



GEORGIA *Post Convention Recap* TIRE TRACKS

THE KING AND PRINCE
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA
JULY 17 - 19, 2015

A Publication of the Georgia Tire Dealers and Retreaders Association, Inc.

GTDR

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GTDR Board of Directors

Officers

President - Chip Battle

1st VP - Larry Bush

2nd VP - Sean Plumstead

Treasurer - Morris Moses

Past President - David Polhill

Foundation Director - Tony Sexton

Supplier Director - Steve Fulton

Directors

Bubba East

Lowell Tench

Nathan Keaton

Steve Dillingham

Rob Miller

Bo Whitehead

Bill Duckworth

Neal Page

Adam Waisath

Administrative Director

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hello, fellow tire dealers and suppliers. I hope everyone had a productive and fruitful summer. I am encouraged by continued interest and all of the positive things going on with the GTDR and looking forward to serving as President.

I want to thank the Board of Directors and Stacy Jarrett for their hard work and support in making the Association's 2015 convention in St. Simons this past July a productive, entertaining, and relaxing event. The GTDR Scholarship Foundation, presided over by Sean Plumstead, continues to greatly impact young lives, and to date, it has awarded \$215,500 to Association members and immediate family, their employees and immediate family members of their employees. Sean has done an outstanding job as Foundation President and is turning over the reins to Tony Sexton this year. Tony has served the GTDR in many different capacities and is always willing to step forward. Thank you, Tony, for continuing to serve this year as the Scholarship Foundation's new President and for your selfless service to the GTDR family for many years.

I want to welcome the newest GTDR Board Members, Bubba East and Nathan Keaton, and I would like to thank Jerry Morgan and Bruce Chamblee for their years of service on the Board of Directors.

Larry Bush, 1st Vice President, has secured a perfect 2016 Convention venue at the new Westin Hotel on Jekyll Island for July 15 -17. Mark your calendars now, and plan to enjoy a long weekend at this newly opened beachfront resort. <http://www.westinjekyllisland.com>

I want to lastly thank David Polhill and his family for his steadfast leadership and guidance of the GTDR over the past two years. The position took time and energy away from his business, employees, and family. On behalf of the GTDR Board, thank you, David.

Chip

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Hampton Club

Teams played on Friday morning at the beautiful Hampton Golf Club. Thanks to Federated Insurance for supplying bags and golf tees to all of our golfers. 1st place team: David Polhill; Rett Johnson; Barron Annunziata; and Morris Moses. 2nd Place Team: Bill Duckworth; Molly Duckworth; Robby Dixon; and Mike Townsend. 3rd Place Team: Jerry Morgan; Barry Morgan; Michael Lampe; and Bo Whitehead. Other Participants: Steve Fulton; Zach Nehme; Sean Plumstead; Rob Miller; Chris Battle; Neil Schlossberg;

Michael Smith; Greg Smith; Jimmy McNair, Mark Hatcher; and Bob Resh.

Long Drive: Greg Smith. Closest to Pin: Rett Johnson.

Winners received gift certificates and prizes at the Friday night reception.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Rob Miller for organizing the event!



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FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION

Solarium

Hors d'oeuvres and beverages were enjoyed in the Solarium.



SATURDAY EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

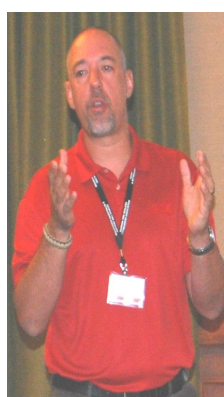
Saturday morning educational sessions were informative and enjoyed while eating a delicious King Breakfast Buffet. If you would like information regarding any of these discussions, please contact the GTDRA office.

Federated Insurance
Daniel Dowdy
"Marketing
Representative"
Cyber Liability

Townsend Strategies
Michael Townsend
"Principal and
Lead Professional"
Leadership/
Customer Experience/
Add-On Sales Training

