



2010 Safety

SNOW PLOW ROADDEO

27th Annual Snow Plow Rodeo Features New Course – and a Very Familiar Winner!

The course may have changed, but the competition was as fierce as ever as more than 40 drivers representing seventeen municipalities and the Regional Water Authority battled it out at CASHO's 2010 Snow Plow Rodeo, held October 14 at Mountain Ridge. "This year, the course features the same obstacles as always, but in a different order," explained former City of Milford Public Works Foreman John Wielk as he walked drivers through the course under perfect early autumn conditions. "That way, there will be no disadvantage to new drivers."

Clearly, the new course proved to the liking of the drivers from Vernon, who drove away with the grand prize as the winning municipality – for the third consecutive year! Milford and Bloomfield finished second and third, respectively.

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Breaking News!

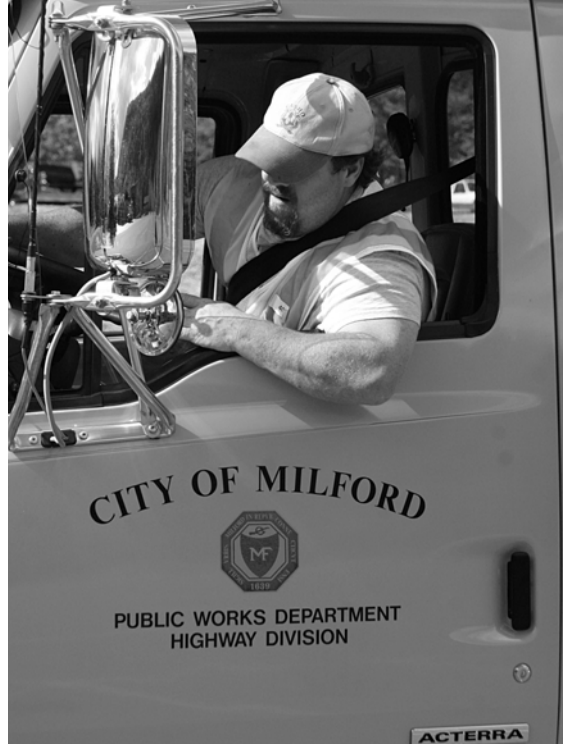
Drivers from the Town of Vernon followed up on their recent victory in CASHO's 2010 Snow Plow Safety Rodeo with an impressive second place finish in a regional competition sponsored by the New England chapter of the American Public Works Association in Fitchburg, MA on November 3rd. Congratulations to Vernon's two-man team of Mike Baran and Tim Moriarty!



There's no need for instant replay when you have eagle-eyed judges like (from left to right): David Knauss, New Canaan; Ray Sales, Bloomfield; Cliff Jubrey, Bloomfield; Joshua Hebert, Ellington; Ron Moser, Ellington.

Heard at the Roadeo:

"We cut the tennis balls in half so the judges didn't have to chase them quite so far."



Milford's Kevin Tymon takes on offset alley.



Judging at the loading dock was the responsibility of Jack Rich and Lenny Descheneaux of Ellington.

Are You Smarter Than a Snow Plow Driver? Part II

In the fall 2009 issue of Highways & Byways, we gave readers five of the twenty questions Roadeo participants were required to answer before getting behind the wheel to drive the course. Here are five more.

- The minimum tire depth allowed on the front tires of a 9-ton dump truck is 4/32. True or false?
- It is illegal to operate a commercial motor vehicle if your blood alcohol concentration is .04. True or false?
- The best way to correct a drive wheel braking skid is to apply constant brake pressure. True or false?
- Always rely on traffic signals and safety signs. True or false?
- When carrying a load, the weight should be place entirely over the rear axle. True or false?

And the Winners are...



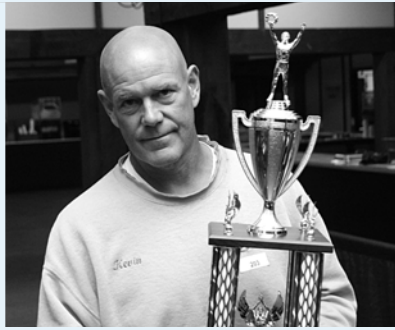
Class 1: Jeep / Mini-Pickup

1st Place – Tom Bengston,
Bloomfield



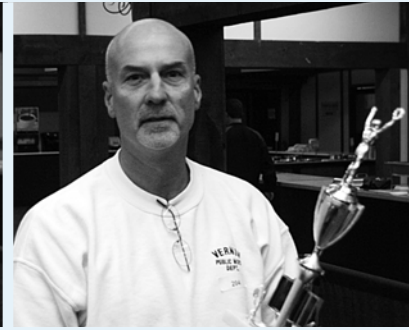
Class 1: Jeep / Mini-Pickup

2nd Place – Mike Hinkley,
Watertown



Class 2: Pickup

1st Place – Kevin Smith,
Milford



Class 2: Pickup

2nd Place – Pete Lesniak,
Vernon



Class 2: Pickup

3rd Place – Jim Connoles,
Bloomfield



Class 3: Mason Dump

1st Place – Tim Moriarty,
Vernon



Class 3: Mason Dump

2nd Place (tie) – Paul Visconti,
Milford



Class 3: Mason Dump

2nd Place (tie) – Steve Milici,
Regional Water Authority



Class 4: 6-Wheel Dump

1st Place – Mike Baran,
Vernon



Class 4: 6-Wheel Dump

2nd Place – P. Sylvester,
Hebron



Class 4: 6-Wheel Dump

3rd Place – Kevin Tymon,
Milford



Class 5: 10-Wheel Dump

1st Place – Mark Mueller,
Plymouth



Class 5: 10-Wheel Dump

2nd Place – Pete Bovat,
Watertown



Class 5: 10-Wheel Dump

3rd Place – Craig Johnson,
Bloomfield

Best in Show:

Class 1 – Bloomfield

Class 2 – New Canaan

Class 3 – Hebron

Class 4 – Plainville

Class 5 – East Hartford

Winning Municipality: Town of Vernon!



Tire Floss: Several trucks picked up a cone while trying to avoid the many mailboxes on the course.



The loading dock proved especially difficult this year, as only one driver in the Jeep and Pick-up classes backed up far enough not to penalized.

Heard at the Rodeo:

“The changes in the course will keep the veteran drivers on their toes.”



Shaun Bull from Ellington backs into the loading dock.

Do you know the names of all ten obstacles on the Rodeo course?

Here they are in the order they appeared in CASHO's 2010 Snow Plow Safety Rodeo:

- Parked Cars
- Left-hand Curve
- Serpentine
- Right-hand Curve
- Offset Alley
- Loading Dock
- Straight Line
- Cul de Sac
- Snow Pile
- Diminishing Lane