2 Mini,
2 Trolleys, 2 Transits Operated
Code- BCEGHJI

THOMAS TOURS & TRAVEL

112 West Bartlette Street
Sumter, SC 29150
803-773-2767
803-464-6080
FAX 803-775-9197
Email: ethomasjr@sc.rr.com
Elliott Thomas, Jr., Owner
Jackie Thomas, Owner
2 Coaches Operated
Code- BCG

ASSOCIATES **ATTRACTIONS**

EMERALD PRINCESS II CASINO

P.O. Box 1736
Brunswick, GA 31521
912-265-7571
800-842-0115
FAX 912-265-8296
Email: kgarland@emeraldprincesscasino.com
Web: www.emeraldprincesscasino.com
Kathy Garland, Office Manager
Jennifer Ferra, Marketing

RESORTS CASINO & HOTEL

1133 Boardwalk
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-340-7715
FAX 609-340-6305
Email: mlewis@resortsac.com
Web: www.resortsac.com
Meg Lewis, Executive Director
Marketing & Bus Operations
Dave Szukics, Bus Marketing
Consultant

HOTELS

BEST WESTERN PLUS ORLANDO GATEWAY

7299 Universal Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32819
407-351-5009
800-445-7299
FAX 407-363-7807
Email: tracey@bworlando.com
Web: www.bworlando.com
Tracey Sartini, Sales Manager

CHEROKEE LODGE

P.O. Box 2207
Cherokee, NC 28719
828-497-2226
FAX 828-497-3427
Email: smtony62@yahoo.com
Web: www.cherokeelodgenc.com
Tony Winstead, General Manager

HILTON OCEANFRONT RESORT HILTON HEAD ISLAND

23 Ocean Lane
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
843-341-8015
843-842-8000 x8015
FAX 843-341-8036
Email: charlene.click@hilton.com
Web: www.hiltonoceanfrontresort.com
Charlene Click, Sales Manager

HOLIDAY INN ATLANTA CAPITOL CONFERENCE CENTER

450 Capitol Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30312
404-591-2000 OR 800-HOL-IDAY
FAX 404-591-1999
Email: andre.motley@hiatlanta.com
Web: www.hiatlanta.com
Andre Motley, Corp. Account Manager

TOURISM AGENCY KNOXVILLE TOURISM & SPORTS COMMISSION

301 South Gay Street
Knoxville, TN 37902
865-342-9124 OR 800-727-8045
FAX 865-673-4400
Email: toconnor@knoxville.org
Web: www.knoxville.org
Tracy O'Connor, Sales Manager

CHANGES **OPERATORS**

5-STAR TRANSPORTATION

4 Coaches Operated

BUD'S CHRISTIAN TOURS

FAX 864-576-7487

CAPITOL BUS LINES, INC.

Email: info@capitol-tours.com

CROSS COUNTRY TRAILWAYS, INC.

20 Coaches, 1 Wheelchair Accessible

G&B TRANSPORTATION, INC.

Web: www.gbtransportation.com
George E. Jones
FAX 877-832-8090
George Muhammad
864-593-5658
Victor Anderson, Mainten. Operator
864-229-0040 OR 864-223-0723
877-832-9080

IONOSPHERE TOURS, INC.

Email: richard@ionospheretours.com
Email: lori@ionospheretours.com
Email: david@ionospheretours.com
Web: www.ionospheretours.com

JEAN'S BUS SERVICE, INC.

17 Coaches Operated
Jean K. Cauley, Owner/President
Barbara Lynn, Charter Department
John W. Cauley, Sr., Owner/Secretary

LEWIS BUS LINES

Robert Stanley, Operations,
Charter & Office Manager

PALMER BUS CO., LLC

803-516-2260

Young Transportation received part of the Federal Transit Administration grant to retrofit coaches with wheelchair lifts or to help offset the cost of lifts on new coaches. The grant award \$20 million dollars to 128 motorcoach companies across the US.



