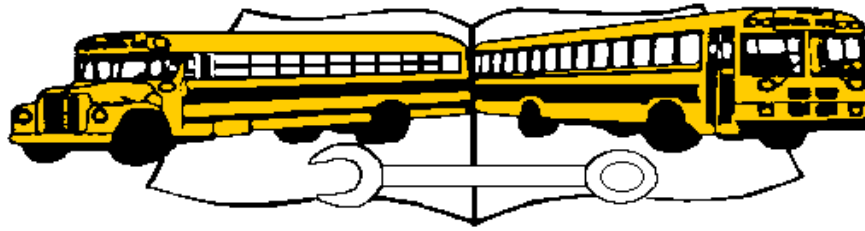


The Mechanic's Messenger



Upcoming Regional Workshops

Southwest Regional Workshop—April 20, 2011 at the Milford EVSD Bus Garage in Milford, Ohio. This workshop will be on “Maxx Force 7” presented by **Miami Valley International**. This workshop will be held from 10am—1pm, and includes lunch provided by **Miami Valley International**.

Central Regional Workshop—April 26, 2011 at the Dublin City Schools Bus Garage, in Dublin, Ohio. This workshop will be on “Wheel Seals—Demonstrating Proper Wheel Bearing Adjustment & Kingpins” presented by **Stemco**.

Central Regional Workshop—April 27, 2011 at the Dublin City Schools Bus Garage, in Dublin, Ohio. This workshop will be on “Allison Transmissions” presented by **W.W.Williams**.

Registration forms can be found at www.osbma.org

Contact your regional director to find out what training is planned in your region.

America's Best School Bus Technician

The NAPT's 8th annual “**School Bus Technician's Training and Skills Competition**” will be hosted by the Texas Association of School Bus Technicians. This competition will serve to determine **America's Best School Bus Technician** and will require technicians to demonstrate exemplary skills in such areas as technical knowledge and diagnostic troubleshooting.

A competitor to represent Ohio will be chosen by the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association. All school bus mechanics in Ohio are invited to compete. All participants must be currently employed in a position requiring the regular/frequent maintenance and/or repair of school buses. The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association will be sponsoring the participant to the National Skills Competition. Each competitor shall be responsible for fully understanding all rules relating to the competition. A written test (*typical ASE test, 50 questions*) will be administered following the 2011 OSBMA Spring Workshop, Wednesday, April 6, 2011. The testing will be held at 3 pm in the auditorium of the Ohio Department of Transportation, 1980 West Broad Street, in Columbus, Ohio. The top score will determine the **Ohio's Best School Bus Technician**. In the event of a tie, a hands-on technical test will be given at a later date.

The selected technician will represent Ohio in the **America's Best School Bus Technician's Training and Skills Competition** which will be held September 27 - 30, 2011 in San Antonio, Texas. The OSBMA will be providing transportation to the contest, lodging and breakfast for the technician. Any other persons traveling with you will need to cover their own costs. For additional information regarding the national competition, check out www.americasbest.org

To register for the technical skills test for school bus technicians, contact Susie Washburn at (614)478-9300 or osbma@columbus.rr.com.

Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association

Volume 18, Issue 3

March, 2011

Membership

- ☞ **Active Membership** is open to qualified mechanic who has responsibility in maintaining the operation of a safe and efficient pupil transportation system. (\$30)
- ☞ **Associate Membership** is open to other Ohio school officials who are interested in promoting safe pupil transportation in Ohio, retired OSBMA members, and vendors. (\$20)
- ☞ Membership is good for one year: July 1 - June 30.
- ☞ General aim is to advance pupil transportation as a part of a school district's public education program.
- ☞ Please join us in promoting safe and efficient pupil transportation in Ohio.

Inside this issue:

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2011 School Bus Inspection Manual In-service Meetings



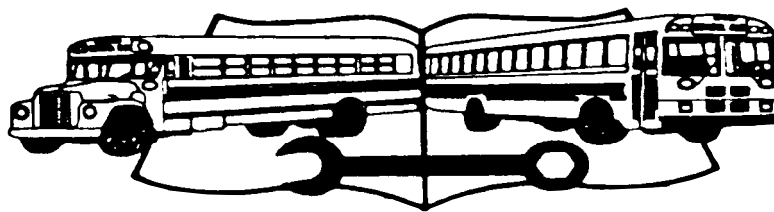
PRINT THE MANUAL AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE MEETING. THE MANUAL WILL NOT BE HANDED OUT AT THE MEETINGS! VISIT WWW.STATEPATROL.OHIO.GOV AND CLICK ON PUBLICATIONS.

