



Beachlines



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Winter, 2017

A Safety Training Letter for the Employees and Friends of Beach Transportation



Greg and Scott Beach, sons of Bob and grandsons of company founder Ray Beach.

By Greg Beach Vice President

We're heading into one of my favorite times of the year. The silent snow begins to swirl on the wings of a brisk Montana wind and the hustle and hum of busy people adds a delightful spice, especially as I see little acts of courtesy and kindness in the midst of life's pressures. It is, indeed, a season that we should all count our blessings as we have much to be thankful for, despite the seemingly endless new stories telling us otherwise.

As our work days begin and end in darkness and temperatures dip, it's also a season when we must be especially attentive to the task at hand; to being safe, vigilant drivers and attendants. Fog often shrouds our valley, and the same snow that replenishes our land and our spirits makes driving two blocks difficult. Dense fog can blind us to other vehicles and to pedestrians, and the snow and ice can make our loading and unloading areas an invitation for tragedy. It's a time when courtesy and care, so appropriate in all seasons, become an absolute necessity. I'm grateful for all our drivers who pay extra attention and use caution, for our attendants who watch and assist our passengers as they enter and leave buses, and to our shop people, who do such a good job in keeping the fleet rolling.

I am also reminded, especially at this time of year, that

each of one of us has unique gifts, given by our Creator, to make this world a better place for our families, our schools, our state and our nation. Thank you for bringing your special gifts to our organization and know that you make a difference and play an important role in the education and success of countless young people. Scott and I appreciate each and every one of you for the fine job that you do.

May all of you be blessed, and let us reveal spirit in small acts, that cherishes life and love. May all of you be blessed with a joyous and happy Christmas and New Year, and remember that not only at Christmas, but throughout the year, the joy and love that you give to others is the joy and love that comes back to you.

Reminders:

- Please use the safe walking paths, do not cut across streets, walk slowly, and wear appropriate shoes.
- Please keep your route current by drawing an erasable line through those stops that are not used.
- Always double check the danger zone before moving your bus.
- Please remind your students to **always** use the handrails!
- Drivers and attendants please remember to use the handrails.
- Please keep the steps clean. Snow and Ice can cause students and employees to slip in fall.

Drivers needed

Do you have any friends or relatives who would make good school bus drivers. If you do, you can earn \$250 for each applicant you bring in that is hired and works for at least ninety days.



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From the GM:

By Bob Mitchell
General Manager

I was sure hoping that everything was going to go without a hitch on our 60 bus move to the University for the Lady Griz basketball game this past Wednesday. With that, I hope each day all of our extra trips are on time and safe.

Hope is a tricky word. It is hard to hope at Beach Transportation that things will run efficiently and safely. It opens the door for risk or even gambling that things will go right. That is why we plan well in advance. Our veteran drivers and staff are there to make sure the whole team is prepared, and our ongoing training program is essential to helping new drivers. With advance planning, we do not have to hope for good results. We are able to proceed with confidence that such a big transportation move will run smoothly and safely. Incidentally, the Lady Griz basketball game went off perfectly as all of our drivers and staff took it upon themselves to be prepared. We should all be proud of our efforts on that day.

I wish that we could get a number of good applicants over the holiday break as we will be losing a few of our veteran drivers and attendants. I am wishing that these folks can come in and get trained in a timely manner as to keep our school bus routes staffed during the busy January/February time of year.

Wishing is another calculating word. It does not establish a time frame or define a goal. That is why we have a great plan in place to recruit prospective drivers, to get them safely trained in a timely manner and have them ready to take over a particular school bus route in an efficient amount of time. In nearly all areas of Beach Transportation, it is not prudent to wish that something is getting done or assume something is bound to happen.

I wonder if the roads will stay nice and dry for us as we progress through the winter months. I was wondering how many employees will be travelling over the holiday break and just hoping the roads will stay safe and dry for them.

Wondering is, again, not a word that we can rely on at Beach Transportation. It is our job to monitor weather

and be well prepared in advance of winter weather conditions. We have the tools through the National Weather Service, the Montana Dept. of Transportation and our City and County Road Departments to be well prepared in advance. There should be no real wonder or surprises when there are decisions to be made regarding safe travel.

