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The Newsletter of NMEDA, The National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association

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The National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association

NMEDA MISSION STATEMENT

Through our diverse membership NMEDA advocates and supports excellence in providing safe, reliable vehicles and modifications to enhance accessibility for people with special needs.

For Our Dealers and Professional Members:

- To provide education and training enhancing professionalism, innovation, and business proficiency.
- To establish and maintain uniform safety guidelines and quality standards to foster consistency.
- To serve as a unified voice with governmental authorities, automobile manufacturers, and other industry partners.

For Our Consumers:

- To provide guidance in the selection of quality solutions that satisfy individual needs.
- To exhibit caring, compassion and fairness in facilitating conflict resolution.
- To promote the consistency of products and services provided across all markets.

For Our Manufacturers Members:

- To provide a professional dealer network that represents the most viable distribution channel to the market.
- To facilitate dealer training to uphold the integrity of installation and service
- To provide an objective forum for conflict resolution, collaboration and unification of the industry.



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President's Letter

Hello everyone from your President

My article this quarter is about what is going on with your committees, your Board and our staff at NMEDA. We are constantly working to improve our organization and help our members provide better services for their clients. GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR NMEDA can be simply using the tools we provide for you as an association. Each month many committees work on projects to improve our organization and the results are submitted to your Board of Directors by way of a consent agenda. These agendas can be found online in the Member Resources under 'Member Docs'. The NMEDA staff works hard to inform all of our dealers about what's going on in our organization. It is our job to use this information, which is available to all members. The web site has been updated and is much easier to navigate.

Here are some important areas on the web site that all members should be interested in and utilize. Please take the time to visit them:

- Dealer Quarterly Marketing Webinars (Next up: "Email Marketing" in July 2011 – Look for the registration information in your email box this month!)
- Dealer Marketing Materials (<u>http://</u> members.nmeda.org/members/cap_online/ downloads.aspx)
- 2010 and 2011 Awareness Studies (http:// members.nmeda.org/members/cap_online/ research.aspx)
- TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES! Especially the 'Comprehensive Automotive Mobility Solutions for Health Professionals "Lunch & Learn" 1.5 Hour Course', which is a course given by you, the mobility equipment dealer, to your local OTs and PTs *In other words, it is a great networking solution!* Visit: http://www.nmeda.com/professional-training/ cams-hp-lunch-learn-course/ (For more info contact Pete Lucas pete@nmeda.org.)

Many hours are spent on numerous projects each month and then broken down into the agenda. I could not begin to tell

you all that is discussed each time but here are some of the items that are being worked on this quarter:

- Industry & Public Relations This committee is working on promoting the new QAP membership requirements as a benefit of using a NMEDA dealer as well as executing a second benchmark study to determine the best market targets to get our message out. They are overseeing the CAP budget for use in the new media releases. They are also working on their awareness planning study to determine future plans, such as apps for iPhone and Android applications to keep up with today's technology. This committee is very vital to our progress and they are doing their job well.
- **QAP** This group is working on updating our documents and procedures. Many of our rules and procedures needed updating to be more understandable and meet today's needs for the industry. They have developed sub-committees to work on several key projects in order to move our program forward. Items being discussed at this time are: Compliance, Guidelines, QAP violations and complaints, electronic forms, use of logo and labels and QAP designations. A big project for this committee is to hire a new addition to our staff in Tampa who will handle our Quality Assurance Program. This is being handled by a sub-committee and it is imperative that the right person is put in place to move this piece of NMEDA forward. This is another very busy committee.
- **Guidelines** They are always looking at improving and updating our Guidelines documentation. This is a never-ending process, as it is a living document and must be changed every year to keep up with the industry.
- Education and Training Projects being worked on or completed by this group are numerous. Onsite/ online training, CAMS-HP Projects, QAP certification, dealer marketing and electrical training are all being addressed. Many achievements have been reached and are available today. Visit the



CEO REPORT: NMEDA in Mid-Year - An Update

By Dave Hubbard

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, it seems that all of NMEDA's projects and annual tasks are on point and tracking well into the new business year which begins July 1. One of the biggest questions voiced by the membership this past year was how our member numbers would hold up with the new QAP requirements. We are happy to report that there has been minimal backlash against the new requirement and that most members who are not QAP are considering signing up for the program as their renewals approach. It is particularly gratifying to realize that soon NMEDA will have established one standard of membership and that standard will be synonymous with "quality."

This means the QAP Committee and Sub-committees needed to move quickly to adjust the QAP Rules (now the NMEDA Rules), to conform to the process outlined in the Bylaws. To that end, the revised NMEDA Rules are now on the website for all to review and use for reference. In addition, a Subcommittee review was necessary to rework the audit process with special emphasis on the first membership audit to insure that elements such as facilities and QC manuals received the necessary priority attention.

The Membership committee has been instrumental in maintaining our membership numbers in the face of the new QAP requirement. They have taken on the task of calling all of those members who have allowed their membership to lapse without sending in the renewal application, and talking to them one-on-one. The Canadian QAP committee is doing the same thing north of the border and is making a significant impact by reminding people of the new application requirements. Both Committees are performing a valuable service because there are a number of members who put NMEDA business on the back burner and haven't even opened the renewal package sent to each one of them. Once reminded by a fellow dealer and explained the benefits of becoming QAP, it's a short step to get them to fill out the application and send it in. If anyone reading this article is not QAP and would like to get started on the renewal processes, simply call Doris in our office and she will get you the materials.

From a marketing standpoint, NMEDA has made huge strides over the past year. While the NMEDA name did not make large gains, as sited in the Benchmark Study-Wave II, we did have significant gains in recognition of QAP and what NMEDA stands for. Scores were also up for people who would use and recommend NMEDA member services. What's important is that those elements that we have been promoting in our advertising are going up. Once consumers are exposed to NMEDA, our research shows that the likelihood to recommend NMEDA Dealers has increased from 32% to 45% over the course of this past year. This is an extremely positive indicator.

The internet portion of our marketing effort is also progressing well with nearly 120,000 visits to the NMEDA website recorded for the past year as of May 1 (up 123% from the previous year). Of this number, 85,000 were unique visitors that had not visited the website previously (up 184%). The dealer locator grew continuously in the past year reaching over 10,000 visitors for the month of April. This continuous increase in dealer locator traffic means that future prospects are seeking out NMEDA dealers and clicking through to individual dealer sites, acquiring the phone number or looking for directions.

Education and Training continues to progress at its breakneck speed (if that can be said about an association committee system) developing more programs and opportunities for all. The one-hour version of the Comprehensive Automotive Mobility Solutions presentation has been sanctioned by AOTA and ADED as a single Continuing Education Unit (CEU), which acts as an incentive to OT's to attend "lunchn-learn" presentations conducted by individual dealers. All a NMEDA member has to do to qualify to give the presentation is attend a two part (one hour each) online training session conducted by Pete Lucas. This training session ensures that the person(s) designated to give the presentation is qualified in the eyes of the sanctioning organizations and can direct OTs and other healthcare professional participants on how to claim their CEU. As of the writing of this article 56 new presenters have been trained representing 24 individual dealerships. This is an excellent way to get your message heard by the all important professional healthcare community who are looked to by patients for their recommendation on mobility products and services.

Manufacturer Service Schools (MSS) are also growing. Having sold out the last four training schools, the next one scheduled for July 12 - 14 in Sumner, Washington (near Seattle) at Kersey Mobility promises to be no less successful. A final MSS training session will be held in October at United Access in St. Louis. If you are one of those who have their QAP applica-



Due Diligence and Compliance

By Jacques Bolduc, P. Eng.

As more and more mobility vehicles are put on the road, they are becoming bigger targets for lawsuits. As dealers of mobility vehicles you have a moral (if not legal) obligation to ensure that the vehicles you are selling do not present an unacceptable safety risk. Although there are other factors that could be considered safety risks, compliance is one of the more significant. As a dealer, you are not expected to be a compliance expert but consumers are assuming, with reason, that you have an acceptable level of confidence that the vehicles you are selling are safe and compliant to applicable regulatory requirements. Consumers expect you to have undertaken all reasonable steps that can be taken to satisfy yourself that the vehicles you are selling are safe.

There are some basic and easily feasible ways of doing your due diligence in regards to compliance. Verifying the vehicle's certification labels is the first step. If the vehicle was altered, meaning that the base vehicle was a complete and OEM certified vehicle (as are most minivans), there needs to be two certification labels on the vehicle; one from the OEM and an alterer label from the alterer. If the base vehicle was an incomplete vehicle, as is the case of many full size vans, there also has to be two labels; one Incomplete Vehicle label from the OEM and one manufacturer certification label from the final stage manufacturer. In some cases, where part of the modifications were subcontracted to a third company, there may have to be an Intermediate stage manufacturer label on the vehicle in addition to the Incomplete and manufacturer labels.

The second step is verifying the vehicle's tire label. The information on the tire labels that most affects mobility vehicles are the seating capacity and the load carrying capacity (or the combined weight of occupants and cargo). The seating capacity must be separated into Front and Rear and must be accurate based on the maximum number of seating positions available. There cannot be two different seating capacity statements if there is more than one tire label on the vehicle. The load carrying capacity should be verified and considered with regard to the vehicle's intended use. Verifying the load capacity is straightforward and all information to do so is on the vehicle labels. On the tire label, you'll find the total seating capacity and the loading capacity (described as "The combined weight of occupants and cargo should never exceed XXX pounds"). You simply multiply the seating capacity by 150 and subtract the answer from the load carrying capacity. The result must be greater than zero as it represents the cargo carrying capacity of the

vehicle. Depending on the intended use of the vehicle, you need to be sure that the calculated cargo capacity is sufficient (meaning that it is more than the weight of the wheelchair and its occupant that is going to be used carried in the vehicle).

The third step is to investigate if there is any additional information available that could raise questions regarding the vehicle's compliance, or the opposite – if there is any additional information available that increases your level of confidence that the altered vehicle is, in fact, compliant. Some States and funding agencies conduct their own compliance review of vehicle manufacturers and NMEDA's Compliance Review Program (CRP) lists the compliance status of participating companies. The CRP has hired independent engineers that have worked in the mobility industry and with safety standards to review FMVSS crash test and seat/seat belt requirements.

By following these basic steps, you are equipping yourself with information that helps demonstrate that you did consider safety before selling a modified vehicle and that a reasonable due care was performed with regard to Federal requirements and vehicle safety. In many cases that I am familiar with, such due care would have saved lives.



THE FOLLOWING DEALERS HAVE MET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NMEDA QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM, AND HAVE BEEN INSPECTED BY AN INDEPENDENT ENGINEERING FIRM (RADCO) FOR COMPLIANCE TO NMEDA GUIDELINES, TRAINING, INSURANCE, WELDING CERTIFICATION AND RECORD KEEPING.

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Marilyn's Medical Freedom, Inc. 4860 Old Mayfield Rd. Paducah, KY 42003 (270) 534-9713 (210) 534-9115 Mobility Equipment Installer Movin On Mobility Mid America. LLC 3301 Fern Valley Road Louisville, KY 40213 (502) 964-3556 Johnshin, Horney Johnson, John

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Access Vans of LA, Inc. 17300 Hwy. 77 Grosse Tete, LA 70740 (225) 648-3100 Mobility Equipment Installer Structural Vehicle Modifier High Tech Driving Systems Installer Access Vans of LA-New Orleans 1901 Westbank Expressway, Ste. 500 Harvey, LA 70058 (504) 362-9491 Mobility Equipment Installer Crescent Vans, Inc. Crescent Vans, Inc. 2424 Hickory Ave. Metairie, LA 70003 (504) 738-2634 Mobility Equipment Installer Structural Vehicle Modifier High Tech Driving Systems Installer Fastserv Medical Monroe 112 Summer Lane West Monroe LA 71291 West Monroe, LA 71291 (318) 396-3366 Mobility Equipment Installer High Tech Driving Systems Installer

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Ride-Away Corp 32 Lewiston Rd., Unit 2B Gray, ME 04039 (207) 657-6664 Mobility Equipment Installer High Tech Driving Systems Installer

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5175 Gratiot Kd. Saginaw, MI 48609 (989) 781-8267 Mobility Equipment Installer High Tech Driving Systems Installer

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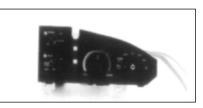
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Technician's Corner

(A tear out page for technicians)

Issue 24

Finding the Source of a Parasitic Battery Draw - Part 2 of 2

Another method of finding parasitic battery drain would be to simply remove a fuse, then plug an amp meter directly into the circuit. If any current were flowing in the circuit, no matter how small, it would show up on the amp meter display.

This method will certainly work, and test equipment is available for this purpose. This tool takes the place of a fuse, allowing a direct amperage reading, which could be especially helpful once the offending circuit had been identified via voltage drop testing. The tool's semi permanent connection at the fuse panel would allow you to conduct further tests on the components in the circuit, which could be very helpful in an intermittent battery drain situation.

There are several classic key-off battery drain sources. A poor-quality or improperly installed aftermarket alarm system can drain a fully charged battery in a few days. The alarm may have more than one connection to the vehicle's electrical system, and the installer may have tapped into the nearest available power source. Besides causing key-off battery drain problems, this can wreak havoc on engine management systems and other delicate electronic systems.

Aftermarket audio systems, especially the kind with huge power amps and pinky-sized wires running directly from the amps to the battery, are another potential source of key-off battery drain problems. The system's control head is supposed to switch the power amps into standby mode when the ignition is off. But even in standby mode, they may draw a few milliamps. And if the head unit has not been properly installed or set up, the power amps may never power down, even when the ignition is off. In this case, the amps may draw several hundred milliamps and the battery will become discharged in short order.

A growing number of new vehicles are available with proximity keys, which function in a manner similar to an instant-on television and its remote control. A radio receiver in the vehicle listens for a signal from the proximity key. When a signal is received, the system must determine if the key is a match with the vehicle. The vehicle doesn't know if the owner is going to be gone for an hour or a week, so it's constantly listening and never goes completely to sleep. Every proximity key that passes within range of the receiver causes the system to consume more battery power for a few minutes as it attempts to identify the proximity key. So if the vehicle were parked in a busy parking structure, key-off battery drain could be accelerated. This problem can be further aggravated if the vehicle is equipped with a relatively small battery.

"One circuit that never sleeps is the transponder ignition key circuit. The antenna ring around the key barrel (or insert hole in the dashboard) always flows a tiny bit of current. When the transponder key head is brought within 2 in. of the antenna ring, this small current inductively charges a capacitor inside the key head. The key head then begins transmitting the code sequence.

