

THE NEW COMPONENT

NORTHEASTERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

Chairman Mark Coyne, Brockton, MA

Newsletter Editor, Bob McGrath

Since 1972

ISSUE 36

NEWMA NEWSLETTER

March 2012

NEWMA WEBSITE

<http://newma.us/content/welcome>

NORTHEASTERN WEIGHTS & MEASURES ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2011-2012

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Audit

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Nominating

Thomas Geiler, Town of Barnstable, MA

Charles Carroll, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

James Cassidy, City of Cambridge MA

2012 NEWMA ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 14-17, 2012

Seekonk, Massachusetts

Hotel Accommodations

Johnson & Wales Inn

213 Taunton Avenue

Seekonk, MA 02771

Reservations

www.jwinn.com

800-483-1567

Please mention the "NEWMA" to obtain the special group rate.

Deadline: April 13, 2012

Room Rates

\$88.00/night + tax (breakfast included)

Annual Meeting Registration

The registration fee this year has been reduced to \$75.00

Parking

Complimentary

Transportation

\$10.00 to and from TF Green International Airport (Providence, RI)

NEWMA to Host RMFD Training School in Seekonk, MA

NEWMA is please this year to host a training school on the Inspection and Testing of Retail Motor Fuel Devices. The training will take place on May 15-16, 2012 (Tuesday-Wednesday) concurrent with the Annual NEWMA Meeting being held at the same facility. NEWMA will expend grant funding received from the NCWM Associate Membership Committee to facilitate this training and future training.

Class size is limited. The training overview can be found on page 3.

2012 NCWM INTERIM MEETING UPDATE

The NCWM Interim meeting was held in New Orleans January 22nd to January 25th. Once again, the meeting was well attended, with over 150 members in attendance.

The NCWM Board of Directors (BOD) arrived in New Orleans early to conduct a “strategic planning” session on Friday. The BOD also met all day (regular business) on Saturday. On Sunday, presentations were given the “Task Group on Printer Ink & Toner Cartridges” as well as an Informational Meeting on “Alternative Test Methods for Liquid Measuring Devices”. Along with the Standing Committee Agenda Reviews, the Fuel & Lubricants Subcommittee met.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following list of candidates to be considered for and voted upon at the Annual Meeting in Portland, ME

- Chair-Elect: John Gaccione
- Treasurer: Mark Coyne
- Western Board Rep: Jerry Buendel
- At-Large Board Rep: Steve Giguere

John Gaccione Nominated to be NCWM Chairman

NEWMA member John Gaccione of Westchester County, NY has been nominated to be Chairman of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. John will become Chair-Elect at the conclusion of the NCWM Annual Meeting this July and then begin his year as Chairman at the conclusion of the 2013 Annual Meeting. Following his year as Chairman, John will then serve one year as Chairman of the Board of Governors which oversees the National Type Evaluation Program, completing the 3-year cycle. All of us at NEWMA offer John our sincerest congratulations and wish him the very best.

2012 NCWM ANNUAL MEETING IS PORTLAND, ME

The Annual Meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures is back in the Northeast in Portland, ME at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. The 1995 NCWM was held at this very same location. 1995 was a fantastic conference. Among other things, the NCWM adopted the 4th Edition of HB 133 and the Procedure for Price Verification in 1995.

This will be a special meeting for our NEWMA members as two of our dearest NEWMA members will be awarded for their service to the NCWM. Massachusetts Director **Charles Carroll** will receive the NCWM Distinguished Service Award and Barnstable, MA Sealer **Tom Geiler** will be awarded the NCWM Lifetime Achievement Award. Both Charlie and Tom have been part of NEWMA for practically all of its existence and we are most happy that this recognition will be awarded in a Northeast venue. Congratulations Tom & Charlie!!

DATES TO REMEMBER

NCWM Annual Meeting July 15-19, 2012

Holiday Inn By the Bay
88 Spring Street
Portland, ME 04101
www.holidayinn.com

Reservations:

800-345-5070 or 207-775-2311

Be sure to mention "National Conference on Weights and Measures" to obtain the group discount.

