

TRAK Record



A Publication of the *Towing & Recovery Association of Kentucky*— JUNE 2016 Edition

JUNE MEETING SPONSORED BY TOTAL TRUCK PARTS

**MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE HELD JUNE 21, AT 6:00PM AT:
TEXAS OUTLAW, 220 COMMERCE DR., ELIZABETHTOWN, KY**

Mark your Calendars!

Summer is just around the corner, and TRAK is up and going! We had a great meeting last month, and would like to thank Roberts Heavy Duty Towing for their hospitality. We appreciate everyone that was able to attend, and look forward to seeing everyone at the June meeting in Elizabethtown.

We have a lot in the works for the association, and we're excited to see how the rest of this year unfolds!

We have added more communication options for members as well. Please let us know if you'd like to be added to our text and/or email blasts about upcoming events, news, and more. Also, remember to send us your classified ads!

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The TRAK Beacon

Associate Member Spotlight



Louisville
4525 Poplar Level Rd
1-502-966-8899

Clarksville
1545 Progress Way
1-812-282-9925

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2075 Kentucky Ave
1-317-264-5038

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TRAA Meets, Presents Awards at the Florida Tow Show

The Towing and Recovery Association of America (TRAA) drew 22 state associations, up from 19 the year before, to a meeting at the Florida Tow Show in Orlando that addressed the need for state and local groups to become more active.

Joanne Blyton, first vice president and a state legislator from Montana, urged members to become better watchdogs in the face of legislation around the country that could adversely affect towing companies. She pointed out the efforts of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA – see “Face to Face” story in May issue of *Tow Times*), which has stepped up lobbying at the state level to restrict towing companies.

“It’s our industry and if we don’t protect it, it won’t be there for us,” Blyton said.

Special presenter Hardy Smith offered tips on how state associations can become stronger:

- Adapt to change.
- Grow membership.
- Develop board members.
- Build local relationships.

TRAA presented its annual awards to Belinda Harris, Presidential Award; Kirk Blackburn, National Citizenship Award; Patrick Winner, Distinguished Service Award; and Brenda Taylor, Christina Foltz, Kate Mulcan, Johanna Sanford, Barb Robinson, Ashley Soverns earned the Appreciation Award.



Belinda Harris of Ray Harris Inc., Greensboro, N.C., received the Presidential Award from TRAA President Jeff Roskopf.

COOK COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE — A tow truck driver who came to the aid of a couple whose car broke down on the Dan Ryan Expy. could only watch as they got into the cab of his truck and drove off, leaving him stranded, prosecutors said.

What's worse — they drove over his foot as they got away, according to the towing company.

"It's just unbelievable," XL Towing owner Sherry DiVito said Thursday. "They ran over my driver's foot; they left him on the highway. He could've been killed."

The driver invited three people stranded on the side of the road to get into the cab of the tow truck so they wouldn't be exposed to dangerous traffic on the busy Dan Ryan, DiVito said.

But while the driver was putting their car on the hook, the tow truck drove off — with the busted Nissan Murano dragging behind it, prosecutors said.

Raekwon Shack, 19, is accused of speeding away in the stolen truck.

The driver had been called to the Dan Ryan near 87th Street on Wednesday to help Shack's girlfriend, 20-year-old Keia Street, whose 2000 Nissan Murano needed a tow, court records show.

Though the driver was expecting two people, he was greeted by Street, Shack and another man, DiVito said.

Since "cars come whipping around on the Dan Ryan like they're in the Indy 500," DiVito said, the driver suggested the three clients sit inside his tow truck while he worked. "He wanted to keep them out of harm's way because [that road] is dangerous."

But as the driver attached the Murano to his truck, prosecutors said, Shack hopped in the driver's seat of the tow truck and sped off — running over the driver's foot with the trailer in the process.

Based on GPS data, the tow truck headed north to 71st Street, where it exited the expressway and stopped, DiVito said.

The tow truck driver, meanwhile, used his cellphone to call for help. Once DiVito knew the driver was OK, she said, the long-time owner called police and provided them with GPS tracking info for the stolen truck.

Just before 8 p.m. Wednesday, police found Street, Shack and their accomplice trying to unhook the Murano from the tow truck in the 7000 block of South Wabash Avenue, according to an arrest report.

TRAK Monthly Meetings

~~March 15th—Cave City/Glasgow~~

~~April 19th—Louisville, Tony's Wrecker Svc.~~

~~May 17th—Lexington, Robert's Towing~~

June 21st—Elizabethtown, Texas Outlaw

July 19th—Florence

August—picnic (date to be announced)

September 20th—Leitchfield

October 18th—Morehead

November 15th—Bardstown

December—Christmas party

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