District 1 News

Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties

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Got news?

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Glen Bramlitt

District 1 prepares for the Equipment Operator's Safety Training Conference

District 1 maintenance offices (Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland, and Sumter) have put their game faces on, buckled up those seat belts, and put their skill to work. No, it's not the Daytona 500 – it's the 2015 Equipment Operators Safety Training Conference.

Each year, maintenance offices from all over the country compete in various equipment events. The events range from safely navigating a tractor through a tight turning course, parallel parking a tractor truck with a lowboy, maneuvering a motor grader through a course for time, and picking up golf balls with a backhoe and placing them in concrete test cylinders. Each county chooses their most experienced operators in hopes of advancing through to both the state and regional competitions.

In 2014, James Catoe of Kershaw Maintenance, and Scott Burgess of Lexington Maintenance both represented District 1 in the motor grader competition. James Catoe finished a solid second place in the regional competition. Both men hope to get another chance to bring home a first place finish, as do other operators of District 1.

District 1 competition is scheduled for April 22 at the State Equipment Depot.

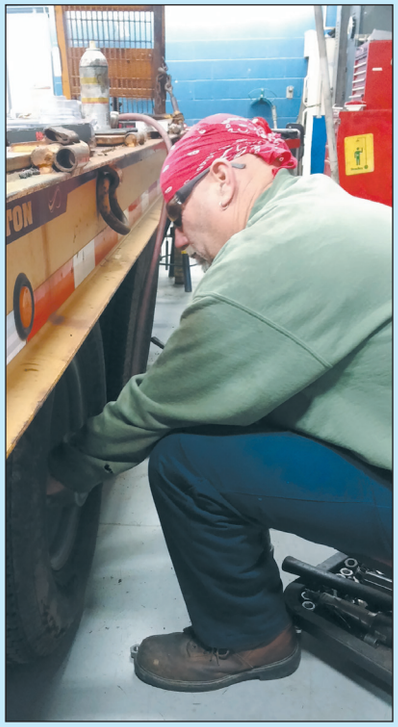
GLEN BRAMLITT/DISTRICT 1

Scott Burgess of Lexington Maintenance navigates the Motor Grader course during practice for the 2015 Equipment Operator's Safety Training Conference.

Meet Shane Byrd

Richland Maintenance has a new Shinn Cutter Operator and he brings thirty years of experience in drilling and blasting mining, doubles as a mechanic in the Richland Maintenance Shop, helps with the Winter Maintenance Crew, and knows a secret for catching the best Spanish mackerel. His name is Shane Byrd.

Byrd, a native of North Carolina, moved to West Columbia, South Carolina in 2001. After spending thirty years in the drilling and blasting field, he finds himself setting new long-term goals with Richland Maintenance. Serving as the Shinn Cutter Operator since December 2014, Byrd quickly transitioned to mechanic mode when the Shinn Cutter became inoperable and has become a valuable asset to the shop. He has a wife, four sons, and one daughter to keep him busy when he's away from work – which includes riding his motorcycle and fishing at the beach. While very much a family-man, "kid free, riding free," would be his perfect day.

The next time you're visiting Richland Maintenance, or you happen to be fishing from his favorite spot at Garden City Pier in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, welcome him with a hearty handshake – and maybe he'll share that secret for catching Spanish mackerel.

Shane Byrd takes time away as the Shinn Cutter Operator for Richland Maintenance to help with equipment preventive maintenance.