Room Rates:

\$117.00 per night, plus 7% tax

info@ncwm.net

2012 NEWMA Interim Meeting

October 16-17, 2011

Hotel Accommodations

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel

One Monarch Place
Springfield, MA 01144

Reservations

www.starwoodhotels.com

413-781-1010

Deadline: September 19, 2012

Room Block Available: October 15-17, 2012

Room Rates

\$94.00/night plus tax

2013 NCWM Interim Meeting

January 27 - 30, 2013

Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina

2013 NCWM Annual Meeting

July 14-18, 2013

Seelbach Hilton Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky

**NIST Training Seminar on
 Inspection and Testing of Retail Motor-Fuel Dispensers
 Hosted by the Northeast Weights and Measures Association (NEWMA)
 May 15-16, 2012**

**Instructors: Tina Butcher and Diane Lee (NIST); (Industry Speakers TBD)
 Tentative Agenda**

Time	Day 1	Day 2
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Overview • Part 1: Inspection • Part 2: Pre-Test Determinations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 5: Evaluation • Part 6: Audit Trails • Audit Trails and Electronic Totalizers Demo
12 noon to 1:00 p.m.	<i>Lunch on Your Own</i>	<i>Lunch on Your Own</i>
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 2: Pre-Test Determinations (cont.) • Part 3: Test Notes • Part 4: The Test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Demonstration • Examination • Closing Session • Course Evaluation and Certificates

Note: Time will be allotted for morning and afternoon breaks.

**2012 NEWMA ANNUAL MEETING
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
(Tentative-subject to change as needed)**

<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>MEETING ROOM</u>
<u>Monday, May 14, 2012</u>		
	<u>EVENT</u>	
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Registration	
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Specifications & Tolerances Committee Open Hearing Steve Giguere, State of Maine ©	
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Afternoon Break	
2:45 pm – 3:30 pm	Load Volume Scanner (LVS) Presentation Peter Russell, Tally Clerk, USA	
3:45 pm – 4:30 pm	Scale Manufacturers Association NTEP Roundtable Louis Straub, Regulatory Affairs Consultant, Fairbanks Scales	
5:15 pm – 6:30 pm	Welcome Reception (location TBD)	
<u>Tuesday, May 15, 2012</u>		
	<u>EVENT</u>	
7:45 am – 8:30 am	Morning Coffee Service	
8:30 am – 1:00 pm	Registration	
8:30 am – 9:45 am	Board of Directors/NTEP Open Hearing Jim Cassidy, City of Cambridge Mark Coyne, City of Brockton, MA	
9:45 am – 10:15 am	Professional Development Committee Open Hearing Cheryl Ayer, State of New Hampshire ©	
10:15 am – 10:30 am	Morning Coffee Break	
10:30 am – 12:15 pm	Laws and Regulations Committee Open Hearing Lou Sakin, Town of Hopkinton	
Tuesday, May 15, 2012 (continued)		

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Opening Ceremonies Mark Coyne, NEWMA Chairman
	TBD Speaker Massachusetts
	Curt Floren, NCWM Chairman
	Steve Benjamin, NCWM Chair-Elect
	OWM Update, Tina Butcher, NIST
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Afternoon Break
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Directors Round Table Discussion Tina Butcher, NIST
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	TBD
6:30 pm -	NEWMA OUTING - TBD

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

EVENT

9:00 am – 9:45 am	API Update Kevin Ferrick
9:45 am – 10:30 am	Ethanol Update Kristy Moore
10:30am – 10:45 am	Morning Break
10:45 am – 11:45 am	PDC Training Update Ross Andersen
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break on your own
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Final Committee Reports
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Specifications and Tolerances Committee Steve Giguere, State of Maine ©

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm

Afternoon Break

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

Laws and Regulations Committee
Lou Sakin, Town of Hopkinton

3:30 pm – 4:15 pm

Professional Development Committee
Cheryl Ayer, State of New Hampshire ©

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm

Board of Directors/NTEP Committee
Mike Sikula, NY, Mark Coyne, City of Brockton, MA

Thursday May 17,
2012

EVENT

7:45 am – 8:30 am

Morning Coffee Service

8:30 am – 9:00 am

New Proposals and Discussions

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Voting Session
Specifications and Tolerances Committee

Laws and Regulations Committee

Professional Development Committee

Board of Directors/NTEP Committee

Nomination Committee

11:00 am – 11:30 am

Election of Officers and Board Members

Installation of New Chairperson

11:30 am – 12:00 pm

Unfinished Business

12:00 pm

Adjourn

MEMBERSHIP & MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

FIRST NAME:

MIDDLE NAME:

LAST NAME:

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

TELEPHONE:

OFFICE

OTHER

FAX

EMAIL

2012 REGISTRATION:

- 2012 NEWMA MEMBER - \$75.00**
- NON-MEMBER - \$100.00**
- RMFD 2-Day Training only - \$75.00** *(Class size is limited. If you plan on participating in this training class please contact Mark Coyne at 1-508-580-7120 ASAP to reserve a spot)*

Make Check Payable to: **Northeastern Weights & Measures Association**

**Mail to: Charles Carroll
Division of Standards
One Ashburton Place, Room 1115
Boston, MA 02108**

If you wish to pay the registration fee at the door, please register by phone, fax or e-mail in advance

Phone: (617) 727-3480, ext. 21131

Fax: (617) 727-5705

E-mail: Charles.Carroll@state.ma.us

News From Around the Nation

BRC FuelMaker Again Selling Phill Home CNG Fuel Station

By John O'Dell | on 03/07/2011 04:53 PM

Just in time for a renewed national push to use natural gas as a transportation fuel, the wall-mounted Phill home natural gas pump is back on the market, resurrected after an absence of nearly two years.