When the key is turned to the on/run position, the antenna ring ceases to flow current and becomes a true antenna. Very close to the antenna ring is a signal amplifier. The signal is picked up by the antenna, amplified, then sent on to an immobilizer module or body security module, or directly to the ECM. If the code is correct for the one programmed into the module, the vehicle is allowed to start. In the most common design, the ECM allows the injectors to operate after receiving the correct code. More advanced designs also use the key code to power-up the vehicle. Thus, the signal from the key head goes to two places before the engine starts.

This circuit will always be a parasitic draw because the small current flow is necessary to operate the transponder key system. Always disable the transponder system first when hunting parasitic draw issues by unplugging the connector that feeds the signal amplifier and antenna.

"A transponder key should not be confused with a proximity key. A true proximity key is like a "smart card" that allows the vehicle to identify the user once he's within signal range. Aftermarket units require you to wave a key fob next to a pickup that is hidden somewhere behind a dashboard panel. These systems are known parasitic draw hogs, as are aftermarket security alarm systems. Question the customer to determine if the vehicle is equipped with these aftermarket systems and unplug them when you run into them.

(Continued, next page)

Finding the Source of a Parasitic Battery Draw - Part 2 of 2 (cont.)

(Continued from previous page)

Many high-line vehicles contain modules that go to sleep over a period of 30 minutes. However, the system draw should not exceed 45 milliamps (or so) or you will have a problem draining batteries. A parasitic draw test should not be attempted before the vehicle has sat for at least 30 minutes. If some part of the circuit is pulling a battery dead inside that amount of time, you either have a sulfided battery or you're sitting on a fire hazard (or both). Large-amperage draws can be determined using a field-effect ammeter.

"In a two-driver and two-vehicle family, Mom might have a smart card that is programmed to Dad's car or vice versa. Possibly, Mom is in the habit of leaving the smart card in the glove box, center console, etc., of her car, which is then parked next to Dad's car. The smart card is now within range of the second vehicle.

"Dad's vehicle "wakes up" just because Mom's smart card is close by. This can cause a parasitic draw problem that will not present itself at your shop because both cars aren't at the shop at the same time, parked like they would be at home. The proverbial intermittent issue has now entered your shop to torment you and your staff.

"Many systems will not go to sleep properly if the smart card is within range. This also includes a scenario where the card is inside the house in Mom's purse but close to the vehicle it controls. Smart-card-programmed vehicles may not go into sleep mode if the smart card is within about 25 ft. Question the owner about these features and the customary placement of all smart cards.

"Many high-line vehicles have transponder key systems that will not go into sleep mode if the key is in the ignition. If you're unsure whether the vehicle has a transponder key system, there's an inexpensive tester for transponder keys made by Bianchi that's available at *www.americanlock.com*. You stick the key in the hole and it will tell you if it's a transponder key and what kind of programming the system has.

"Finally, the vehicle body can act as a ufer. This phenomenon is named after Herbert Ufer, who originated a grounding method for electrical devices during WWII. Have you ever worked on a vehicle that wouldn't erase a fault code until both battery terminals were removed? That's an Ufer Effect.

"Pulling both battery terminals, cleaning them, then performing a parasitic draw test for both voltage and amperage draw after the vehicle has sat for at least 30 minutes is still the most accurate approach to finding and fixing a parasitic draw. Granted, this disrupts the engine management adaptations, but it's still the lesser of the two evils."

Here is one final angle on parasitic draw testing. Let the car sit until it's completely cool (overnight works best). Then use a noncontact IR thermometer to measure the temperature of all fuses. If one fuse is found to have a higher temperature than the others, that's the one that has the current flow. Of course, the current flow needs to be sufficient to create a little heat, and your IR thermometer must be accurate enough to detect the differential.

"There's actually another great use for taking a voltage drop measurement across a fuse when troubleshooting. You can tell if the fuse is any good or if it's really making contact. The voltage drop across a fuse should be a very low value. If you measure across it and get 14 volts, you either have a blown fuse or there's no load connected to that branch of the circuit. "The accuracy of the measurement is not as important as knowing the approximate size of the load. If the unexplained draw is half an amp, then it's time to look for a small glove box light. If the drain is 10 amps, then it's time to look for something that's both big and warm. A draw of 5 or 10 amps will create heat.

"You can sometimes find out what's drawing current by feeling whether it's warm while everything else is cold. This would work for those aftermarket electronic installations. They should be cold to the touch when not operating. Even the ECM will be cold with 20 to 25mA being just enough to keep the memory lit."

Key-off loads are a pain, and most everyone would like to find a better path to solving them...

Special thanks to Karl Seyfert of Motor Magazine and George Lesniak of the Carquest Technical Institute (CTI) for sharing this information. George Lesniak has created spreadsheets that include milliamp values for the three fuse types, all common amp ratings and voltage drop measurements that may be shared. They are available at the new online NMEDA Technician Discussion Group: http://groups.google.com/group/nmeda-technician-corner Please email rmorton@monvans.com and request an invitation to this new online resource, several techs have joined already!



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NMEDA has created a free online library of print ads and radio commercials available for your use. The print ads are in both color and black and white, English and French and available in various sizes to be used for magazines and newspapers. The radio spots are available in :30 to :60 second lengths catered to different audiences.

Each item can be customized with your personalized dealer and address information. Simply download the files for your graphics department to work with or you have the option to preview the files as a PDF. Please note you will need InDesign Creative Suite 4 or higher to work with the print ad files. To see the complete library of available work visit the **Cooperative Awareness Program** section under **Member Login** at www.nmeda.org

Free Research

In the second quarter of 2010, NMEDA commissioned a study to help understand the competitive marketplace for our association, measure awareness of NMEDA and the services provided. This information helps determine where opportunity exists regarding attitudes, influences and lifestyle factors that affect the decision to purchase a vehicle modification. A secondary research study was conducted targeting Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists and caregivers to determine where opportunity exists in key attitudes, decision criteria and influencing. To download the research studies visit the **Cooperative Awareness Program** section under **Member Login** at www.nmeda.org





NMEDA members now have access to free advertising and marketing materials that are designed to promote the network of NMEDA dealers, help expand your customer base and increase sales of mobility products. The online library enables dealers and QAP dealers to personalize free advertising to run in their market, creating a customizable solution to your specific advertising needs – just like the invaluable, personalized services you provide your clients.

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Take advantage and utilize the dealer brochure to help explain the benefits of working with a NMEDA dealer.



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All marketing and advertising materials are fully customizable for your business and local markets. Save time and money by taking advantage of these free items now.



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NMEDA Hall of Fame Call for Nominations

This year, the Board of Directors voted to establish the NMEDA Hall of Fame in order to honor those who have contributed so selflessly to the establishment and growth of the Automotive Mobility Industry. This did not happen without initiative and leadership from a number of different individuals in all areas of the business. Therefore, we feel it is time to recognize those who have made a significant contribution to supplying freedom and independence to so many special people.

Pick the Category (listed below) in which you are nominating a person. Include in the narrative why you think this individual belongs in the NMEDA Hall of Fame and what significant contributions they have made to the Automotive Mobility Industry. Tell us where and during what time frame they were active and what their current status is in the industry today. This person(s) is not necessarily required to have been a NMEDA member and you can nominate more than one person. Also, keep in mind that just because a person is nominated doesn't guarantee admittance to the Hall of Fame. If they are not chosen one year they can be re-nominated in subsequent years.

NMEDA Hall of Fame - Dealer Criteria

- 1. To be eligible for the NMEDA Hall of Fame, a candidate must have served at least 10 years in the Automotive Mobility Industry. More specifically the candidate must have served in the capacity of providing services to people with disabilities.
- 2. Any individual becomes eligible for nomination to the Hall of Fame if they are or have been active in and/or made a contribution to the automotive mobility industry.
- 3. A candidate for the NMEDA Hall of Fame must have been well known in the industry and would have been recognized as an industry leader by their peers.
- 4. A candidate for the NMEDA Hall of Fame would have been an innovator and trend setter in automotive mobility industry, and would have had a direct and significant impact on the industry. Evidence of this legacy and the



Always look to your fellow NMEDA members first when buying and selling automotive mobility products and services. As NMEDA members we all adhere to the NMEDA Guidelines helping to ensure the best possible business outcomes.



It just makes sense... NMEDA members support NMEDA members.

For a complete list of NMEDA members, visit <u>www.nmeda.org</u>.



continued

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NMEDA Contact Information Audit

In an effort to improve NMEDA member communications, we would like to reconfirm your contact information currently in our database, make any corrections required and add additional contacts based on job discipline (sales, technical and administration). You may add as many or as few contacts as you want. The key is to print clearly and fax the form to the NMEDA office as soon as possible. **Fax to (813) 962-8970.**

Member Organization Name:									
Member Type: (check one)	Dealer	Manufacturer	Associate						
Organization Business Address:									
City:		State: _	Zip:						
Telephone:	Fax:								
• Primary Member Contact Information: (voting member with fiscal responsibility)									
Would like to receive all NMEDA Communications									
Would like to receive only critical communications (voting, QAP status, financial)									
name e	email address	tele	ephone - direct line (optional)						
• NMEDA Contact: (the person you want to get and manage all NMEDA information)									
Check if same as above. This person should receive all information, too.									
name e	email address	tele	ephone - direct line (optional)						

Sales Contacts: (optional)

name	email address	telephone - direct line (optional)
nama	email address	telephone - direct line (optional)
name	email address	telephone - direct line (optional)
name	email address	telephone - direct line (optional)
Technical Contacts:	(optional)	
name	email address	telephone - direct line (optional)
name	email address	telephone - direct line (optional)
name	email address	telephone - direct line (optional)
Administration Cont	acts: (optional)	
name	email address	telephone - direct line (optional)
name		
name	email address	telephone - direct line (optional)

It is NMEDA's intent to direct all communications to the Primary and/or NMEDA Member contacts as directed, and provide relevant information to the sub-groups (i.e. Sales Training information to sales personnel, Technical Bulletins to technicians, etc.). To add additional people to the contact list, simply place their name, email address and direct line on a separate sheet and fax it to NMEDA.

Please complete this form and fax to NMEDA at (813) 962-8970.

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"NMEDA Training" portion of the Members Site for a complete list of opportunities.

- Mediation Complaints and issues have been handled in a very professional format by this committee and most are dealt with quickly, with very positive results for all.
- **Licensing** New York is on the agenda at this time. Your state could be next. Several have been accomplished.
- Membership At this time, they are establishing a game plan to increase the value perception of our dealers. They are working on bridging the gap between small and large dealers. They are implementing a NMEDA "Hall of Fame" through a sub-committee, which will be an important part of preserving our past as an organization.
- **Conference** Our 2011 conference just recently passed and already they are planning our next one, striving to make it even better than before. It will take a great deal to match or exceed the last one. WOW!

• **Canadian** - The Canadians are working hard to gain new members into QAP as well as move their chapter forward. It is difficult sometimes, due to the size of some of their dealers. They are very determined and have come a long way in the past year.

This is just a sample of what is happening with our committees. I cannot begin to cover everything and have probably missed some very important issues. Many of these projects will be done by the time you read this but I hope you can get more exited and interested in the monthly goings-on of NMEDA. Dave Hubbard and his staff have done a great job of communicating to the members and updating us when news is available. As I said before: We need to do our part and GET INVOLVED IN YOUR NMEDA even if it is just to go online and see what has been done to benefit us all this quarter or this month.

In parting, I just want to say again that I am honored that our Board members this year have all attended each of our meetings. This means that EVERY member has made the commitment to take time out of their busy schedules and be in attendance. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH. It is significant to know they think the association is important enough to them to be there and help get the job done.

AUTOABILITY ANNOUNCES NEXT GENERATION POWER RAMP SYSTEM FOR REAR ENTRY WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE MINIVANS

Clarkston, *MI* – AutoAbility announced that it's much anticipated One-Touch power ramp system is now available for purchase nation wide. As a leader in the design and manufacture of rear entry wheelchair accessible minivans AutoAbiliy has developed a power ramp that is fully integrated with the OEM rear hatch control module. This integration allows for One-Touch of the OEM key fob to open the rear hatch and deploy the ramp. One-Touch further provides the same level of Obstacle Detection as the OEM hatch system insuring uncompromised safety.

"Our One-Touch system is another example of our focus on functionality, quality and safety, said Chuck Fortinberry, president of AutoAbility. By partnering with the OEM power hatch supplier, our engineering team has been able to offer technology that is the most advanced in the industry. Not only does One-Touch offer unmatched functionality, our high quality components have been cycle tested to rigorous OEM standards. In fact the same drive unit is in operation in thousands of vehicles around the world."

In addition to Obstacle Detection, One-Touch can easily be operated manually. Unlike hydraulic systems the electric drive unit clutches disengage when power is not present allowing for unrestricted manual operation of the ramp. Utilizing the existing lightweight aluminum 34" wide ramp, One-Touch is easily operated manually.

"One-Touch provides easy accessibility, to our mobility impaired customers, without sacrificing our industry leading 34" ramp width," said Marc Trafton director of operations. "We have been able to easily integrate One-Touch into our quality focused production process to insure every product meets the high quality standards our customers have come to expect from AutoAbility." Additional information on One-Touch power ramp can be found at <u>www.AutoAbility.com</u> or by calling 800-592-5995.

CEO REPORT: NMEDA in Mid-Year - An Update *continued from page 6*

tion pending, this is a great way for a technician to get 6 to 7 training certificates in one easy 3-day session.

The committee is also looking into advanced training properties produced by outside vendors that could apply to our member's businesses. This would include topics such as advanced sales training, business financial management, personnel recruiting and management, risk management, etc. If you have a particular area of expertise that you would like the committee to explore, send us your suggestion via info@nmeda.org and we will make sure it gets considered by the committee. For a complete look at all the training programs available to you as a NMEDA member, sign on to the member portion of the website and click on "NMEDA Training".

At the conference in Daytona Beach this year we announced the formation of the NMEDA Hall of Fame. Looking back over the past 22 years that NMEDA has been in existence, there are an obvious few who should be considered and nominated. Any member in good standing can make a nomination by filling out the form located on the NMEDA website or simply writing a nomination letter addressed to the NMEDA Hall of Fame Committee and tell us who you are nominating and why. Since this is the first year for this program the person or persons selected will hold an important and prestigious position in NMEDA's history. Look for the complete Hall of Fame program rules in this issue of the Circuit Breaker.

