

# THE TRANSPORT

## JRayl Transport Newsletter



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## Keeping You Moving

Together as a team, JRayl has grown exponentially over the past 30 years. To be a successful trucking company, it has taken more than a few trucks and a few customers. The trucks take people. People to drive the trucks. People to maintain the trucks. JRayl has recognized from the beginning that maintaining the equipment was a core component towards growth!

JRayl has maintenance team members in the Akron, Cleveland, Danville, and Sunnyvale terminals. The team members work together to meet the needs of the equipment as well as the facility and driver needs. The team is also responsible for installing and maintaining all PeopleNet systems for the JRayl vehicles and Owner/Operator equipment. Each technician is certified to work on both diesel and CNG trucks and our team has the ability to work on all components of the truck and trailer.

JRayl's maintenance team has many years of experience in the trucking industry. With over 300 trucks and 900 trailers, our technicians are responsible for over 100 pieces of equipment per technician. Fixing a truck when it breaks down isn't the only focus of the maintenance team, however. They also work tirelessly to make sure the trucks don't breakdown by performing the preventative maintenance necessary to keep our trucks on the road. Currently less than ten percent of the trucks in our fleet are under repair, meaning most of our trucks are out delivering freight for our customers.

"Keeping ahead of the game is the goal of the team" stated Fleet Maintenance Manager, Gene Shippy. "It is rewarding and motivating for the team to have more trucks rolling than in the need of repair. My team works well together to manage the driver's needs. We appreciate the driver's willingness to report the repairs and plan ahead with their preventative maintenance schedules."



## Moving Cont.

*“The objective of cleaning is not just to clean, but to feel happiness living within that environment.”*

*-Marie Kondo*



### MAINTENANCE IN SUNNYVALE

The maintenance team also introduced a new program for the driving family this year called Pride In Your Ride.

The program is focusing on vehicle cleanliness and vehicle preventative maintenance. JRayl drivers are recognized for maintaining a clean and organized truck and trailers. JRayl invests in new equipment for their drivers in hopes of providing a safe and comfortable environment on the road. It is up to the drivers to maintain that equipment on a daily basis by keeping it clean and in good shape. The technicians get to recognize the drivers that take pride in their equipment and in JRayl Transport.

JRayl's family could not grow without the equipment to get them there. The maintenance team's skill and knowledge provide the necessary tools to succeed.

Their experience and continual training allow for continual growth and Pride in the JRayl Ride. Thank you team for your continued support and hard work to keep us rolling!

## JRayl's Fleet is Growing

### **100 is the Number of New Tractors added to the JRayl fleet in 2018.**

As the JRayl's fleet continues to grow, the purchase of over 100 tractors was essential. Growth in numbers is necessary to keep up with the demand of the market.

JRayl has made some adjustments to their terminals to allow for the new tractors. As the drivers come home every weekend, additional parking at the terminals was also required for the team.

### **200 is the Number of New Trailers added to the JRayl fleet in 2018.**

JRayl added over 200 new trailers to the fleet to offer additional services to our customers. The trailers also require additional drop locations within our secured parking lots. As the fleet grows, we will begin to review our existing trailers and make necessary modifications and updates to ensure the equipment will exceed our customer's expectations for delivery and service. We ask our driving team to report all trailer needs to help with these improvements.

As the JRayl family grows, they have made the investment in their equipment and facilities. JRayl expects to continue to grow and improve as the market changes. JRayl's flexibility will allow for over 100 new equipment options to their drivers and customers to grow and succeed!

# Focus on Continuous Education

Henry Ford was an American Business Leader and Founder of Ford Motor Company. He is known for the development and the manufacturing of the first automobile. He was a strong supporter of his employees as well as continuous education. He was quoted saying “The only thing worse than training your employees and having them leave is not training them and having them stay.”

JRayl Transport, like Henry Ford, supports education and continuous learning of our employees. JRayl has a training program for recent CDL graduates in all terminal locations. JRayl also supports and visits the local CDL schools and educates students on E-logs and other essential elements of a professional truck driver. All JRayl technicians recently were trained and re-certified in CNG maintenance as well as the new diagnosis tools for the JRayl equipment.

Another program recently introduced to the JRayl Family is through JRayl’s Human Resources Department called Brown Bag Lunches to emphasize the importance of continuous learning. The goal of these lunches is to provide our employees with training topics that will teach them concepts that will be beneficial to their positions here at JRayl. Some topics can be related to the daily programs that employees use such as Microsoft Excel and other topics can be focused on enhancing interpersonal skills such as effective communication.

