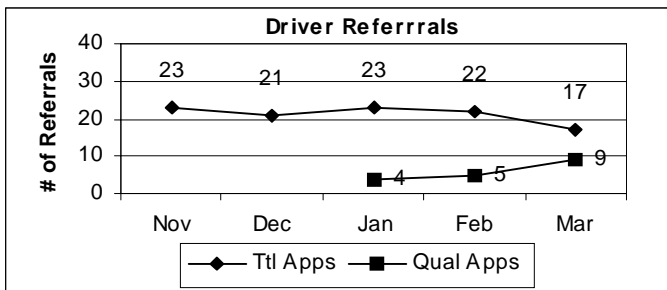
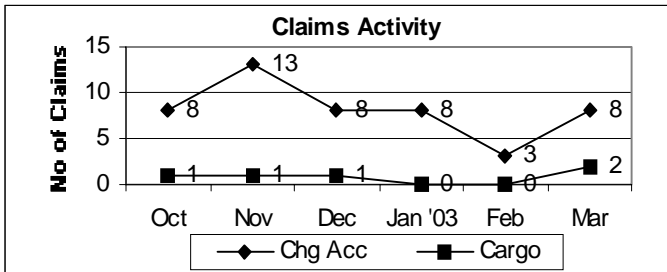
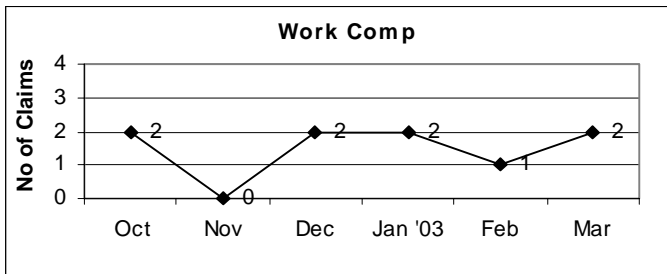




TANDEM EXPRESS

Your Monthly Update on Matters that Matter

Monthly Stats



Driver Referral Payout for March was \$2,265!! The year-to-date total is \$8,099.

Operations (for March)			
#Drivers (Co.&O/O)	259	Avg. MPG	6.40
No. Loads	4,999	Avg. Fuel CPG	\$1.67
Miles (x1000-Rand)	2,022	Avg. Fuel CPM	\$0.26

Tenure Recognition

Thank you all for choosing to be part of the Tandem Team! The following loyal and dedicated employees have reached another year of service in **April**.

	NAME	YOS	POSITION
1	Al Beekman	21	Exec VP (MC)
2	Grant Wilson	18	Manager (Chatt)
3	Alta Roblin	14	Supervisor (MC)
4	Steve Dagger	9	Prof Driver
5	Henry Kester	7	Prof Driver
6	Tim Bills	5	Independent Contr.
8	Robert Phillips	3	Prof Driver
9	Michael Cross	3	Prof Driver
10	Richard Williford	3	Prof Driver
11	Robert Butler	3	Prof Driver
12	Thomas Shirely	3	Prof Driver
13	Chris Bennet	2	Manager (Col)
14	Duane Brink	2	Prof Driver
15	Michael Jones, Sr.	2	Prof Driver
16	Tony Hadley	2	Prof Driver
17	Tim Keifer	1	Mechanic (MC)
18	Mike Papp	1	Supr. Maint (MC)
19	Richard Ferry, Jr.	1	Prof Driver
20	Billy Williams	1	Prof Driver

Safety Update

March was not a good month for claims. We had 2 Cargo claims, 8 chargeable accidents and 2 Work Comp. claims. Although the cargo claims were not terribly costly, they were still avoidable. More caution needs to be taken to avoid even the small claims. The eight "chargeable" accidents were caused primarily due to "carelessness". That is, not looking before you back-up or making sure the area you are turning into is clear. **Of the 8 accidents, 3 were backing, 4 turning, and 1 rear-end. The total cost of all accidents totaled between \$15- \$20,000.** Since our deductible is now higher, all this comes off our "bottom line". It is very important to be "AWARE" of your surroundings while driving, to avoid turning and backing distractions that result in "AVOIDABLE" (i.e., chargeable) accidents like the ones we encountered this month.