CHANGES ASSOCIATES

More changes have been made than space allows in this newsletter. Please check the web site listing for correct contact information for the following associate members:

TOUR OPERATOR Charleston Harbor Tours

ATTRACTIONS

Charleston Harbor Tours
Chimney Rock
Columbia Museum of Art
Fun Factory in the Smokies
Georgia Aquarium
Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel
Magnolia Plantation & Gardens
South Carolina Aquarium
South Carolina State Museum
Stone Mountain Park
Tanger Outlet Center
The Fontanel Mansion & Farm
Titanic-Museum Attraction
WonderWorks

HOTELS

Best Western Premier Eden
Resort Inn & Suites
Caesars Entertainment
Comfort Suites West of the Ashley
Country Inn & Suites Atlanta
Gwinnett Place
Harrah's Casino Tunica
Hotels of the Smokies
LaPlaya-Inner Circle Daytona
Seralago Hotel Main Gate East
Tides Folly Beach

RESTAURANTS

CFC of Charleston
Dandy Restaurant Cruises
Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville

SALES, SERVICE & PRODUCTS

Bus Group
Setra from Daimler Buses
North America

THEATRES

Smith Family Dinner Theater
Tennessee Shindig

TOUR RECEPTIVES

GroupConnect, Inc.
Sunsational Tours

TOURISM AGENCIES

Albany CVB
Anderson CVB
Charleston Area CVB
Chattanooga CVB
Columbus GA, CVB
Duplin County Tourism
Georgia Department of Economic
Development-Tourism Division
Greater Birmingham CVB
Greenwood Regional Tourism &
Visitors Bureau
Mountain Lakes CVB
Rock Hill/York County CVB
Spartanburg CVB
Tuscaloosa Tourism & Sports
Commission
Visit Savannah
Wytheville CVB

FORMER MEMBERS ASSOCIATES HOTELS

HAMPTON INN SOUTHLAKE

1533 Southlake Parkway
Morrow, GA 30260
770-968-8990
FAX 770-968-6730
Email: anne.jiles@hilton.com
Web: www.atlantasouthlake.
hamptoninn.com
Anne Jiles, Director of Sales

HOTELS OF THE SMOKIES

P.O. Box 1383
Pigeon Forge, TN 37868
800-555-2650
FAX 865-286-1122
Email: kembrey@cooperhotels.com
Web: www.4lodging.com
Kenny Embrey, DOSM

Operator Members

*Below is an important link about
motorcoach permits for Washington, DC.*

<http://dmv.dc.gov/info/trippermit.shtm>

Washington, DC Tour Bus Parking link

[http://ddot.dc.gov/DC/DDOT/On+Your+Street/
Traffic+Management/Parking/Tour+Bus+Parking](http://ddot.dc.gov/DC/DDOT/On+Your+Street/Traffic+Management/Parking/Tour+Bus+Parking)

*Private Charter Operators visit the link below to
become a registered charter provider:*

<http://ftawebprod.fta.dot.gov/charterregistration>

*Check Gas Prices. Click on "Petroleum",
then click on "Weekly Retail Gasoline and
Diesel Prices" for weekly rates:*

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/>



Southeastern Regional Motorcoach Operators Meeting Held in Wilmington, NC

Operators Meeting February 1-3 were again unanimous in their opinion that the meeting was one of the best they had attended. "I enjoy the small group atmosphere and the way that creates more availability for one-on-one conversation with industry leaders like **Peter Pantuso**, **Vic Parra**, **Brandon Buchanan**, and **Ken Presley** and program speakers. I enjoy the operator-to-operator discussion creating a forum to learn from one another." These and other comments were heard over and over. The hotel, Hilton Wilmington Riverside, was welcoming with friendly staff; we ate well both at the Hilton and the after-hours events; we had a good bed to sleep well. Combine that with a very informative program with expert speakers and you have a good combination for learning and networking.

If we could have a "do over," I don't think we would change a thing except perhaps the date. Because the Tennessee Motor Coach Association's annual meeting was held in Tunica, Mississippi with overlapping dates, attendance was affected. Understandably, some operators were obligated to attend the Tennessee meeting.

Sponsors who made it possible to provide a worthwhile experience including special events for networking include **ABC Companies**, **Allen Insurance Group**, **American Bus Association**, **Daimler Buses**, **Duplin Winery**, **Rodes Roper Love Insurance**, **Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Hotel**, **Motor Coach Industries**, **North Carolina Motorcoach Association**, and **United Motorcoach Association**. I believe the evening events at **Duplin Winery** and the **Battleship North Carolina** were enjoyed by all. Duplin County is my home county and I was proud of the way in which the area attractions fed, entertained, and informed those who attended. I learned that there are ghosts on board the Battleship. Thankfully, I did not encounter any during our dinner event!