Advance Auto Parts
Barron Annunziata
"Commercial Sales Manager"
Bridget Barbour-Bishop
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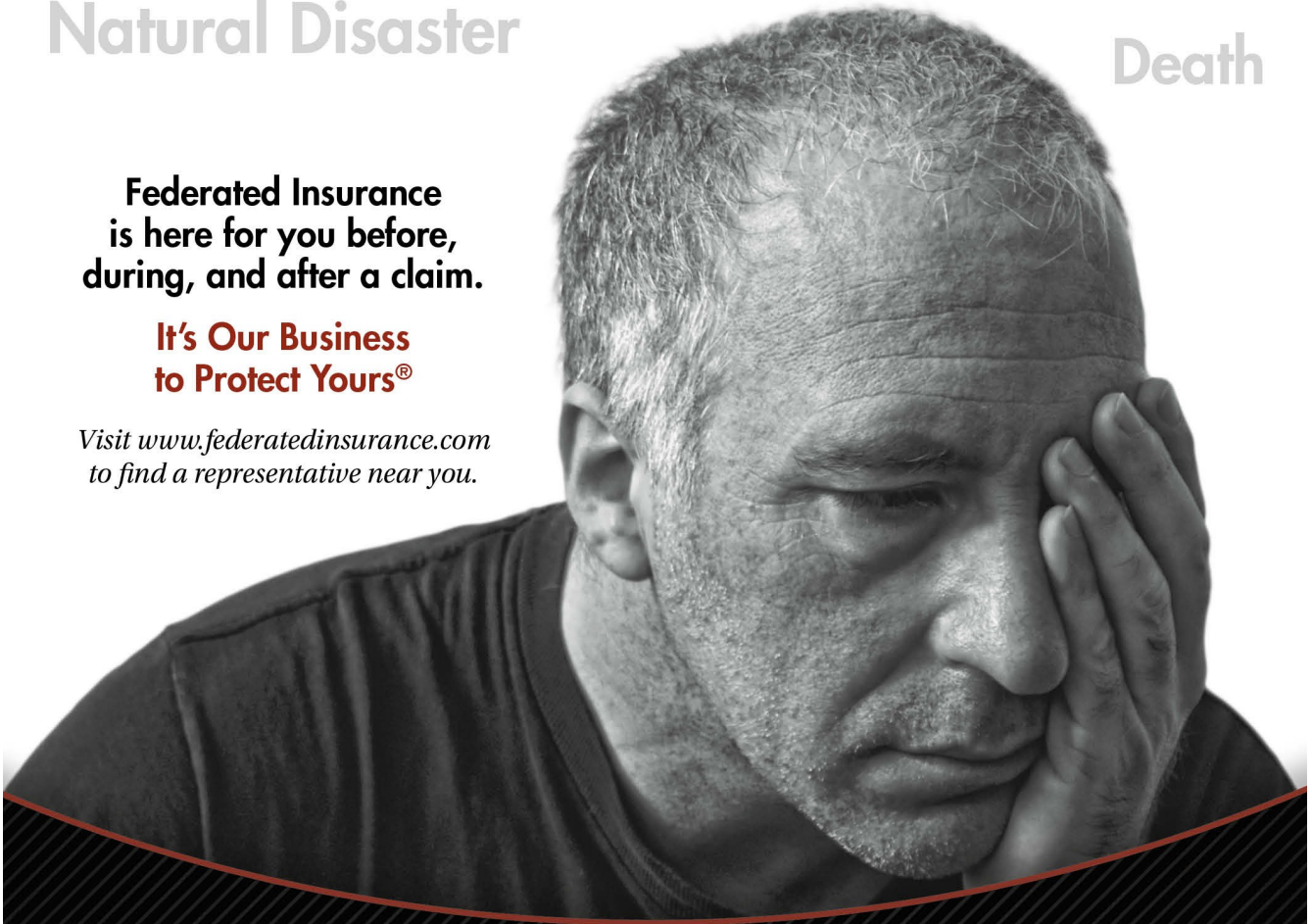
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SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET

Lanier Ballroom

The St. Simons Island Buffet was served during the dinner hour. Guests were encouraged to bid on various Silent Auction items throughout the evening. After dinner, the 2015 Scholarship winners and Hall of Fame Inductees were recognized. President David Polhill presented the Keystone Award to Chip Battle, Raffield Tire, for his dedication and hard work as 1st Vice President throughout the year, and then he acknowledged Jerry Morgan, Myers Tire Supply, and Bruce Chamblee, Dorsey Tire, for completing their three year terms on the Board of Directors. Sean Plumstead initiated a scholarship pledge drive for the Scholarship Foundation. A total of **\$8,400** was raised! **Matt Fore** entertained the crowd with a hilarious performance - a humorist, entertainer, speaker, and sleight of hand artist extraordinaire. The Raffle Drawing for the \$200 Cash Prize for early registration went to Bob Resh, Kauffman Tire, who kindly donated the money to the Scholarship Foundation! Lastly, winners of the Silent Auction bids were announced. Guests left with wonderful items - Braves tickets, UGA football tickets, a golf bag, coolers, a beach bag, a laptop, a FitBit, wine, a gift certificate for a two-nights stay at the King & Prince, and other wonderful items. Thanks to all of the Board members for their donations!



SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET



SUNDAY BOARD MEETING & ANNUAL MEETING

A quarterly Board of Directors meeting as well as the Annual Meeting took place. New Officers and Directors were announced and sworn into office. Thanks to David Polhill for completing a two year term as President as well as serving for many years as an Officer, Director, and Treasurer. Serving now as President is Chip Battle with Larry Bush as the 1st VP. Congratulations to Sean Plumstead who took over the 2nd VP role and Tony Sexton who will now be the Foundation President. Thanks to Lowell Tench who agreed to serve another three year term on the Board of Directors. Also, GTDRA would like to welcome Bubba East and Nathan Keaton as new members on the Board.



2015 GTDRA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



TAYLER DILLINGHAM
Tom Snow Memorial Scholarship
\$5,000
Kennesaw State University



LUCY BOBBITT
Bobby Carroll Memorial Scholarship
\$2,500
University of Georgia



AUDRA BATTLE
Bobby Carroll Memorial Scholarship
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Pensacola Christian College



BROOKE DIXSON
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Rutland Tire & Wheel
Dana Williams
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Rincon, GA 31326
(912) 826-5555

Focus Investment Banking
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Atlanta, GA 30342
(515) 490-7496

TingoPay, LLC
Craig Roll
1350 Scenic Hwy
Suite 266
Snellville, GA 30078
(800) 694-8184

Falken Tire Corporation
Steve Dillingham
113 Chamlee Way
McDonough, GA 30252
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(770) 286-6236

2015 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Warren Raffield and Gene Laabs were recognized as the 2015 Hall of Fame recipients.

WARREN RAFFIELD



In the early 1950's Warren worked at Palmer Tire Company in downtown Macon. Richard (Dick) Palmer hired him to pump gas at his Broadway location, promoted him to inside salesman and then outside territory sales. In 1956 he joined Cooper Tire Company as an outside salesman covering Georgia and North Florida. In 1959 he joined Mohawk Rubber Company as an outside salesman covering mostly middle and south Georgia.

In 1962 he resigned from Mohawk Rubber Company and sold his 60 acre farm between Macon and Warner Robins to start "Raffield's OK Tire Store" on Rocky Creek Road in south Macon. In December of 1972 the business incorporated, became Raffield Tire Master's, Inc. and currently operates 7 retail locations and a Commercial truck tire center in Macon and Warner Robins. Warren and his wife Myrtice retired in 1985 after 22 years in the tire business and seeing their children and grandchildren become involved in the growing business they started.

Warren served as Georgia Tire Dealer and Retreader's Association President in 1976 & 1977 and was involved with the Board of Directors for 15 + years. He cherished the times and lasting friendships he made while being a part of the GTDRA.

Written by: Chip Battle

GENE LAABS



Gene got involved with the GTDRA back when he worked for Carroll Tire. Mr. Carroll put him in charge of handling the communication with the Association and the funds that were given. After the scholarship fund was started with Tom Snow, Gene took an active role with the financial responsibilities that came with the fund. He attended almost all of the annual conventions as well as the board meetings. Gene was instrumental in taking charge when the Association experienced a stock market decline in the early 90's and saw to it that the fund would be self supporting after a while. After Carroll Tire was purchased by TBC Corporation, Gene remained loyal to the Association and continued to work closely with others: Tony Sexton, Scott Beasley, and Sean Plumstead. His focus has always been on what is good for the Association and continuing to bring in younger members that will keep the Association and scholarship fund going for many years to come.

Written by: John Plumstead





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Tire Distributors of GA

Tire Distributors of Georgia's Tifton branch will be holding an Open House on **November 21st** from **9 am to 1 pm**.

Registration for **GTDRA Membership** will be available on site and new members that sign that day will enter into a drawing for Yeti Coolers, Tires, and Flat Screen TV's!

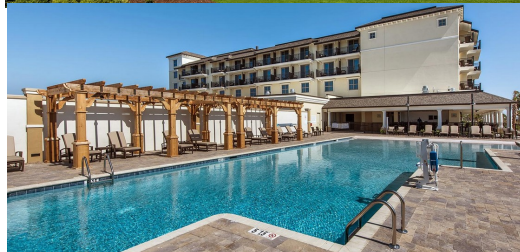
Contact **Laura Bass** at the Tifton branch for more details @ 844-224-8473.

IMPORTANT: SAVE THE DATES!

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

July 15 - 17, 2016
The Westin Jekyll Island

Mark your calendars now for next year's Georgia Tire Dealers & Retreaders Association Annual Conference! Meet other business owners and vendors in the Tire Industry! Enjoy a long weekend with your family! Look for registration information and other details in the mail!



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