Lieutenant Brian Reigle of the Licensing and Commercial Standards Section, Ohio Highway Patrol, in partnership with the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association is holding free in-service meetings throughout the state.

These meetings are open to anyone who is involved in maintaining the school bus in safe operating condition and prepares the school bus for annual inspection. There will be time during and at the end of the presentation for questions and answers.

CENTRAL REGION	MARCH 24	10-NOON
Coffman High School—Performing Arts Center (Franklin County) 6780 Coffman Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017		<i>contact: Tom Francis Central Regional Director 614-760-4503</i>
EAST REGION	MARCH 31	10-NOON
Tuslaw High School—Gymnasium (Stark County) 1847 Manchester Avenue NW, Massillon, Ohio 44647		<i>contact: Don Spiker East Regional Director 330-837-7805</i>
NORTH REGION	MARCH 29	10-NOON
Shaker Heights Middle School—Auditorium (Cuyahoga County) 20600 Shaker Blvd, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122		<i>contact: Joe Belsan North Regional Director 216-295-4391</i>
NORTHEAST REGION	MARCH 16	10-NOON
Middlefield Fire Department (Geauga County) 14870 North State Avenue, Middlefield, Ohio 44062		<i>contact: Jerry Jacobs Northeast Regional Director 440-632-5321</i>
NORTHWEST REGION	MARCH 2	10-NOON
Bowling Green High School—Performing Arts Center (Wood County) 530 West Poe Road, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402		<i>contact: Jason Divoll Northwest Regional Director 419-826-8891</i>
SOUTH REGION	MARCH 28	10-NOON
Athens City High School—Auditorium (Athens County) 1 High School Road, The Plains, Ohio 45780		<i>contact: Paul Bierhup Treasurer 740-384-5167</i>
SOUTHWEST REGION	MARCH 17	10-NOON
Lebanon City Junior High School—Auditorium (Warren County) 160 Miller Road, Lebanon, Ohio 45036 <i>*park by football field</i>		<i>contact: Dave Hope Southwest Regional Director 513-575-1743</i>
WEST REGION	APRIL 4	10-NOON
St. Clair Memorial Hall (Darke County) 215 West Fourth Street, Greenville, Ohio 45331		<i>contact: Rob Widener President 937-548-5287</i>

Ohio School Bus
Mechanics Association
SPRING WORKSHOP



"Foundation & Hydraulic Brake Systems" & Webasto Heating Systems

All school bus mechanics in Ohio are welcome to attend the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association Spring Workshop.

DATE: **WEDNESDAY**
APRIL 6, 2011

LOCATION: **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

Parking is free!

AUDITORIUM
1980 WEST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO

The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association is looking forward to this opportunity for school bus mechanics in Ohio to meet with over 70 Ohio Highway Patrol school bus inspectors!

SESSION I : Foundation & Hydraulic Brake Systems

PRESENTER: Randy Price, Navistar

Randy Price worked as a mechanic to pay his way through school. He has been certified by ASE as a Master Technician for over 25 years. Randy has been teaching technicians and fleet owners for over 30 years in both hydraulic and air brake systems.

This class will cover maintenance, replacement and troubleshooting foundation brake and hydraulic brake systems.

SESSION II: Webasto Heating Systems

PRESENTER: Paul Baczewski, Webasto Product North America, Inc.

Paul Baczewski has been involved with the School Transportation Industry through the position of National Account Manager for School Transportation Products at Webasto for the past 17 years. Paul is responsible for aspects of communication and representation of Webasto to the School Transportation industry, including establishing and maintaining a North American sales and support network.

This class will be an overview on how the Webasto products function, parts identification, and maintenance practices for Webasto heater systems. Time will be allowed for a question and answer session.

The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association is a non-profit professional association. The general aim is to advance pupil transportation as a part of a school district's public education program.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

8:00 am—9:00 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00 am—9:15 am	GENERAL SESSION—Manuel Brooks
9:15 am—11:45 pm	SESSION I
11:45 pm—12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45pm—1:00pm	GENERAL SESSION—Lt. Reigle
1:00 pm—3:00 pm	SESSION II

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FEE:

*CURRENT MEMBER \$60.00

NON-MEMBERS..... \$85.00

**Please check the expiration date on your membership card to verify current membership.*

A Continental Breakfast and Cafeteria Lunch is included in the registration fee.