The program was excellent. Industry leaders mentioned above shared their knowledge and inspired discussion of issues "near and dear" to all of us, such

as the dilemma of seatbelts on coaches. Yes, I know, we are about to get a mandate and standards. New equipment will come with seatbelts installed, lap belts, two-point belts, or three-point belts. What about our older equipment?



David and Ana Fussell, owners of the Duplin Winery, which provided a great atmosphere, entertainment, wonderful food and wine.



Battleship North Carolina

Will the mandate require retrofit? What's the cost of that? We heard numbers from \$8,000 to \$30,000+. The coach manufacturers' panel inspired more discussion about this issue. I think, generally speaking, we all know that our customers will demand seatbelts. Can you imagine driving up to a school for a student trip with seatbelts installed in one coach and not another? That was a question posed by one operator and thought about by many more as we listened to the conversation. Expert speakers were the highlight of the meeting. To say that **Bill Schoolman** is passionate is an understatement! What is he passionate about? Transit authority waste of federal and state funds is his hot button! Bill shared his efforts to fight the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority. It was incredible to listen to Bill's presentation outlining the waste of funds. What hit home with all of us was his statement that all of us are paying for that waste through our tax dollars. We sat up straight as we suddenly became stakeholders! As a result of Bill's presentation, the North Carolina Motorcoach Association Board of Directors would vote later to donate \$5,000 to the fund to fight MTA. Bill's company is Classic Coach/Hampton Luxury Lines in Bohemia, NY. We discussed technology with **Ryan Kelly**

with Terrapin Blue, who "stood in" for **Kate Shereba** with Saucon. Kate's flight was cancelled due to the snow storm in the northwest. We discussed pre-employment screening regulations with **Brad Watkins** with Consolidated Safety Services. **Larry Yohe**, retired accident investigator was also grounded due to the snow storm and we filled that time discussing the organization of the Southeastern Regional Motorcoach Operators Coalition, deciding the governance structure, reviewing a mission statement and budget, and recognizing the cost of administration. A more formal organization to provide unity of voice in the industry was agreed upon by the presidents of the state associations in the southeast and south central states based on the directive by the operators attending the 2010 meeting. **Morgan Brown** conducted an impromptu evacuation exercise after dinner, and it created a great deal of awareness for the evacuation process. Morgan serves on the Southeastern Regional Motorcoach Operators Emergency Evacuation Advisory Committee.

(Yes, that is a mouthful!) **Jimmy Kelton**, chairman of the advisory committee presented highlights of the work of the committee over the past year. This committee was formed at the request of the operators attending the 2009 meeting to address issues and concerns about driver treatment, contract



Speaker Bill Schoolman, Classic Coach/Hampton Luxury Lines with Ken Presley, United Motorcoach Association.



Speaker Brad Watkins, Consolidated Safety Services.



prices, communications, and representation of the industry in decision making relating to emergency evacuation. As Jimmy's presentation confirmed, the committee has made tremendous progress in addressing the issues identified as a result of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes in the gulf states and expanded the committee's focus to include creating a web site (www.seevac.org) as a communications tool in the event of an emergency evacuation and opening dialogue with transportation providers such as **Transportation Management Services (TMS)**, International Trailways, and the emergency management divisions in the southeastern and south central states. The finale of the southeastern meeting was a workshop conducted by **Allison Transmission** representative, **Mike Corressell** and **Covington Power Services** representative, **Maynard Harding**. We had a full two days of discussion and presentations and at the end of the ninth southeastern meeting, it was no surprise that the operators and the coach members felt it was a worthwhile use of their time.

South Carolina operators attending the meeting included **Bob and Shirley Garrett, Sunshine Travel and Express; David and Nancy Parham, Ionosphere Tours; and Elaine and Robert Johnson, Cross Country Trailways.**

The date and location of the 2012 Southeastern Motorcoach Operators Coalition will be announced when details are finalized. You will want to make plans to attend and experience for yourself the uniqueness of this forum for operators.

Safe travels,

*Jim Harris, Southeastern Committee Chairman
North Carolina Motorcoach Association*

Attention Members

MCASC membership renewal invoices were mailed in January with a deadline of April 1, 2011.

