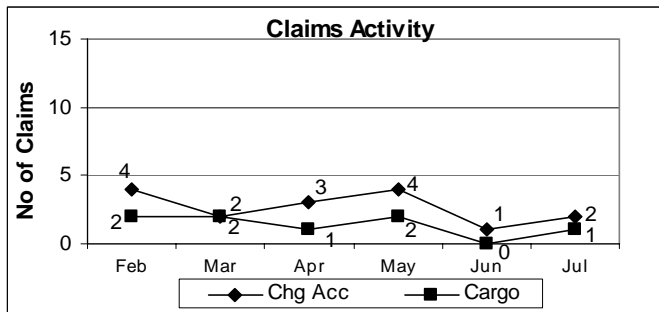
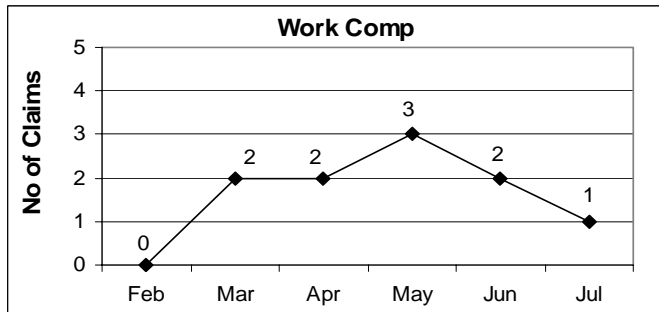




# TANDEM EXPRESS

## Your Monthly Update on Matters that Matter

### Monthly Stats



MAINTENANCE EVALUATION CARDS (JULY 2006)			
	Yes	No	%
All repairs completed?	18	1	95%
Treated professionally?	19	0	100%
Truck left clean?	19	0	100%
Given estimated time?	15	4	79%
Completed on time?	17	2	89%
<b>Overall Score</b>			<b>93%</b>

**Driver Referral Payout for JULY was \$4,570!**  
The year-to-date total is \$19,295.

Operations (for July)			
# Active Drvrs (All)	251	Fuel MPG (Co.)	6.38
No. Loads	4,995	Fuel CPG (Co.)	\$2.91
Miles(x1000-Rand)	2,146	Fuel CPM (Co.)	\$0.46

**Thought for the Month**

Regret and worry are a waste of energy. They simply prevent you from enjoying NOW.

### Tenure Recognition

The following loyal and dedicated employees have reached another year of service in **August 2006**.

	NAME	YOS	POSITION
1	Robert Ekema	19	Director, Driver Resources
2	Bruce Holmquest	14	Maintenance Technician
3	John Pawlicke	14	Maintenance Technician
4	Thomas Hyer	13	Maintenance Technician
5	Robert MacDonald	12	Professional Driver
6	Steven Seilheimer	9	Professional Driver
7	John Beard	9	Professional Driver
8	Charles Haynes	8	Professional Driver
9	Larry Vos	8	Professional Driver
10	Arlyn Vos	8	Professional Driver
11	Shayne May	8	Maintenance Technician
12	Leonard Poling	6	Professional Driver
13	Roman Idkowiak	6	Professional Driver
14	James Lozon	6	Professional Driver
15	Edward Uebinger	6	Professional Driver
16	Donald Kolka	5	Professional Driver
17	Kevin Kram	4	Professional Driver
18	Matthew Woloszyk	4	Professional Driver
19	Michael Clauss	3	Professional Driver
20	Todd VanZuiden	3	Professional Driver
21	William Bell	2	Professional Driver
22	Billy Mullins	2	Professional Driver
23	Michael Logan	2	Professional Driver
24	David Wickizer	2	Custodian
25	Zachary Stanaszek	2	Custodian
26	Jamie Parkinson	1	Professional Driver
27	Brian Vogan	1	Professional Driver
28	Thomas Hesson	1	Professional Driver
29	David Walker	1	Professional Driver
30	Christopher Fleming	1	Professional Driver
31	Jack Wilson	1	Professional Driver
32	Lisa Warren	1	Billing & A/R Clerk
33	Melinda Green	1	Traffic Supervisor
34	Karrie Wymer	1	GL Accounting

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

### Safety Update

July saw (1) cargo claim, (1) work comp claim and (2) chargeable accidents. This was a relatively good month, but there is still room for improvement. With our increased log audits, I have noticed that some drivers are "forgetting" to do a 15 minute pre-trip inspection on line 4

as required. Also, some are getting lax at the end of the day. You must also record your "Post Trip".