Last but not least, the VA Committee continues to make progress in developing a working relationship with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA and VBA as well as the PVA committee members continue to meet with representatives from NMEDA to resolve issues submitted by the membership at large. Admittedly, a resolution is not always successful, but they are listening and are working to resolve problems for the benefit of the Veteran and NMEDA members. We are working on getting NMEDA recommended throughout the VA as a preferred supplier for automotive mobility equipment and service, as well as continuing the highly successful "Past Due Invoice Process" put into place last year. As part of our efforts to support the Veterans, NMEDA is proud to be a sponsor of the Paralyzed Veterans Wheelchair Games in Pittsburg, PA from August 1 - 6, 2011. By joining with others it is our goal to support these disabled athletes and help supply hope and confidence for success, not only in the games, but in life. The Veterans deserve our thanks and support on so many levels that it is only natural for NMEDA to offer its support and encouragement through this worthwhile program.

The high level of activity at NMEDA seems to have become the daily norm. As usual, we could use all the help we can get from the membership. Not everyone has to sign up for a committee or immerse themselves in a major project. However, everyone can pay some attention to NMEDA. If you see something you'd like to see worked on or fixed, let us know. Take advantage of all the resources that have been developed for your benefit. Your observations and suggestions help to guide NMEDA as its eyes and ears. You, in fact, supply the value to NMEDA so that NMEDA can return that value, many times over, to you.

As usual, my phone is always on and I would love to hear your thoughts.



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New York Auto Show a Success for Local Mobility Dealers

For the past 3 years the Greater New York Auto Dealers Association has provided NMEDA with free space at the New York International Auto Show to promote Mobility and gain awareness at the local level. The booth is staffed by the local dealers for the entire ten days of the show. The dealers involved were Brunswick Automotive & Mobility Professionals, Bussani Mobility Team, Drive-Master Corp., Fun Truck'n Mobility and Monmouth Vans, Access, and Mobility. This has proven to be an excellent way to get the word about mobility to over 1.2 million people. The manufacturers supporting us with display product this year were BraunAbilities, Bruno Independent Living Aids and GoShichi Mobility. A special thanks to Dan Bussani for his role in managing the project on the ground in New York.



[Photo caption] (L to R): Carl Surface, Dave Hubbard, Al Ackerman and John Bussani.





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Super hosts: Susan Locklear, Caroline O'Brien, & Ray Morton

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Modified American Vehicles Sold to Canadians

By Jacques Bolduc, P. Eng.

Recently, a Canadian went to the US and bought a new raised roof full size van. When he tried to get through Canadian customs, he was refused entry because his vehicle was not on the import eligibility lists. He was told to contact Transport Canada, as the customs agent could not allow modified vehicles into Canada unless they were on one of the two lists. The conversation with Transport Canada was probably pretty short! "Provide compliance documents and we'll let your modified vehicle into the country." With his \$80,000 vehicle parked on the US side of the border, he called the vehicle modifier and asked for the compliance documents. The modifier immediately faxed him a compliance certificate on company letterhead that stated that all their vehicles were fully compliant to every Federal standard. Relieved that he had a compliance certificate, he faxed it to Transport and called Transport to be sure he could now bring his new vehicle into Canada. That was probably another very short conversation! A certificate is not sufficient to demonstrate compliance - a description of the vehicle modifications, a list of affected standards and test records or other appropriate documents demonstrating compliance to the affected standards were required. When he forwarded



Transport's requirements to the vehicle modifier, they stated that they were self-certifying and did not need to have any test records or reports, saying repeatedly that their vehicles were certified to all standards.

After further discussions with the modifier, it became clear that they did not have a clue about certification requirements, nor what FMVSS were affected by their modifications. The modifier was advised that raising a roof as well as installing a seat and window affected many standards and they would need to provide seat test reports, flammability reports, the location and type of the window they installed as well as supporting documents showing that they met the OEM requirement to "provide equivalent tie-in between vehicle pillars" over the section where the roof was removed. Producing these documents was not going to happen as the modifier maintained that he was self-certifying his modifications.

Although there were other companies that could have helped certify the vehicle, for example by installing a NMEDA certified roll cage, getting flammability data from the suppliers, removing the added seat and documenting the new window, Transport requires that <u>the original modifier certify</u> the vehicle at the time of modification. Unfortunately, that was not going to happen. After eight months of back and forth discussions, the vehicle is now for sale on the US side of the border.

Before purchasing a modified vehicle in the US or before selling a modified vehicle to a Canadian for importation into Canada, you should call Transport Canada to confirm that the vehicle is eligible to be imported. If the vehicle is not on the Transport Canada lists, you need to apply to have it put on the list, or send the compliance documents to Transport before showing up at the border. The lists are the Preclearance and RIV lists and applications are available online (tc.gc.ca).



Charles Greenwald, his wife Rose, Roland (Rise-Away Mobility Consultant), Eric Weyler (Bert's son-in-law), AnneMarie Weyler (Bert's daughter) and Bert Francoeur

DISABLED VETERAN DONATES WHEELCHAIR VAN TO FELLOW VETERAN

HARTFORD, CT - On Saturday, May 14, two veterans participated in an exchange that proves the "no soldier left behind" philosophy of the armed forces holds true even decades after time spent on the battlefield.

Charles Greenwald, who served in the Marines for six years, gifted his 2005 BraunAbility wheelchair van to Bert Francoeur, a decorated WWII veteran, at Ride-Away, a local mobility dealership that sells and services wheelchairaccessible vehicles and other mobility equipment.

Greenwald, became a wheelchair user after he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2003. When he learned he was eligible for funding assistance from the Veteran's Administration to purchase mobility equipment, he met with Mobility Consultant Roland Grundmann at Ride-Away and purchased the van.

"My van has been a life-saver for me," said Greenwald. "It has given me independence and I've relied on it each and every day since then."

Last year, when he was able to trade-in his vehicle for a newer wheelchair van, Greenwald returned to Ride-Away and purchased a 2011 BraunAbility Toyota Rampvan. Knowing how much he valued his accessible vehicle, Greenwald wanted to give his used vehicle to another veteran in need.

"He said, 'If you know of a fellow veteran who could use this vehicle, I'd like to donate it to him...free of charge," recounted Grundmann, who knew the ideal recipient. For

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nearly four years, Grundmann had been in contact with Bert Francouer, who had recently lost both legs due to health problems unrelated to his time spent in service. "Bert didn't qualify for mobility assistance from the VA, and because of that, he couldn't afford a wheelchair van."

If any veteran deserved a helping hand, it certainly is Francouer. The 91-year-old has volunteered tirelessly on behalf of the VA hospital in West Haven. For years, he organized the volunteer-run transportation department and was commander of the Connecticut Disabled American Veterans Organization. Francouer recently worked with the Knights of Columbus to raise awareness and funding to purchase a wheelchair-accessible bus so West Haven VA amputee veterans are able to travel on group outings.

Now, the WWII veteran who has spent thousands of hours volunteering for his fellow veterans has received the donation of a lifetime from an equally generous veteran.



Google Panda Update

By Bob Lundin, Certified Google Partner

In March, Google released a series of algorithm updates many called "The Panda Update". The Panda update is one of roughly 500 search engine improvements Google will roll out this year. This particular update figures to be a very significant factor affecting how the search engine giant returns its search results. Some notable website owners, including JCPenney, Overstock, eHow and Forbes, learned the hard way that Google meant business. Most SEO experts agree that Google penalized these sites because they included several instances of duplicate/spam content and shady link building practices. In short, they provided little value to their visitors.

Avoiding the fate that befell these giants is imperative. Here's how you can do-so:

Content suggestions:

- Have an Easy to Follow Menu Menu items above the head graphics often gather little visibility. The user should be able to navigate around the site without using the back button. The user also needs to have an intuitive menu that gives them a firm sense of where they are going within the website.
- Avoid Splash Intro Pages Splash pages delay your readers and search crawlers. Readers need immediate access to important information. In our industry, this means products and service related offerings. It's vital that you give your visitors immediate access to your main page, without forcing them to waste valuable time navigating past a splash intro page.
- Format for Internet Readers The typical reader skims pages for information. Your content must be easy to read and have proper headings, bullet points, bolding, etc. Even when a reader takes the time to peruse all of your content without skimming, they have a shorter attention span than those reading magazine articles or other traditional formats. This means that you need to eliminate the fluff and get straight to the content you have to provide immediate value to readers or you will lose their interest (and Google will penalize you, as well).
- Be Content Rich Users will appreciate your site when you provide specific information about your products and services. Having a "content rich" website means that all of your information is unique, that it is well written, and that it addresses what your visitors want to know. Information is king, as you have doubtless heard. Give your readers the information that they want.
- No Duplicate Content If you have duplicate content anywhere on your site, it needs to be removed. If you have worthless information (content that provides no value to your visitors), then it needs to be removed. Google's Panda update rewards sites that offer original, unique, valuable information to visitors, but it will punish those that do not follow these

guidelines. For evidence of this, witness the immense drop in traffic to sites like EzineArticles and eHow.

- **Graphics/Pictures** You should keep the graphic size to a minimum, as this affects your site's load time. I would also recommend strategically placed graphics trying to give the user a visual of the product. This is really important when displaying your inventory. That old saying, "a picture is worth a thousand words" holds true today, particularly with web content. Finally, make sure that you limit the number of words used in your graphics, as these do you little good and can actually decrease the value of the image to your visitors.
- Advertising In addition to spam/duplicate content and shady linking practices, I've also noticed something else in common with those sites hit hardest by Google's Panda update – advertising. Sites like eHow and EzineArticles are chock-full of ad links in the content. Google has altered their algorithm to reduce the rank of these sites, as ad-filled content rarely offers real value to the end reader.

Link Building Suggestions:

- Influencers How many influencers send you business on a monthly basis? Have you asked them for a link to your website? You already have an established relationship with them. A link from a non-profit can help your rankings immensely. However, you must avoid linking from sites with no influence and low page rank. Of course, you also need to pay attention to the value of the link in Google's eyes. Simply put, if the link is a blatant attempt to drive search engine spiders to your site, you'll be penalized. Build links with influential sites in related niches and using contextual linking methods.
- Article Submission Submit quality articles to third-party directories with anchor text links pointing back to your site. However, you need to make sure that the directories you submit to have not been knocked off the map by Panda. For instance, in the pre-Panda world, EzineArticles was the undisputed leader in online article directories. Today, they're far down the list in terms of search engine page rank. Any directory to which you submit must have a solid reputation and must be ranked highly with the new Google update.
- **Press Releases** Write quality releases about news and events pertaining to your company. Submit your releases through a reputable source that will give you great distribution and help those releases be picked up by news agencies, bloggers and other online sources. However, in order to benefit the most from press releases, they must follow the same rules that apply to your web content. That is, any press release should be relevant, newsworthy and rich with original information.



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VMI 2011 HONDA ODYSSEY WHEELCHAIR CONVERSION VAN CONTINUES TRADITION OF QUALITY, RELIABILITY AND SAFETY

Phoenix, Arizona – Vantage Mobility International (VMI) announced the redesigned 2011 Honda Odyssey with the innovative VMI Northstar and Summit conversions are now available for sale through authorized mobility equipment dealers.

"We're honored to be a part of the Honda family," said Doug Eaton, president of VMI. "Over the past five years, we've invested a great deal of time and engineering expertise to ensure our Northstar in-floor ramp and Summit fold-out ramp conversions are true to Honda's quality, reliability and safety standards. This demonstrates our ability to deliver a conversion van that meets the expectations of Honda customers worldwide."

The 2011 Odyssey is available in four trim levels including EX, EX-L, Touring and Touring Elite, all powered by an efficient 248 horsepower I-VTEC V6 engine. The Odyssey offers best-in-class fuel economy of 19 miles per gallon in the city and 28 miles per gallon on the highway using advanced technologies like the six-speed automatic transmission and Variable Cylinder Management. Honda offers an array of entertainment options on the new minivan, including a 650



Watt stereo system with USB audio interface and 16.2" dual DVD screen.

"We designed our wheelchair conversion of the 2011 Honda Odyssey minivan based on tools and systems acquired from our Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma initiatives," added Ted A. Larson, VMI's vice president of engineering. "Through these advanced manufacturing processes, our engineering team was able to pinpoint potential issues during development and correct them before production began. It's our way of staying true to the same core values that has made Honda one of the leading automotive manufacturers around the world."

The Honda includes an improved FLEX floor that provides an unprecedented 12 ³/4" drop from the original floor, affording the conversion two unique distinctions; the most wheelchair maneuvering room and the lowest ramp angle of any VMI conversion. E-coated for corrosion resistance and assembled with lightweight stamped metal components, the FLEX floor is VMI's foremost statement on innovation.

Both the Honda Northstar and Summit conversions feature an improved PowerKneel[™] system to reduce noise and increase dependability. The PowerKneel[™] lowers the vehicle to provide the wheelchair user with a lower ramp angle when traveling into and out of the vehicle. The system has an electro-hydraulic actuator that uses less energy and a built-in manual release for safety.

The Northstar conversion includes:

- · 55" Door opening height
- · 30" Usable ramp width
- · 750 lb. Load rating
- SURE DEPLOYTM Emergency Backup System
- · Successfully completed two 10,000 mile validation cycles

The Summit conversion includes:

- · 55" Door opening height
- · 28 7/8" Usable ramp width
- 600 Ib. Load rating

VMI has already passed all required Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS), including the rigorous 50 mph rear impact collision, which tests floor structure and fuel system integrity. VMI spared no cost to make the 2011 Honda Odyssey conversion the safest and most reliable vehicle in the mobility market.

"We put every vehicle through meticulous testing to make sure it exceeds FMVSS regulations," noted Eaton. "We believe that merely meeting minimum safety requirements is not good enough. We're committed to ensuring that our dealers and consumers have a product they can trust the minute they turn the ignition switch. This level of commitment keeps VMI in sync with the core values espoused by the Honda brand."

The 2011 Honda Odyssey with the VMI wheelchair conversion is currently available to the public. For more information, visit VantageMobility.com.

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Vehicles Added to the Canadian Pre-clearance List

By Jacques Bolduc, P. Eng.

Two American alterers/modifiers recently submitted applications to have their altered vehicles added to Transport Canada's pre-clearance list.