Yes, hope, wishing and wonder are tricky words with a plethora of meanings. Yet, it is the time of year that we rely on these very words.

Hope. We hope that everyone in our Beach Family has a joyous Christmas. As we prepare for Christmas, we all hope that everyone can enjoy the season and that their travels are safe. I hope that this is the year that I finally get to see Santa Claus!

Wishing. Wishing allows folks to imagine anything. We wish for peace and happiness throughout the world.

We are wishing that everyone is safe, healthy and has an opportunity to spend time with friends and family over the holiday break. We wish that the New Year brings good health and prosperity to all.

Wonder. There is a wonder throughout the season. Can you imagine the wonder in Mary and Joseph as they prepared to deliver the wonder child to the world? Remember the wonder in a child's eyes as they dream of Christmas day. As I conclude, I am hoping, wishing and wondering that we can all take a moment to think of children and to maybe for a moment be a child again. Merry Christmas and May God Bless.



Hoping
Wishing
Wondering

Goodfellow Drivers!

This years Goodfellows Drivers were Robert Mitchell and Burton Horton. These drivers donated there time and ran a free shuttle from downtown to Fuddruckers on North Reserve.



By TRACIE HOFFMAN
Safety Director

Winter Wonderland

In the beautiful state of Montana we almost always get to see the true vision of what the song Winter Wonderland had in mind. There is nothing more peaceful and beautiful, in the winter, as the snow on the trees and houses, covering everything with a white fluffy blanket. From the window of a warm building, it appears peaceful and serene but once we go outside we find that even our usual activities take more time and more energy to accomplish. Snow and ice can make even walking treacherous. As the snow piles up around Beach Transportation in the coming months, I would like to remind you to think about safe walking.

First, please use the safe walking paths, these for the most part are, the sidewalks. We make a valiant effort to keep the sidewalks shoveled and salted to help with safe foot traffic. When you cut across the bus lot, to save time or distance, you run the risk of packed and slippery asphalt often polished to a black icy shine. With that noted, be very careful crossing the street from the parking lot, the street may be very slippery from the heavy bus traffic it receives.

Next, remember how to walk in the ice and snow. To increase safety, your hands should be out of your pockets and extended out from your body a bit for balance. Your feet should be in a little wider stance than normal to increase your center of gravity. Walk



flat footed with short steps centering your weight over your feet as much as possible. Walk slowly and watch where you are going. Don't get distracted with your phone or other nearby objects. When it's icy you often hear that you should, "walk like a penguin". Although penguins don't wear shoes, what you wear on your feet can help with safe walking in the winter. Shoes should be warm with good non-slip soles. Boots with good tread are better. And to add a measure of safety, shoe chains add traction when the walking gets very slippery.

Lastly, let's not forget how slippery the stairs on the school bus can get. Drivers can help keep the stairs clear from getting icy by keeping the stairwell heater going. Snow and ice do build up as your passengers load. Sweeping the stairs between groups of students and after drop-offs can help. The wooden handle of your broom comes in handy to break up ice that accumulates. And very importantly, always remind the students and yourselves to use the handrails when exiting the bus to help prevent a slip on wet or icy stairs.



Safe walking in the snow and ice can be a bit tricky. Although we can't change the weather, we can do many things to prepare ourselves and our students to walk carefully. If we use the best cleared path, walk slowly and carefully, having on good footwear, you can be as safe as possible, walking in a winter wonderland!



Look'n up the road

Please check the drivers board in the lounge for changes to this calendar.

Early Out: DeSmet, MCPS, and Target Range run on Early Out schedules every Thursday. Early Out schedules and Woodman are as noted below and will be posted on the drivers board.

Safety Meetings to be announced; please check the flyers that will be posted around the office for updated information. Safety meetings are held in the lounge.

