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Parting Shot . . . Wayne Waarvik 12
Spring came early to Montana this year which made for a very enjoyable MACRS spring conference. Most Montana counties were represented at the MACRS conference by county commissioners and county road department personnel. We appreciate your contributions to this great organization and hope the education and camaraderie rewarded you for your efforts.

Please stay involved with MACRS through the officers, your district representative or through any of us here at the LTAP office. We need your input to continue to provide quality education where and when you need it.

With the onset of spring, we are reminded that our gravel roads need attention very quickly. This time of year we try to restrict heavy loads on soft roads, especially those with frost heaves. County road departments try to make sure they have quality material available for the upcoming construction season. The county road department shops maintain equipment and get ready for rebuilding gravel roads. There is a planned schedule to meet top priorities first. But have counties spent the time, resources, and energy preparing employees for the upcoming maintenance and construction season?

We want to remind everyone gravel roads courses are being held in Townsend (May 6), Baker (May 26), and Roundup (May 28). Please make sure all of your new employees receive this valuable training and invite your experienced employees back for a refresher course. If you have been involved in this training in the past, we need your experience and input at the class. This greatly enhances other counties’ abilities to respond to the public’s requests. So come prepared to learn or come prepared to contribute.

Again thank you for your involvement with our program,

Steve Jenkins, Montana LTAP Director
Montana LTAP Director Steve Jenkins presented four Road Masters and thirty-one Road Scholars their awards at the recent April MACRS Banquet held in Great Falls.

“Our Roads Scholar Program continues to grow,” Jenkins said. “We now have a total of 286 Roads Scholars and 15 Road Masters. In our data base, we have over 2,500 county road and city street personnel working toward their Roads Scholars awards. Just contact our office for information.”

Roads Scholars - Class of 2015
Kraig Bergum, Fergus County
Chad Cavender, Stillwater County
Andy Dean, Yellowstone County
Clint Dumas, Hill County
Paul Franzel, Rosebud County
Herb Fullerton, Valley County
Larry Gibson, Richland County

Brad Hallman, Rosebud County
Bernard Hansen, Rosebud County
Kip Harris, Jefferson County
Doug Hecker, Richland County
David Hoge, Teton County
Curt Holter, Valley County
Robert Kirby, Sheridan County
Travis Leslie, Lewis & Clark County

Jeff Mielke, Flathead County
Dwight Miller, Sanders County
Bruce Neill, Cascade County
Ed Pepos, Richland County
David Prunty, Flathead County
Warren Quinlan, Rosebud County
Ray Reynolds, Hill County
Tom Sarrazin, Park County

Jason Schaeffer, Lewis & Clark County
John Schreiber, Dawson County
Ellis Shammel, Madison County
Paul Shaw, Madison County
Oscar Thompson, Yellowstone County
CJ Thornberg, Rosebud County
Willie Tipton, Yellowstone County
Gordon Wetzsteon, Madison County

Spring Cleaning
By Pat Kountz, Jefferson County

In the early spring while working to clean ditches and reclaim material along dirt roads, Jefferson County Road Department crew members have developed an innovative way to separate desirable road material from vegetation, debris and oversized material.

By utilizing a PTO-driven rotary rock rake, they are able to reclaim usable material that has been lost from the road surface. Following is the sequential order of how it’s done:

Step 1: Using motorgrader, pull material from ditches onto the road. Then take all materials to center of road as a windrow.

Step 2. Pull rock rake through windrow to break up clumps and remove vegetation, oversized rock and debris to downhill side of road.

Step 3. Using grader, pull raked material back to center of road as a windrow, and then lay out material as desired.

Using this rock rake allows operators to recover material lost from road surface and put it back on the road surface.

---

Photo 1: Material pulled from ditches with motorgrader

Photo 2: Material windrowed in center of road

Photos 3A and 3B: Tractor and rock rake

Continued on Page 5...
The other advantage is ending up with clean ditches that will allow water to easily flow to culverts.