In order to be accepted for preclearance, the companies needed to demonstrate the vehicle's compliance to all safety standards affected by their modifications. A demonstration of compliance requires a precise description of vehicle modifications, a technical review of each applicable safety standard affected by the modification and any supporting test reports needed to allow Transport Canada to ascertain the vehicle's compliance to those standards that are affected. Added recently to the preclearance list are:

- Adaptive Mobility Systems (Norcross, Georgia)
- Auto Ability (Clarkston, Michigan)

The preclearance list is posted on the Transport Canada web site at <u>http://wwwapps.tc.gc.ca/saf-sec-sur/7/pcl-lir/</u><u>Menu.aspx</u>, which has many search options. Although the compliance documents usually come from the American modifier, it is the Canadian importer that must apply to import the vehicle. The American modifier can submit the compliance documents on behalf of the Canadian importer but Transport Canada will address any questions to the Canadian importer and all documents will be returned to the Canadian company.

Application forms for the US modifier and the Canadian importer are available on the Transport Canada web site at <u>http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/roadsafety/safevehicles-</u> importation-pre-clearance-index-447.htm.





Demos and Hands-on practice



NATIONAL MOBILITY EQUIPMENT DEALERS ASSOCIATION SUPPLY ORDER FORM

To purchase the items fill out the order form and fax to NMEDA at 813-962-8970. An invoice with the amount of purchase and shipping charges will be sent with the order.

Item	Price	Qty	Total
Consumer Reference Guide to Purchasing Adaptive Vehicles and Equipment:			
United States Version	.50		
Canadian Version (Includes Français Translation) ***Pack of 20 Guides***	20.00		
NMEDA Dealership Promotional/Showroom Brochure "Look for This Symbol!"	.20		
NHTSA - Adapting Motor Vehicles for Older Drivers Brochure	N/C		
NHTSA - Make Inoperative Labels	.25		
Tire Placard Labels	.50		
Load Carrying Capacity Labels	.50		
Wheelchair Logo Pin	2.50		
NMEDA Logo Sticker (2 per sheet)	Set - 5.00		
NMEDA Average Price Survey (Conducted in 2009)	50.00		
QAP Logo Sticker:	1.50		
NMEDA Comprehensive Automotive Mobility Solutions (CD Presentation)	1.25		

Special Instructions / Comments

TOTAL:

Shipment Information

Contact Person:							
Business Name:							
Address:		City:		_ State:	Zip		
Ph: ()	Fax: ()		E-mail:				
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Formulating the Right Strategies for Successful Social Media Marketing

By Simon Johanson

As a business owner, your primary concern is to develop the right kind of brand image of your business and Social Media Marketing helps you in this regards. However framing the right strategy is a must which will help you stand apart from others and create a separate niche. For framing the right strategy, sufficient research must be done. This research is learning a bit more than just finding the target audience. This research oriented social media marketing strategy includes identifying the most populated interactive websites in the Internet and the most popular social networking sites. You can make use of popular social networking such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and more.

A business page in Facebook or creating a Blog (www.wordpress.com) are some of the basic things you may do. Starting a blog will let you discuss relevant topics on your business. Your blog should be like that of a hub which will incorporate all the links and references of your networking sites and other similar resources. You may also create a discussion forum, wherein you may interact with tons of people based on your posts. After sufficient research is concluded, you may move ahead with some goal oriented social media marketing strategies.

Social media marketing strategies must be *goal-oriented*. It is important that you are aware of what end result you wish to derive and know what is your target market. Social Media Marketing will not only create brand awareness or put your website in higher search engine rankings, but will also create a space whereby you will get the chance to interact with a set of consumers. So blatant promotion sans planning may boomerang your business and spam all your efforts. Repeated blogging or tweeting may not bring the kind of result you would love to have. formulate your strategies according to the goal you wish to achieve, rather than aimlessly beating around the bush. Social Media Marketing involves less or no capital investments and hence small businesses can draw considerable amount of profit from it. While big corporate houses spend huge amount of money for promoting their business, the small firms often get displaced in the competitive market and fail to generate proper exposure. Many social media marketing tools are free and it is just the right kind of social media marketing strategies that will bear the fruit of success.

Unplanned Social Media Marketing will not do any good to your cause. Even if you are over-flooding a host of social networking sites with promotional items, you are sure to lose all notice and annoy viewers who will not pay any heed to your efforts. Thus it is necessary that you give some time to your efforts to yield fruit. Aggressive blogging or recurring article, press release submission will never produce results within a week, but will take considerable amount of time. So you need to dedicate an ample amount of time to this process to get back a commendable output. You need to constantly research about the latest developments, assess the latest trends and formulate newer policies accordingly and monitor the feedback you are receiving.

Marketing forms the spine of any business and formulating the right strategy is the prime pre-requisite. With the concept of Social Media Marketing becoming an outstanding phenomenon for promoting business, drafting a proper plan is necessary. Proper strategies will not only benefit your business in terms of revenue but will also create a brand awareness within the web world.

Social Media Secrets You Need to Know

By Jill MacEachern

Secret #1: Tools for Listening

After you create your social media marketing plan you have to continually work at it, update it and interact in order to build up your credibility and reputation. One of the most important and crucial aspects of social media is listening. You can see what you customers are saying about you, you can learn what they like or dislike about your products/services and you can handle your online reputation properly by listening to what consumers are saying about your company and ensuring that viral buzz is positive.

One great tool to use to ensure you are keeping track of any articles, news or comments with your company, brand, products or services mentioned is Google Alerts. You can set up an automatic email alert to ensure that any content mentioning something about your Business Plan will send you an email with the content. Another great tool specifically for keeping track of what users are saying about you on Twitter is twilert.com. This program will alert you whenever anyone discusses your company, brand, products or services as well as whether the tone of the content was negative or positive. Another tool used to track and protect your online brand reputation is to use howsociable.com. How Sociable offers a Pro service which allows you to provide great reports for colleagues, conduct brand comparisons with your competitors, keep an eye on your brand reputation with real time visibility and track your social media results with historical data.

Yahoo's Pipes is another powerful tool to aggregate, manipulate and mash-up content from around the web. Another fantastic and powerful tool for tracking your online brand reputation, seeing what users are saying about you and comparing your results to your competitors is Social Mention. Social Mention allows you to receive free daily email alerts of your brand, company, CEO, marketing campaign, as well as news articles and blogs which are in your area of interest. brand reputation measurement tools which are available at your fingertips and can assist you in tracking your online reputation, your competition, and what your customers are saying about you. These tools are also great for determining your return on investment for the time and money you invest into your social media marketing plan.

Secret #2: Automate your Social Media Marketing Efforts

Once the social media account creation tasks are complete, the boring part is over. The next stage involves growth, building and interaction. To give you some assistance in determining what tools and strategies you should be implementing to build your customer base, your social media growth and your brand image, here are some great secrets from social marketing gurus: **The key is automation.** By automating your social media marketing tasks, you can save yourself a large amount of time and money.

One of the top and most simple-to-use social media marketing automation tools today is <u>Ping.fm</u>. Ping is a very simple to use and totally free service that allows you to update your social networks very quickly so you can get back to more important tasks. Another extremely important tool to incorporate into your social media marketing services campaign is to connect your Facebook page, Twitter page and your blog website. You can do this by signing up with <u>Twitterfeed.com</u>. Twitterfeed will automate this entire process for you so when you do something on one of your social media networks it will automatically post to all other social media networks, which will save you a large amount of time.

Secondly, one of the best strategies for a social media marketing plan is **creating a basic marketing video** to go viral. In this time period people absolutely love videos, hence why YouTube is one of the top social media networks online today. So if you are able to create a very simple marketing video, get it posted on

> continued page 41

So as you can see, there are dozens of different online

NMEDA Manufacturer Service School in Philadelphia/NJ SOLD OUT!

By Pete Lucas

For the third time in less than a year, a NMEDA Manufacturer Service School (MSS) has sold out BEFORE the registration deadline passed!

Accessible Vans & Mobility (AVM) hosted this highly successful service school on April 12-14, 2011 at their convenient suburban New Jersey facilities. AVM set a new benchmark standard in MSS hosting by providing lots of extras; including a welcome BBQ, cushioned seat upgrades, Philadelphia-style pretzels and beverages. 35 attendees representing 20 dealerships from all across the US & Canada attended the training. 7 manufacturers were on hand to train attendees in best installation and service practices for their products. Presenting manufacturers included: MPS, Sure-Grip, Freedom Mobility, Crescent Industries, Adapt Solutions, MPD and Q'Straint. The class gave this MSS 4.34 of 5 stars on a weighted average survey. Here are some of the comments from the 35 MSS attendees:

• "...very interactive, hands-on learning, and very useful product knowledge"

- "...overall very knowledgeable and efficient training program that accomplished a lot of certifications in a short amount of time"
- "Excellent hosts! Great Food!"

More 2011 NMEDA Manufacturer Service Schools Coming Soon! (Limited registration)

We are tentatively planning to schedule two more regional Manufacturer Service Schools for 2011; one for summer and one for fall. The summer MSS will be held in Seattle on July 12-14.

Registration is open for the MSS-Seattle and details will be coming out soon in the training area of the NMEDA website for the Fall MSS. Space will be limited to 30 trainees, so make sure to take advantage of these valuable hands-on training opportunities before they sell out again.

For more details contact Pete Lucas at 800-833-0427 pete@nmeda.org



Social Media Secrets You Need to Know continued from page 40

all your social media networks and you should see some great results. In the marketing video, don't preach about your products too much; add some humor, add some reality as opposed to sales and you will be able to successfully connect with your customer.

One concern many managers have is to determine the return on investment of creating a marketing video. Obviously, with the time and money gone into creating a video, managers want to determine whether or not it was worth it and whether or not they should continue to produce marketing videos. TubeMogul will provide you with a powerful tool of measuring the ROI of your marketing video. TubeMogul will allow you to see what demographics are viewing your videos, what geographical areas are viewing your videos and how long they are viewing your videos. You can analyze everything to ensure that your marketing video is getting the buzz it needs.

Social Media. You're Not Doing it Right.

By Don Snyder, Professional Blogger

Every day, more businesses and individuals jump into the deep end of the social media pool. Internal or external pressures dictate that you simply MUST have a Twitter account or a Facebook page or a LinkedIn profile or a Foursquare offer or even a Groupon discount. The problem is, you are correct about the need for a presence, but most of you are oh-so-wrong in the way you execute.

Social Media. You're not doing it right if...

- 1. You're talking more than you're listening
- 2. You're using social media to just broadcast more of your company announcements, discounts, specials, and press releases
- 3. You're ranting more than you're raving
- 4. You don't have a Facebook business page
- 5. You're not participating in LinkedIn discussion groups
- 6. You're trying to sell your stuff instead of share your knowledge
- 7. You're a hawker instead of a helper
- 8. You're treating social media like a board meeting instead of a happy hour
- 9. You're just handing out your business cards instead of making introductions
- 10. You're not following and liking your clients
- 11. You're not using *Google Alerts* or *Twilerts* to subscribe to search results about your clients, competitors (and yourself)
- 12. You don't use *http://search.twitter.com* to find people in your region who have expressed specific interest in your specific area of expertise
- 13. You're not asking followers and fans their opinions on your products and services, and then using those answers to innovate and constantly improve
- 14. You're not using sites like Focus.com and Quora.com to answer questions and demonstrate your knowledge
- 15. You're not using social media to drop breadcrumbs that lead back to your regular site/blog
- 16. You're not the Mayor of someplace in your area
- 17. You don't treat the Mayor of your business better than you'd treat the REAL mayor if they walked in to your office
- 18. You don't invite and incentivize people to check-in to your location
- 19. Your posts are automated or programmed instead of personalized
- 20. Your profile picture is a logo instead of photo of a human being
- 21. Your social media links aren't featured on your business cards
- 22. You say "Find us on Facebook" and expect people to search for you instead of simply providing the "/page-name"
- 23. You delete negative comments instead of replying to them both personally and publicly
- 24. You try to control the conversation instead of just participating in it
- 25. You're advertising instead of socializing
- 26. You're not retweeting and sharing great posts of others
- 27. You're not caring and sharing
- 28. You're judging your success based upon ROI (Return on Investment) instead of ROE (Return on Engagement)
- 29. You think this list will ever be complete...

... You're Not Doing It Right!

42 / Summer 2011 Circuit Breaker



ADED 35TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITS

Navigating the Sea of Mobility

ADED 2-day Courses: August 12-13, 2011 ADED pre-conference workshop: August 13, 2011 ADED Annual Conference and Exhibits August 14-16, 2011 Early Bird Registration Deadline: June 15, 2011 Location: Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville FL

NMEDA Hall of Fame Call for Nominations continued from page 22

significance of its impact must be chronicled in the nomination form.

5. A candidate must receive a minimum affirmative vote of 60% (5 out of 7) of the members of the NMEDA Hall of Fame Committee.

Hall of Fame Criteria - Allied Categories

- 1. Individuals who are allied to the automotive mobility industry – specifically manufacturers, driving rehabilitation specialists, related health care fields and government personnel working with rehabilitation services, among others – can also become candidates for the NMEDA Hall of Fame.
- 2. An individual becomes eligible for nomination to the Hall of Fame who has been, or is currently, active in the automotive mobility industry.
- 3. A candidate for the NMEDA Hall of Fame must have been well known in the automotive mobility industry and would have been recognized as an industry leader.
- 4. A candidate for the NMEDA Hall of Fame will have been an innovator and trend setter in their respective field of endeavor and would have had a direct and significant positive impact on the automotive mobility industry. Evidence of this legacy and the significance of its impact must be chronicled in the nomination form.
- 5. A candidate must receive a minimum affirmative vote of 60% (5 out of 7) of the members of the NMEDA Hall of Fame Committee.

Selection Limitations

- 1. No more than three individuals meeting the criteria for membership in the Hall of Fame (dealer category) will be selected to the Hall of Fame in a single year with the exception of the first two years, where the maximum per year will be five. No more than one person meeting the criteria for Hall of Fame (Allied Category) will be selected per year with the exception of the first two years, where the maximum per year will be two.
- 2. There is no limit to the number of times a person may be considered for the Hall of Fame.
- 3. There is no lower limit to the number of inductees that must be selected.

Nomination Process

- 1. Anyone in the automotive mobility industry may submit nominations to the NMEDA Executive Director.
- 2. In order to be eligible for nomination, a Hall of Fame nomination form must be completed and returned to the Executive Director, or a member of the Hall of Fame Sub-Committee. These forms may be secured by request or on the NMEDA website.

