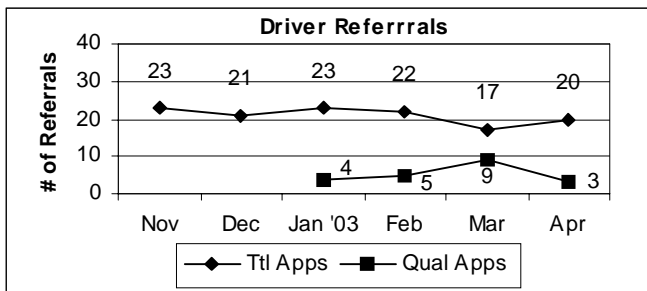
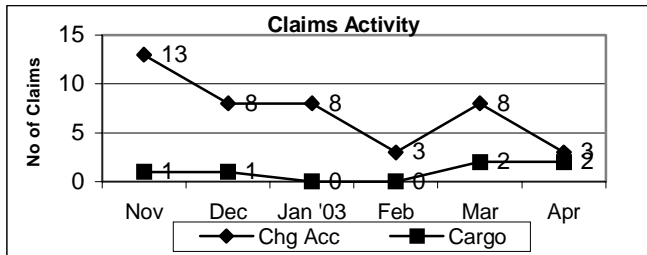
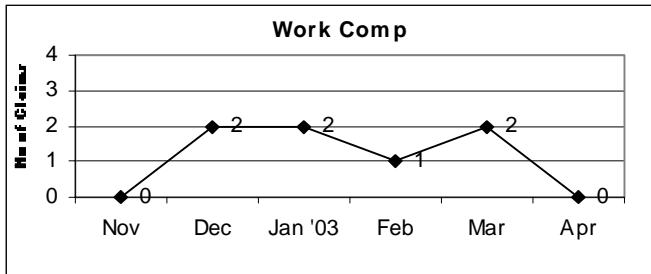




# TANDEM EXPRESS

Your Monthly Update on Matters that Matter

## Monthly Stats



**Driver Referral Payout for April was \$2,045!! The year-to-date total is \$10,364.**

<b>Operations (for April)</b>			
#Drivers (Co.& IC)	253	Avg. MPG	6.49
No. Loads	5,078	Avg. Fuel CPG	\$1.51
Miles (x1000-Rand)	2,121	Avg. Fuel CPM	\$0.23

## 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 **May**.

	NAME	YOS	POSITION
1	John Johnson	19	Mechanic (MC)
2	Hugh Leeman	15	Prof Driver
3	Phil Wisniewski	14	Prof Driver
4	Keith Wyant	13	Prof Driver
5	Bill McKellar	12	Prof Driver
6	Sue Edwards	10	Sales (MC)
8	Jeff Hudock	8	Maintenance (MC)
9	Ron Brooks	7	Prof Driver
10	Carol Jones	5	Purchasing (MC)
11	Michael Burgen	4	Prof Driver
12	Ralph Farley	4	Prof Driver
13	Audie Sehl	4	Prof Driver
14	Roger Stitt	3	Prof Driver
15	Armand Goddyn	2	Prof Driver
16	Duane Wend	2	Prof Driver
17	Robert Wall	1	Prof Driver
18	James Merkel	1	Prof Driver
19	Dennis Dow	1	Prof Driver
20	Steve Schotting	1	Prof Driver

## Safety Update

This month, the Fleet has done well in reducing claims. Our Work Comp claims continue to show overall improvement. **We had "0" claims in April. This needs to be our goal every month.** However, we need to remember that our premiums and cost of claims reached just under \$1.4 million dollars last year. This year looks slightly worse and is estimated to exceed last year's numbers by about \$64,000. It will take us three years of greatly reduced claims to get our premiums back in line. And with a retention level (deductible) of \$100,000 (up from \$50,000 last year), Tandem absorbs most of the costs. Our Fleet has shown great improvement. We just need to "keep up the good work!"

Simply following basic safety practices (e.g., where you step, how you step, and the care taken around the load) will dramatically affect our insurance premiums and cost of claims. Be sure to stretch – it does make a difference and will help reduce soreness, pulled muscles, and ultimately keep you safely on the job. Tandem could reduce its work comp costs by hundreds of thousands of dollars if the fleet would just be more careful!