Winter Vacation—No school.
All districts Dec. 22-Jan. 1

January

- 15 DeSmet, Lolo, MCPS, and Target Range No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 22 Woodman No School
- 22 MCPS High School only— No School

February

- 15 Lolo 11:30 Dismissal
- 16 Lolo No School
- 19 No School Presidents Day

March

- 5 Woodman No School
- 8 No MCPS Preschool
MCPS (K-8) 11:05, Half day,
- 9 No MCPS (Pre-8) Yes High School

Spring Break —No school
All districts March 24-April 1

April

- 6 DeSmet No School
- 13 Target Range 1/2 Day
- 20 No MCSP High School Only
- 20 Willard & Woodman No School
- 24 MCPS, DeSmet, Woodman No School

May

- 7 Lolo No School
- 25 MCPS & Target Range No School
- 28 No School Memorial Day



Daylight Savings
March 11

Prepare for Severe Weather

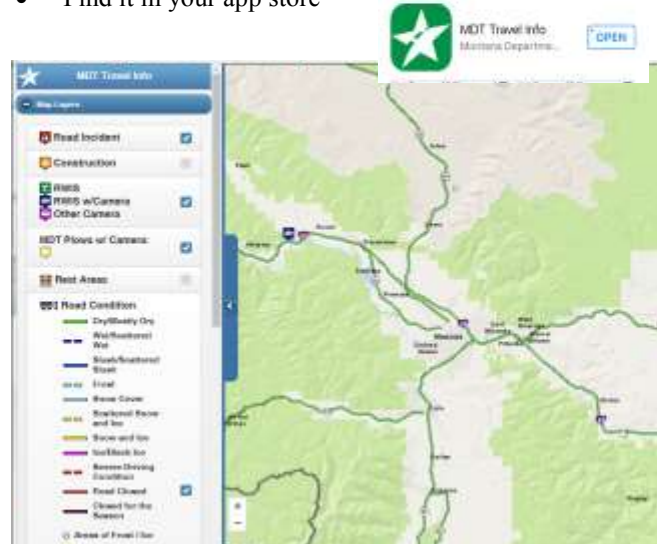
Winter is here and we need to be prepared! As bus drivers and attendants we need to be aware of the incoming weather. Extreme weather conditions make a difference in driving so plan to be early, and give yourself enough time to get to your first stop on time.

In the rare event school is delayed or closed that information will be on our Facebook and website. It will also be broadcast on radio and TV stations.

*If no closures are mentioned buses run at regular times.


Montana Dept. of Transportation interactive road map:

- Online <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/>
- Find it in your app store





In October the Safe Kids Missoula Coalition hosted the Safe Kids Fair at Community Medical Center. The event brings together emergency workers, medical workers, transportation, ect. All with the goal to teach safety to young people. We would like to thank Michelle Girard (173) and Greg Guscio (Sub) for spending there day teaching school bus safety to all kids that attended the event!



 We would like to send out a big Thank You to everyone who donat-

ed time and toys to Griz for Kids. Toys were donated at each entrance of the football stadium and on Beach Transportation's shuttle buses. The toys will be matched up with children's wish lists.



Happy Birthday

<p><u>January</u></p> <p>Carol Duane Irene Nelson Kevin Verlanic Doug Washatko Jan Jaspersen Dotty Marceau Mo Memoli Dorrie Beach Becky Pamin Edward Treadway Kelly Courage Barry Branton</p>	<p>Robert Chaney Brad Tshida Diana Heinrichs John Turman Lynne Jensen Ron McElderry Ashley Duane Katie Heredia Sheryce Vincent Lois Shaw</p> <p><u>February</u></p> <p>Ken Stone Mike Officer</p>	<p>Ruth Jones Marian Prazma Clay Burtsfield Wayne Wade Jo Austelle Terry Sullivan Steve Smith Michelle Larrabee</p> <p><u>March</u></p> <p>Kathy Allen Karra Gillingham Julie Scott Mike Pahl Josh Prink Sue Alley</p>	<p>David Painter Scott Beach Greg L. Miller Clay Hopper Craig Christopherson Jim Nelsen Miranda Peltier Bob Palmer Johnny Chinske Russell Townsend Bob Mitchell Connie Birdwell Scott Whitmore Cliff Laub</p>	<p><u>April</u></p> <p>Makenzie Bergman Gary Hoffman Judy Thompson Kathy Yonce Brad Zander Katie Abbott Shannon Beach Steve Murphy Tammi Robinson Crystal Faller Michelle Girard Tianah Shaw Sendo Campos John Shively</p>
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EMPLOYEE PROFILE: Cindy Marcum

Cindy was born and raised in Missoula, a devoted family woman, and she has been part of the heart of Beach Transportation for 39 years.

