

TST TIMES

TRI-STATE TIRE

First Quarter • 2011

Spring Edition

Greetings to our wonderful customers! Thank you so much for your continued support of Tri State Tire! Without you we would not be here. These economic times have presented a challenge to us all. But luckily we are in the kind of business that is necessary. If people are going to continue to drive, they will continue to need tires and related auto services. This year looks to be challenging already. All our tire suppliers have let us know that tire prices will be steadily going up all year due to a shortage of natural rubber. If only rubber trees would grow around here! While supply may continue to be an issue we will constantly look for ways to fill your orders with the lowest prices possible.

We would like to thank our loyal co-workers who greet you every day with a joke and come to work every day with a good attitude (*and a joke.*) (*Or two.*) Basically we laugh all day at work. That's how work should be. If you have to work, it might as well be fun. We have an awesome group of guys just sitting here waiting to take your orders! So- give us a call and order some more tires! HaHa!

Have a really busy spring!



www.facebook.com/tristatetire



Employee Spotlight

John Ripley

John Ripley has been a great asset at Tri State Tire since 1995- John started out in delivery but has been the warehouse manager for the past 10 years. He is a devoted husband, father & grandpa! He has been bowling and playing softball in a league for years. He says he'll keep playing until he can't walk! It helps him stay in shape which will help him keep up with his 4 grandkids. He almost always wins the Halloween costume contest here at TST. He loves sitting by the pool, throwing horseshoes, Nascar, yard work, movies & playing with his boxers. (*That's dogs, not underwear.*) He's originally from Virginia. When asked what superhero he'd want to be, he said Superman because of his x-ray vision! His nickname is Rip and his favorite food is Bud Lite and Doritos!

You've probably talked to John if you've called the warehouse. He's always laughing and joking around. But nobody works harder. Most days he's the first person at the warehouse and the last to leave. We all enjoy working with John and look forward to the next 15 years! Thank you John for being such a great, all-around guy!



John Ripley relaxing in his pool.

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this news-letter absolutely DO reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of Tri-State Tire.



Tri State Tire Christmas Party

By Mo Bonilla

A Tri State Tire tradition every year is to have a Christmas party for the employees. The Christmas party is mostly done in appreciation for the year and to come together as a family. This past year's party took place at Chateau Elan on Dec. 5, 2010. The party kicks off with a cocktail hour followed by buffet dinner and dancing. Presents are given away throughout the evening. The dancing is the best part of the party because we get to see people make fools of themselves, especially Mike Patrick. Although this year I gave him a run for his money as evidenced in this photo.

The Tri State Team would like to thank Vicki White and Mike Patrick for having the Christmas party every year and for being the best employers!

Arena Football is Back!

We are so excited that the Georgia Force is not only back- they are back in Gwinnett County. We attended most home games back when the team was playing from the Gwinnett Arena a few years ago. Then they moved the franchise to Phillips Arena and not long after that the league terminated their operations. The Georgia Force was no more :-)

This year the Force is back in Gwinnett. Their first home game is March 13 against the Tulsa Talons. We will be back in the stands for another year of arena football. If you go to a game, look for us. We'll be the loudest most obnoxious fans there! They have a new logo this year.



Check it out!

Fantasy Football: The Infamous Trophy

By Matt Candler

If you've had the opportunity to experience the wonderful service and smiling faces at Tri State Tire in 2011, you have either seen or heard about our colorful, scuffed-up, enamel-coated trophy. Fantasy Football has become very popular all around the world. There have been television shows, movies and an abundant amount of radio talk shows about the "sport". These days almost everyone knows someone who plays on some kind of fantasy football league.

With that being said, some people just don't know how to take winning or losing in stride! If you come by to see us at TST in the next few weeks, you will probably see our rainbow colored trophy. See, the purpose of winning 1st place is to take the trophy HOME and put it in the attic or someplace where NO ONE can see it. (It's that ugly.) However, the person who won 1st place this past year thinks it's OK to put it on display where everyone can see it. It is locked in place on the center pole of our office for a whole year. (I will not mention the winner's name 'cause that's exactly what he wants me to do. Mike Patrick. He likes attention.) So if anyone wants to come in and see us, please feel free- we would love your company. And be my guest if you would like to take a shot at destroying this infamous trophy. (It only cost \$5 per shot)!

