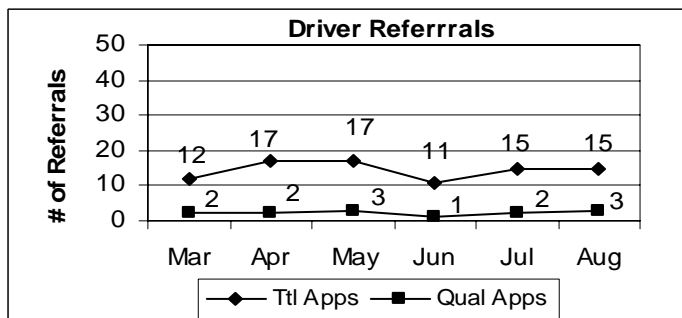
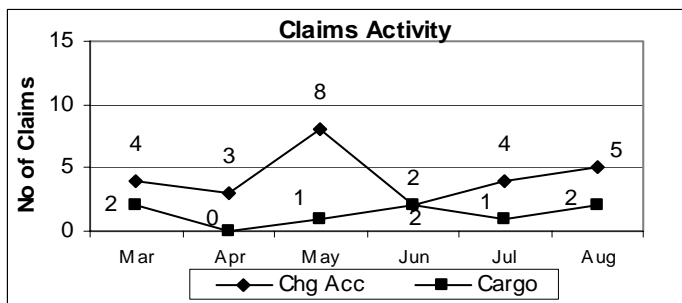
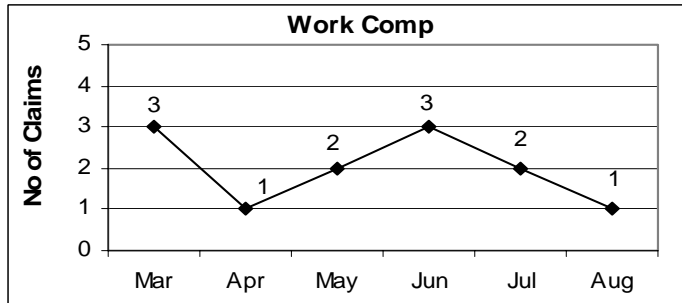




# TANDEM EXPRESS

Your Monthly Update on Matters that Matter

## Monthly Stats



**Driver Referral Payout for AUGUST was \$10! The year-to-date total is \$11,810!**

Operations (for August)			
# Active Drvrs (All)	235	Fuel MPG (Co.)	6.70
No. Loads	5,533	Fuel CPG (Co.)	\$1.82
Miles(x1000-Rand)	2,262	Fuel CPM (Co.)	\$.27

## Tenure Recognition

The following loyal and dedicated employees have reached another year of service in **September 2004**.

	NAME	YOS	POSITION
1	Karl Galamback	22	Dir., Purch. & Maint. Admin
2	James Maleski	15	Professional Driver
3	Ronald Carpenter	9	Professional Driver
4	David Weisel	8	Professional Driver
5	Cathy Uribe	7	General Ledger Accounting
6	Glenn Lewis	4	Professional Driver
7	Dennis Burkett	4	Professional Driver
8	Larry Wyman	3	Professional Driver
9	John Hector	3	Professional Driver
10	Dana Riotte	3	Fleet Coordinator
11	Michael Smith	3	Maintenance Technician
12	Timothy Vickers	2	Professional Driver
13	Gevin Van Horne	2	Professional Driver
14	James Aldstadt	1	Professional Driver
15	Rod Wilson	1	Professional Driver
16	Joseph Wittlieff	1	Professional Driver

**Congratulations and thank you all for your support!**

## Safety Update

It was not a "0" incident month but we had only 1 Work Comp claim. We also had 2 Cargo claims and 5 Chargeable Accident claims. The sad part is that most of these claims were PREVENTABLE. If our drivers would have taken a few more precautions, many of these claims would not have occurred. There are no apparent equipment changes we can make to prevent this; only "attitude" and "action" changes. "Carelessness" on the part of the driver by taking "short cuts" while loading has also caused a number of our claims including chargeable accidents. Simply "watch your step"; get out and look before you back; watch your mirrors and what others around you are doing when making a turn; and keep a safe following distance in traffic. **We need to maintain a "0" incident attitude and make it happen.**

Although we are enjoying a nice Indian summer, sleet, snow and ice are just around the corner. Trailer steps and trailer decks will be wet and frosted, which means more caution needs to be applied when getting up on or down off units. Tarps will be heavier, grounds will be wet or frozen and roadways will become slick and more

dangerous as we get into the winter months. Take a little extra time to warm up before starting to work or lift equipment. **Stretching can be a great tool to keep from pulling muscles and losing time from work.** If you must lift a tarp (and this should be a rare occurrence since most locations will have forklift assistance), lift with your LEGS NOT YOUR BACK!! **Also, be sure to increase following distance during dark hours, rain or snow conditions.** Traveling at 60 miles per hour in these conditions, your overall stopping distance will increase from 4 to 10 times, depending on load and road conditions. Don't become a statistic!