Growing up she was close with her family. He dad called her Cindy Lou and her mom was her best friend.

As kids growing up her family vacation every summer was a trip to visit her grandparents in Seattle. Their house sat on top of a small cliff overlooking the sound. They would walk down to the beach every day to look for sand dollars, sea shells, crabs, and any other treasures we could find. On one trip she was able to attend a concert in Seattle. "You may have heard of the band, The Beatles."

Before she worked for Beach she worked in the Butteries bakery department until she was married. She was a stay at home mom for her son and daughter until they who grew up and went to school. While putting then on the bus she thought it would be a nice job. Especially having summers, weekends, and holidays off to spend with her family.

When she started Beach only had seven mini buses and 46 full size buses, and they had just purchased the first automatic full-size buses 72 & 73. She remembers everyone fighting over them for field trips. She enjoyed working in the wash bay even though it was before the power washer. They used to use buckets, brooms and their sense of humor. They all had a good time working out there singing Jim Croce- Working at the Car Wash Blues. They also played a lot a pranks on each other, such as the time her bus was overhauled and when she got it back the mechanics couldn't wait for her to see the engine. They had painted it hot pink.

She drove her routes in Bonner and Morman Creek for a number of years and is proud to say all the miles she drove in those rural areas she only got stuck once when she had the Pattee Creek route. That one time Bob Beach himself came to the rescue and pulled her out.

Scott called her into the office and asked her to work in the office as the Special Needs Coordinator. She immediately said no. When she told her mother

about the job offer she told her "you're not going to be able to wash buses forever." Scott called her back in and this time she took the position, with the understanding that she had no computer experience.

Beach sent her to Emma Dickenson for her computer training. Her first class she was a little worried when her computer screen was black and everyone else's was working. The instructor had to tell her to move the mouse. She has come a long way since then.

When asked how she likes working for Beach Transportation all these years she says it's been very rewarding. She loves coming in, visiting and the kids. She considers Bob Beach her mentor in life next to her mother. "His respect for employees and how to treated people. He was always there for you and had your back." She retired from the office six years go and went back to driving. Since then she has been able to spend a lot more time with her family. Her daughter is an RN in Missoula with her two boys, and her son is a doctor in Helena with his two kids.

Besides her travels to Helena to visit her son's family she also made it down to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. She tried snorkeling, enjoyed the shopping, jewelry, pottery, but her favorite part was seeing the humpback whale 100 yards from the boat.



Cleaning Crew
Cindy in top left corner

New Team Members!

Please take some time to talk with and welcome these folks to the Beach Transportation family, and check the bulletin board in the lounge for updates and photos.

Drivers: Katherine Heredia, John Shively, Clarence Veal, Robert Chaney, Michael Larson, Jacob Barrow, Craig Christopherson, Bradley Tschida

Attendants: Katherine Heselwood, Camry Rathert, Tianah Shaw, Michelle Hettick, Patricia Shively



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PARENTS, PLEASE:

- * Have your students dress in appropriate clothing.
- * Get your students safely to and from the bus stop. Students should be at the stop no fewer than five minutes and no more than 10 minutes before the scheduled time.
- * Be with your students at the stop to monitor behavior and assist with safety. Have your students wait for the bus at a safe spot off the road and always watch traffic.
- * Have a backup plan in case the bus is delayed. Drivers will run routes as scheduled. However, delays may occur if snowplows are unable to keep the roads clear or difficulties arise. Please do not let your students remain at a stop for more than 15 minutes after scheduled time.
- * Please submit concerns about suspicious activity, wild animals, bus stop locations and so on in writing to your school.



DANGER ZONE:

SCHOOL BUSES ARE THE SAFEST WAY TO GET TO SCHOOL.

School buses are nearly eight times safer than passenger vehicles, but children must take care when boarding or leaving the bus.

The Danger Zone is the space all around the school bus. It goes out 10 feet. The school bus driver cannot see students in this zone. It is very dangerous to be in this area.



HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!!