The only cargo claims for April were wind damage and incorrect freight count. The latter was HIGHLY preventable. **CHECK YOUR BILLS!** If the bills reads "pieces" be sure you note "# of pallets". Don't take for

granted that the shipper is correct. If there is a discrepancy you are responsible. Make sure you know what is written on the bills before you sign them. It sounds like common sense, but many drivers either deliver to the wrong place or are found to have "short shipped" simply because they did not check their bills.

**If you have a claim remember you need to report it ASAP!** Not only does Tandem want to hear from you as soon as possible, but it is a DOT and insurance requirement. And be sure to call the SAFETY department to report any claims. DON'T just leave a message with another department. You must talk to Leslye or Jerry.

Lastly, watch loose loads. Remember that you are responsible for the safety of the load. If a shipper has loose material and you are not able to secure safely call Dispatch and/or the Safety department before situations become major problems.

### **Driver Referral Hints**

#### **Hint #3 – Tandem Continues to Grow!**

Last month we wrote about "Home Time". Do not forget that getting drivers home is what made Tandem great, and now we can offer home time OR time on the road. We have lanes to fit your needs.

**This month we want to stress the importance of Tandem's growth and financial strength.** Tandem's freight base is growing throughout the Midwest. Especially now we are finding that demand is greater than supply. Shippers are offering premium rates (for a limited time) and are beginning to see a drop in their supply of trucks. That is because fewer and fewer flatbed carriers are surviving the economic climate (i.e., rising insurance rates, taxes and high fuel costs). Companies are struggling to keep their doors open. National Steel, Gary.... Chas Levy, Mich. City....Sennett Steel, Warren, MI are a few recent casualties.

Let the drivers you talk to understand that Tandem and affiliate companies have been in business since 1945. And we are still growing while other carriers are closing their doors. Tandem continues to offer JOB SECURITY! So pass that along.

### **\$Driver Referral Program\$**

**The Lowe's program is about 1 month away. We still need a few good men to cover this Dedicated run. The Lansing to Chicago lane will get drivers home weekends and during the week. Please promote this dedicated run and earn \$1,500.**

**We continue to look for drivers on the I-75 corridor from OH to Florida (but mainly in GA).** We are currently looking for only 2 to 4 drivers to fill this area.

Other areas include Southern MI, Northern IL-IN-OH, Western PA, Eastern TN, Eastern IA.

### **REPEAT: Watch Your Fuel Prices and Tire Pressure**

**This month, Walt had maintenance perform a random check on tire pressure and the fleet failed miserably. Sorry for being so direct, but this is a serious problem.** Much like fuel economy and fuel price, tire care is a critical factor in helping reduce our maintenance costs. Properly inflated tires have three pluses. First, it improves fuel economy. Second, it reduces tire wear. And third, it improves safety. Tandem will be watching tire pressure much more closely when trucks come to the shop. Drivers found to be out of compliance will be brought in and disciplinary action taken. It only takes 3 minutes to do a complete tire pressure check, so there is no excuse. Remember – 95 degrees (cold)!

As always, be sure to buy fuel at Pilot stations. Unless you find a 6c per gallon difference in price, Pilot is the station to fill up at. **Tandem will be issuing a network book that will list all the authorized locations. Do your best to use these stations. If we do not increase our use of the Pilot stations we may be forced to limit card approval to only designated fuel stops.** So take this opportunity to work as a team and increase Pilot usage voluntarily.

### **Your Reps in Action**

Five more Reps are representing the fleet. Jack Wilson, Henry (Mt Dew) Kester, Dale Bowen, Bob (Woodchuck) Davis, and Ron (Little Joe) Brooks are your new Interim Reps. A general election will be held this fall and the fleet will have a chance to elect at least 2 new driver reps.

Our last meeting was a big success. We had a record 17 drivers attending the meeting! Please feel free to request a copy of the meeting minutes if you are interested in what is going on. Just contact Caryn Brown (Ext. 116) in Mich City and she will send you a copy of the notes.

### **"Misfit's" Memorial Day Party**

Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> plan to be in Frankfort, MI. Come up the night before and camp out in a beautiful and expansive park-like backyard. Come and enjoy good food, friends, and fun for the whole family. Any questions, just call Pat Smith at 231-352-7186.

### **Tandem's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Picnic – Sat. June 14<sup>th</sup>**

Don't forget the June 14<sup>th</sup> picnic! If you have not already called her, please let Jayne (Ext. 131) know you are coming. We served 200 last year. We hope to do more this year.

#### **Thought for the Month**

***Be Mindful of every moment and the Joy that it offers you.***