If you have any questions about your membership status, please email kelly_b@embarqmail.com or call Kelly at 888-376-1150.

Membership change forms are available at the following link:

[www.scmotorcoach.org/
MCASC_Change_Form.pdf](http://www.scmotorcoach.org/MCASC_Change_Form.pdf)

In Memory of Bobby Clemmer

Mr. Robert Lee "Bobby" Clemmer, age 74, died Saturday, February 19, 2011 at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. He was the founder and business owner of Clemmer's Machine Shop and Lancaster Tours, Inc. dba Lancaster Trailways of the Carolinas. "Bob" or "Bobby", as known by many friends and acquaintances, originally provided transportation for General Tire employees in the Lancaster, SC area. He was a member of Trailways, United Motorcoach Association, the American Bus Association, and the Motorcoach Association of SC where he formerly served as member of the Board of Directors. Most recently he served as a member of the Southeastern Advisory Committee for Disaster Relief. Lancaster Trailways of the Carolinas provided transportation for many convalescent centers and assisted living facilities in the area and throughout the state of South Carolina. Special recognition from the President of the United States was given to Bobby for being chosen the transportation provider of the 'President's Own' Marine Corp Band while on tour. He was especially proud to be part of the homecoming for several South Carolina National Guard Units serving active duty in Iraq when Bobby provided transportation reuniting the soldiers and their families Christmas 2009.

Bobby was quite, not saying a great deal in a group setting; but when he did speak, he was very opinionated when it came to providing motorcoach transportation. He was very knowledgeable about motorcoaches mechanically and a successful motorcoach owner/operator helping his fellow operators when he could. Bobby will be missed greatly.

The family requests in lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Educational Foundation of USC-L Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 889, Lancaster, SC 27721.



MCASC Eighth Coach Rodeo February 14 - 15, 2011 Florence, SC

Seventy-nine people were registered to attend the 2011 coach rodeo. **Holly Beaumier with Visit Florence** and the area attractions partners were great hosts. The event began with a dinner event sponsored by **Visit Florence and its partners** at the **Lynches River County Park** featuring a mini-trade show showcasing the local attractions for group tours. Dinner was delicious and the fellowship was great.



Tour at the Pearl Fryar Topiary Gardens.

Lynches River County Park is truly a haven for the outdoor enthusiast. For additional information, you can view our facilities and amenities on our website at www.lynchesriverpark.com. See you at the park!



Holly acquired several nice gifts as door prizes and some lucky folks left with local goodies, including locally made baskets.



The South Carolina Cotton Museum offered information during the mini-trade show.

Visit Florence also sponsored lunch and refreshments for the rodeo event at the **Florence Civic Center**. We had 24 drivers registered to participate in the rodeo written tests and driving skills from **5-Star Transportation, Atchison Transportation Services, Capitol Bus Lines, Carolina Travel & Tours, Champion Coach, Ionosphere Tours, Jean's Bus Service, MBF Tours and Travel, See & See Friendly Tours, Sunshine Travel & Express, and Swept Away Coach & Tours**. It takes many to create a successful rodeo event. I have listed, to the best of my knowledge, all who assisted with the various "duties." (If I have omitted someone, please know that it



Written driver testing during the Coach Rodeo.

is not intentional.) **ABC Companies, CAIO, Motor Coach Industries, Prevost, and Setra from Daimler Buses North America** sponsored T-shirts for everyone who attended the rodeo, plaques and cash prizes, and coaches for the driving skills competition.

While the drivers were completing their written tests, the operators participated in a session with **Antonio Wilson, Safety Investigator for Federal Motor Carrier Administration**, who reviewed Comprehensive Safety Accountability (CSA). Even though Antonio provided a review during the annual meeting and market place in August, the planning committee felt it would be beneficial to operators to hear the presentation again. We must be very familiar with the terms, what they mean, and how to use the CSA web site. Operators should check their data often to make sure it is accurate. We learned how to correct data if there are errors through the use of DataQs.



Safety Investigator Antonio Wilson, FMCSA provided an update on CSA 2010.