Although relatively few had been sold by its originator, the defunct Canadian company FuelMaker Corp., the Phill unit was promoted by Honda Motor Co., which offered it in conjunction with the compressed natural gas powered Honda Civic GX.

Honda eventually wound up owning a large share of FuelMaker and forced it into liquidation in early 2009 after the family trust that had controlled the company was unable to keep it running.

Fuel Systems Solutions, a major manufacturer of natural gas flex-fuel systems for cars and trucks, acquired the rights to the Phill and to FuelMaker's larger, commercial natural gas fuel compressors, and after a long hiatus last year quietly resumed manufacturing the home unit through an Italian subsidiary. BRC Gas Equipment.

Paula Hebert, who handles Phill sales in the U.S. through another Fuel Systems subsidiary, Impco Technologies, said the company hadn't advertised Phill's reinstatement because, frankly, with only Honda selling a factory-built CNG-fueled car and only selling in it a handful of states, mainly to fleet buyers, there wasn't that much of a market.

But the soaring price of gasoline, coupled with new studies showing that the U.S. has huge reserves of natural gas, has reignited interest in the fuel, which sells for considerably less than gasoline, even at retail pumps.

Several companies now offer CNG fuel system conversions for a number of Ford and General Motors cars and trucks, and Chrysler has voiced interest in adding CNG options to some of the vehicles in its lineup.

Depending on the price of natural gas delivered for home use, it can cost less than \$1 per gasoline-gallon equivalent to make and dispense CNG with a home unit. (I've got one in my garage in Southern California and the natural gas and electricity to run the compressor and pump unit combined to make the cost about \$1.30 per gallon equivalent.)

Adding to the potential market for a home natural gas fueling was Honda's announcement last month that beginning with the introduction of the redesigned 2012 Civic, the natural gas GX model would be available at select Honda dealerships to consumers in all 50 states.

Honda isn't forecasting a huge increase in GX sales, but the ability to home-fuel a car that is cleaner and cheaper to operate than the gasoline-only equivalent is likely to boost sales of the natural gas car past the 1,200-a-year mark the company's been experiencing. Hebert said the U.S. price for the Phill is \$4,500, plus installation. It is still eligible for a \$1,000 federal income tax credit and Hebert said she is working with various natural gas utilities and regional air quality boards in hopes of reinstating some of the local incentives that were available when the device was on the market before 2009.

The Phill connects to the home natural gas meter and when in use compresses and pumps the gas into the GX or any other CNG-fueled vehicle at a rate of about .4 gallon-equivalent per hour.

For the Honda Civic GX's approximately 8-gallon tank a refill - if the car is run until empty between fill-ups - can take close to a full day. An overnight refill can supply enough fuel for 100-120 miles of travel and in some state retail CNG pumps are plentiful in urban areas.

BRC FuelMaker also manufactures and markets larger and more expensive multi-vehicle CNG refueling stations - aimed at fleets but sold for home installation as well - with prices starting at close to \$10,000.

Several other companies make CNG fuel stations for fleet or commercial use, but most are very large, heavy and expensive. BRC FuelMaker is the only one we know of with a small home unit.

Commissioner reassures consumers in areas affected by bad gasoline

October 13, 2011

For Immediate Release

Commerce Department monitoring situation closely, field investigators inspecting pumps in region

ST. PAUL, MN – The Minnesota Department of Commerce received notice Monday afternoon that 108 loads of gasoline with above-regulation concentrations of ethanol were distributed to more than 60 gas stations and coops over a four-hour period on Saturday, October 8. Commissioner Mike Rothman reassured Minnesota consumers today that the Commerce Department is closely monitoring the situation, and has been working with the distributor and gas station owners since Monday afternoon to swiftly address the problem.

“We are directing the full attention of our Weights and Measures Division to help resolve this situation and protect consumers from purchasing bad gasoline,” said Commissioner Rothman. “Our investigators are completing inspections of stations we suspect were affected by this situation, and working directly with the distributor and station owners to ensure that bad fuel is not being sold to consumers, and is being replaced immediately.”

