



# Center Line

OCTOBER 2010

## AHTD Team Takes 2nd Place at Regional Rodeo

A team comprised of the top finishers from the Department's Annual Equipment Operators Rodeo traveled to Tunica, Mississippi, in September to compete in the 8th Annual Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators Rodeo.

Five teams including Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia participated in the event which was held at the Paul Battle Arena. The competition is open to member states of the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO).

Top competitors from each state's local Rodeo displayed their skills in

six categories of competition including Tractor/Lowboy, Motor Grader, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Tractor/Mower, Single Axle Dump Truck and Backhoe.

After a full day of competition, Tennessee came out on top. Arkansas' team came in second place and Mississippi took third place. This is the eighth year that the AHTD team has come out with a top-three finish.

"It's always impressive to see the Department's team do so well each year at the regional competition," stated Dan Flowers, AHTD Director.

"Placing among the top teams every year just shows you the level of skill and professionalism our staff

puts forth not just at these competitions, but, everyday in the field as well. It was another job well done."

An Awards Banquet was held the final night at the Convention Center in the Veranda Hotel. Arkansas' own Odis Barker was awarded a plaque in appreciation of his service to the Regional Rodeo over the years. AHTD staff that participated as judges included Howard Kitchens, Joe Davidson, Crystal Woods, Ken Jordan, Tara Robinson and Eddie Tanner. Lynn Caple represented the Department in the scorekeeping booth.

Members of the AHTD team that went to Tunica are in the photo below.



**2010 Southeastern Regional ROADEO Arkansas Team:** (front, l. to r.) Jeff Upton, Mark Standridge, Larry Otwell, Keith Carpenter, Chad Foster and Lance Baker. (rear, l. to r.) Bucky Sawyer, Eugene Farrell, Ricky Cummings, Todd Clifford, Tony Ruhl, Jerry Mitchell, Odis Barker and Howard Kitchens.

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**Name:** Blake Smith, District 5

**Job Position:** Senior Mechanic – District 5 Shop

**Length of Service:** 8 years

**Job Duties:** I work on heavy equipment. I am responsible for making all needed repairs to any particular piece of equipment given to me, whether it's in the shop or out on the road.

**Favorite part of the job:** I have had the pleasure of working with lots of great people during my career with the Highway and Transportation Department. My favorite part of the job is getting out of the shop, on the road and repairing equipment at the job site.

**Background:** I began my career with the AHTD in the summers of 1999 – 2001. After receiving my automotive degree, I came on as a full time Mechanic in 2002. During these past eight years, I have moved up to Senior Mechanic, which is the position I currently hold.

**Family:** My family includes my parents, John Ed Smith and Ceil Smith; my grandparents, Frankie and John Ed Smith (a retired 25-year Resident Engineer for District Five); one sister, Ashley Lightner; her husband Matt; my one year old nephew Miles; and my yellow Labrador Retriever, Dutches, my companion.

**Hobbies/Interests:** I enjoy hunting, fishing, riding motorcycles and repairing things on the side. I also enjoy making improvements on my house and spending time at the lake.

## Strategic Energy Plan

Save Energy in your AHTD office with these lighting tips:

- Ensure lighting systems are turned off at the end of the day.
- Convert to more energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- Install light emitting diode (LED) lighting where practical.
- Install occupancy light sensors to prevent energy waste in unoccupied areas such as copy rooms and conference rooms.
- Maximize use of natural lighting whenever possible.



Thanks! These tips help make the AHTD Strategic Energy Plan more effective.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY  
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
JUNE 30, 2010

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

THE COMPARATIVE INFORMATION BELOW WILL GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF THE GROWTH AND FINANCIAL POSITION OF YOUR RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS (EMPLOYEES)	3,407	3,374	(33)
NUMBER OF RETIRED MEMBERS	2,759	2,831	72
NUMBER OF DROP PLAN MEMBERS	448	444	(4)
ANNUITIES (BENEFITS) PAID	68,942,058	72,945,896	4,003,838
CASH AND SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS	64,541,301	58,121,022	(6,420,279)
INVESTMENTS (COST)	892,563,904	959,118,114	66,554,210
TOTAL ASSETS (MARKET)	995,482,121	1,057,616,593	62,134,472
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS FROM INVESTMENTS	27,568,884	24,423,763	(3,145,121)
GAIN (LOSS) ON SALE OF SECURITIES	(156,448,363)	88,496,459	244,944,822
*RATE OF INVESTMENT RETURN (MARKET)	(15.3%)	11.0%	26.3%

\*EXCLUDES CAPITAL GAINS (LOSSES) ON SALES FOR 2009 AND 2010 OF (\$156.4) MILLION AND \$88.5 MILLION, RESPECTIVELY.