Announcement and Recognition of Inductees

- 1. The announcement of those selected for induction into the Hall of Fame shall be made in a special release to the Mobility news media by the Executive Director.
- 2. All selections will be presented at the NMEDA Annual Conference.

Hall of Fame Sub-Committee

- The NMEDA Hall of Fame Sub-Committee will be comprised of at least 7 members. These members will review nominations received until October 31 of each calendar year. Committee members will place their votes with the Executive Director by December 15 of each year. Voting will be reported by December 31 of each calendar year.
 - a. The Hall of Fame Sub-committee will be comprised of:
 - · One Board Member dealer
 - One dealer member from the Membership Committee
 - Two additional Dealer Members
 - Two Manufacturer members
 - · One Associate members
 - b. Hall of Fame Sub-Committee members will serve a term of two years with 3 rotating off after the first year and 4 rotating off after the second year. This respective rotation pattern will continue every year thereafter, (3 members one year - 4 members the next).
- 2. The Current Hall of Fame Committee members are:
 - John Quandt Chairperson Bob Nunn – Board Member Doug Eaton Mark Whitehouse Marc Sagal Michael Dresdner Carolyn Watts



Date: ____

Nominees Name: _____

Position/Industry Affiliation:

Reason for Nomination

Submitted	by:	
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Company Affiliation: _____

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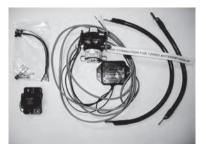
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Google Panda Update continued from page 31

• Social Media – If you are not already using social media to your advantage, now is the time. In addition, you should make sure you're using sites like Facebook, but also developing a presence on Twitter. Tweets through Twitter can actually show up in natural search results, so this provides you with a valuable tool for building additional links back to your website at no additional cost. Of course, the increased visibility, "fan" interaction and the presence of links on your social media pages will also help.

Successfully following these tips will help maintain page rank and even boost your standings in Google search results. It will also help to ensure that you provide the utmost value to your visitors, which is the entire point of the website in the first place.

Please email <u>bob@imedconsulting.com</u> with any questions and/or comments.

TOYOTA AND BRAUN DONATE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE TO ALS GUARDIAN ANGELS FOUNDATION

WICHITA, Kansas – Toyota Motor Sales (TMS), U.S.A., Inc. and the Braun Corporation announced the donation of a 2011 Toyota Sienna with a BraunAbility Rampvan® XT wheelchair van conversion to the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Guardian Angels Foundation. As part of his grand prize package from last year's Toyota Sponsafier 2 contest, Jeff Hallowell of Maize, Kansas will use the Rampvan on behalf of the organization.

Hallowell, who was diagnosed with ALS—commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease—nearly nine years ago, and his son created a dynamic online rendering of a NASCAR Sprint Cup car as part of Toyota's Sponsafier 2 contest—the quest to take one fan's masterpiece from online design to real sheet metal. Their "Lou Gehrig aka ALS" design received thousands of fan votes and a nod from the judges, earning it top honors. As a result, their inspired paint scheme was brought to life at Toyota's PitPass display during the November 2010 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race in Phoenix. Toyota flew Hallowell and his family to Phoenix to attend the race weekend festivities and spend time with several Toyota NASCAR drivers, including Kyle Busch, Joey Logano, Todd Bodine and Mike Skinner. In addition to hosting the family, Toyota also pledged its support to the ALS Guardian Angels Foundation in the form of a Sienna wheelchair van conversion.

"Toyota has a long-standing commitment to serving the community," said Ed Laukes, corporate motorsports marketing manager for Toyota. "We're honored to support the ALS Guardian Angels Foundation and hope this vehicle will provide increased mobility and improved quality of life for Jeff and his family."

"As a company who has served the disability community for over 40 years, Braun understands the significant impact that mobility can have on your life," said Nick Gutwein, President of Braun. "The Hallowell family deserves that independence, and we're proud to be able to help bring it to them."

Toyota Advertising Manager Russ Koble and BraunAbility Area Sales Manager Lloyd Updike will present the 2011 Toyota Sienna Rampvan® XT to the ALS Guardian Angels Foundation and the Hallowell family at Eddy's Toyota of Wichita. The Sienna Rampvan was custom built specifically for Hallowell and his current wheelchair and will assist with his transportation needs.

"The Sienna mobility van will allow my family to travel out of state, do daily errands and attend my son's sports games," said Hallowell. "It will give me independence outside our home. We are so grateful for everything Toyota and Braun has done for us."

The 2011 Rampvan was introduced to the U.S. market in 2010. In partnership with Toyota Mobility, which provides financial assistance and a variety of mobility solutions that meet the transportation

needs of Americans with disabilities, Braun converts Sienna Rampvans to offer mobility to wheelchair users, either as the driver, front seat passenger, or second row passenger. The vehicle features a lowered floor which provides a 56" high door opening, an automatic door and side-entry ramp, and four wheelchair securement positions.



From left: BraunAbility Area Sales Manager Lloyd Updike, Ethan Hallowell, Jill Hallowell, Jeff Hallowell, and Toyota Advertising Manager Russ Koble.

Non-Platform Wheelchair Lifts and FMVSS 403/404

By Jacques Bolduc, P. Eng.

There are wheelchair lifts that do not have platforms that the wheelchair sits on. Some use hoists, or swing straps or fork type arms. There seems to be a growing concern over FMVSS 403 and these non-platform lifts. Non-platform lifts are not required to meet FMVSS 403.

By definition (refer to FMVSS 403 S4): "Platform means that portion of a platform lift on which the mobility aid or passenger rests while being raised or lowered." Then, S3 of FMVSS 403 states: "Application. This standard applies to platform lifts manufactured on and after April 1, 2005, that are designed to carry passengers into and out of motor vehicles." It would seem reasonable to deduct that a wheelchair does not "rest" on a non-platform type lift and they are therefore not required to be compliant to FMVSS 403.

Since the FMVSS 404, which regulates the installation of platform lifts, use the same definitions found in FMVSS 403, hoist or fork type wheelchair lifts do not have to be compliant to FMVSS 404.

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Braun Partners with Bruno in Europe; Acquires Stake in Autoadapt

Winamac, IN – The Braun Corporation and Bruno Independent Living Aids, two leaders in the mobility industry, jointly announced a partnership that will result in global expansion of mobility solutions for persons with physical disabilities. Braun has acquired partial ownership in Autoadapt AB, which is a leading mobility products manufacturer based in Stenkullen, Sweden, with operations in both Sweden and the UK and an established global mobility products network. Bruno had previously held an ownership position in Autoadapt, and the ownership will now be shared with Braun.

The Braun Corporation is a well-known manufacturer of wheelchair lifts and wheelchair accessible vehicles based in Winamac, Indiana. Bruno Independent Living Aids, located in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin is North America's leading producer of home accessibility products including stairlifts and vertical platform lifts in addition to being the leading manufacturer of automotive stowage lifts for scooters, wheelchairs and power wheelchairs. The ownership of Autoadapt now consists of the majority of shares being held equally by Braun and Bruno, with minority ownership by Autoadapt owners Häkan Sandberg and Peter Wahlsten.

"We are enthused about this opportunity to partner with Bruno in Europe and offer a full line of mobility products to customer throughout Europe and the Middle East," stated Braun president Nick Gutwein. "Autoadapt has strong leadership, a great customer-focused culture and an established infasctructure which will enable growth and improve service for mobility customers. We are delighted to be a part of the Autoadapt team an work together to further improve the lives of persons with physical challenges."

"Since acquiring Autoadapt in 2002, we have worked to become the best supplier of automotive mobility equipment in Europe," President and CEO of Bruno Independent Living Aids, Mike Bruno stated. "With the addition of the Braun line of products, Autoadapt will have the most comprehensive offering in the industry. This new partnership allows us to serve an even greater range of people with mobility challenges with the best products in the world."



Canadian Regional Report From the NMEDA Canadian President

As we move further into 2011, we have established committees to do the work that you require us to do, and these committees are in full swing.

The Transport Canada committee has re-joined to send correspondence regarding the issue of moving preowned vehicles across the border for conversion. The Membership committee has found cost-effective means of translating the documents that NMEDA uses into French and has also started a list of members that have left NMEDA to contact and explain the new benefits of NMEDA. The Public Relations committee has met and will be communicating with you shortly. We have allocated the task of reviewing the Bylaws thoroughly to ensure that our mandate is being followed correctly. Initial conversation regarding a direction to travel with the SAAQ has been had and goals have been set. This year will be a year of sweeping change for our membership. I look forward to the challenge that we have in front of us, and I hope that you are embracing the challenge in front of you.

I know that this is a short update, but with so many things in their infancy, there is little that I have to report that is concrete. Please read my next update to see what progress we have made with the forward movement of the QAP, Transport Canada and Membership committees, as there is much in the air in those committees.

I remain committed to NMEDA and to the Canadian membership. Please let your concerns be heard!

Enjoy your summer.

2011 Canadian Board of Directors

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BRUNO SELLS ITS POWER TILT CAP (A.K.A. POW'R TOPPER™) TO CLOCK CONVERSIONS OF GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Bruno Independent Livings Aids has announced that it has sold its power tilt cap product line to Clock Conversions of Grand Rapids, MI. Bruno's trademarked name for the product – Pow'r Topper[™] - was not part of the transaction. This name is being retired.

Under terms of the agreement, Clock acquired all existing inventory, names of key suppliers, Bruno demo equipment stands, manufacturing and assembly fixtures, and engineering and application drawings.

In announcing the sale, Bruno Automotive Product Manager, Andrew Bayer stated, "We are happy that this product could continue to be available, as a solution to protect the mobility device in pickup truck applications." He further said, "Bruno is continuing to streamline our product mix to focus on our core product offerings. We decided to work with Clock as they are a respected 'van converter' in the mobility industry and have the ability to provide power tilt cap dealers installations.

According to a source at Clock, they anticipate to be up and running by mid-June. Any dealers interested in marketing the Clock device are encouraged to contact Brandon Cavagnaro at 800-732-5625 Ext. 309. His e-mail address is bsc@clockconversions.com.

Bruno will continue to handle all warranty support for Pow'r Toppers it sold. Clock will offer full factory installations for any dealers who wish to avail themselves of this service.

JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

Here's a recap of the information covered in last quarter's webinar on Social Media.

What Is Social Media



Social Media is where advertising and public relations shake hands with your customer in ium While some may view it as

the interactive medium. While some may view it as complicated and time consuming, it can be exciting because of the potential it offers when used in the right way. Social media allows you to listen, if you can hear your audience and know when they're talking, this makes damage control easier, faster and more effective. Social media increases brand awareness and can crusade for causes more effectively than any other medium.

The top three social media sites for business are Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. When you participate in social media you can generate exposure for your business, increase traffic to your website, build new business partnerships and bring in new sales leads. Rather than give you a long laundry list of reasons why you should be using social media to promote your business, we'll let the numbers speak for themselves.

- 33% of buyers visit social media sites to engage in product research before making a purchasing decision.
- \cdot 47% say social media sites influence their decisions to purchase a particular brand or service.

Facebook Fan Page

It's not enough to just have a Facebook page for your company you have to make sure you get people to go there. Some creative ways to increase your fan base are:

- \cdot Embed widgets on your website and blog
- If you have an opt-in email list, send out an invitation to your subscribers. Make sure the Facebook logo or badge appears in HTML newsletters
- · Add a link to your Fan page in your emails
- If you host an event, have Fans tag photos of themselves this pushes it out to their friends
- · Load videos and embed on your site

- \cdot Geo-target and place Facebook ads it's the most targeted traffic your money can buy
- Automatically post your Facebook content on Twitter or vice versa
- \cdot Use on print media brochures, orders, print ads
- Put a placard at the front desk, incentivize your customers to join right away via their phones

Keep in mind that:

- You need to have a Facebook page before you can start a Fan page
- · Fan pages are public; anyone can view them
- · All content posted gets indexed by Google
- · You can target your posts by location and language
- · We recommend adding additional Admins to your page
- \cdot All Admins have equal rights to administer your page
- Select your business name/title carefully, once it is set, it is nearly impossible to get it changed
- \cdot You can have customized tabs
- If you have problems with the page, there isn't a phone number on Facebook to call for help

Twitter



Twitter is more focused than Facebook making it easier to combine social and business together. Here are some Twitter tips to help grow your business:

- Do some research and formulate a communication plan. This will help drive consistent messaging.
- Determine your goal. Are you trying to build your awareness/drive customer loyalty?
- Set up a customized background that retains the look and feel of your website. Push out marketing messages, ask and answer questions, engage with people in your community.
- Track and Measure. This will help you identify trends. You can use a tracking code or a coupon code that will help measure conversions. There are also companies out there like Radian6 that are paid tracking services.



Driving Independence

LinkedIn Tips

LinkedIn is considered the "Business Network". It has more than 90 million registered users spanning more than 200 countries around the globe. As a professional networking site it has 21.4 million monthly unique U.S. visitors and 47.6 million globally.

- Did you know that LinkedIn has a business page similar to Facebook with over 85 million businesses? If you haven't created a page, click on Companies on the top navigation and "Add a Company" on the right hand side.
- Recommendations from customers can help you sell your product.
- · Add a "Recommend" button on your website.
- You can bring your blogs into LinkedIn with applications such as Blog links or WordPress
- Videos can be embedded on a page through YouTube.
- LinkedIn allows you to target ads by geography, job function, age and gender.
- · Ads can be set up by PPC or Impressions.

Why Should You Care?

Social media is not for all businesses, but it is utilized by a lot of people. Recent NMEDA studies indicate 2/3 of people with disabilities are active on social networking sites. If you are going to participate in social media you will want to define your social



media strategy and utilize best practices. Plan on posting a minimum of at least two to three times a week on your social media sites. This way you keep the audience engaged on a regular basis. Also expand the topics you blog, post or tweet about. For example, not only does NMEDA talk about adapted vehicles, we also tie in tips on travel, caregivers, service animals, etc. Nurture your relationships and properly maintain your presence. Every company should have a social media policy in place so employees have clear guidelines and parameters to follow.





Mark your calendar and plan to join us for our next webinar on July 18 and 21, where we'll take an in-depth look at email marketing.

NMEDA.com · 866.948.8341

REGIONAL REPORTS

Who Represents You?

