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33 TRUCKERS WILL COMPETE IN DOUBLE NICKEL CHALLENGE

Thirty-three big-rig truck operators from 20 states will challenge the U.S. Department of Transportation in a fuel economy competition at the Transportation Research Center, East Liberty, Ohio, on August 1, 2 and 3.

The competition, billed as the "Double Nickel Challenge", is being conducted jointly by the Department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the 200-member Voluntary Truck and Bus Fuel Economy Improvement Program as a demonstration of comparative fuel efficiencies.

DOT hopes to prove the validity of its claim that 18-wheelers operate far more efficiently at 55 mph, the national maximum speed limit, than at higher speeds. Challenging that claim is the owner-operator segment of the trucking industry which has contested the national 55 mph speed limit's fuel-saving value.

Eleven trucks representing various makes, models, engines and transmissions, will run each of the three days beginning on August 1 at 7:00 a.m. Starting times will be staggered and the last truck should complete its run at 4:00 p.m. daily.

Each driver will make two separate 50 mile runs around the 7 1/2 mile oval track at the Transportation Research Center. The first run will be at 55 mph and the second run will be made at any speed above 55 mph that the owner-driver chooses. Fuel will be fed through auxiliary fuel tanks, which will be removed and weighed before and after each run, permitting precise measurements of the actual fuel consumed. The results will be posted for public viewing after each run.

The thirty-three trucks participating in the "Double Nickel Challenge" were selected by random drawing from 161 volunteers.

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Drivers and alternates are as follows:

PARTICIPANTS

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| 1. Billy D. Denny - Homer, Ill. | 18. Thomas A. Johnson - Kane, Pa. |
| 2. Robert E. Bradbury - Newalla, Ok. | 19. Robert A. Hall - Olive Hill, Ky. |
| 3. Richard S. Johnson - Omaha, Neb. | 20. Thomas W. Pelham - Cleveland, Ohio |
| 4. Harry E. Meyers - Clifton Park, N.Y. | 21. Richard T. Galvin - Palmyra, Ohio |
| 5. James E. Sinsel - Tampa, Fla. | 22. William E. Goodwin - Aurora, Colo. |
| 6. John H. Daw - Valley Grove, W. Va. | 23. James G. Savage - Pennellville, N.Y. |
| 7. John Averill - Seattle, Wash. | 24. Matthew Hamilton - Ft. Scott, Ks. |
| 8. Robert J. Evans - Port Jervis, N.Y. | 25. Donald F. Bruntmyer, Sr. - Independence, Mo. |
| 9. Ronald Goeden - Ripon, Wisc. | 26. Gary P. Tetreault - Rome, N.Y. |
| 10. Robert C. Lewis - Oberlin, Ohio. | 27. Virgil E. Palmer - Rogersville, Tenn. |
| 11. M. E. and Dawn Whiteley - Tuscon, Ariz. | 28. C. Rupert McCully - Bellefontaine, Ohio |
| 12. Albert A. Travis - Englewood, Colo. | 29. Robert A. Kash - Tecumseh, Mich. |
| 13. Raymond Abshire - Lanham, Md. | 30. Ms. Constance J. Kyler - Montoursville, Pa. |
| 14. Dennis Lafferty - Indianapolis, Ind. | 31. Robert W. Moran, Sr. - Henrietta, N.Y. |
| 15. Don Pugh - Canton, Ohio | 32. Vern White - Pleasanton, Calif. |
| 16. John L. Dayton - Oklahoma City, Ok. | 33. Overdrive Magazine entry (Name to come) |
| 17. Irwin L. Groff - New Holland, Pa. | |

ALTERNATES

1. John Dietz - East Brunswick, N.J.
2. William Carr - Palymra, Wisc.
3. Robert L. Zedeker - Dayton, Ohio
4. Tom Wade - Vermillion, Ohio
5. David W. Rose - Morrow, Ohio
6. William R. Clem - Hedgesville, W. Va.

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