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## Dart Transit Company's 2010 Contractors of the Year



Congratulations to Dart Transit Company's 2010 Contractors of the Year:  
**Joe Ritchie** (pictured above left with Joyce Jordan) and **Brad Chapdelaine** (pictured above right with Dave Oren).  
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ADVANTAGE<sup>®</sup> DART  
JUNE 2011

# Dart Transit Company's 2010 Contractors of the Year

## Joe Ritchie

By Jennifer Dotson, Operations Manager

On Friday, April 29, Joe Ritchie was honored as one of Dart Transit Company's 2010 Contractors of the Year. Joe, along with his wife, Irma, enjoyed lunch in their honor along with a reception in the VIP Lounge. Joe was awarded a leather jacket, a \$1,000 check to show Dart's appreciation for his service and commitment, and a trophy recognizing his achievements. Irma was presented with a dozen roses.

"Joe is one of the nicest people I have ever had the privilege to work with, bar none!" said his fleet manager D.J. Wilson. "Joe is a pure

over 20 years and has been an owner operator with Dart since June 2007. Joe has driven nearly half a million miles with Dart. In 2010, he was 100% on time. Joe's positive attitude and commitment to service make him successful. ❖

## Brad Chapdelaine

This year, Brad Chapdelaine gets to add "Dart Transit Company Contractor of the Year" to his resume. At the end of March, Dart held a reception in Brad's honor and recognized him for his outstanding achievements, naming him one of Dart's Contractors of the Year for 2010.

Brad has 26 years in trucking, nearly half (12

Brad stand out is his involvement in the community.

Brad has participated in The World's Largest Convoy for Special Olympics for

sador, along with an athlete of ours, Bobby Kimber. Brad would only accept this position if Bobby did. Their job is to be the goodwill ambas-



**Brad Chapdelaine** stands out because of his involvement in the community.

**Joe Ritchie's** positive attitude and commitment to service make him successful.



joy to work with. I wish I had an entire fleet like him! His professionalism is outstanding along with his attitude, which is always 'can do.' No matter the situation. I can't say enough about him."

Joe was a fleet driver for

years) with Dart. Brad's customer service goes above and beyond, and the National Safety Council will be awarding him with its prestigious 3 Million Mile safety award this year. That is a remarkable achievement, but what makes

almost 10 years now in Minnesota and other states. It was with Brad's encouragement that Dart began sponsoring the Minnesota Convoy. "Driving down the road, it gives you a warm feeling to see all the athletes cheering you on," Brad says. "You're not just raising money, you're also making friends."

Kathy Karkula, Development Director for Special Olympics Minnesota met Brad seven years ago, when Special Olympics held its first World's Largest Convoy in Minnesota. "It was not the first time Brad had participated in the convoy, so his expertise was valuable to me," Kathy said. "Since then Brad has been a vital part of the Minnesota Truck Convoy and has always put the athletes of Special Olympics first. Last year Brad was named our Minnesota Ambas-

sadors representing both the Minnesota Convoy and Special Olympics."

Brad has also been a member of the Minnesota Convoy's Planning Committee for the past three years. "Brad is not just a thinker, he's a doer too," Kathy said. "Special Olympics Minnesota would like to congratulate Brad for receiving the honor of Dart Contractor of the Year. We are proud to be associated with such a fine person."

When he's not on the road, Brad likes to work in his wood shop. His project right now is to make a shadow box frame for a Special Olympics flag Dart contractors were awarded at the World's Largest Truck Convoy last year.

Brad is honored to be Dart Contractor of the Year. "Basically all companies are

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## Save the date: October 1, 2011 World's Largest Truck Convoy

The World's Largest Truck Convoy, to benefit Special Olympics, will be held **October 1** in Minnesota. Each year, convoys are held in metro areas across the country, where professional truck drivers raise money and aware-



Photo of the 2010 convoy by Harvey and Karen Zander

### Mile Marker



#### Robert Rehm

Robert (Bob) Rehm passed away on May 21. He was 63 years old. Bob owned Rehm Trucking, and had contracted a truck with Dart Transit Company since 1996. He operated in Dart's Northern Region, and his wife Cathy often rode with him. He had six children, 22 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

"Bob will truly be missed," said Doug James, Bob's fleet manager. "He made sure he was on time all the time, and if there was an issue, he came up with solutions before he called in, making my job easier. He was a one-of-a-kind guy and I was lucky to know him." ❖

ness for Special Olympics.

2011 marks the seventh consecutive year for the convoy in Minnesota. Last year 77 trucks participated in the convoy, raising over \$28,000 for Special Olympics Minnesota.

### Mile Marker

#### Ken Warhime

*By Mike Turner, Director of Northeast Short Haul*

Northeast Short Haul Dedicated Services driver Ken Warehime from Port Deposit, Maryland passed away May 23 after suffering a massive heart attack. He was 56 years old.

Ken was a yard switcher for Dedicated Services since July 2010. Ken's wife Brenda said he enjoyed his job and mentioned that Ken spoke often of how he thought he had finally found a trucking company that truly cared about their drivers. His hard work and dedication will truly be missed. ❖

The Minnesota convoy will be at a new location this

year – the National Sports Center/Schwan Event Center in Blaine. This year's convoy will kick off with a dinner and performance on Friday, September 30, at the Sports Center. Following on Saturday will be breakfast, the convoy, an awards ceremony, and lunch. Awards will be presented for the Best Looking Truck, the Nicest Truck Driver, and the company having the most trucks participating.

Don't miss out on supporting this cause. Watch for more information. Can't make it to the Minnesota convoy? To find a convoy near you, please visit [http://resources.specialolympics.org/convoy\\_contacts.aspx](http://resources.specialolympics.org/convoy_contacts.aspx). ❖

#### Let's hear from you

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the same," he says. "The only difference is the personnel that Dart has. It's one of the reasons I stay with Dart. It's because of the people here. Dart's helped me out a whole bunch when I had problems. Now it just feels like family."

As Contractors of the Year, Joe and Brad received personalized leather jackets, marble trophies, and \$1,000 checks. Congratulations Joe and Brad on being named Dart's Contractors of the Year! ❖