These representatives are your voice. If you have any concerns or issues that you need clarification on, call or email your Regional, Associate, or Professional representative and they will assist you in anyway they can. The

Northern Region

Mark DiRosa M.C. Mobility Systems 7588 Tyler Blvd. Mentor, OH 44060 Ph: (800) 951-6238 Fax: (440) 942-8028 Email: <u>mdirosa@mcmobilitysystems.com</u> States Include: Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

MidWest Region

Bob Lundin IMED Mobility 200 East 1st St. Tea, SD 57064 Phone: (605) 498-1601 Fax: (605) 498-2202 bob@mobilitysales.com States Include: Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

Canadian Region

David Hutchison Sparrow Hawk Industries, LTD. 675 Davenport Road Waterloo, ON N2V 2E2 Ph: (519) 884-4295 Fax: (519) 884-1924 Email: davidh@sparrowhawk.ca representatives also write a quarterly article about things that are happening in your region. If you have any information that you would like to share with them, please feel free to do so.

Southern Region

Richard May United Access 2165 Hillshire Circle Memphis, TN 38133 Ph: (901) 888-1010 Fax: (901) 888-1009 Email: richard@unitedaccess.com States Include: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

Western Region

Dan Drury New Horizon Vans, Inc. 3219 Candelaria, NE Albuquerque, NM 87107 Phone (505) 884-2492 Fax (505) 884-8007 dan@newhorizonvans.com States Include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Associate Member

John Anschutz Shepherd Center 2020 Peachtree Rd. NW Atlanta, GA 30309 Ph: (404) 350-7720 Fax: (404) 350-7356 Email: john_anschutz@shepherd.org

REGIONAL REPORTS

Western Region

Hello everyone in the Western Region. First, I want to thank all of you who have contributed your time and talents to make our industry better at meeting customers' needs and expectations. I can't remember a time when dealer participation has been higher in this region. Western Dealers have stepped up and joined the work of several NMEDA committees and are taking on leadership roles in several dealer advisory groups formed by our manufacturers. Ours is a rapidly changing and improving industry and thanks to you the Western Region has a voice in directing and facilitating that process. Thank you again.

This is also a busy time for most of us. I've spoken to very few mobility dealers who are not experiencing a positive turn around in business. Over the past couple of years we have learned to operate leaner stores. Now many are scrambling to hire and train new employees. Don't forget, you now have more resources than ever before to get new hires up to speed and to update training for those who have been with you for a while. NMEDA has a whole menu of training opportunities for members to use, both online and at regional sites. Almost all of the manufacturers now host training classes for technical personnel, as well as sales personnel. NMEDA even has a training calendar to keep track of all completed or needed classes. This is a great tool to keep track of required training for both QAP and manufacturers.

Speaking of QAP; congratulations to those of you who are new to the program and process! Your companies will benefit greatly through your participation. For those of you who are still deciding, I strongly urge you to review all the benefits you receive through NMEDA membership. All NMEDA members have benefited from the work of various committees. If you are unclear on the requirements of QAP participation please visit the NMEDA website and take the QAP I and QAP II classes (available at <u>http://</u><u>members.nmeda.org/members/training/</u>). You can always call the NMEDA office for assistance.

One NMEDA benefit that is gaining momentum is the Cooperative Awareness Program. This awareness campaign is increasing our organization's visibility among Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and other medical referral sources. I am concerned that many members are not taking full advantage of this program. In order to reap maximum gain from CAP you must have a marketing plan of your own. Several people have mentioned they are "too busy" to work on marketing, which is actually the most reliable way to make sure you are "not busy" in the near future.

This time of year offers the most opportunities to market your business. You can create positive community relationships by participating in fundraising and other cause-related events hosted by MDA, MS Society, ALS and Veteran's groups. Each time you and your employees show up to help the communities you serve you are marketing your company and your services. If you always let them know you are NMEDA it will put a local face on a national campaign. The same is true for your local print advertising and company brochures. Place the NMEDA logo on all of it. It's an asset you have paid for; you should use it as often as possible.

If you have any news worthy events coming up please let me know. It's always exciting to hear about dealers winning awards or expanding or moving. Let me know about these types of things so we can all celebrate with you. As always, you can contact me with any NMEDA concerns you may have. I hope you all had a productive spring and that it continues into the summer.

Dan Drury 505-884-2492 dan@newhorizonvans.com

Midwest Region

I hope you are having a great summer!! I have been really busy with NMEDA. Being in the trenches sheds new light on how much takes place behind the curtain! There are several things being worked on that make NMEDA and its members stronger.

NMEDA QAP – It's already mandatory. But, as you can imagine, there are several dealers working through the application process and this will take time. The Membership committee will be calling Non-QAP dealers over the coming weeks to talk with these dealers about becoming QAP. If you are NON-QAP be open minded about making our organization and industry better. QAP is a minimum standard by which your dealership should comply.

Manufacture's Compliance Review Program – The manufacturer reviews are now posted on the NMEDA website and are visible to the public. This is great information that provides peace of mind. Veterans Affairs Initiative – The committee of Dave Hubbard, Sam Cook and Bill Siebert continues to meet on a regular basis with the VA. The relationship continues to get stronger. There is some talk of the PVA assigning someone to this committee.

Cooperative Awareness Program – I also sit on the IPR committee, which oversees the Cooperative Awareness Program. It's hard to believe it has been a year. We recently reviewed the awareness benchmark data. NMEDA has made progress in several areas. Bill Koeblitz, Claudia Obertreis and I have been assigned to a subcommittee that plans to dig deeper into the results and provide the committee with our findings and possible recommendations.

If you have questions or comments please email bob@imedmobility.com Bob Lundin, Midwest Rep

REGIONAL REPORTS

Northern Region

Greetings Northern Dealers,

One of the most difficult things a regional representative has to do is write their quarterly report. We don't hear much feedback from the dealers directly. I would ask that you drop me a line each month telling me what's happening in your markets. I'll compile this and pass it along to all.

Many things that you're doing may help another dealer in the Northern region. With that said, communication has become one of the top priorities at NMEDA over the last two years. Be it through the quarterly *Circuit Breaker* or Short Circuits to the dealers, NMEDA has taken an outstanding approach to getting the word out to all its dealers. And the dealers have responded back to the office each and every time we've asked for much needed information.

When NMEDA committees meet, many times they ask for more information from the membership and the NMEDA office sends out a simple Short Circuit asking for your input. This information is critical to both you as a dealer and to the NMEDA Board as they make informed decisions that affect the entire membership. Without your input many times it appears

Southern Region

An excerpt... 'Responsibility is the Difference' by David Miles and Jay Siemer

"Do you claim responsibility for your actions? For years our industry has been compared to automotive dealerships. In many ways we parallel the car business, but I think there is one key thing that sets us apart, Responsibility. When our customers come to us we have a duty that far exceeds just selling them a van. Through education, guidance on funding, presenting all the options, and service after the sale we create a complete buying experience that gives the customer the comfort they need.

Education is one of the biggest parts of our industry. Understand your customer and their goals. Each of our customers is different and we have to learn about each of them on a personal level. What type of injury do they have? How is their mobility limited? What can we do to overcome those limitations? Many of our customers come to us knowing nothing about our products. We have to get an understanding of not only their present level of function, but how they will progress in the future. We get a complete understanding of who our customer is before we even start trying to sell them a product.

Our customers have to live with these vehicles. A typical car loan will last for up to five years; our customers typically take out loans twice as long. The added cost associated with the vehicles we sell means that our customers will be driving these vans for a long time. We only get one chance to get it right, so we need to take extra care to get them in the best vehicle for them.

We have the unique opportunity to help our customers get funding for their vehicles. The resources available to our customers are much different then a typical car dealer. It is our responsibility to make sure our customer is aware of everything that is available to them. State funding through vocational rehabilitation and veterans associations will completely offset the extra vehicle costs associated with disabilities. There are also endless society and non-profit organizations that can help. We owe it to our customers to make the financial burden of the sale as light as possible. things may be one-sided. This is not the case. Each and every decision is based on the feedback we receive. As any organization grows it is very easy to overlook the need to pass on shared information. From the technician in the shop to the salesman on the floor, each of your employees is an important part of the communication process. This is important to NMEDA as we strive to make the industry better. So tell us by emailing NMEDA at info@nmeda.org or directly to me at mdirosa@mcmobilitysystems.com.

NMEDA has also recently launched a new website with many new and improved features that allow dealers to follow the 'happenings' at NMEDA. Committee information is posted for all to see. If you see something that affects your business please give us your input. Feedback is especially needed for the VA Committee and is critical to its success. The Guidelines Committee is working bi-weekly to revise the current Guidelines for approval for 2012. The Conference Committee is working on the 2012 Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona and is also currently looking at venues for the 2016 Conference. The Education & Training Committee is busier than ever working on both location training and online training for all dealers. These are just a few highlights of the things going on at NMEDA.

Log on to http://members.nmeda.com/ and follow us as we grow into the future.

Mark DiRosa (NMEDA Northern Representative)

The different options our industry has available are endless and can be overwhelming. Full size versus minivan, a folding ramp versus an in floor ramp, entry height, tie down style, the options to consider seem endless. The correct choice can come down to a game of inches. From the angle of each ramp and its transition plate down to the dimensions of the doors and interior compartment, every aspect of our products will improve a person's life or serve as a daily reminder that we didn't do our job.

With an expression of frustration and embarrassment my coworker recalls, "When my son was first injured years ago we ended up buying the wrong van. It wasn't what we needed but we didn't know that at the time. After that we were stuck. It set me back for years." As I listened to his story I could not help thinking that they didn't buy the wrong van, someone sold them the wrong van. Someone didn't take the responsibility of explaining the choices; they only took responsibility for making a sale and made the lives of an entire family more difficult in the process. This needs to be eliminated.

The sale does not end when our customer walks out the door. A typical consumer literally has millions of options when they need service on their automobile. For our customers the choices are far more limited. A person needing service on their vehicle conversion faces a number of challenges unique to their situation. We build relationships with our customers. If they get stuck on the side of the road on Christmas Eve with a broken ramp, they will call us first, and we need to be there to pick up the phone.

These vans are our customers' mobility. If your car breaks down you call a coworker and get a ride to work or rent a car. For many of our customers this is not an option. If you take away their vehicle, you are taking their freedom. Keep that in mind and make sure you do everything you can to avoid putting them through this.

Responsibility is the difference. The discipline to look beyond the business of our business and see the lives we are a part of. The resolve to remember you are an adviser and a guide first and foremost. The discipline to remember a stranger is going to put their trust in you and what you do with that trust will be a daily part of someone's life for years to come.

We hold ourselves responsible, and that responsibility is the difference."

Thank you, Richard May (Southern Rep.)

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AB	
ECO Medical Gordon Hollman, 18303 107 Avenue, Edmonton T5S 1K4	780-483-6232
Mobility Plus Health & Home Care	780-532-3511
Mark Christopherson, 10021 - 115 Ave., Grande Prairie T8V 6P3 Shoppers Home Healthcare 8303-Gold Care Medical, Ltd. Robert Pratt 4619 - 91st Ave. N.W., Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2M7	780-468-4002
Shoppers H & H Care Kevin Bennett #1-2720-12th St. N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 7N4	403-250-2200
BC	
Advanced Mobility Products	604-293-0002
Erik Hagreen 101-8620 Glenlyon Parkway, Burnaby V5J 0B6 Can Am Mobility Darlene Nargang 158 Old Vernon Rd., Kelowna, British Columbia	250-491-0003 V1X 4R2
Mahadev Metal Works & Fabrication Pindz Mooker Unit 124-125-11071 Bridgeport Road Richmond V6 Medichair	604-270-3317 X 1T3 250-571-1456
Allan Dodds #210-450 Landsdowne Street Kamloops V2C 1Y3 Motion Specialties BC Dick Nation 1562 Append August Vanceure	604-321-0009
Rick Nori 1562 Rand Avenue, Vancouver V6P 3G2 Motion Specialties Vancouver Island, Ltd. Rick Nori 3376 Burns Avenue, Victoria V8Z 3P2	250-383-3711
No. 67 Seabright Holdings LTD dba Medichair Nanaimo Mickey Jahelka Unit 106, 2517 Bowen Rd., Nanaimo, V9T 3L2	250-756-9875
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PG Surge-Med Ltd. Melody Chamberlain 4204 25th Ave. Vernon British Columbia V1T 1P4 Shopper Home Healthcare #8203	250-549-7288 604-326-1117
Craig Tschritter #101 - 8289 North Fraser Way, Burnaby V3N 0E Sidewinder Conversions & Mobility, LTD	
Graham Edney 44658 Yale Rd. W., Chilliwack, British Columbia V	
George Mathew 7-45905 Yale Road, Chilliwak V2P 2M6	
MB Assistive Technology Products & Services Ray Folford MH 013 59 Pearl St., Winnipeg, R3E 3L7	204-787-2370
Medichair Brandon/Portage Johannes Van Lankvelt 425 Pacific Avenue, Brandon, R7A 0H3	204-727-6191
Northland Home Healthcare Products Paul Howes 865 Bradford St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0N6	204-786-6786
<u>NB</u>	
Harding Medical Supplies David Chamberlain 24 Elmwood Drive, Moncton E1A 3W6	506-855-5200
Malley Industries, Inc. Terry Malley 1100 Aviation Avenue, Dieppe, New Brunswick E1A	506-859-8591 9A3
Shopper Home Healthcare Michael Melanson, 535 Edinburgh Dr., Moncton, E1E 4E3	506-388-9679
NL	
AIM Services Inc. Mel Fitzgerald 496 Tonsail Road St Johns Newfoundland A1E	709-576-3400

Mel Fitzgerald, 496 Topsail Road, St. Johns, Newfoundland A1E 2C2

<u>NS</u>	
Lawtons Home Health Care	902-480-3590
Stephen Whitman 90 Main Street, Dartmouth B2X 1R5	
MEDIChair	902-453-6900
Blake Scott 3447 Kempt Road, Halifax, B3K 5T7	

ON

AGTA Home Care & Medical Supplies, Inc. Vince Agovino 7695 Jane St., Unit #3, Vaughan L4K 1A8