Message of the day: Be Humble.

**Inspirational thought of the day by Mike Patrick:

"Don't be jealous of my superior Fantasy Football skills..."

Feel free to come by and touch the trophy for a daily dose of good luck!



Rubber News...

Feb. 28, 2011 (Bloomberg) -- Rubber's 15 percent slump in about a week may be the prelude to rallies to a record high, driving up the cost of everything from Michelin tires to surgical gloves.

Harvests in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, the biggest growers, will fail to meet demand for a second year in 2011, leaving stockpiles equal to 69 days of demand, the lowest in more than a decade, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. estimates. Prices may advance as much as 32 percent to 605 yen a kilogram (\$7,407 a metric ton) by December, according to the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of 10 analysts and traders.

Bridgestone Corp. and Michelin & Cie., the world's biggest tire makers, are boosting prices by as much as 15 percent, and Top Glove Corp., the largest rubber-glove producer, is charging more. The rally in rubber mirrors the 93 percent advance in the S&P GSCI Agriculture Index since its June low caused by floods from Canada to Australia and droughts in China and Russia.

While that's bad news for consumers, it means "the best price I've ever seen," said Saneh Panpipat, 54, who tends about 2,000 rai (320 hectares) of rubber trees in southern Thailand, the country's main growing region. "My staff and many farmers who were unable to afford their own cars now have brand-new Toyota or Isuzu pickup trucks."

Heavier-than-usual rain in Southeast Asia, which supplies 70 percent of the world's rubber, disrupted harvests in the past several months. While farmers will increase supply by 9 percent this year, they won't eliminate shortages, as demand advances to its highest level since at least 2000, according to the team of Goldman analysts, led by Tokyo-based Yuichiro Isayama.

Ladies and gentlemen, and golfers of all ages....

With a spectacular setting amid our lush Georgia pines, Legacy on Lanier Golf Club offers stunning views of Lake Sidney Lanier. If you haven't had a chance to enjoy a pleasant round of golf amongst friends at this unique course, well, the time has come! Please keep a look out for our special "Buy-In" packages leading up to this year's quest for the "Tri-State Cup".

Last year we had a break through group of golfers hoist the trophy over their heads. CONGRATULATIONS to Willett Honda! Because he was paired with Willett Honda, I feel certain Steve Smith from Yokohama Tire would like to take some of the credit for their outstanding performance. However, I must admit I overheard someone whisper-- "Can't Steve AT LEAST hit a two foot putt?"

It is possible John Aben from Nexen Tire might be joining us again this year. Hey, does that mean Perfect Performance has a chance to win again? Who knows?

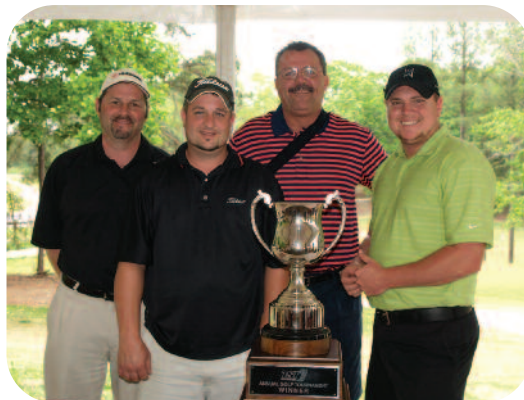
We'll start out early Saturday, May 14th with some practice swings at the driving range. Then we'll move on over to the course for a shot-gun start at 8:30. We'll play a round of golf using a Captain's Choice- Scramble format so some players (*like those of us at Tri-State*) don't look so bad out on the course.

Now what golf outing would be complete without some kind of give-a-ways? We'll have coolers set up for you on the golf carts as a starter. We'll take care of the beer and snack carts going around the course. We'll have giveaways for longest drive, longest putt, and of course the best and worst over all scores. Sets of tires, rounds of golf, golf clubs, and a Hole-In One opportunity for a car, are among the bounty for the on course activities! After the game, we'll gather together for our yearly raffle drawing for even greater bounty!

We had a strong turn out again last year with over 100 people in attendance! Once again we have the BEST group of people who support us year in and year out. I can't say THANK YOU enough for giving us the opportunity to put on a tournament of this size. Without our valued customers, well, we'd just be watching the grass grow. Or maybe we'd be better at our golf game :)
HmMMM.....