A special lunch guest was **Janice Baroody with the Pee Dee Regional Transit Authority**. Janice spoke about building a good relationship between PDRTA and the MCASC operators. Her sincerity was evident. Janice has already begun to work with local operators to provide transportation for such events

as the Darlington race shuttle. Janice not only knows the federal transit rules and regulations for charter transportation but she enforces the rules. PDRTA sets an example for other transit authorities in the state. She encouraged further cooperation between PDRTA and MCASC such as a joint rodeo event.



The following coach manufacturers provide coach for the rodeo driving competition, ABC Companies, Motor Coach Industries, Prevost, and Setra from Daimler North America.



2011 MCASC Coach Rodeo Volunteers and Judges



Rodeo Winners left to right: Third Place- Darryel Carr, MBF Tours & Travel; Second Place- Regginald Heyward, Champion Coach; and First Place- Geoff McCorquodale, Ionosphere Tours.

The driving skills competition was held after lunch and when the scores were tallied, the top three drivers were **First Place- Geoff McCorquodale, Ionosphere Tours; Second Place- Regginald Heyward, Champion Coach; and Third Place- Darryel Carr, MBF Tours & Travel.** In addition to the plaques and cash prizes, each of the top three drivers were given a restaurant gift card sponsored by **Marion Kenney (Allen Insurance Group).**

It was a good day to be in Florence. If you missed the rodeo, you missed some great fun and fellowship. I hope you will plan to participate in the 2012 rodeo. Watch your communications from MCASC for the announcement of the date and location as soon as details are finalized. Whether or not you have drivers available to participate, it is a beneficial event for all members.

*Jo Lynn Lott,
Chairman, Rodeo Committee*



MCASC President Bob Garrett, Sunshine Travel and Express pictured with Janice Baroody, Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority.



Gene Parnell, South Carolina Transport Police and David Parham Ionosphere Tours. C.T. Norton and Cassandra Dollard from the South Carolina Transport Police also attended to help judge the driving course.

<i>Holly Beaumier</i>	<i>Robert Johnson</i>
<i>Kevin Bruce</i>	<i>Marion Kenney</i>
<i>Johnny Cauley</i>	<i>Bill Leonard</i>
<i>Tom Clare</i>	<i>Jo Lynn Lott</i>
<i>Charles Coleman</i>	<i>Todd McElmurray</i>
<i>Ruth Coleman</i>	<i>Linda Morris</i>
<i>Ryhan Cornell</i>	<i>C.T. Norton</i>
<i>Cassandra Dollard</i>	<i>Tim O'Bryan</i>
<i>Bob Garrett</i>	<i>David Parham</i>
<i>Shirley Garrett</i>	<i>Gene Parnell</i>
<i>Gene Hall</i>	<i>Claude Payne</i>
<i>Daric Hartleroad</i>	<i>Brian Pinckney</i>
<i>Cynthia Jackson</i>	<i>Sam Pipkin</i>
<i>Elaine Johnson</i>	<i>Ken Pope</i>
<i>Meghan Johnson</i>	<i>Tom Wood</i>

An apology is given to those omitted from this list. All volunteer effects are greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Coach Rodeo Winners

First Place Driver

Geoff McCorquodale, Ionosphere Tours

Second Place Driver

Regginald Heyward, Champion Coach

Third Place Driver

Darryel Carr, MBF Tours & Travel

First Place Mechanic

Donald Barnes, Swept Away
Coach & Tours

Information about the Florence area is available online at www.visitflo.com.



For **ABC Companies** the UMA Expo was largely about achieving a “new look.” ABC featured a “new look” 2011 VanHool C2045 coach, and a 2001 C2045 that looked like new as a result of a coach refurbishing program ABC introduced at the Expo. In response to customer input, as well as market trends, the newest C2045 VanHool offers upgraded features designed to increase the coach’s curb appeal and passenger experience, as well as provide more durability for operators. “As one of our most high-demand units, we anticipate that operators will respond favorably to the newly re-styled C2045 and how it can upgrade their fleets,” ABC Companies President and CEO, Dane Cornell says of the coach. ABC’s new refurbishment program offers a menu of services that will enable operators to revitalize their coaches to the extent it makes good business sense.