Q

LE	R MEMBERS	
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	Kristel Perry 330 Sheldon Drive, Cambridge, Ontario NIT 1A9	
	Golden Automobiles & Collision Center Ltd. Harjit Babra 21, Clark Blvd., Brapmton L6W 1X4	905-455-5577
Q	Goldline Mobility & Conversions	519-453-0480
Q	Dean Brock 1759 Trafalgar St., London, Ontario N5W 1X4 Kino Mobility Inc.	416-635-5873
0	Joe Allen 3-1140 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, Ontario M3K 2A2	540 000 0000
Q	Kino Mobility, Inc. Joe Allen 645-C Newbold Street, London, Ontario N6E 2T8	519-690-2300
	Liftability Inc.	613-738-0454
	Donald Johnston 2600 Lancaster Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1B 4Z4 Lucanus Corporation	905-841-4122
	Scott Cretney 5 Furbacher Lane Unit #2, Aurora L4G 6W2	705 700 0076
	MediChair Barrie John Tom 130 Bell Farm Road, Unit 13, Barrie L4M 6J4	705-722-3376
	Medichair Home Healthcare Depot	519-623-9930
	David Parton 1460 Bishop Street N., Cambridge, Aurora N1R 7N MediChair Smiths Falls	613-283-5700
	Jamie Doyle 260 Lombard St., Hwy 15 South, Smith Falls K7A	
	MEDIchair Temiskaming Ltd. Dalas Forget 211 Armstrong Street, New Liskeard P0J 1P0	705-647-6886
	Northend Mobility	905-735-5552
	Kevin Rabe 301 Aquaduct St. Welland, Ontario L3C 1C9 Shopper Home Healthcare	416-701-1351
	Dwayne Gregorchuk, 202 Sparks Ave., Toronto, M2H 2S4	540 AEE AA99
	Shoppers Home Healthcare Bill Burgon 2028 Dundas Street East, London, N5V 1R2	519-455-4488
Q	Sparrow Hawk Industries, Ltd.	519-884-4295
Q	Mark Andrews 675A Davenport Rd., Waterloo, Ontario N2V 2E2 Universal Motion	416-398-4255
	Marco Ferrara 120 St. Regis Crescent South, Toronto M3J 1Y8	540 000 0040
	Wilder Mobility Limited (Medical) Chris Wilder 85 Northland Rd., Waterloo, Ontario N2V 1Y8	519-888-0618
	QC	
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	Evan Piper 1885-B NE 149th Street., North Miami 33181 R & M Mobility	850-479-1766
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Q	Jan Jordan 3414 Interstate Drive, Evansville 47715 Superior Van & Mobility	877-405-9929
Q	Mike Murphy, 3725 W. Cleveland Rd., Suite 400, South Bend 4 Superior Van & Mobility	6628 877-405-9929
Q	George Schultz 5410 S. Madison Ave., Indianapolis 46227 Superior Van and Mobility	877-405-9929
	Traci Garman 2218 Contractors Drive, Fort Wayne 46818	
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Q	Total Mobility Lori Weaver 2406 W. 2nd Avenue, Indianola 50125	515-961-0575
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	Tony Cruise 7921 Bond Street, Lenexa 66214 KENTUCKY	
	C & C Ford - Mercury Tom Stevenson P.O. Box 249, Sturgis 42459	800-332-6696
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		227 280 2004
	Acadiana Handicap Solutions Lee Carricut 224 East Pinhook Rd., Lafayette 70501	337-289-3004
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	Marcus Smith, 1901 West Bank Expressway, Ste 500, Harvey ALLMED Mobility	70058 318-222-2860
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	Regional Medical Rental & Sales Teresa Jones 3003 N Macarthur Drive, Alexandria 71303	318-443-6522
	Regional Medical Rental & Sales John Yeary 9422 Kingston Road, Shreveport 71118	318-686-5277
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	Koons Ford of Annapolis	410-224-2100
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Q	Ron Mohr 6700 Clay Ave., Grand Rapids 49548 Clock Conversions	231-943-9890
Q	Roy Pechler 587 W. Blue Star Drive, Traverse City 49684 Clock Conversions - Lansing Gary Hams 5540 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Ste #11,Lansing 4891 Creative Controls, Inc.	517-272-4488 1-4012 800-539-7237
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	Patrick Brent 740 Watkins Road, Battle Creek 49015 Gresham Driving Aids	248-624-1533
Q	William Dillon P.O. Box 930334, Wixom 48393 MobilityWorks	989-781-8267
Q	Eric Mansfield 8175 Gratiot Rd., Saginaw 48609 MobilityWorks Mark Hondzinski 1965 East Avis, Madison Heights 48071	248-616-3004
	MINNESOTA	
	Bert's Truck Equipment, Inc.	218-233-8681
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Q	Dave Ohrt 1755 W Country Road C., Roseville 55113 Cummings Mobility Conversions & Supply Inc.	763-497-0103
Q	Dave Cummings 6540 Jansen Ave., Albertville 55301 IMED Mobility, Inc.	651-635-0655
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	Scott Andrews 6591 W. Highway 13, Savage 55378 Wheelchairs Plus, Inc.	218-326-1833
	John Hoskins 502 SE 10th Street, Grand Rapids 55744 MISSISSIPPI	
	Auto Spa Inc.	662-871-6395
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Q	David Wolf 1120 Broad Ave., Gulfport 39501	220-003-3331
Q	Handicapable Vans, Inc. Daryel Dunaway 5516 North State Street, Jackson 39206	601-981-0042
Q	J's Mobility Unlimited, Inc. Alex Hunt 3880 Flowood Dr., Flowood 39232	601-939-2112
Q	Mobility Systems, Inc. Paul Blackwell 2857 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg 39402	601-264-0609
	Team Adaptive, Inc.	228-388-5700
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Q	Handicap Conversions, Inc.	816-471-0305
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Q	Peter Beren 8809 East State Rd. 350, Kansas City 64133 Southern Bus & Mobility, Inc.	636-825-0700
Q	Marcel Huels 80 South Highway Dr., Valley Park 63088 United Access	417-890-1043

Jim Pearcy 1389 N. Cedarbrook, Springfield 65802

Q	United Access	314-426-1010
~	Richard May 9389 Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis 63134	
Q	United Access LLC Nicole Rudkin 618 Jackson St., Columbia, 65203	573-874-2214
	MONTANA	
	G & J Enterprises	406-248-5767
	Carlotta Hecker 3353 Old Hardin Rd., Billings 59101 NEBRASKA	
Q	Kohll's Mobility & Rehab Equipment	402-408-1330
	Joe Pepitone 12729 Q Street, Omaha 68137	400 004 0000
	Mobility Motoring, LLC Mark Zach 14450 Meadows Blvd., Suite 2, Omaha 68138	402-884-3333
	NEVADA	
~		700 404 0000
Q	Ability Center-NV Scott Sontas 6001 S. Desetur Plud. Suite N. Les Veges 80118	702-434-3030
Q	Scott Santos 6001 S. Decatur Blvd., Suite N, Las Vegas 89118 Better Life Mobility Center	877-876-9606
ů.	Mo Abusham 2695 S. Decatur Blvd. Ste. 100, Las Vegas 89102	
	Nevada Seating & Mobility, Inc.	775-887-1955
	Wayne Bachand 7875 N. Virginia Unit E, Reno 89506	
	NEW HAMPSHIRE	
	Callahan Motors, Inc.	603-964-1400
_	Don Main 108 Lafayette Rd., North Hampton 03862	
Q		88-RIDE-AWAY
	Matthew Laughlin 54 Wentworth Ave., Londonderry 03053	
	<u>NEW JERSEY</u>	
Q	Accessible Vans and Mobility	856-829-9449
~	Susan Locklear 2303 Wallace Blvd., Cinnaminson 08077	700 545 0000
Q	Brunswick Automotive & Mobility Professionals Robert Schickler 1500 US 1 North, North Brunswick 08902	732-545-6300
Q	Drive-Master Corporation	973-808-9709
-	Peter Ruprecht 37 Daniel Road West, Fairfield 07004	
Q	Fun Truck'n Mobility	973-546-1900
Q	Helen Guinaraes 255 Route 46 West, Saddle Brook 07663 Monmouth Vans, Access and Mobility	732-919-1444
Q	Gene Morton 5105 Rts. 33/34, Farmingdale 07727	752-515-1444
Q	Performance Van Shop, Inc.	856-848-3470
	Ed Herd 1549 Gateway Blvd., Woodbury 08096	
	NEW MEXICO	
	Highland Conversions LLC	505-232-8629
	Bryan Arndt 417 Adams St. S.E., Albuquerque 87108	
Q	New Horizon Vans, Inc. Dan Drury 3219 Candelaria, NE, Albuquerque 87107	505-884-2492
	Southwest Lift Installation, LLC	505-891-3346
	Renee Kirkland 315 B Juan Tabo Blvd., NE, Albuquerque 8712	
	NEW YORK	
Q	Abilities Unlimited of NY, Inc.	800-664-8434
~	John Holuczak 90 E. Jefryn Blvd., Deer Park 11729	
	Accessible Mobility, LLC	203-869-4038
_	Chris Canavan 11 Hillside Avenue, Port Chester 10573	
Q	Advance Mobility Jeff Grobman 4214 Glenwood Road, Brooklyn 11210	718-253-1212
Q	Agor Enterprises	315-510-4272
~	Warren Agor 1241 Erie Blvd. W., Syracuse 13204	
Q	Agor Enterprises, Inc.	585-385-2556
~	Warren Agor 951 Panorama Trail South, Rochester 14625	FOF 407 7000
Q	Autocrafting Mobility Solutions of Rochester LLC Jeff Curts 997 Beahan Road, Rochester 14624	585-427-7220
Q	Boulevard Van City	716-731-4335
	Frank Southerland 2708 Niagara Falls Blvd., Wheatfield 14304	
Q	Bussani Mobility	516-938-5207
~	John Bussani 500 Central Ave., Bethpage 11714	014 005 0007
Q	Bussani Mobility Daniel Bussani 501 Concord Avenue, Mamaroneck 10543	914-835-8267
Q	Craftsmen Mobility Systems	607-669-4530
	Tom Egan 570 Hance Pd Binghamton 13903	

Q Craftsmen Mobility Systems Tom Egan 570 Hance Rd., Binghamton 13903

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Q	Fenton Mobility Products	716-484-7014
Q	Mary Gabalski 1209 East Second Street, Jamestown 14701 Main Mobility Tom Lorentz 9580 Main Street, Clarence 14031	716-759-6811
Q	Mobility Services, Inc	718-267-2921
Q	Joseph Balaban 19-57 Steinway St., Astoria 11105 MobilityWorks Bill Koeblitz 165 Freemans Bridge Rd., Scotia 12302	800-841-3150
Q	Penn York Mobility	607-773-3622
	Rex Maxey 69 Main St., Binghamton 13905 Priority Van Sales, Inc.	518-654-8308
Q	Vincent Inzerilli 732 County Route 24, Corinth 12822 Specialty Conversions, Inc.	631-321-4196
Q	Daniel Rolland 615 Sunrise Hwy., West Babylon 11704 Tim's Trim, Inc.	585-429-6270
	Timothy Miller 25 Bermar Pk., Rochester 14624	
	NORTH CAROLINA	
	101 Mobility, LLC Joseph L. Sampson 2234 S. 17th Street, Wilmington 28401	910-350-2755
	Care Solutions Kaye Tefel 700 Ray St., Hendersonville 28792	828-698-9844
Q	Carolina Mobility Sales, LLC Jim Branning 4025 Queen City Dr., Charlotte 28208	704-399-0900
	Freedom Mobility Aids James May 205 Cedar Lane, Clemmons 27012	336-766-8520
	Helping Wheels Inc. Stephen Williamson 37 Rodeo Road, Leicester 28748	704-543-3101
Q	Ilderton Conversion of Charlotte Catherine Martin 5518 Westpark Dr., Charlotte 28217	704-523-2022
Q	Mountain Adaptive/The Van Shop Brett Ferguson 35 Dogwood Rd., Asheville 28806	828-670-1111
	Stalls Medical, Inc. dba Adaptive Vans Inc. Tim Alberts 5995-119 Chapel Hill Rd., Raleigh 27607	919-233-0732
Q	Van Products, Inc. Bill Miller 2521 Noblin Road, Raleigh 27604	919-878-7110
	OHIO	
Q	Columbus Mobility Specialists, LLC	614-825-8996
•	Scott Grassette 6330 Proprietors Rd., Suite C, Worthington 430	
Q	Key Mobility Services Cecil Patrick 1944 U.S. St. Rt. 68 N., Xenia 45385	800-539-5438
Q	M.C. Mobility Systems Nelson King 214 Valley St., Dayton 45404	937-222-5001
Q	M.C. Mobility Systems Carmen Paterniti 7588 Tyler Blvd., Mentor 44060	800-951-6238
Q	M.C. Mobility Systems, Inc. Jim Hammer 7233 Industrial Pkwy. Plain City 43064	800-834-8301
Q	M.C. Mobility Systems, Inc. Cassy Bell 10691 Reading Rd., Evendale 45241	513-469-8220
Q	Marietta Mobility (Steve's Vans & Accessories Unl.) Steve Hesson 211 South 8th Street, Marietta 45750	800-690-4950
Q	MobilityWorks Bill Koeblitz 1020 Laskey Rd., Toledo 43612	800-345-3150
Q	MobilityWorks Brian Austin 810 Moe Dr., Akron 44310	800-638-8267
Q	MobilityWorks Jeffrey S. Whitt 12117 Princeton Pike, Cincinnati 45246	513-791-4000
Q	Modified Vehicle Specialists, Ltd. Christopher Sullivan 2705 Nebraska Ave., Toledo 43607	419-535-1850
	OKLAHOMA	
0		105 812 0511
Q	HandiCap Aids Company Pat Bradshaw 730 Hefner Rd., Oklahoma City 73114	405-842-0511
	Handicapped Vehicle Services Unlimited Saxon Moore 7215 E. 46th St., Tulsa 74145	918-622-8400
Q	Newby-Vance Mobility Marcus Seeger-Newby 5632 S. Division Street, Guthrie 73044	405-282-2113