The Hours of Service debate also continues. To-date, the issue between the FMCSA, DOT and the court system is uncertain and probably will be up in the air for many months to come. **We will continue with the current HOS rules in force as they have been since January of this year.** If there are any changes made, I will let you know. **AND REMEMBER: SAFETY FIRST**

### **Columbia Update: Power Windows and Two Side Compartments!**

You heard it correctly! There will be POWER windows and TWO side compartments on the new fleet of 2005 Freightliner Columbia's. Your Reps recommended some spec changes and the maintenance team followed up with Freightliner to make it happen. The new standard fleet units will be spec'd with power windows (both driver and passenger side) and two side compartments so you can access this area from either side of the truck.

### **A Superhero Tire: The X1 is Here!**

The X1 tires, manufactured by Michelin, are very stable and very large. One X1 tire replaces two regular tires. This provides a weight savings of about 620 lbs in a set of 4 with Alcoa wheels. The X1 footprint gives it exceptional grip for great traction. Fuel savings are also a benefit, but we need to study longer to determine a real figure. These tires are currently being tested by Tandem and come with a "money back guarantee" if they do not show us savings (in mpg and weight). **We should see fuel savings, weight savings, and a big smile on driver's faces (a lot of our drivers like the way they look).** We will keep you posted on the results of our study. Also, let us know your feedback. Be sure to contact our maintenance management team: Karl Galamback, Mike Papp, or our newbie, Mark DeJesus.

### **Volvos? What are they doing here?**

One Volvo is on the road and we have 9 more coming. **Yes, we are only purchasing a total of 10 Volvos over the next 6 months.** Not a big order, so do not get too excited. We used to operate Volvo equipment and, like an old flame, are seeing if the relationship is worth rekindling. We are taking this relationship SLOW so do not expect any major changes. We are still a Freightliner fleet and intend to be one into the future. We will also keep you posted on our feedback on the new Volvos.

### **Tandem Fails to Tarp 50% of Required Certainteed Loads**

Certainteed has been auditing Tandem's performance when required to tarp certain loads (currently Wimsatt, Hopper Roofing and loads over 300 miles). **However, this audit has revealed that Tandem drivers are only tarping about 50% of the required loads. Our drivers must tarp ALL REQUIRED loads or Certainteed (and Tandem) will no longer pay drivers for tarping Avery loads.** If we do not improve our performance, Certainteed will discontinue paying tarp charges AND we will STILL be required to tarp the loads. Drivers must improve performance and tarp 100% of the required loads.

### **Where's Bob Brooks?**

As many of you are aware, Bob Brooks, our hip (not hippy) Regional Manager in Vanlue, OH recently had hip replacement surgery. The surgery went well, and Bob is recovering nicely with the help of his physical therapist. Recovery time is generally between 4-6 weeks, but could extend a little longer.

In the meantime, Mark Zeilmann has been making regular weekly trips to Vanlue to assist Toby Brooks and Teresa Shoemaker, while Terry Killingbeck has been working in central dispatch.

### **What's the Computer Guy doing in Dispatch?**

You may have been wondering why Terry Killingbeck is answering the Dispatch phone? Terry has not always been the "computer guy". When he started working for Tandem over a decade ago (12 years to be exact), Terry worked as a Sales Administrator setting up new accounts and managing tariffs and contracts. Because he had a strong knowledge of and experience with computers, he was tasked to build and maintain our computer systems. Over the last year, however, we have been looking for someone to assist Jeff Gross in Sales. In reviewing our options we decided that Terry had the knowledge of Tandem's sales and marketing, skills with the computer (which are a must in today's sales environment), and the desire to broaden his horizon. Terry's new position is designed to involve him more with Dispatch and Sales. And the best place to observe and learn dispatch is IN Dispatch. Terry will be working to help manage our capacities and capabilities to meet the needs of our existing and future customers. He will also work closely with shippers and select companies who further our goals of enhanced profitability and are considerate of the partnership with our Professional Drivers.

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

Whatever you would have your children become, strive to exhibit in your own lives and conversation.

Lydia H. Sigourney (1791 - 1865) Poet