“Basic” refurbishing options range from such big-ticket items as new Amaya seats with three-point seatbelts, to rebuilt Cummins engine or Allison transmissions, to new front cap or rear cap with window, to new interior. Also on the menu are such items as rebuilt A/C compressor, new paint, new REI A/V system with flat-screen monitoring, and a list of mechanical fixes and upgrades. There are also options such as Wi-Fi, KVH satellite TV, 110-volt outlets, and Saucon TDS with Navman. ABC says the program’s elements may make “sounds economic sense” for many coach operations.

CAIO North America brought its 45-foot G3600 to Expo. The G3600 combines an integral body, produced by Brazilian bus maker CAIO Induscar, with a Freightline XBP three-axle chassis. The result is a well-equipped, 57-passenger, 102-inch-wide coach with a long list of standard and optional features, including Cummins engine, Allison B500, and Carrier HVAC. A 37-foot two-axle CAIO is also available. For more information visit www.caio-na.com.

IC BUS rolled into UMA Motorcoach Expo with this HC Series Bronze model that serves as a shuttle for the Chicago Blackhawks National Hockey League team. This HC Series Bronze is available in wheelbases from 158 to 200 inches, and seating for 17 to 29. It has a MaxxForce 7 200-horsepower engine, Allison 1000, hydraulic disc brakes, and multiplex wiring. Skates are optional. More information is available at www.icbus.com.

Motor Coach Industries returned to the UMA Expo this year, offering new environmental, safety and style features for its D-, E-, and J- model coaches. All 2011 MCI models feature electronic stability control, automatic traction control, all-wheel disc brakes and anti-lock braking, SmartWave tire-pressure monitoring, Amerex fire suppression system, and optional three-point passenger seatbelts.

Showcased on the Expo floor was MCI’s top-selling J4500. “The 2011 J4500 matches the industry’s leading comfort and safety features with the most reliable and eco-friendly powertrain in North America,” said Patricia Ziska, MCI Vice President and CCO. MCI again had the three top selling coaches in North America during 2010, with its J4500, D4500, and D4505 models, according to figures compiled by National Bus Trader magazine. The J4500 has been the sales leader for seven consecutive years.

“We’ve enjoyed top rankings before but what’s particularly gratifying for us is that our latest luxurious, environmentally-friendly coaches are attracting new generations of rides that might not have made coach transport part of their daily commute or vacation planning even five years ago,” said Ziska. There was a large selection of pre-owned MCI coaches on the Expo show floor. MCI used the occasion to build familiarity with its three-level pre-owned coach sales program that features Certified++, Select+, and Deal coaches.

Prevost marked a major milestone at UMA Motorcoach Expo, showcasing its 15,000th vehicle, a newly redesigned 2011 H3-45. Since 1924, when cabinetmaker Eugene Prevost was asked to build a custom bus body for a REO truck chassis and received several repeat orders after delivering the first one, Prevost Car has been producing popular coaches for the North American marketing. The 15,000th coach is reflective of Prevost’s continued commitment to the motorcoach industry, say company executives. The H3-45 is Prevost’s flagship coach, of course, and the redesigned 2011 model is intended to demonstrate sound innovation premium quality and customer appeal. New-product introductions offered by Prevost also included Prevost - AWARE - an adaptive cruise braking system. The technology helps drivers stay alert, and can slow the coach with an automatic braking system.

Key features of the system include: Adaptive cruise control: When cruise control is on, AWARE adjust the coach cruise speed to maintain a safe following distance, taking into consideration the position of the vehicle ahead. The system automatically returns the coach to the original cruise speed when it is safe to do so. AWARE will decrease speed to try to maintain adequate distance, and if the system realizes that this intervention will not be sufficient, it will activate the “impact alert,” telling the driver to brake.

Impact Alert: This feature will alert the driver if the distance between coach and the vehicle ahead closes too quickly, giving the driver an opportunity to take action. Impact Alert is always active, protecting the coach (in cruise or not.)

Following Distance Alert: Reminds the driver to keep a safe following distance by indicating when the coach is following too closely behind the vehicle ahead.

Setra from Daimler North America was the only major motorcoach supplier to introduce a new bus at UMA Motorcoach Expo. The new Setra ComfortClass S407, targeted for both scheduled-service and charter markets was officially unveiled at the Tampa exposition. Based on the proven Setra 400 Series platform, the Setra ComfortClass S407 has a number of features aimed at making the new model more economical to operator in the demanding environment of line-haul service.