AS SHOWN ABOVE, YOUR RETIREMENT SYSTEM HAS INVESTMENTS IN STOCK AND FIXED INCOME SECURITIES OF \$959,118,114 FROM WHICH WE RECEIVED EARNINGS OF \$24,423,763. THESE INVESTMENTS ARE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING SECURITIES AT COST:

	<u>AVERAGE RATE EARNED ON COST</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>PORTFOLIO</u>
CORPORATE BONDS:			30%
AUTOMOTIVE & MACHINERY	5.67%	11,885,930	
BANKS & FINANCIAL	5.21%	108,735,800	
DRUGS, MEDICAL, & CHEMICAL	3.76%	43,707,305	
EDUCATION SERVICES	4.58%	49,087	
ELECTRONICS & OFFICE EQUIPMENT	4.88%	13,253,218	
HOUSING & BUILDING MATERIALS	6.39%	1,919,599	
INSURANCE	5.58%	8,975,002	
PAPER	5.36%	489,954	
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS & EQUIPMENT	5.92%	47,939,955	
RETAIL & RESTAURANTS	4.67%	24,832,222	
TRANSPORTATION	5.74%	9,503,098	
UTILITIES	7.15%	18,050,815	
U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES		49,471,398	5%
COMMON STOCK:			65%
AEROSPACE		1,173,269	
AUTOMOTIVE & MACHINERY		36,785,831	
BANKS & FINANCIAL		82,181,293	
DRUGS, MEDICAL, & CHEMICAL		108,994,959	
ELECTRONICS & OFFICE EQUIPMENT		143,348,071	
HOUSING & BUILDING MATERIALS		9,544,104	
INSURANCE		421,568	
PAPER		287,093	
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS & EQUIPMENT		119,272,614	
RETAIL & RESTAURANTS		94,357,987	
TRANSPORTATION		23,088,587	
UTILITIES		849,355	

OVERALL, THE TOTAL ASSETS AT COST OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM INCREASED FROM \$962,596,572 TO \$1,027,939,391, A GAIN OF \$65,342,819.

## Thank You State Fair Volunteers

A special thank you to all of our AHTD staff members who volunteered at our booth at the State Fair this year. We had a great response and lots of interest in our display of the AHTD highway maps over the years. Congratulations to our volunteers on a job well done.

Those working at the booth included: Sharon Baker, Shelly Bradley, Edwina Briggs, Sandra Busby, Langston Carr, Laura DeBro Carter, Gale Davis, Karen Davis, Sharon Doss-Robinson, Patricia Fletcher-Kester, Tynli Frierson, Ralph Hall, Stephanie Howard, Kim Jewell, Odell Johnson, Linda Mack, Timothy Madison, Tim Mahan, David Mayo, Yulissa Mendoza, Lonnie Murry, Margarita Olive, Sandy Pendergrass, Dorothy Rhodes, Gail Scott, Patricia Slater, Kenjuan Washington, Cindy Webb, Lanecia Weston, and Don Young.

# what's COOKING

This month's "What's Cooking" recipe is from...

Barbara Cox • Bridge Division

## Sweet Potato Casserole

3 cups Mashed Sweet Potatoes	2 Eggs
3/4 cup Sugar	1 tsp Vanilla
1/2 cup Melted Butter	1 cup Pet Milk

Mix up and pour in a casserole dish and add topping.

Topping:

1/4 cup butter	1/2 cup flour
1 cup brown sugar	1 cup nuts

Mix up and add to the top of casserole.

Bake at 350° for one hour.

*Please submit your recipe for possible publication in the CenterLine. Send it to Shelli Russell, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 or [shelli.russell@arkansashighways.com](mailto:shelli.russell@arkansashighways.com).*

## CONSTRUCTION CORNER DISTRICT 4



Work is underway in Polk County on a project that will add a northbound passing lane on Highway 71, north of the Hatton community. The 1.5-mile project was awarded to Jimmy Jones Excavation, Inc. of Berryville, Arkansas, for \$2,239,182 in January of this year. The project is funded with money provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Work is currently halfway finished. Completion is expected in the spring of 2011. Project administration is by Resident Engineer Dean Nichols and the staff at RE 41 at Waldron.