On the Work-Comp side, 2 injuries have lost us 28 working days this month. Be aware of all the obstacles you encounter while working on and around your truck and trailer. Avoiding "slips, trips and falls" is a full time job and one not taken lightly by the professional drivers. Make sure you use the "3-point Contact" when getting onto your trailer and even more close attention must be given while getting up on your

load to tarp. Make sure of your footing while working on the load and laying out your tarps. Getting your foot tangled in a tarp can cause serious injury when you lose your balance and twist or fall. Take your time and don't get in a hurry when tarping. Don't become a statistic....
Work Safe!

Driver Referral Hints

Hint #3 – Home Time!

Last month we wrote about the “soft sell”. Rather than trying to “sell” Tandem, just think of yourself as “sharing” about a company that is sincerely good to work for.

This month we want to stress the importance of Home Time. The majority of Tandem Drivers say that Home Time is their top priority. Tandem offers competitive pay, a variety of pay packages, and both short and long hauls. But the vast majority of drivers feel that home time is the number one concern. At Tandem, we can accommodate most any need. So when you talk to prospective drivers, advise them that Tandem is serious about its Home Time policy. **On average, drivers will only be out the weekend four times per year (or less depending on where they live). If they want to be out more, all they have to do is ask.**

Never underestimate the value of Tandem's “Get Home Policy”. Many companies do not have a home time provision for their drivers. Tandem DOES!!

\$Driver Referral Program\$ – Lowe's Drivers

The driver referral program needs your help. **We are looking for new drivers to help our fleet run the Lowe's –Grand Ledge, MI facility beginning the end of June (that's about 8 to 10 weeks away). If you know or meet any potential drivers from the Lansing, MI to Chicago corridor, please suggest this Dedicated Run to them.** Keep in mind that the loads will bring a driver home most every weekend and perhaps a few days per week. We will be supporting this run with 12 to 20 drivers. We plan to fill about half the trucks with current Tandem drivers, but will need to recruit the other half from outside. Contact Driver Recruiting for pay package details. If you have any ideas, comments, questions, or concerns about the Driver Referral Program, let us know. Please contact Roberta (Ext. 136), Cindy (Ext. 186), or Jerry (Ext. 141) in Recruiting or Bob Ekema (Ext. 130) in Driver Personnel.

We are also looking for drivers on the I-75 corridor to Florida. We have outbound freight from Florida and would like to develop this lane. We are currently looking for only 2 to 4 drivers on this lane.

Other areas include Southern MI, Northern IL-IN-OH, Western PA, Eastern TN, Eastern IA. We have some additional extended areas, so call Recruiting for the latest information.

Watch Your Fuel Prices and Tire Pressure

Although fuel prices have begun a gradual decent from a national high of \$1.77 per gallon and is now at \$1.54, we are still suffering from fuel prices that are higher than what our rates and fuel surcharges can effectively absorb. There are two basic ways to help this situation. One is to fuel at the most cost-effective locations. In general, that means Pilot fuel stops. The other way to help the situation is to **CHECK YOUR TIRE PRESSURE. A brief survey of veteran drivers indicated that even our experienced fleet drivers are not consistently checking their tire pressure.**

Tandem cannot emphasize enough the importance of proper tire pressure on bottom line costs. Fuel economy and reduced tire wear are the biggest benefits of proper tire pressure maintenance. **This is a fact; and unless we can achieve greater compliance to this requirement, Tandem may be required to enforce this in other ways. Please check your tire pressure daily – before and after each load – to insure ALL tires are 95lbs.** With the “gators” (cap extensions) a complete pressure check takes less than three minutes! **Thumpers do not work!** You must check the tire pressure with a gauge. Please contact Maintenance with any questions.

Your Reps in Action

The Driver Hardship Fund (DHF) continues to grow but still only represents about 18% of our employees. Anyone who is interested or has questions about the program may contact David Bay in Michigan City (Ext. 115), Dennis Argyle in St. Louis or any Driver Representative. Also, if you have any information on employees you feel might be eligible for support, feel free to contact David or Dennis and discuss what we can do to help facilitate the situation.

Some drivers have commented that they would like to be more aware of Rep activities. Therefore, the Rep meeting notes are available to anyone that would like to know what is discussed in the meetings. Please contact Caryn Brown in Michigan City (Ext. 116) and she will mail (or email) you a copy of any or all the meetings you request.

Tandem's 3rd Annual Picnic – Sat. June 14th

A notice will be sent in the mail for the June 14th picnic. Please be on the lookout and promptly reply to Jayne (Ext. 131) so that we may have an accurate head count. We served 200 last year. We hope to do more this year.

Thought for the Month

Don't get angry. Get informed!