

Drivin' for Linemen

By Bob Hall, Buckingham Mfg.

Editor's note: We had both Bob Hall from Buckingham and John Bisci with Gateway Motorsports Park send in reports of this day. Because there are a lot of moving parts to this event, I decided to include both of them so we can get a better picture of what all is going on.

This year was the third running of the Drivin' for Linemen 200. The event is a NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race held each June at Gateway Motorsports Park. Chad and Amy Dubea worked with the great folks at GMP to secure the naming rights for the race. Their efforts allow the unsung heroes of our industry to receive some much needed recognition. We all know that as line workers we are often forgotten. While the general public is packing to evacuate we are loading up the truck to head toward the storm.

In another attempt to recognize the line-worker, Buckingham Mfg. set out to take our rodeo trailer on a tour of the country this year. We recognize line workers and their families make great sacrifices, and of course there is the danger, but we also can't forget about the missed events. The numerous dinners, birthday's, sporting events, graduations and the list goes on. We consider it a great honor to work with such dedicated individuals.

This same desire to pay our respects to these great folks fit perfectly with the efforts of the Drivin' for Linemen 200. Teresa Hall of Buckingham worked with the Dubea's, GMP and NASCAR to coordinate a Hurtman Rescue Championship. This event was held in the infield of the track the day of the race. The entry fees from the competitors were donated to the Fallen Linemen Organization.

The funds raised will help FLO support the families of our fallen comrades. Their



organization is willing to help any family in their time of need. Any additional contributions can be made through their web-site. While this event was held to support FLO we suggest you support any and all organizations that work to support our industry.

Dale Scurr, a legend in the industry and true friend of linemen everywhere, donated a custom knife for raffle. Dale has a long history in the industry, and is known by many to be an advocate for protecting his brothers. Since, his semi-retirement he has been producing custom knives. His company, "Hole in the Handle," donated the knife that raised additional funds to be donated to FLO and their efforts.

When we began planning the event, Tim Batty of Buckingham had a vision of having a World Championship belt built from one of our ultra-soft leather mobility belts. His vision turned into a belt that any champion would be proud to hoist in victory! The belt was such a success the International Linemen's Rodeo has already contacted Buckingham to provide the belt for the overall journeyman team and overall apprentice this fall. The belt will be limited to the four each year at the ILR and the one at the Climbin for Linemen. This will keep its prestige and allow the Climbin for Linemen winner to go to Kansas City and with an opportunity to secure a second belt, ensuring he or she is truly the champ.

The winner was also presented with a 4 night trip for two to the choice of four locations in Mexico. This was made possible by the generosity of our friends at Bevins Company. Jason Novak of Ameren Il was the winner of the inaugural event. He and his wife Jennifer should especially enjoy their time in Mexico for his commitment to safety and the industry.

Brownstown Electric Supply Company helped to ensure everyone enjoyed the event by sponsoring a hospitality tent on Friday evening.

We had other industry partners assist in the success of the event including Live by the Line, Illumagear, and everyone's favorite *Powerlineman magazine*.

The next year's event will be held on Friday evening under the lights. It will allow the competitors to showcase their skills in a call out setting. This should be an amazing spectacle to show the difficulties of performing the job after hours.

We look forward to growing the event and welcome anyone who would be interested in volunteering or becoming an event sponsor. All interested should contact Bob Hall at (607) 765-1495 or via email at bhall@buckinghammfg.com.

Bob is a Journeyman Lineman and Central Territory Manager for Buckingham.

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