## Photo Submissions

When you have a photo to submit for publication in the CenterLine, submit it to the person who is in charge of reporting news for your Division or District. Be sure to include the following information in your email or letter:

Note the names of the people in the photo from left to right. Give titles for any AHTD employees in the photo. Tell what's happening in the photo and give any pertinent details. For example, 25-year service award; baby born October 15th, weighing 7 lbs., 7 oz.; 8-point buck taken in November in Monroe County; employee retired with 33+ years of service.

All submissions should go through your "reporter" and be approved by the District Engineer or Division Head. It's much easier to track that way. Thanks!



Maintenance: (l. to r.) Curtis Aud, Area Maint. Supervisor, presents Robert Phillips, Maintenance Aide II, with his 10-year service award.



Highway Police: (l. to r.) Major Paul Claunch, Captain Jay Thompson and Chief Ron Burks. Thompson was presented with his 20-year service award.



District 2: (l. to r.) Lori Thomas, District Bookkeeper, receives her 15-year service award from Helen Kennedy, District Office Manager.



District 6: (l. to r.) Kerri Stephens, Crew Leader, receives her 15-year service award from Hobart Watson, Maintenance Supervisor.



District 6: (circled) Jerry Zuber, Maintenance Job Superintendent, was given a retirement party to celebrate his 33 years with the Department.



District 7 (l. to r.) Jason Jacobs, Single Axle Truck Driver, receives his 5-year service award from Johnnie Risher, Area Maint. Supervisor.



District 7: (l. to r.) LaBronce Johnson, Maintenance Aide I, receives his 5-year service award from Johnnie Risher, Area Maint. Supv.

## Four-Day Work Week Ends Next Month

AHTD employees currently working the four-day work schedule will return to the normal five-day, eight-hour work schedule beginning on Thursday, November 4th.

Those affected include: Area Maintenance Superintendents, District Equipment & Maintenance Supervisors, District Shop Crews, Equipment & Procurement Shop Personnel, Facilities Management Personnel, Field Maintenance Personnel, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Crews, Job Superintendents, Profiling, Radio Maintenance Specialists, Safety Inspection Officers, Shop Supervisors, Sign Shop Personnel, Storeroom Personnel, Striping & Signing Crews, Surveys Division Survey Parties, Technical Services Section and Field Personnel.



District 2: Ricky Martin, Maintenance Aide I, won First Prize in the Lincoln County Fair for his illustration of construction equipment at the AHTD. He gave the drawing to Kelly Slater, Area Maintenance Supervisor, and it hangs in the crew's office.

## November Holidays

The following are state holidays for AHTD employees during the month of November. All work will be suspended except for cases of emergency.

**Veterans Day**  
Thursday, November 11

**Thanksgiving**  
Thursday, November 25  
Friday, November 26

# AHTD PEOPLE • EMPLOYEE STATISTICS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2010

## new employees

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COMPUTER SERVICES - Kenneth Austin, Programmer II

HIGHWAY POLICE - LaTosha Pulley, Office Adm. Asst. II

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Daniel Siskowski, Engineer

RIGHT OF WAY - Stacy Dantzler, Office Adm. Asst. III - Stormy Gartrell, Util. Coord. I - Keith Harris, Utilities Coordinator I - Justin Hightower, Utilities Coordinator I

DISTRICT 1 - Richard Birkhead, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr. - Daniel Harris, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr. - Homer Worden, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr.

DISTRICT 2 - Michael McClain, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr. - Ricky Owens, Gen. Laborer

DISTRICT 4 - Teresa Snow, Dist. Caretaker - Joshua Young, Gen. Laborer

DISTRICT 5 - Darrell Halcom, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 6 - Willie Day, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr. - Richard Hines, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr. - Ronnie Holdcraft, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr. - Becky Mannon, Gen. Laborer - Simon Whitehead, Gen. Laborer

DISTRICT 7 - Bill Dickinson, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr. - Mary Fawbush, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr.

DISTRICT 8 - Jeremy Dodd, General Laborer - John Ralph Evans, Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 10 - Pamela Cook, Gen. Laborer - Jonathan Hickman, Gen. Laborer - William Ring, Gen. Laborer

## promotions

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BRIDGE - Robert Reese, Bridge Design Eng.

COMPUTER SERVICES - James Wiggington, Hardware Tech. I

ENVIRONMENTAL - Matthew Strawn, Environmental Analyst III

HEAVY BRIDGE - Ezequiel Garza, Bridge Repairer I

HIGHWAY POLICE - Lance Tatum, Permit Tech.