*“We began these brown bag lunches in June, with the first training being on pre and post-trip inspections, allowing our office employees to gain some insight into what our drivers do on a daily basis. I have been given the opportunity to coordinate these lunches for our employees on behalf of JRayl’s Human Resources Department”* stated Human Resource Intern, Julie Vue.



JRayl recognizes that not everyone can be present for the brown bag lunches. In an effort to expand and communicate the content shared in the training sessions, JRayl will be posting the information on our website! These posts will consist of takeaways from the training sessions. JRayl plans to host a Brown Bag Luncheon monthly and will communicate the programs to the local team members when finalized. If you have ideas or suggestions on training programs, please contact the Human Resource Department.

Henry Ford as well as JRayl encourages our employees to pursue professional development through the search of continuous education. The education can be in the form of an outside institution or internal resources. As JRayl develops the resources and tools, please visit our website to acquire more information. Let’s all continue to learn and grow together!

JOIN JRAYL ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



# JRAYL IN THE PRINT

## JRAYL TRANSPORT MANAGER HONORED WITH PATRIOT AWARD

JRAYL is proud to announce, Driver Experience Team Manager, Tara Rayl, is the honored recipient of the Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve (ESGR). Tara Rayl was nominated by JRayl's Lead Driver Trainer, Matthew Gravius. Matt is currently an active reservist with the United States Army.

The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if required by the reservist. Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Retired) Chaker Fadel, Ohio ESGR Volunteer said, "Matthew, who like the citizen soldiers before him, have answered his nation's call to serve. Supportive supervisors, like Tara, are critical partners to help in maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units. Nearly half of our nation's defense is in the National Guard and Reserves today."

JRayl has a long history of offering programs to support veterans and those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces. "Tara is a great representation of our JRayl Family culture where we create a welcoming and supportive environment for service men and women and their families. We are proud of her efforts. We are especially appreciative of Matthew and his family and all those who have served or are serving in our nation's Armed Forces." said Kevin Dietrich, JRayl Senior VP of Operations.

ESGR seeks to foster a culture where all employers support and value the employment and military service of National Guard and Reserve members. ESGR promotes a cooperative culture of employer support for National Guard and Reserve services by developing mutually beneficial initiatives, recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and policies, resolving potential conflicts between employers and their service members, and acting as employers' principal advocate within the Department of Defense.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL SEASON



Are you ready for some FOOTBALL?!?! - The Fall air is crisper, the excitement grows, and the Blue and Gold colors are everywhere. Akron Zips Football season is about to begin! From the tailgates to the team rushing onto InfoCision Stadium-Summa Field, the students, alumni, and fans are ready for some Zips Football!

A lot goes on behind the scenes for the Akron University team on game day. The field must be prepared, tickets sold, and the equipment in the locker room for the players. Game day equipment needs to be transported, sometimes across country, overnight. That's where JRayl Transport begins the football season.

"It's that Family and HOMETOWN Pride that gets JRayl Transport excited transporting Akron Zips Football equipment. It's an honor for JRayl to partner with The University of Akron's Football program each season" said Kevin Dietrich, Senior Vice President for JRayl Transport.

Each year, JRayl Transport selects a driver to transport Akron Zips Football to each of their games. The equipment will start in Akron Ohio each week.

Depending on the game day location, the driver will travel all over the country to ensure the team is ready to tackle their next opponent. Akron Zips Football Team will be ready for all their games thanks to the hometown support of JRayl Transport. When you see the Akron Zips Equipment truck drive by in your area, know that JRayl Transport is proud to be who keeps the Akron Blue and Gold moving!

### JRayl Transport Manager Honored With Patriot Award

Tara Rayl, driver experience team manager at JRayl Transport Inc., received the Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve program.

Rayl was nominated by Matthew Gravius, JRayl's lead driver trainer. Gravius currently is an active reservist with the U.S. Army.

The Patriot Award honors recipients for their efforts to support citizen warriors through a wide range of measures, including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families and granting leaves of absence if required by the reservist.

"Supportive supervisors, like Tara, are critical partners to help in maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units," said Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Retired) Chaker Fadel, an Ohio ESGR volunteer. "Nearly half of our nation's defense is in the National Guard and Reserves today."

JRayl has a long history of offering programs to support veterans and those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

"Tara is a great representation of our JRayl Family culture where we create a welcoming and supportive environment for service men and women and their families. We are proud of her efforts. We are especially appreciative of Matthew and his family and all those who have served or are serving in our nation's Armed Forces," said Kevin Dietrich, senior vice president of operations for JRayl, which is based in Akron, Ohio.