Photos by Pat Kountz, Jefferson County
**March 2015**

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1: New Year’s Day - MT LTAP Offices Closed  
11-15: 94th Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC  
12-16: Safety Fest, FVCC, Kalispell - http://www.safetyfestmt.com/  
19: Martin Luther King Day - Offices Closed  
20: MT LTAP Safety Webinar-Temp. Traffic Control 7:30am-8:00am  
26-28: 12th Annual Safety Congress - Great Falls, MT (MT LTAP):  
26am: Work Zone Tech  
26pm: Traffic Control Supervisor  
27: Traffic Control Supervisor  
28: Roadway Safety Training

**April 2015**

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1-2: MACRS 35th Annual Conference Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT (MT LTAP)  
12-15: APWA North American Snow Conference - Grand Rapids, MI  
More info: http://www.apwa.net/Snow  
21: MT LTAP Safety Webinar: Electrical Safety 7:30-8:00am  
19-23: NACE Annual Conference 2015, Daytona Beach, FL

**May 2015**

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6: Gravel Roads Maintenance & Design - Townsend  
7: Work Zone Tech/Flagger Certification - Helena, MT  
14: Telecom Webinar - Work Zone Flagging  
17-23: National Public Works Week (APWA)  
http://www.apwa.net/discover/National-Public-Works-Week  
19: MT LTAP Safety Webinar: Road Stabilization/Dust 7:30-8:00am  
25: Memorial Day - Offices Closed  
26: Gravel Roads Maintenance & Design - Baker  
28: Gravel Roads Maintenance & Design - Roundup

**June 2015**

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2-4: Safety Fest, Butte - http://www.safetyfestmt.com/  
9: Work Zone Flagging Course - Bozeman (MT LTAP)  
10: MACRS Executive Meeting, 1-5pm - Bozeman  
11: MT LTAP Annual Advisory Board Meeting, 9am-12pm - Bozeman  
16: MT LTAP Safety Webinar - Mobile Equipment 7:30am-8:00am

**Safety Meeting Webinars from Montana LTAP**  
April 21, 2015: Electrical Safety  
May 19, 2015: Gravel Road Stabilization  
June 16, 2015: Mobile Equipment Safety  
Monthly Thirty-Minute Safety Webinars held at 7:30am on Tuesday Mornings  
Call Montana LTAP at 1-800-541-6671 for more information.

Some dates and locations are subject to change.  
Call Genevieve Houska, LTAP, 1-800-541-6671 to confirm.
### Calendar of Events • July 2015 - December 2015

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4: Fourth of July Holiday - Offices Closed  
14: MT LTAP Webinar: First Aid- 7:30-8:00am  
20-23: National LTAP/TTAP Summer Conference, Savannah, Georgia

#### Training on Request:
- Summer Survival
- Hand Safety
- Slips, Trips, & Falls

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2 & 3: 26th Annual Equipment Safety Training and Snow Rodeo - Great Falls, MT (MT LTAP) *Brochure available in July*

7: Labor Day Holiday - Offices Closed  
20-24: MACo 106th Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Missoula, MT  
www.mtcounties.org or MACo’s Karen Houston 406-449-4360  
22: MT LTAP Safety Webinar: Health Safety 7:30am-8:00am

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11: Veterans’ Day - Offices Closed  
TBA - LTAP Leadership - TBA 8am - noon  
TBA - MACRS Planning Meeting, 1-5pm and 8am - noon;  
25: MT LTAP Safety Webinar: TBA 7:30am - 8:00am  
26 - 27: Thanksgiving Holiday - Offices Closed

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If you injure or kill someone while DUI, you can be convicted of vehicular homicide while under the influence. Expect a prison term up to 30 years and fines up to $50,000, or both. DON’T DRINK & DRIVE! § 45-5-106, MCA
Great Falls was the host city for MACRS 2015 Conference held March 30-April 2, 2015. According to MT LTAP Conference Coordinator Genevieve Houska the registration participation exceeded last year’s numbers with just over 370 attending.

This year’s preconference on Monday, March 30, was well attended with the opening topic on gas tax and GIS-based inventories addressed by Brian Andersen, Montana Department of Transportation. Following this session Doug Nisbet, Lewis & Clark County, informed all about the PTH Crusher and how his county has found this piece of equipment to be able to crush “in place” gravel and assist in providing savings to the county.

On similar topic, Steve Jenkins, Montana LTAP Director, covered county road standard specifications. Then was joined by Ovila Byrd, Flathead County Road and Bridge Supervisor, reviewing several recent gravel roads rebuilt in Flathead County. Byrd noted the importance of having gravel standards and holding the materials company to these gravel standards.

To wrap up the last topic at the Preconference, Jenkins presented on understanding how to calculate quantities, importance of compaction, why the necessity to be able to measure proper moisture in materials, and what factors enter into keeping a gravel road stabilized.

