

May 18, 2010

For more information contact Betty Patton, 503-230-9513

From Solid Waste Association of North America, Oregon Chapter (SWANA)

Yee haw! Trash truck operators compete like rodeo riders

Instead of 1,000 pounds of horseflesh beneath their saddles, these riders – or drivers, in this case – had 15-tons of garbage truck under their seats.

On Saturday, May 15, Oregon's first-ever "SWANA Truck Road-E-O" event let front-line employees in the solid waste management field – truck drivers – demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a friendly competition at Keizer Volcanoes Stadium in Keizer, Oregon.

The drivers had to maneuver industry-standard waste hauling trucks through a preset course that challenged the drivers' skills at starting and stopping the vehicle, negotiating the road, and backing up the vehicle while exhibiting general safe driving skills.

Some of challenges included parallel parking, negotiating a serpentine route between three orange barrels spaced just 37 feet apart, and driving the truck's right-side tires between two close-set lines of tennis balls set on Dixie cups without knocking any over. Contestants also completed written and oral tests similar to the tests commercial truck drivers are required to take to be licensed.

The competition included roll-off, front-end loading, and automated side-loading vehicles. Drivers were awarded points for the written and oral portions of the competition, as well as for driving portion of the competition.

The Road-E-O event was put on by the Oregon chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America. Each year, numerous SWANA state chapters host similar events across the country, with the first-place and second-place finishers in each truck classification being eligible to compete at the SWANA International Road-E-O event typically held in September of each year. For 2010, the International Road-E-O will be held September 4 at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

Winners, SWANA-Oregon Road-E-O

May 15, 2010

Roll-off

1st place - **Jason Thomas**, Pride Disposal, Tigard

2nd place - **George Gray**, Dahl & Dahl, Toledo

3rd place - **Terry Parsons**, Hood River Garbage Service, Hood River

Side loader

1st place - **Scott Nelson**, Sanipac/Waste Connections, Inc, Eugene

2nd place - **Jim Tracy**, Allied Waste of Clackamas County, Wilsonville

3rd place - **Tim Tycer**, Allied Waste of Corvallis, Corvallis

Front loader

1st place - **Jeff Alford**, Cascade Disposal, Bend

2nd place - **Wayne Peterson**, Sanipac/Waste Connections, Inc, Eugene

3rd place - **Bill Gillman**, Rogue Disposal and Recycling, Central Point

Overall winner – Top Gun

Scott Nelson, Sanipac/Waste Connections, Inc., Eugene