Rayl (left) with Gravius, who nominated her for the Patriot Award.

# JRayl Drivers & Families

# Thank You!

## Driver Appreciation 2018



Visit: [WWW.JRAYL.COM](http://WWW.JRAYL.COM)



# TRANSPORTATION

## OPERATION SAFE DRIVER WEEK 2018

Commercial motor vehicle enforcement personnel patrolled roadways during Operation Safe Driver Week, July 15-21, 2018. The week focused on identifying commercial motor vehicle drivers and passenger vehicle drivers engaged in unsafe driving behaviors. The annual event is hosted by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. The Alliance calls attention to driver behaviors, the main cause of vehicle crashes on the roadways today.

During this year's Operation Safe Driver Week, 51,000 law enforcement officers made contact with 113,331 Commercial Motor Vehicle drivers and passenger vehicle drivers. A total of 42,144 Commercial Motor Vehicle contacts were made with 10,709 citations issued, and 71,187 passenger vehicle contacts were made with 46,696 citations issued. In addition to the citations, officers issued a total of 87,907 warnings. Commercial Motor Vehicle drivers were given 29,908 warnings, while 57,999 warnings were given to passenger vehicle drivers.



### **The top five citations issued to Commercial Motor Vehicle drivers were:**

1. State/local laws—6,008 citations
2. Speeding—1,908 citations
3. Failing to use a seat belt while operating a Commercial Motor Vehicle—1,169 citations
4. Failure to obey a traffic control device—754 citations
5. Using a handheld phone—262 citations

### **The top five citations issued to passenger vehicle drivers were:**

1. State/local laws—21,511 citations
2. Speeding—16,909 citations
3. Failing to use a seat belt—3,103 citations
4. Inattentive and/or careless driving—1,655 citations
5. Failure to obey a traffic control device—739 citations

Safe Driver Week results also included a total of 1,822 drivers (1,699 passenger vehicle drivers and 123 Commercial Motor Vehicle drivers) who were cited for reckless, inattentive and/or careless driving. 366 drivers were cited for possession/use/under the influence of alcohol or drugs or both. Forty-two of the citations were issued to Commercial Motor Vehicle drivers, and 324 were issued to passenger vehicle drivers. Specific to Commercial Motor Vehicle drivers, 17 were cited for operating their vehicle while ill or fatigued, and 14 received citations for using/equipping their Commercial Motor Vehicle with a radar detector.

When it comes to distracted driving, 211 passenger vehicle driver citations during Operation Safe Driver Week were for texting; 20 texting citations were issued to Commercial Motor Vehicle drivers. 127 passenger vehicle drivers and 262 Commercial Motor Vehicle drivers were cited for using a handheld phone. Using a phone needs to be limited to ensure the motorist is focusing on the roadways and not their devices, especially while in construction work zones.

Safe driving is not only an enforced behavior, it saves lives. Proper precautions and awareness needs to be the focus of the driving community - both commercial and passenger drivers. Each day in the United States approximately nine people are killed and more than 1,000 injured in roadway related accidents due to distracted driving. Those distractions also include speeding, not wearing seat belts, careless driving, and use of a phone. As a driver, we all need to take these behaviors into account when sharing the roadway and put the phones down!

\*References: Transport Topics, "Officers Issue 57,405 Citations, 87,907 Warnings During Operation Safe Driver Week"; Waste 360, "CVSA Releases 2018 Operation Safe Driver Week Results"

# #SAFETYFIRSTJRAYL

## KEEP YOUR RIG IN TIP TOP SHAPE!

It doesn't take much to make a big difference in the way your vehicle performs. If your truck is not working at its best, neither are you. With that in mind, here are a few tips you can follow to keep your truck running in tip-top shape. You will be on the road longer and have less worry of downtime.