REGISTRATION:

Complete the registration form and mail it with a check or money order. Registration is limited to the first 200 registrants. Be sure to register by March 30, 2011. If purchase orders are used, you may fax the registration form and purchase order to 614-478-9304. You will receive a Confirmation and Admission Ticket which also includes your receipt of payment. *Keep this in a safe place and bring it with you to register.* Cancellations received up to five working days before the workshop are refundable, minus a \$10.00 registration service charge. After that, cancellations are subject to the entire workshop registration fee, which may be applied toward future workshops. Substitutions may be made, however, any additional fees due membership status must be paid at or prior to the workshop.

INSERVICE TRAINING REQUIREMENT ★★ ★

The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association provides each registrant with a Certificate of Achievement that serves as your permanent record of participation. This certificate is suitable for framing or can be placed in your personnel file to **show that you have fulfilled the yearly in-service training requirements required by section 3301-83-10 of the Ohio Pupil Transportation Operation & Safety Rules.**

PLEASE JOIN US IN PROMOTING SAFE AND EFFICIENT PUPIL TRANSPORTATION IN OHIO!

DIRECTIONS

FROM THE NORTH:

- ⇒ Take I-71 South to I-70 West
- ⇒ Exit #97 (West Broad Street)
- ⇒ Turn left onto West Broad Street
- ⇒ Straight for 1/2 mile, turn right

FROM THE EAST:

- ⇒ Take I-70 West
- ⇒ Exit #97 (West Broad Street)
- ⇒ Turn left onto West Broad Street
- ⇒ Straight for 1/2 mile, turn right

FROM THE SOUTH:

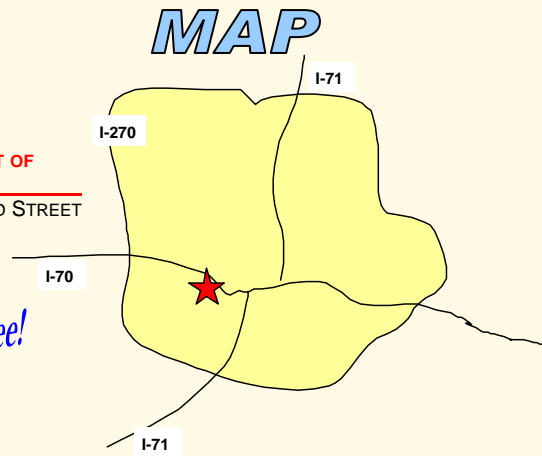
- ⇒ Take I-71 North to I-70 West
- ⇒ Exit #97 (West Broad Street)
- ⇒ Turn left onto West Broad Street
- ⇒ Straight for 1/2 mile, turn right

FROM THE WEST:

- ⇒ Take I-70 East
- ⇒ Exit #97 (West Broad Street)
- ⇒ Turn right onto West Broad Street
- ⇒ Straight for 1/2 mile, turn right

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**
1980 WEST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Parking is free!



NEARBY ACCOMODATIONS

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT (4.89 mi) 2350 Westbelt Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43228	614-771-8999 or 1-800-MARRIOTT
QUALITY INN & SUITES (4.89 mi) 2340 Westbelt Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43228	614-771-8944 or 1-800-4CHOICE
RED ROOF INN COLUMBUS WEST (5.53 mi) 5001 Renner Road, Columbus, Ohio 43228	614-878-9245 or 1-800-RED-ROOF

Detach and mail today — workshop is limited to the first 200 to register!

Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association Spring Workshop April 6, 2011 “Foundation & Hydraulic Brake Systems” & “Webasto Heating Systems” Department of Transportation, Columbus, Ohio

School District _____

County _____

Name _____

Home Telephone _____

[Please print!]

Home Address _____

Work Telephone _____

Street

Email Address: _____

City

State

Zip Code

[Please print legibly!]

Are you a current member of the OHIO SCHOOL BUS MECHANICS ASSOCIATION?

- YES**, membership number _____.
I'm sending **\$60.00** for workshop registration.
- NO**, but I wish to renew or become a new member. I'm
sending \$30.00 for membership and \$60.00 for workshop
registration. (**\$90.00**)
- NO**. I do not wish to become a member. I'm sending
\$85.00 for workshop registration.

Complete this registration form and mail it with payment by March 30, 2011. Contact Susie Washburn at **614-478-9300** with any questions. Mail to: **Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association, PO Box 30844, Gahanna, Ohio 43230**

Or fax the registration form with purchase order to **614-478-9304**.