On Tuesday morning, opening the conference was Presentation of Colors by the Marine Corp Honor Guard followed by the singing of the National Anthem by the Turner Elementary Choir from Blaine County. MACRS President Ovila Byrd then welcomed the conference attendees followed by comments from Gary Krueger, Flathead county Commissioner, Cascade County Commissioner Joe Briggs, and Madison County Commissioner and MACo President Dave Shultz. US. Senator Steve Daines provided a video message to the conference participants. Robyn Madison spoke on behalf of U.S. Senator John Tester. Mike Waite provided information on behalf of U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke.

Colonel Monte S. Harner, Commander of the 341st Mission Support Group, Malmstrom Air Force Base, addressed the importance of maintaining missile site roads within counties and appreciated the cooperation of county road departments.

Keynote speaker, Mark Willmarth, Vision West Consulting, presented on “Seeking and Retaining Excellent Employees.” He covered the importance of how to provide support and appreciation for those employees who excel while also dealing with troubled employees who may need to be transitioned to another department or out of the organization.

Ed Burlingame, Northwest Region Fire and Rescue Trainer covered various aspects of emergency management and how protocol of contacts is key for county road departments to play their part in emergencies such as grass fires and forest fires.

The afternoon session began with weight and speed limits on county roads. This hot topic session was led by Steve Jenkins, Montana LTAP, who engaged the participants to discuss their experiences on what their resolutions were and how they accomplished setting specific weight limits on particular county roads as well as deciding on how to determine speed limits.
The afternoon session split into Machines and Truck Maintenance by Dave Fowler, recently-retired Gallatin County Road Supervisor.

Dave’s wife, Della, wrote a special poem for the audience:

“Boots on the Road” by Della Fowler:
To all you county employees,
welcome to this class.
I’m sure you are siƫng there,
Thinking, ”I hope he talks real fast.”

Whether it’s the equipment, or the employees,
Dave has always shown great care.
He was always a good leaders,
And always treated everyone fair.

Do a walk-around, check the tires,
And treat your equipment like your baby.
When you put the pedal to the metal,
She’ll be your best lady!

Take it easy, take it slow,
And you’ll get the job done.
You’ll keep the taxpayers happy,
It takes each and everyone.

So sit back, relax, we hope
Your “equipment Maintenance” improves.
Keep your “Boots on the Road”,
It’s you whose in those shoes!

The other split session had Samantha Morris, Chemnet, covering drug testing and DOT regulations.

On Wednesday morning after the Prayer Breakfast where all first-timers were welcomed by President Byrd, Dave Johnson from the Asphalt Institute presented on tack coats that are essential for longevity of asphalts. He also covered various aspects of warm mix asphalts.

The morning session ended with a panel on drainage innovations and solutions by these agencies: Jeremiah Theys, Great West Engineering; Greg Benjamin, Stahly Engineering; and Chad Knuth, Robert Peccia and Associates.

The afternoon session started off with Montana Association of Counties Harold Blattie explaining various legislative bills they have been working on as well as what was happening with Payment in Lieu of Taxes funding for counties. This was followed by County Liability with Brian Hopkin, MACo. Patrick McJannet, Montana Department of Transportation, reviewed CDL requirements for county road department truck drivers. Jim Muskovich, MACo, explained the different types of training available from MACo.

Telematics on Heavy Equipment panel ended the afternoon session with the following representatives: Paul Jones, RDO Equipment; Clark Coulter, Tri-State Truck and Equipment; and Kraig Pester, Tractor and Equipment Company.

The Wednesday evening banquet began with President Byrd and his officers drawing for banquet door prizes. Following was a tribute thank you to Wayne Waarvik who recently retired from Valley County. Byrd also thanked his board and LTAP for their unconditional support. Steve Jenkins, MT LTAP, presented Road Masters and Road Scholar awards. The evening entertainment was the Ringling Five enjoyed by all.
MACRS Scholarship

At the recent April 2015 MACRS Board meeting, the publicity of the MACRS Scholarship was discussed. Following is information regarding this Scholarship that was established last year. MACRS officers will be working diligently to try and award this scholarship to a student in the coming year.

General Application and Qualification Information
Montana Association of County Road Supervisors Scholarship

Amount
$1,000 maximum per academic year, $500 per semester

Deadline
Fall Semester Deadline – August 15th
Spring Semester Deadline – December 15th

Description
The scholarship will be awarded to a student with a declared major of either: equipment operations, mechanics, civil engineering or other transportation related studies. Priorities will be given to students who are serious about seeking employment in the transportation industry within the state of Montana and who have a connection to the MACRS organization.

Basic Requirements
Students must be seeking a degree in a Certificate, Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, or Bachelor of Science program. This scholarship meets the needs of adult learners and those who are continuing or beginning their educational endeavors. The MACRS Scholarship is a one-time awarded scholarship.