Due to a technical malfunction at the Magellan Midstream Partners Petroleum plant in Mankato on Saturday, gas containing high levels of ethanol reached more than 60 stations and coops in 21 communities throughout southern Minnesota on Saturday, including Austin, Mankato, North Mankato, New Ulm, Redwood Falls, Sleepy Eye, Albert Lea, Renville, Owatonna, Olivia, Winnebago, LeSueur, Springfield, St. Peter, Belle Plaine, Blue Earth, Hector, Winthrop, Morgan, Gaylord, and Fairmont.

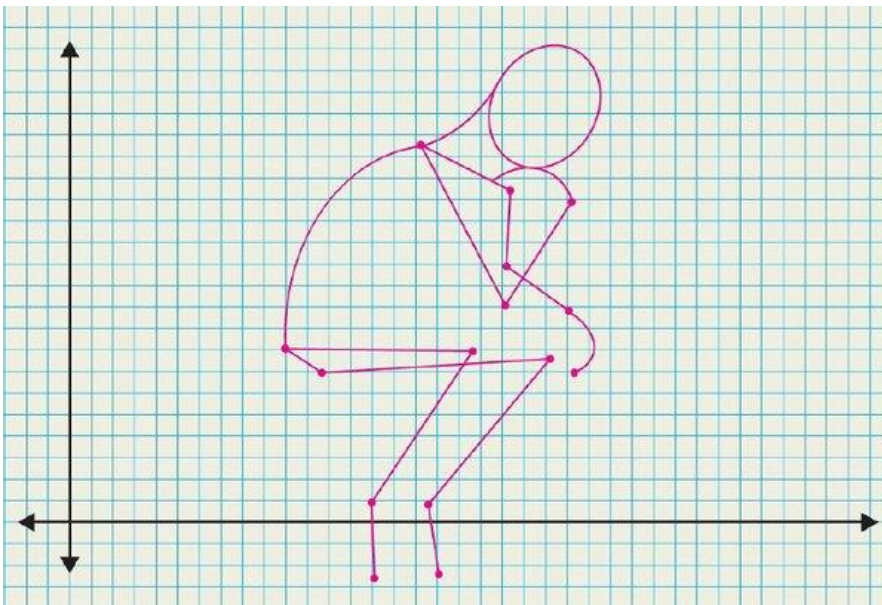
Magellan informed the Commerce Department that they are working to retrieve and replace bad gasoline distributed from its Mankato facility. The Department directed Magellan to provide a report detailing: 1) a specific account of what happened and which stations were involved; 2) what specifically was done to correct the problem; 3) a detailed plan to ensure this kind of problem will never happen again. Magellan has agreed to fulfill that request.

Weights and Measures staff is using bill of lading records to determine which stations in the area have been affected. This is a time consuming process due to the fact that some contaminated gasoline was sent to bulk plants and secondary distributors. Commerce investigators are completing field inspections to verify that identified stations did receive contaminated product, have removed the product from sale, and have replaced it with product that meets ASTM standards. Part of that inspection will include taking laboratory samples. One sample tested late Monday afternoon contained a 63 percent concentration of ethanol – well above the standard 10 percent maximum.

“Minnesota consumers should know that our department has been, and will continue to be, vigilant in addressing this problem,” said Commissioner Rothman. “Our investigators have been working since the situation was brought to our attention. Our field staff is identifying affected stations, ensuring bad gasoline is not being sold, and that it is being replaced as quickly as possible.”

Minnesota consumers with questions or concerns should contact the Minnesota Department of Commerce Weights and Measures Division at (651) 215-5821. To find out more about the Weights and Measures Division, visit our new website at <http://mn.gov/commerce/weights-and-measures/>.

Measurement and Its Discontents



Robert P. Crease is a professor of philosophy at Stony Brook University and the author of “World in the Balance: The Historic Quest for an Absolute System of Measurement.”

LAST week, delegates from 55 nations assembled in a suburb of Paris to bring to fruition a dream, centuries old, to perfect the world’s measurement system. The historic event, the 24th General Conference on Weights and Measures, finalized state-of-the-art definitions for basic units of measurement like the second, the meter and (at long last) the kilogram. Gone are the days when the meter and the kilogram were defined by [physical sticks and lumps](#) of metal stored in a vault in France; now we rely on high-tech standards like the speed of light and other scientific constants. With the measurement system all but finalized, why are controversies over measurement still surfacing? Why are we still stymied when trying to measure intelligence, schools, welfare and happiness?