1. It is important to take the time to check your oil, especially before a long haul. This is especially important if the rig is new to you or if major motor work has been recently completed. Powerful engines need lots of fluids and it can be harmful if gone overlooked.
2. Be sure to check your radiator before a long trip. Be sure to check the radiator itself not just the overflow bottle. Top off the fluid and if you spot any small leaks you should deal with them quickly before it causes overheating and damage to your engine.
3. Tire pressure is important. It should be checked regularly and performed even more often if long trips are in the schedule. Tire pressure can fluctuate with changes in weather and from driving at high speeds on the highways. Under-inflated tires are more prone to punctures and pothole damage and blowouts. Check for proper pressure ranges and keep those tires inflated!
4. A truck with dual-fuel tanks will act like it is out of fuel if you park your vehicle sideways on a hill, making one side of the truck higher than the other. Fuel, from the higher tank will flow to the lower tank and when you start the truck the uneven tanks will cause the fuel uptake system to draw in air instead of fuel. If you need to park on a hill, look for a way to park on the slope from front to back and not side to side.
5. If your truck has been sitting for a few days, make a point to check the fuel vent before starting your trip. Wasps and other insects often build nests in the fuel vent, creating a blockage and causing the truck to appear as if it's out of fuel.
6. Make sure to have your brakes checked often. If you feel vibration or hear squealing when you apply the brakes, it is probably time for a checkup. Calling the service team with the problem sooner rather than later will save your life! Always think safety first!

## DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracted driving is a major cause of accidents on U.S. Highways. Here are a few tips to help you prevent being distracted while driving and how to deal with other distracted drivers.

- Never use a hand held device while driving. If you must make a phone call always use a hands-free Bluetooth device.
- Never text or use social media while driving.
- If you are easily upset by sports or politics avoid listening to certain radio station that play that content.
- Conduct good trip plans. Know your routes and stops ahead of time. Pre program your GPS with the destination. Study your map and find alternate routes ahead of time.
- Be aware of food and drinks. Put drinks in cups with straws instead of bottles that need the cap removed. If you need snack food like a bag of chips, have it open and in the spot needed before you start driving.
- While backing make sure that any possible distractions are eliminated. Turn off the radio, hang up the Bluetooth device and avoid looking at one location or object while backing.
- If you see another driver that is driving distracted back off the throttle and increase your following distance. Remember to continue to use the Smith System and avoid focusing on that driver. You may be able to see a potential accident involving the distracted driver and avoid getting caught in it.



# JRAYL FAMILY HEADLIGHTS

#JRAYLSFAMILYMATTERS

## DRIVER TRAINER MATT GRAVIUS

Matt is a driver trainer for JRayl. He takes a lot of pride in his position with JRayl. Matt is a family man who tries to spend as much time outside as possible with them. E-7 Platoon Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army Reserves, Matt also has an extensive military background and thanks to JRayl's support, he has been able to continue on a reserve basis.

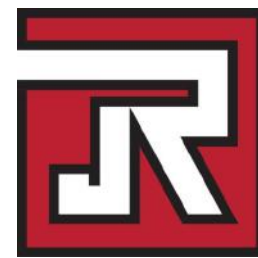
He was originally hired as an over the road driver for JRayl but was asked by Richard Hayworth to join the training team in 2016. Matt's favorite part of the job is getting to meet and get to know each driver (New CDL graduates or experienced) as they begin their career at JRayl. Matt appreciates his opportunities to be home when he can and helping the Akron terminal in routes that require immediate attention.

Matt stated "I am very proud of my job at JRayl. I enjoy what I do and who I work with. I am very lucky to have found this position within JRayl."

Matt has a wife, son and two girls. Matt and his wife Crystal enjoy hiking, ATV'ing, and other outdoor activities. They keep their kids active in martial arts, self-defense, puzzles, and working-out regularly. Matt takes pride in being outside, if the weather is right! Matt wants his family to share the same daredevil and adventurous values.

His military background is rather extensive. Matt has 8 years of active duty and 6 years of reserve service in the U.S. Military. Matt operates a Reserve Platoon of 65 soldiers. He has committed up to two weekends a month and a few weeks a year to the Reserve Program. His Platoon will help with military missions and national disaster relief as the needs of the government requires.

Matt Gravius is a dedicated Non-Commission officer and JRayl Driver trainer. Matt can be found leading young drivers, experienced drivers, and soldiers. We appreciate his dedication to JRayl as well as his dedication to our Nation. Thank you for your continuous service to our Country!



## DRIVER OF THE MONTH UPDATES: 3RD QUARTER

JRayl would like to recognize the following drivers for their hardwork and dedication to the JRayl family vision for a better tomorrow!

### Month of June:

David Redmond (Akron)

### Month of July:

Michael Mikos (Sunnyvale)

### Month of August:

Russel Spencer (North Liberty)

Congratulations & Drive Safe!



1016 Triplett Blvd.  
Akron, OH. 44306  
www.jrayl.com  
800-753-5050



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Thank you JRayl team for your help with the Newsletter!  
Special Thanks to the editors Adam Smith and Jeff Kahoolihala!  
Please provide Newsletter comments & recommendations to:  
amanda.jones@jrayl.com