MATERIALS - Larry Ragsdale, District Lab Tech.

PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS - Dwan Moore, Repro. Tech.

RIGHT OF WAY - India Clark, Office Adm. Asst. II - Derek Franklin, Realty Appraiser II - Allen Lewis, Realty Appraiser II

ROADWAY DESIGN - Mike Fugett, Division Head

SURVEYS - Jeffrey Lenard, Surveys Tech. Coordinator

DISTRICT 1 - Devyn Arens, Station Attendant

DISTRICT 2 - Lawrence Crift, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., Desha Co. - Terry King, Street Sweeper Op. - Clayton Shackelford, Multi-Axle Truck Dr. - Joshua Walker, Asst. Res. Eng., RE 23 - Gary Washington, Distrib./Roller Op., Lincoln Co.

DISTRICT 3 - James Blackwell, Sr. Con. Mat. Insp., RE 31 - Donna Eckhart, Res. Office Tech., RE 32 - Gerald Walker, Distrib./Roller Op., Little River Co. - Carla Walls, Area Hq. Att., Miller Co.

DISTRICT 4 - Kara Belt, Con. Mat. Insp., RE 42 - John Dibble, Maint. Aide I, Washington Co. - Melvin Dodson, Sgl. Axle Truck Dr., Sebastian Co. - Alan Powell, Backh./FEL Op., Crawford Co. - Meagan Taylor, Distrib./Roller Op., Washington Co. - Tommy Towler, Motor Patrol Op., Washington Co.

DISTRICT 5 - Steve Hadley, Maintenance Aide II, White Co.

DISTRICT 6 - Christopher Chamberlain, Motor Patrol Op., Hot Spring Co. - Jimmy Kingsby, Backhoe/FEL Op. - Kerri Stephens, Crew Leader

DISTRICT 7 - Zachary Lamkin, Single Axle Truck Driver, Ouachita Co.

DISTRICT 8 - Steve Dalton, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., Pope Co. - Kelly Goates, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., Pope Co. - Terry Johnsgard, Maint. Aide I, Van Buren Co. - Steven Pierce, Maint. Aide II, Pope Co. - Mario Talamantes, Single Axle Truck Dr.

DISTRICT 9 - Billy Bower, Backh./FEL Op., Washington Co. - William Keeton, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., Newton Co.

DISTRICT 10 - Brian Arford, Multi-Axle Truck Dr., Craighead Co. - Tyler Engleman, Gen. Laborer, Lawrence Co. - Channing Flowers, Con. Aide I, Boone Co. - Connie Green, Single Axle Truck Driver, Mississippi Co. - Ronnie Richardson, Bridge Repairer II - Tony Smithmier, Backh./FEL Op., Greene Co. - Jason Stigall, Maint. Aide II, Lawrence Co.

## service

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BRIDGE - Stewart Linz, Staff Bridge Design Eng., 25 yrs.

CHIEF ENGINEER - Frank Vozel, Jr., Chief Eng., 40 yrs.

CONSTRUCTION - Mark Crumpton, Insp., RE 64, 30 yrs. - Melvin Fisher, Sr. Con. Mat. Insp., RE 65, 25 yrs. - Channing Flowers, Con. Helper, Boone Co., 5 yrs. - Charles Palmer, Asst. Res. Eng., Desha Co., 5 yrs. - Robert Robertson, Jr., Con. Project Coord., RE 42, 25 yrs. - Ronald Scarborough, Con. Aide I, Randolph Co., 15 yrs. - Kevin Thornton, Systems Adm., 25 yrs. - Samuel Turner, Con. Project Coord., RE 43, 35 yrs.

ENVIRONMENTAL - Robert Fuhler, Section Head - Geo. Info. Sys., 20 yrs. - Lynn Malbrough, Division Head, 25 yrs.

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT - John Allen, Storeroom Supv., 30 yrs. - Charles Krontz, Sr., Senior Mech., 15 yrs.

HIGHWAY POLICE - Daniel McArthur, Jr., Patrol Officer First Class, 25 yrs.

MAINTENANCE - John Mathis, Asst. State Maint. Eng., 25 yrs.

MATERIALS - Rodney Cole, District Maint. Supv., 25 yrs. - Larry Williams, Mat. Tech. IV, 35 yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH - Jeffrey Brown, Eng. II, 5 yrs. - Alan Meadors, Div. Head, 30 yrs. - Ron Reed, Accident Coding Clerk, 5 yrs.

PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS - Don Young, Section Head - Reproduction, 20 yrs.

RIGHT OF WAY - Donald Bearden, Realty Appraiser III, 10 yrs.

ROADWAY DESIGN - Charles Clements, Division Head, 35 yrs.

SURVEYS - Evan Scott, Survey Crew Chief, 15 yrs. - Tony Wooldridge, Surveys Tech. II, 20 yrs.

DISTRICT 1 - Gloris Cox, Area Hq. Att., 15 yrs. - Joyce Davenport, Rest Area Attendant, 15 yrs. - Clinton Melton, Asst. Bridge Insp., 10 yrs. - Joseph Muscalino, Crew Leader, 35 yrs.

DISTRICT 2 - Jerry Cleveland, Area Hq. Att., 5 yrs. - Ezra McFadden, Sr., Area Maint. Supv., 25 yrs. - Robert Morrison, IV, Bridge Rep. I, 5 yrs. - Lori Thomas, Dist. Bookkeeper, 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 3 - Kenneth Bennett, District Maint. Eng., 25 yrs. - Stephen Pickering, Backhoe/FEL Op., 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - Richard Gilmore, Maint. Aide I, 5 yrs. - Jerad Owens, Maint. Aide II, 5 yrs. - Lena Rhodes, Distributor/Roller Op., 5 yrs. - Peggy Scott, Crew Leader, 25 yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Bryan Baldrige, Backh./FEL Op., 25 yrs. - Ronnie Mann, Distrib./Roller Op., 15 yrs. - David Thompson, Parts Runner, 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 6 - Randy Davis, Sign Erector, 5 yrs. - William Marlow, District Bridge Insp., 20 yrs. - Robert Phillips, Maint. Aide II, 10 yrs. - Kerri Stephens, Maint. Aide II, 15 yrs. - Bryson Whiteside, Bridge Repairer I, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - Carl Bachelor, District Eng., 25 yrs. - Richard Hearnberger, Area Maint. Supv., 35 yrs. - Roosevelt Wright, Maint. Aide I, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 8 - James Harris, Motor Patrol Op., 5 yrs. - Ora Helton, Area Hq. Attendant, 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 9 - Misty Barber, Backh./FEL Op., 5 yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - Vida Bowers, Maint. Aide I, 5 yrs. - Lanz Loyd, Parts Runner, 5 yrs.

## retirement

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ENVIRONMENTAL - John Miller, III, Sect. Head - Cultural Resources, 26+ yrs.

MAINTENANCE - William Harrod, Traffic Svcs. Spec., 46+ yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH - David Anderson, Data Collection Tech., 36+ yrs.

ROADWAY DESIGN - Charles Clements, Div. Head, 35+ yrs.

SURVEYS - Donald Cheatham, Surveys Crew Chief, 34+ yrs.

DISTRICT 2 - William Kendall, Maint. Job Supt., 32+ yrs.

DISTRICT 4 - Ken Gunter, Bridge Repairer I, 7+ yrs.

DISTRICT 5 - Jimmie Getson, Jr., Crew Leader, 31+ yrs. - Joey Hipp, Area Hq. Attendant, 34+ yrs.

DISTRICT 7 - James Neal, Area Maint. Supv., 34+ yrs.

DISTRICT 8 - Ronnie Molloy, Crew Leader, 23+ yrs.

DISTRICT 9 - Ashley Hale, Ferry Boat Pilot, 16+ yrs.

DISTRICT 10 - Teddy Miller, Crew Leader, 34+ yrs.

## memorials

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PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS - Marvin E. Staton, 10/6/10, retired

DISTRICT 3 - Henry L. Fenwick, 9/1/10, retired - Nathaniel Lowe, 9/7/10, retired

DISTRICT 8 - Johnnie B. Havener, 9/24/10, retired - Jimmy F. Austin, 10/4/10, retired

DISTRICT 9 - Robert E. Passmore, 9/18/10, retired

## active duty

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As of 10/16/10, the AHTD had 5 employees serving active duty in the United States military. Deployment dates noted.

RIGHT OF WAY - William Kirk, ROW Plans Des. I, 08/7/10

DISTRICT 4 - Donald R. Ullrich, Jr., Roller Op., 5/5/10

DISTRICT 6 - Shirley Hammett, Area Hq. Attendant, 7/20/04

DISTRICT 9 - Douglas Henry, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10/1/07

DISTRICT 10 - Dustin Miller, Bridge Repairer, 11/11/09