Setra is the largest manufacturer of coach passenger seats in Europe, and it has designed a unique seat for the S407 called Setra Route. In addition to reducing weight and cost, it uses less space, allowing for nominal passenger capacity of 56.

The Setra Route seats are available with two- or three-point seatbelts that meet stringent European standards. An additional passenger seating option from American Seating, the Premier, providing a three-point seatbelt, is also available.



\$28 Billion Trade Surplus in Travel and Tourism Industry

Reprinted from ABA Insider, February 21.

At a meeting of the Commerce Department's Travel and Tourism Advisory Board [DATE], Commerce Secretary Gary Locke announced a 47 percent surge in the travel and tourism trade surplus in 2010; the surplus now exceeds \$28 billion.

"Travel and tourism continues to be one of the bright spots in the U.S. economy," said Locke. "With a \$28.3 billion trade surplus in the first 11 months of 2010, this industry has a huge role to play in helping our country answer President Obama's call to double our exports by 2015 and win the future."

The United States welcomed more than 55 million international visitors during the first 11 months of 2010, 11.4 million more visitors than the year before. While international visitation increased 10 percent, international visitor spending increased 11 percent to \$122.7 billion. The travel and tourism industry employs nearly eight million people across the United States.

The Travel and Tourism Advisory Board consists of 30 industry leaders from the travel and tourism industry who are appointed to advise Secretary Locke on matters relating to the industry and provide policy recommendations. The board was re-chartered in September 2009, and the current term will expire on September 3, 2011.

New Bill Would Create Regulations for Curbside Operators in New York City

Reprinted from ABA Insider, February 21.

A new bill introduced in the New York state legislature would impose new regulations on curbside operators in New York City. If passed, the legislation would implement a citywide permit system. Permits would cost a maximum of \$275. New York City Council Member Margaret Chin, a proponent of the legislation, said at a press event, "Permits would allow the legitimate bus companies to have a process they can depend on and that riders can depend on."

The legislation would also assign designated pick-up and drop-off locations, and would provide for community board and Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) input.

"We are still trying to determine what impact this legislation would have on operators working in New York City," said Clyde Hart, ABA's senior vice president for Government Affairs and Policy. "However, we always look at bills like this skeptically. I worry that these bills might violate the interstate commerce clause of the Constitution and that it might have a detrimental impact on a thriving

transportation mode that brings a large number of tourists to the city." A new bill introduced in the New York state legislature would impose new regulations on curbside operators in New York City.

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GAO Report: Price of Implementing CSA Rising

Reprinted from ABA Insider, March 08.

A new report released by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) shows that the costs of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) program are going up.

The report focuses on three main topics: (1) the amount of actual and proposed funding for FMCSA to develop and implement CSA to date and how the funding has been used; (2) the number of staff FMCSA has employed to develop and implement CSA to date; and (3) the funding and staffing resources FMCSA anticipates it will need to fully implement CSA going forward.

Specifically, the report found that FMCSA has devoted "small but increasing number of resources" in developing and fully implementing CSA 2010. In 2007, FMCSA spent \$2.3 million on CSA, but that figure rose to \$6.6 million in 2008 and \$9.5 million in 2010. The report also found that FMCSA is requesting \$78 million and 98 new full-time positions in addition to its existing field staff for fiscal year 2012 to fully implement CSA and integrate it into FMCSA's operations.

A summary of the report can be found at: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-416R>



Happy
Spring!



Survey: Transportation ranks high, but 'no more money'

Reprint from *Bus and Motorcoach News*, issue March 1, 2011.

A super majority of Americans rate the upkeep of roads, bridges and transit systems a high priority, but by an even greater margin they don't want to pay more for it, according to a survey released last month.

Seventy-eight percent of those questioned said private investors should be tapped to help rebuild the country's aging infrastructure.

The poll was commissioned by the Rockefeller Foundation, which has made transportation one of its major initiatives, and was conducted by Hart Associates, a marketing communications firm.

"Transportation infrastructure affects so many critical issues for the country -- economy, social mobility and energy -- and it drives our economic growth," said Nicholas Turner, a managing director of the Rockefeller Foundation.

The telephone poll of 1,001 registered voters came four months after a bipartisan panel of 80 transportation experts warned that the U.S. transportation system was deteriorating so rapidly it would undermine the nation's ability to compete in a global economy.

