



Trango, Haywood, Dare, & Richmond receive awards at NCPTA CONFERENCE

Ralph Trango from Wake County Schools wins inspector competition. He has come close several times in the past and finally earned the top spot. Ralph received \$500.00 and a paid trip to the nationals. From a field of 12 finalists who inspected three “rigged” buses on a very HOT day at Sea Trails, Ralph emerged the top bus inspector in NC. Even with a newly developed (more challenging) written test designed to better prepare contestants for the nationals, Ralph proved his superior ability above the rest of the pack.

Ralph has been to the nationals before as NC state runner-up but this time will represent his state as the inspector champion at the NAPT competition in Seattle, Wa. (Ralph previously placed 2nd nationally in the technician competition). “Ralph is a very strong competitor with previous national competition experience and expect he will do well in Washington” states Randy Henson, Coordinator of the NCPTA competition.



"This has been a long time coming for me. I have been in this contest with a few others since the beginning in 2004 resulting in several second and third place finishes and a National 2nd place for Technicians. It has been tough. Beating some of the best (Danny Reed and Tim Speer) both former National Champs made it that much sweeter. I hope to carry on the winning tradition of North Carolina with 3 National champs since 2005."-Ralph Trango



Derek Graham, Danny Reed

Tied for 1st but not completing the timed interior event as quick as Ralph was defending champ Danny Reed from Beaufort County finishing 2nd. Danny, who won 300.00, is eligible to participate in Seattle but will have to provide his own travel. He will compete in the “diagnostic” competition. The “diagnostic” competition consists of troubleshooting a variety of challenges dealing with correcting defects related to school buses. NC has previously placed 2nd and 3rd in diagnostics but never a win.



Tom Sullivan, Dare Co. takes the test

Tom Sullivan from Dare County rounded out the field finishing 3rd. Tom has previously placed 2nd in the state competition last year. Tom earned 200.00 for his effort at the Sunset Beach event.



The Judges-Randy, Keith, Craig, Robert



TimeKeeper-Rick Jennings(Wilkes)

The top 12 in order of finish are;

Ralph Trango-Wake
Danny Reed-Beaufort
Tom Sullivan-Dare
Tim Speer-Yadkin
Buck Tarlton-Union
Dustin Wells-Pitt
Jose Figueroa-Johnston
Terry Brown-Wake
Jimmy Wynn-Orange
Adam Schwab-Wake
Austin Ridley-Wake
Bobby Jones-Wake



The top 12 received a cordless drill

SCENES FROM THE COMPETITION HELD ON 7/16,17/13



26 of NC's best took the written test in order to qualify for the final "12"



HOT

HOT

Competition area



Under the bus looking for a defect bugged by Keith Whitley



A shady spot was hard to find



Jimmy Wynn-Orange



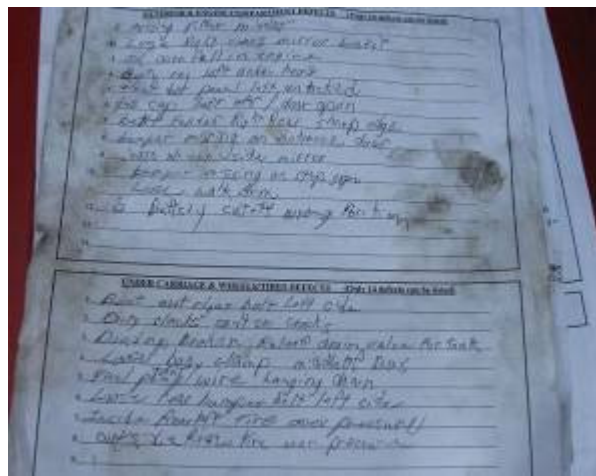
Buck Tarlton-Union



Peanut Brown from Wake wishes the camera man would stop distracting him.



Jose Figueroa from Johnston began with a clean document to record defects.
 Within 10 minutes the form could provide enough fingerprints to convict him of any crime.



Derek presents Tom Sullivan's wife/coach the third place prize money. Tom was attending a training class during award ceremony.



Tim Speer-Yadkin scribbles down a found defect

Thanks to all of the competitors who took time to participate and the folks who help make this event a success.

A special thanks goes out to;

- Brunswick County Schools for providing the buses used in the competition.*
- NCPTA & GHSP for financial sponsorship*



DPI ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT INSPECTION AWARDS

The “best inspection” banners were handed out at the NCPTA award session at Sea Trails on July 18th, 2013



1st place Eastern Region-Dare County Transportation Department



1st place Central Region-Richmond County Transportation Department



1st place Western Region-Haywood County Transportation Department

Congratulations go out to all of the transportation employees for the extra effort it takes to win the banner.