The problem is not that we don't yet have precise enough tools for measuring such things; it's that there are two wholly different ways of measuring. In one kind of measuring, we find how big or small a thing is using a scale, beginning point and unit. Something is x feet long, weighs y pounds or takes z seconds. We can call this "ontic" measuring, after the word philosophers apply to existing objects or properties.

But there's another way of measuring that does not involve placing something alongside a stick or on a scale. This is the kind of measurement that Plato described as "fitting." This involves less an act than an experience: we sense that things don't "measure up" to what they could be. This is the kind of measuring that good examples invite. Aristotle, for instance, called the truly moral person a "measure," because our encounters with such a person show us our shortcomings. We might call this "ontological" measuring, after the word philosophers use to describe how something exists.

The distinction between the two ways of measuring is often overlooked, sometimes with disastrous results. In his book "The Mismeasure of Man," Stephen Jay Gould recounted the costs, both to society and to human knowledge, of the misguided attempt to measure human intelligence with a single quantity like I.Q. or brain size. Intelligence is fundamentally misapprehended when seen as an isolatable entity rather than a complex ideal. So too is teaching ability when measured solely by student test scores.

Confusing the two ways of measuring seems to be a characteristic of modern life. As the modern world has perfected its ontic measures, our ability to measure ourselves ontologically seems to have diminished. We look away from what we are measuring, and why we are measuring, and fixate on the measuring itself. We are tempted to seek all meaning in ontic measuring — and it's no surprise that this ultimately leaves us disappointed and frustrated, drowned in carefully calibrated details.

Consider the popular Web site [The Quantified Self](#), which, in the name of self-improvement, provides tools for collecting data on every aspect of your daily life: sleeping, eating, having sex, worrying, having coffee and so forth. "Behind the allure of the quantified self," Gary Wolf, a founder of the site, [explained](#) in this newspaper's magazine, "is a guess that many of our problems come from simply lacking the instruments to understand who we are." Ontic measurement is seen as the key to self-knowledge.

But how are we supposed to measure how wise or prudent we are in choosing the instruments of measurement and interpreting the findings? Modern literature is full of references to the dehumanizing side of measurement, as exemplified by the character Thomas Gradgrind in Dickens's "Hard Times," a dry rational character who is "ready to weigh and measure any parcel of human nature, and tell you exactly what it comes to," yet loses track of his own life.

How can we keep an eye on the difference between ontic and ontological measurement, and prevent the one from interfering with the other? One way is to ask ourselves what is missing from our measurements. Are the tests administered by schools making students smarter and more educated, or just making us think we know how to evaluate education? Is the ability to measure tiny levels of toxins making us safer, or leading us to spend enormous sums of money unnecessarily to eliminate toxins just to make us feel safer?

In our increasingly quantified world, we have to determine precisely where and how our measurements fail to deliver. Now that we have succeeded in defining the kilogram by an absolute universal standard, we still have to remind ourselves of the human purposes that led us to create the kilogram in the first place, and always to make sure that the kilogram is serving us, and not the other way around.

The delegates at the conference in France certainly deserve kudos. In seeking to perfect the global measurement system, they have respected science and acted without political agendas to further the collective good for future generations everywhere. How do the rest of us measure up?

JOHNSON & WALES INN

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RESERVATIONS

 Arrival:

Apr 13 2012

Nights: Rooms:

1 1

Adults: Kids:

1 0

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Looking for hotels in Seekonk, MA? Our Providence, RI hotel is just 6 miles from downtown Providence and adjacent to East Providence, the Johnson & Wales Inn is located on Rt. 44 in Seekonk MA and offers 84 guest rooms - including 21 suites, 16,000 square feet of meeting space, and full service dining in Audrey's Restaurant.

Travelers will enjoy the perfect blend of modern comfort and classic elegance in our 84 unique guest rooms and suites. We are confident that you will recognize the difference that has made us a favorite choice among Seekonk and East Providence area hotels.

The Johnson and Wales Inn takes pride in offering a unique brand of hospitality highlighted by the creative culinary expertise of our Johnson & Wales University graduate chefs.

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- Free High-Speed Internet - Guest Rooms
- 18 Hole Executive Par-3 Golf Course adjacent to the hotel
- Recently Renovated Guest Rooms and Common Areas
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- Plentiful Free Parking Only 6 Miles from Downtown Providence
- Shuttle Service to TF Green Airport and the Providence Train Station at a Nominal Fee, with advance reservations
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From our Providence area hotel's courteous, professional staff to our value-added amenities, guests will quickly discover why we are preferred among business and leisure travelers alike.



Additionally, you'll find that we offer the perfect setting and service levels to host successful meetings, private celebrations and [group functions at the Johnson & Wales Inn](#).

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