	OREGON	
	Advanced Mobility of Bend, LLC Dan Cummins 1045 NE 3rd St., Bend 97701	541-382-6016
Q	All in One Mobility Paul Robin 12833 NE Airport Way, Portland 97230	503-255-5005
	Auto Mobility, LLC	541-672-8812
	Justin Shoptaw 729 SE Spruce St., Roseburg 97470 Mobility Access Options, Inc.	541-245-4846
Q	Rodger McKeehan 4822 Industry Drive, Central Point 97502-328 MPJ, Inc.	36 541-726-4001
Q	David Jennings 3574 Marcola Road, Springfield 97477 Performance Mobility, Inc.	503-243-2940
Q	Vicky Aubry-Rayburn 4347 NW Yeon Ave., Portland 97210 R&J Mobility Services, Inc.	503-838-5520
	Gayle Rowland 155 "E" Street PO Box 128, Independence 9735 PENNSYLVANIA	51
	Adaptive Driving Systems	610-777-2273
Q	Richard Webb 6 A Parkside Avenue, Shillington 19607 American Mobility, Inc.	215-244-6600
Q	Brian Mraz 3494 Progress Dr., Unit H, Bensalem 19020 Garnon Mobility Vehicles	814-833-6000
Q	Robert Link 1617 Peninsula Dr., Erie 16505 Keller Wheelchair Lifts	570-288-1004
Q	James Keller 197 Main St., Luzerne 18709 Keystone Coach Works	412-833-1900
Q	David Knaus 4786 Library Rd., Bethel Park 15102 Keystone Mobility	717-901-3090
Q	Andrew Sterling. CEO 5409 Locust Lane, Harrisburg 17109 M.I.T.S. Corporation	717-235-5899
Q	Judy Boyce 11448 N. Main St. Extended, Glen Rock 17327	412-824-8091
	Lance Alexander 1090 Mosside Blvd, Wall 15148	
Q	Jon Kulesa 2460 General Armistead Ave., Ste 100-150, Norrist	
	Total Mobility Services Greg Seitz 7917 Derry St. Suite 124, Harrisburg 17111	800-558-7408
Q	Raymond Dallape, Jr. 4785 Penn Ave. Box 7, Boswell 15531	814-629-9935
Q	VCI Mobility Jack Donovan 925 S. Trooper Rd., Norristown 19403	610-666-9100
Q	VCI Mobility Heather Roche 6475 Ruch Road, Bethlehem 18017	610-837-0707
	PUERTO RICO	
	Equipos Pro Impedidos De P.R., Inc. Jaime Rivera GPO Box 9734, Caguas 00725	787-746-7667
	RHODE ISLAND Comprehensive Home Medical Equipment, Inc.	401-463-9400
	David J. Mignacca, Sr. 1150 Oaklawn Ave., Cranston 02920	401-403-3400
	SOUTH CAROLINA Abacare Home Medical	843-797-5700
	Travis Hayes 8410 Rivers Avenue Suite E, Charleston 29406 Bryant Pharmacy & Supply	864-224-0711
Q	Giles Canter, 1901 N. Main Street, Anderson 29621 Carolina Mobility Sales, LLC	803-791-7791
-	Tim Peterson 3624 Fernandina Rd., Columbia 29210 Free Spirit Mobility & Home Medical	864-877-8566
Q	Tom Conway 107 W. Wade Hampton Blvd., Greer 29650 Ilderton Conversions of Charleston, LLC	843-576-0414
	Joe Tuten 1033 Wappoo Rd., Unitt D, Charleston 29407	
Q	Southeastern Health Plus, Inc. Troup Bower 11816 Hwy 17 Bypass, Murrells Inlet 29576	843-651-5795
	SOUTH DAKOTA Black Hawk Vans	605-342-2104
~	Paul J. Bettmeng 3156 Haines Rd., Rapid City 57701	
Q	IMED Mobility Rich Struss 200 East 1st Street, Tea 57064	605-498-2200

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	R&R Mobility Conversions, Inc Roger Mofle 400 S. Marion Rd. Sioux Falls 57106 TENNESSEE	605-335-8646
Q	Apple Independence Mobility Jeff Apple 306 N. Willow Ave, Cookeville 38501	877-528-5788
	Apple Independence Mobility, LLC Jeff T. Apple 1152 Pine St., Lebanon 37087	931-528-7888
	Handicap of Jackson LLC	731-660-6116
Q	Ty Jones 623 C. Old Hickory Blvd., Jackson 38305 HDS VANS & Mobility	615-280-5058
Q	Cindy Shaffer 173 Industrial Dr., Lavergne 37086 HDS Vans & Mobility	423-308-8267
	Michael Dresdner 1325 Mackey Branch Drive, Chattanooga 33 Jackson Medical Supply-Scooters Unlimited	731-664-7879
Q	Phillip Dennison 110 Carriage House Dr., Jackson 38305 Mountain Adaptive	423-283-9111
Q	John Eslinger 3705 Bristol Hwy., Johnson City 37601 Superior Van & Mobility, LLC	877-405-9929
	Michael Murphy 10640 Braden Dickey Lane, Knoxville 37932 Tennessee Mobility	615-451-7373
Q	Chris Schreiber 1015 S. Water Ave., Gallatin 37066 United Access	901-888-1010
	Bill Schwam 2165 Hillshire Circle, Memphis 38133 TEXAS	
	Above & Beyond Mobility Will Hopson P.O. Box 132, Ben Wheeler 75754	903-833-2639
Q	Access 2 Mobility, Inc. Jud DeMott 12406 SH 155 South., Tyler 75703	877-254-5438
	Access Mobility Rick Sowder 414 April Lane, China Spring 76633	254-848-5990
Q	Adaptive Driving Access Inc. GM Geoffrey Smith (Smitty) 6836 N. Sam Houston Pkwy W., Houst	713-874-9100
Q	Adaptive Driving Access, Inc. James Norris 3430 E. Sam Houston Parkway S., Pasadena 77	281-487-1969
Q	Advanced Mobility Systems of Texas Sandi Hudson 2110 N. Beach, Ft.Worth 76111	817-429-1273
Q	Advanced Mobility Systems of Texas Kevin Quesenberry 3029 E. Meadows Blvd., A-2, Mesquite 7	972-270-7114
Q	Alamo Mobility, Inc. Martin Smith 6473 DeZavala Rd., San Antonio 78249	210-697-8884
Q	American Lift Aids	409-832-3400
Q	Silvia Baker 2310 Calder, Beaumont 77702 American Lift Aids, Inc.	903-581-8844
	Tim Baker 2407 W. Southwest Loop 323, Tyler 75701 Austin Mobility	512-436-0820
	Charles Lincoln 15301 North IH 35, Suite A, Pflugerville 78660 Auto & Home Mobility Solutions	979-589-2005
	Kyle D. Smith 8885 State Highway 21 East, Bryan 77808 Bek Medical, Inc.	915-599-1129
	Joel Silva 1239 Lafayette, El Paso 79907 Bobcat Mobility	903-668-4955
	David Mann 181 PR 3719, Hallsville 75650 BritKare Home Medical	806-351-2500
	Josh Britten 2112 S. Coulter, Amarillo 79106 Ewell Equipment Co., Inc.	936-639-1391
	Robin Wanner 307 N. Timberland, Lufkin 75901 Interstate Mobility, LLC	254-235-9935
	Stan Rife 3325 S. Interstate 35, Waco 76706 Lift & Go Mobility, advisor of Summit HME, Inc.	210-521-8157
Q	Nathan Schmidt 1070 Arion Circle, Suite 164, San Antonio 782 Lift Aids, Inc.	16 817-835-0035
	Christie McClanahan 1500 Westpark Way, Euless 76040 Marshall Mobility Plus	956-971-8646
Q	Michael Bird 120 North 20th Street, McAllen 78501 Mobility Headquarters of Texas LLC	713-939-9922
	Shay Lovett 14300 NW Freeway, Ste B-10, Houston 77040 Mobility Outfiters, Inc. Steve Piezze 2601 Summit Avenue, Suite 200, Plane 75074	972-509-5233
	Steve Pierce 2601 Summit Avenue, Suite 300, Plano 75074	

Q	Mobility Plus	713-468-4683
~	Trey Morris 1789 Upland Dr., Houston 77043 Mobility Products	915-779-2200
	Jose Rivera 8409 Lockheed Drive, Suite 23, El Paso 79925	
	Mobility Unlimited Lara Niemann P.O. Box 4534, Odessa 79760	432-570-5079
Q	Open Road Mobility Jerry Beck 6103 Star Lane, Amarillo 79109	806-353-2747
Q	Open Road Mobility Jaime Jimenez 7411 – 82nd St., Lubbock 79424	806-771-5873
	Para Driving Aids Robert Allejos 10624 N. IH35, San Antonio 78233	210-655-5438
	Pitifer ACE Medical Equipment dba Ace Med Equip Michael Pitifer 7405 W. 82nd, Suite A, Lubbock 79424	806-771-4976
	Texas Medical	512-740-2095
	Leonard M. Garcia 4202 Santiago #9 St., Austin 78745 The Mobility Store, Inc.	361-814-5438
	Gary Martinez 5544 Kostoryz Rd., Corpus Christi 78415 Valley Mobility Plus, Inc.	800-940-6505
Q	Mickey White, Jr. 4614 N. Expressway 83, Brownsville 78526 United Access of Dallas	972-240-8839
	Bobby Bryson 175 E. I-30, Garland 75043 UTAH	
	Alpine Home Medical	801-463-0044
0	Steven Broadbent 4030 South State Street, Salt Lake City 8410	17
Q	Freewheel Mobility Paul Mathews 680 N. 1000 W., Unit 8, Centerville 84014	801-294-0550
	VERMONT	
Q	Ride-Away 88	8-RIDE-AWAY
	Briant Hamrell 5C David Drive, Essex Junction 05452	
	C & C Mobility, LLC	877-325-7733
	Greg Candelora 9577 Fletchers Chapel Rd., King George 2248 Hampton Roads Mobility, Inc.	35 757-848-5884
~	Elsie M. White 550 B Rotary St., Hampton 23661	
Q	Independent Lifestyles Carrie Weeks 4880 S. Amherst Hwy., Madison Heights 24572	434-846-7510
Q	M.I.T.S. of VA Richard Baldwin 2075 W. Main St., Waynesboro 22980	540-932-7300
Q	Mobility Center of Virginia Kaye Crenshaw 249-255 E. German School Rd., Richmond 232	804-231-7774 224
	Mobility Plus, Inc. of Virginia	540-389-3400
Q		88-RIDE-AWAY
Q	Joy Darr 6059 Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk 23502 Ride-Away 88	8-RIDE-AWAY
	Rick Adams 232 E. Belt Blvd., #100, Richmond 23224	
	WASHINGTON	
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Q	Access Mobility Systems dba JDR Corporation Jennifer Richardson 13011 Highway 99, Everett 98204	425-353-6563
Q	Goldenwest Mobility	509-484-3842
Q	Roland Lamarche 1815 E. Francis, Spokane 99208 Kersey Mobility Systems, Inc.	253-863-4744
Q	Mike Kersey 6015 160th Ave. E, P.O. Box 928, Sumner 98390 Paul Parish Limited	509-735-9820
	Paul Parish 6400 W. Okanogan Ave., Kennewick 99336 WEST VIRGINIA	
	Access & Mobility Products	304-522-6808
	Justin Murdock 302 Virginia Avenue, Huntington 25701 Van Lifts Unlimited, Inc.	888-727-2202
	Frank Edwards RR 12 Box 283, Hurricane 25526 WISCONSIN	
Q	A & J Mobility	608-579-1500

Q	A & J Mobility John Smith 333 Washington Street, Valders 54245	920-775-9333	Q	GT Mobility and Services Todd Nault 844 Ontario Road, Green Bay 54311	920-491-8384
Q	A & J Mobility Steve Lee 2650 Prospect Drive, Eau Claire 54703	715-833-9830	Q	Mobility Works Andrew Blumberg N8 W22195 Johnson Drive Ste. 130, Wauke	262-574-0970 esha 53186
Q	A & J Vans, Inc. dba A & J Mobility Jon Noegel 3058 Helsan Drive, Richfield 53076	800-517-1024		WYOMING	
Q	Advantage Mobility & Services, LLC Todd A. Nault 2833 Stanley St., Stevens Point 54481	715-341-2712		Frontier Access & Mobility Systems, Inc. Andy McMahone 1207 E. Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne 82001	307-637-7663
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	207-777-3500
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Arizona

<u>Arizona</u>	
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	Db: (710) 497 7050
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Dates To Remember...

The calendar of upcoming events is provided as a service to NMEDA members. The *Circuit Breaker* cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information provided. Please verify dates and locations with the organizations listed.

June 3 – 4, 2011 – Toronto, Ontario, Canada: <u>People in Motion</u>. Queen Elizabeth Building Exhibition Place. Visit <u>www.people-in-motion.com</u> for more information.

July 8 – 10, 2011 – Chicago, Illinois: <u>Abilities Expo Chicago</u>. Schaumburg Convention Center. Visit <u>www.abilitiesexpo.com/chicago/</u> for more information.

August 6 – 9, 2011 – New Orleans, Louisiana: <u>National Convention for Disabled American Veterans</u> (DAV). Hilton new Orleans Riverside. Visit <u>www.dav.org</u> for more information.

August 12 – 16, 2011 – Jacksonville, Florida: <u>ADED 35th Annual Conference</u>. Hyatt Regency Riverfront. Visit <u>www.driver-ed.org</u> for more information.

August 26 – 28, 2011 – Houston, Texas: <u>Abilities Expo Houston</u>. Reliant Park Expo Center. Visit <u>www.abilitiesexpo.com/houston/</u> for more information.

September 23 – 24, 2011 – Atlantic City, New Jersey: <u>World Congress & Expo on Disabilities</u>. Atlantic City Convention Center. Visit <u>www.wcdexpo.com</u> for more information.

October 12 – 14, 2011 – Bloomington, Minnesota: <u>Closing the Gap – 29th Annual Conference</u>. Sheraton Bloomington Hotel. Visit <u>www.closingthegap.com</u> for more information.

November 1 – 4, 2011 – Las Vegas, Nevada: <u>2011 SEMA Show</u>. Las Vegas Convention Center. Visit <u>www.semashow.com</u> for more information.

November 3 – 5, 2011 – Schaumburg, Illinois: <u>2011 ATIA Conference - Chicago</u>. Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center. Visit <u>www.atia.org</u> for more information.

February 22 – 24, 2012 – Phoenix, Arizona: <u>21st Annual NMEDA Conference</u>. Hyatt Regency and Phoenix Convention Center. Visit <u>www.nmeda.org</u> for more information.

April 24 – 26, 2012 – Detroit, Michigan: 2012 SAE World Congress. Cobo Center. Visit <u>www.sae.org/congress/</u> for more information.

April 26 – 29, 2012 – Indianapolis, Indiana: <u>AOTA's 92nd Annual Conference & Expo</u>. Visit <u>www.aota.org</u> for the latest information.

To have your information included in <u>Dates to Remember</u>, mail or fax the information at least twelve weeks before the event to *Circuit Breaker*, 3327 W. Bearss Ave., Tampa, Florida 33618 or fax (813) 962-8970.

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