***I am pleased to announce that 99.6% of Tandem drivers have completed the Highway Watch program.***

Drivers who have not completed this training by the end of August will be directed to Michigan City. Highway Watch is a very worthwhile program and Tandem can be proud that we will soon have 100% driver certification.

***With the school year starting up, please keep a careful eye out for school children and school bus traffic in the early mornings and late afternoon times.***

Allow plenty of stopping time and room to avoid any accidents. If you have other "big" trucks behind you, alert them with the CB or by tapping your brakes, to let them know YOU are slowing down. If you are traveling over this Labor Day weekend, take extra precaution for your safety as well as other motorists around you. Also with all the construction going on just about everywhere, allow a little extra time for your trips. HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY....

**Construction in MC – 65 Feet of Concrete**

***Starting August 30<sup>th</sup> and continuing over the next 2 to 3 months, the Michigan City terminal will be placing about 65 feet of concrete at its entrance.*** This includes redoing the apron and adding concrete along the driveway. ***This project will require us to reduce the entrance to ONE LANE until the project is complete and the concrete fully cured.*** This will definitely be an inconvenience especially for west bound traffic and require drivers to be extra cautious of other vehicles when they make a right turn into the driveway. We ask drivers to be very cautious and, as much as possible, try to access the MC entrance heading east on US20 so they can make a much easier left turn into the driveway. We strongly recommend that I-94 traffic from Chicago or Gary take Exit 22 onto US20 whenever possible. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

**Traffic Update**

Freight lanes have been experiencing volume fluctuations (up and down) over the last quarter. We have also seen a slight drop in freight availability in the south. Currently a few northern accounts have been slow as well. For instance GAF is slow at many of their locations. One of their issues is a price increase that they initiated a few months ago due to the high cost of petroleum for asphalt. They are also trying at this time to do a price reduction to entice sales of their product. Georgia Pacific-Wheatfield is also down on their shipments and has been so all of August. We expect shipments to increase from their current levels very soon. Overall freight continues to be available, but the patterns are fluctuating, making effective planning more difficult. Should you have any questions about the freight being offered or your miles, do not hesitate to ask your fleet Coordinator or talk to Melinda Green (Ext. 129) or Barry Kiernan (Ext.135).

**Maintenance Evaluations Are In – First Round!**

We have started receiving feedback from the maintenance evaluation cards (issued late July so we have only 19 evaluations for that month – August numbers will reflect a full month). As noted on the front page, we have a 93% positive performance rating with 100% in two specific areas. The greatest concern is timely service. And we are directly addressing this issue by measuring both the on-time driver arrivals (are drivers arriving at their scheduled time?) and on-time services (is maintenance bringing the units into the shop according to schedule?). We have just begun documenting this information but initial results show that both the drivers and the shop need to operate more timely. We hope to have more detailed information by the next issue.

**Equipment Update**

You will be seeing some new and older equipment in the Michigan City yard. We have a number of trades that will be parked and de-prepped. This is to make room for the latest and greatest models of Freightliners and a few Volvos. ***The main spec change for tractors is the new "Ultra Shift" transmission. All drivers who have test driven the new transmission have liked it.*** You will see new units being delivered almost weekly as we update our fleet.

***Trailers are seeing some major spec changes as well. The latest equipment will be 102' wide with sliding winches on both sides and the storage box in the center of the trailer.*** The quantity and delivery schedule of the new trailers is still under review.

We also continue to review Reitnauer and Fontaine trailers. East is still our manufacturer of choice, but we are studying the benefits of the other manufacturers as well.

**World's Largest Truck Convoy 2006 – Sept 16**

Last year, Tandem sponsored the World's Largest Truck Convoy for Special Olympics. This year, due to time constraints, we were unable to become official sponsors, but we are ready to support our fleet (company and independent contractors) should they desire to attend any of the convoy locations. ***Tandem will REIMBURSE any participating driver the \$100 entry fee.*** Enclosed in this week's pay envelope is registration material for those drivers interested and able to participate in the MI convoy. We do not have details of the MI convoy, but it looks like the Alma to Mt. Pleasant route will be similar to last year. ***If you are interested in participating, be sure to contact dispatch and confirm that they can accommodate your request. If you have any questions about the convoy please direct your questions to Jill Schumacher of Central Michigan University at 800-644-6404 for more information or check the MI convoy's web site to see if they have updated information at ([www.truckconvoy.kintera.org](http://www.truckconvoy.kintera.org)).***