All kidding aside, Tri-State Tire looks forward to our golf outing every year. It gives us a great chance to catch up with everyone in a relaxing atmosphere. All of you reading this are the reason why we are able to put on the golf outing and we use it as just a small Thank You for all of your support. Hopefully Tri-State Tire is doing all the things necessary to serve you in the best possible way. If not, please take a moment to call me personally and let me know how we can improve for you.

THANK YOU!!!
Michael Patrick



Winners



Losers

FALKEN TIRE

Falken Tire has designed and built a dynamic high mileage performance touring tire, which fits the needs of a wide market of vehicles. With an 80,000 limited mileage warranty, the SN211 offers long-term confidence and mile-after-mile comfort. Technological advantages are readily apparent through a variable sipe depth design, four optimized circumferential grooves and treadwear indicators. Best of all, the SN211 delivers maximum value and superb year-round performance.

Available in a wide range of original equipment replacement sizes, from 14-inch to 18-inch diameters, the SN211 is the tire for today – well-engineered and stylish, enhancing the look of popular coupes, sedans and wagons with a premium and sport-inspired appearance.

In Memory Of



BOBBY MYER **Smyrna Tire**

Mr. Bobby F. Myer, age 76, of Powder Springs, GA passed away Saturday, February 19,

2011. A native of Cherokee County, Alabama, Mr. Myer had lived in Cobb County for the past 54 years. He drove a fuel truck for the R.S. Powell Oil Company for 16 years then worked for Goodyear Tire and Rubber as a sales representative. Afterwards, he opened Smyrna Tire on South Cobb Drive, and operated it for the past 35 years. He was very active in coaching and sponsoring little league baseball teams at Milford Ball Park and the Colt League at Ward Park throughout his life. Mr. Myer loved Alabama football, and was a member of the Atlanta Chapter of the Red Elephant Club and was also a dedicated member of Macland Baptist Church. Survivors include: Wife: Mrs. June Myer; 3 Children: Phyllis Hogan, Atlanta; Lynn Myer (Teresa), Marietta; Michael Myer (Tracy), Smyrna; Several Brothers and Sisters, 3 Grandchildren: Paige Hogan, Logan Myer and Halie Myer. Contributions may be made to the Macland Baptist Church Building Fund, 3732 Macland Road, Powder Springs, GA 30127.

Equipment & Supplies

2011 has already started out as a challenge for those of us in the tire and automotive service business and the remainder of the year promises to be much of the same. Good news seems hard to find but there is very good news when it comes to service equipment, supplies and other shop related expenses. Tri State Tire and it's suppliers have kept the cost of Kex, Rema, Ammco, Coats and all other tire & service needs at 2010 price levels while tire prices are only increasing.

Other good news for 2011- Tri State Tire will be one of the very few distributors of Ammco brake lathes, Coats tire changers and wheel balancers in the Metro Atlanta market. Our prices will be more than competitive and our service is second to none. Our tire service related products which is Kex- a Rema private label line- is covered in our Kex catalog. Please call us if you would like a copy and one of our representatives will get one to you ASAP. Our prices on patches, valves, paste & lubricants, jacks, hoses and all service tools are designed to save you a substantial amount on your service expenses.

Please give us a chance to save you money on all your equipment & service supply needs.

Call Chris today!

770-448-8491

Seriously Folks

We didn't make this up!

**Coming to theaters near you
April 1, 2011- April Fool's Day!**

Check it out at

www.facebook.com/rubbermovie

Genre: Drama, Horror, Comedy

Synopsis: RUBBER is the story of Robert, an inanimate tire that has been abandoned in the desert, and suddenly and inexplicably comes to life. As Robert roams the bleak landscape, he discovers that he possesses terrifying telepathic powers that give him the ability to destroy anything he wishes without having to move. At first content to prey on small desert creatures and various discarded objects, his attention soon turns to humans, especially a beautiful and mysterious woman who crosses his path. Leaving a swath of destruction across the desert landscape, Robert becomes a chaotic force to be reckoned with, and truly a movie villain for the ages. Directed by legendary electro musician Quentin Dupieux (Steak, Nonfilm), aka Mr. Oizo, RUBBER is a smart, funny and wholly original tribute to the cinematic concept of "no reason." – (C) Magnet Less



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