Qualifications
- Students must be residents of Montana.
- Students must be degree-seeking and enrolled in at least six credits.
- GPA of 2.5 or better
- If the student does not have a previous grade point average (GPA) to submit, the Scholarship Committee will review GED, COMPASS, ACT, or SAT scores to determine academic eligibility.
- Applicants will be reviewed and awarded up to a $1,000 Scholarship.

Materials to submit when applying for the MACRS Scholarship:
- High school and college (if applicable) transcripts
- One letter of recommendation from a non-relative assessing your abilities, character, motivation, and potential for academic success.
- Submit an essay not exceeding 500 words of how you will benefit from receiving the MACRS Scholarship.
- The completed and signed Scholarship application.

Please submit the completed application packet to:
Montana LTAP
Attn: MACRS Scholarship
PO Box 173910
Bozeman, MT 59717
p-275 Performance-Based Contractor Prequalification as an Alternative to Performance Bonds (FHWA August 2014) FHWA is interested in ensuring that State transportation departments select contractors that can complete projects cost-effectively. One potential method to help select qualified contractors is to use a performance-based contractor prequalification process. FHWA commissioned this study to evaluate the wisdom of expanding the use of this process. This report presents the results of this study, which examined relevant literature, evaluated the benefits and costs of performance bonds and performance-based contractor prequalification, and recommended a model performance-based prequalification approach. (178 pages) (Online tech brief available at this time) http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/infrastructure/pavements/14035/index.cfm

p-840 Roadway Safety Guide, A Primer for Community Leaders (Roadway Safety Foundation March 2014) This Guide is designed to provide community leaders and local elected officials with basic information to improve roadway safety in their communities. (92 Pages) http://www.roadwaysafety.org/

LTAP Recorded Webinars
Over the past few years, at the recommendation of MACRS Training Committee, Montana LTAP has held safety training webinars for about a half hour once a month, usually the third Tuesday at the beginning of the day (7:30am), dependent on availability to the webinar platform and particular training events being held.

The topics for these webinars vary and are sometimes tied in with the particular season, such as winter safety or winter maintenance being held in late fall/winter or gravel road materials and specifications in the early spring.

Many counties have told us these recorded webinars have proven to be very effective for their monthly safety meetings. They use the half-hour webinar as a jumping off point for discussion on whatever topic they are covering at the time at their safety meeting. Others have said hearing counties ask questions during the webinar regarding issues they have been dealing with has assisted in solving some of their issues. Both Montana Association of Counties and the city insurance vendor, Montana Municipal Insurance Authority (MMIA), have asked we cover the three-point contact safety rule regarding ingress/egress on equipment due to numerous insurance claims filed on foot, leg and shoulder injuries.

To access these safety webinars, go to: http://www.coe.montana.edu/ltapv2/resources/webinars/index.html

If you have any questions, please contact us at 1-800-541-6671.
Parting Shot . . .

In order to share their wisdom, this special column is dedicated to those who are retiring, or recently retired, and wish to pass on some gems from their years dealing with county roads or city streets. The following comments are from Valley County Road Supervisor Wayne Waarvik, who just retired in 2014:

I was hired by Valley County in 1981 to run a mower. At that time Valley County had a crew of 32 people. The next summer I learned to run a 631 scraper and built roads for several years.

I spent the next eight years on the Bridge crew, building and repairing bridges. During my time at Valley County, I learned how to run every piece of equipment from the mower to the scraper and everything in between including maintaining a crane license.

In 1999 I participated in the APWA Snow Rodeo and Equipment Safety event held in Great Falls where I placed First in the Front-end Loader competition.

In 1996 I was asked to be the County Road Supervisor. This transition was very hard as I was the youngest employee at the Road Department. I started going to MACRS at that time and quickly realized that employees and commissioners would also benefit by attending.

We began participating in LTAP training as well. Employees then started to feel that they were part of the solutions out on the road, took more pride in their work, and shared ideas on improvements.

Participation in MACRS and LTAP provided knowledge for me as a Supervisor and for my employees. The networking provided by these events is invaluable as well as the great relationships that are gained.

I encourage every county road department employee in the State to become actively involved in MACRS when you are asked. Participation is very rewarding and you will not regret it.

Valley County was a great job for me over the years and I truly enjoyed my job over the thirty-three years.

I want to thank each and everyone of you for your help over the years. I’ve made a lot of great friends by working for the public.

Thank you,
Wayne Waarvik