Headed by two former transportation secretaries - Norman Y. Mineta and Samuel K. Skinner - the group estimated that an additional \$134 billion to \$262 billion must be spent per year through 2035 to rebuild and improve the nation's roads, rail systems and air transportation.

Their report said a major increase in the federal gas tax, which has remained unchanged at 18.4 cents per gallon since 1993, might be the most politically palatable way to boost revenue in the short term. In the long term, however, Americans should expect to pay for each mile they drive, the report said.

The Rockefeller Foundation infrastructure survey found that Americans don't support either as an option to raise revenues, or support any approach that would tax them directly.

Seventy-one percent opposed a gas tax increase, 64 percent were against new tolls on existing roads and bridges, and 58 percent said no to paying for each mile they drive.

While 66 percent said they thought spending on infrastructure is important, the same number said the government didn't spend transportation money efficiently.

"People are willing to pay if they have faith they are getting quality," Turner said. "Uncertainty in the poll more reflects a frustration with bridges to nowhere from Congress. The answer is that with clear outcomes and better accountability, people want and support investments in transportation infrastructure"

Almost as many said they would support President Obama's proposal to create a national infrastructure bank.

The bank is seen as a way to insulate government investment from the political process, keeping the focus on the most important projects and encouraging investment from the private sector. Approaching transportation from a banker's perspective, advocates say, would emphasize making investments in projects that have demonstrable financial returns.

The survey was released at about the same time the Obama

administration and Congress began their federal budget debates, and while House Republicans embarked on their effort to reduce spending by \$100 billion, and the long-term transportation bill remained stalled in the House and Senate.

The partisan split was underscored when the Obama administration proposed spending \$56 billion over the next six years to develop a high-speed nationwide rail system.

House Transportation Committee Chairman John L. Mica, R-Fla., who has spoken out in favor of high-speed rail in the Northeast corridor, fired back that the projects should be privately financed and operated.

Transportation funding has staggered along with a series of short-term program extensions for almost two years, since the expiration of the last long-term spending plan.

Tire manufacturers raise prices as rubber costs climb

Reprint from *Bus and Motorcoach News*, issue March 1, 2011.

Truck and bus tire manufacturers have boosted prices by up to 12 percent in recent weeks, pointing to rising raw materials costs. At the same time, industry analysts have raised concerns about future supplies because of climbing sales of new over-the-road trucks and trailers.

A double-digit price increase would mean that a tire that previously cost \$350 would now be at least \$35 more. A 12 percent increase would push the tire price to \$392.

Increases by Bridgestone Bandag, Michelin, Continental Tire, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Yokohama Tire Corp., and Double Coin have been reported.

Prices for two key tire components - natural and synthetic rubber made from petroleum - have risen dramatically, reports the Tire Industry Association.

Rubber has nearly quadrupled in price during the past two years, to \$2.15 a pound, and oil has surged to around \$90 a barrel.

"Unfortunately, severely escalating raw materials costs, as well as energy and other costs related to manufacturing, have made a price increase of this level unavoidable," said Kurt Danielson, president of Bridgestone Bandag, in a statement announcing an immediate 12 percent price increase.

The surge in big truck and trailer sales wasn't anticipated, complicating production plans. Most tire manufacturers reduced capacity and idled plants to manage their inventories last year.

Industry executives say 2010 caught them by surprise. The market prediction for growth of big rig sales was low single digits, but the growth percentage ended in the high teens.

Some estimates show that industry inventory levels are at an all-time low and production capabilities are limited due to shortages in raw materials. Given the squeeze, industry analysts say tire demand could outstrip supply for the next couple years.

The latest price increases began taking effect in December. Yokohama raised prices up to 6 percent, while Continental levied an increase of up to 8 percent. Michelin also raised prices an average of 8 percent in December.

Goodyear has not publicly announced its pricing actions, but a 12 percent increase has been reported for the U.S. tire maker.

Rising commodity prices worldwide, especially rubber, are generally being fingered as the basis for the latest increases. Rubber prices could spike even higher, based on pricing actions on some world commodity exchanges.

Rubber prices now are about 50 percent higher than they were when crude oil hit its all-time high of \$147 a barrel in 2008.

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August 21 - 24, 2011
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Savannah, GA

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