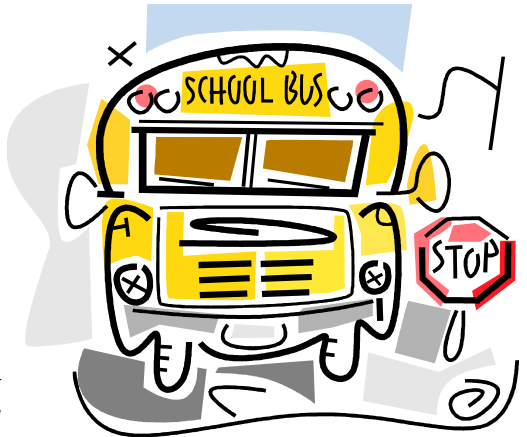
Mechanic–Bus Ratio

By Colin Eichel (Dover City Schools) Vice-President of Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association

Recently we were asked by a transportation supervisor what the mechanic/bus ratio should be. One of the problems in attaining a workable ratio is that the **job description/responsibilities of a mechanic vary greatly from one district to the next**. Neighboring school districts may have similar fleet size, however, the mechanic's responsibilities could vary drastically.

How much work and to what extent is done in-house is also hard to pinpoint. This really depends on how many mechanics are available, their skill set, knowledge, equipment available, and the size of their facility. Some garages may sublet major engine and transmission work back to the dealer, so as not to tie up a bay for several days.

It should be noted that most mechanics take a lot of pride in their work and abilities. To us, sending something "out" for repairs is like admitting defeat. Most of us have the mindset that with enough time we can fix anything. This is good most of the time but sometimes its just not cost or schedule-effective. The hardest thing for a mechanic to see is one of "his" buses going somewhere else to be fixed!



Here are some suggestions that may be helpful in determining your mechanic-bus ratio:

- 1) How are the results of your spot and annual inspections? If they are going smoothly without too many infractions, then your mechanics are having enough time to keep up on repairs. If not, then maybe something needs to be adjusted.
- 2) Are you having many mechanical failures or on-road breakdowns? If so, this may indicate that your mechanics are too rushed and not able to keep up with routine maintenance.
- 3) What are the skills and abilities of your mechanics? Are they trying to do repairs that they are not trained for or experienced at? Who decides what the work flow should be in your shop? Does someone less skilled get stuck and "spin his wheels" when working on something that is beyond his skills or knowledge?

I also suggest that your mechanics subscribe to trade magazines such as School Bus Fleet. They have a lot of useful articles on various subjects. www.schoolbusfleet.com Send your mechanics for training. The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association offers many workshop/classes on bus body & engine performance, bus related repairs and issues. Every district is money conscious, but I look at it as an investment. The information learned can save a lot of time and expense when the mechanic is back in the shop. Along with the technical information learned, attending these workshops allow mechanics the opportunity to meet and build a network with other mechanics.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

America's Best

School Bus Technician & School Bus Inspector Training & Skills Competition

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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Your Lubrication Solution Partners®

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Systems

ASE
CERTIFIED

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Register online at www.ase.com

Disclaimer: The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association does not necessarily endorse or support any of the advertised products. Products advertised may or may not meet Ohio specifications.

If you would like information on advertising in this quarterly

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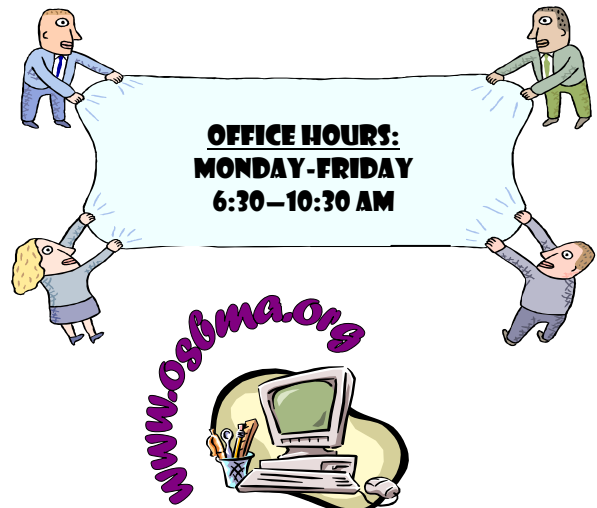
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SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
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Email: osbma@columbus.rr.com
Website: osbma.org