

Unimark News

2nd Quarter, 2024



Unimark Truck Transport is celebrating 30 years in business. Below are just a few highlights from those 30 years. Thank you for your part in Unimark's success.



1994 – Unimark was purchased by JHT for the specific reason of delivering auction vehicles. It was headquartered in Indianapolis, IN. Unimark was selected by Subaru to deliver new automobiles from its plant in Lafayette, IN to Davisville, RI on the East coast and would bring remarketed vehicles back to the Midwest. Unimark was also successful in winning a contract with Volkswagen to bring units from Davisville, RI back to Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, which made a perfect circle and eliminated many empty miles. Also, a favorite for the car-haul group was Ford test cars that went from Michigan to Phoenix, Las Vegas, Florida and Winnipeg, MB! The lowboy group started very slowly and primarily moved upfitted units from Fontaine in Louisville to dealers in Ohio and Michigan. Paul Ubaldini was the President.

1999- Allstates Transportation was purchased and the Dugdales joined Unimark.

2001- Miles America and Drive Star were purchased.

2002- Dennis Troha appoints Jim Johnston as President.

2002– Unimark Car haul is started and John Schend is Vice President of Carhaul.

2003 – Unimark is awarded its first new truck contract with Autocar in Hagerstown, IN.

2005 - Unimark Lowboy (ULB) is formed. Mainly hauling Autocars, spot buys with Workhorse Custom Chassis and support ATT locations.

2005 – ULB is awarded the contract with GVW to haul Workhorse Custom Chassis in Union City, IN.

2005 – Unimark does deck test loads with Hino Motors in CA to load on rail cars.

2006 – UTT signs contract with Hino Motors to start delivering deck loads to its top ten locations.

2007-Unimark Carhaul closes. Subaru moves from truck hauling to railroad.

2008 – ATT gets out of the lowboy business and Unimark absorbs their drivers and the lowboys assist their customers, Isuzu, UD trucks and Mitsubishi Motors, while adding a contract with Mercedes.

2011 - Jim Johnston resigns as President of Unimark. Mike Milton is appointed as interim President.

2011 - John Harrington is hired as Unimark President.

2011 - UTT stops field decking and moves solely to new truck business.

2012 - John Harrington is promoted to CEO of JHT holdings. Mike Milton is appointed as interim President.

2014 - Mark Wentlent is hired as Unimark President

2014 - UTT drivers move from being Independent contractors to Union employees.

2019 – Unimark presents its 10-year plan to JHT to replace the lowboy fleet and starts building in groups of 12 a year.

2024- ULB moves from the normal chassis trailer and builds its first twelve RGN chassis trailers. New design will diversify the fleet and will support the electric trucks.

Unimark Retirees:

Danny Spiva : 9/2016- Lead instructor for UTT school in Joplin

Mike Milton: 6/2020- Vice President

In Memoriam:

Richard Smith: 11/2009 - Recruiting manager

Bill Hausley: 6/2015- Safety manager

Donna Finch: 10/2015- Safety manager

Mike Stefanik: 5/2019- Terminal manager Charlotte, MI

Rudy Antomattey: 9/2019 - Lead instructor for UTT school in Joplin



Emmanuel Antoine

Brandon Brison

Leon Bryan

Ryan Bryson

Dennis Conklin

Benigno Correa

Miguel Cotto

Raymond Crittenden

Travis Dick

Wayne Dorsey

James Dryer

John Elford

Dewayne Elliott

Oliver Fields

Jonathan Fleming

Alexander Garcia

Shane Hall

William Harmon

Christopher Hayes

Jeffrey Hill

Tyler Hunt

Richard Jackson

Sung-Min Joh

Curtis Jones

Robert Jones, Jr.

Alexander Kotov

Manuel Leonor

Everard Linton

Melvin Lyles

Zachary McGlothlen

John Myers

Zachary O' Brien

Carlos Oriach

Winston Payne

Ted Pritchett

Eric Reid

Stephen Shinn

Robert Smith

Christopher Takacs

Kevin Warren

David Wendel

Bud Wilbur

Kenneth Wioskowski

Jan Michael Zbranek

Meet Lowboy Driver

Tom Shultz



My journey with trucking began much before I actually started driving in 1991. I come from a family of truckers. I grew up with my father hauling trucks my entire life before retiring in 1999. My grandfather started his trucking legacy in the early 1930's when he began hauling trucks. I have three uncles who hauled vehicles and so did their sons. I also have an uncle who hauled boats.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my wife of 23 years, my three beautiful daughters and three grand-daughters.

I enjoy getting away from the hustle and bustle of life at our cabin in Raco, Michigan. I love spending time in the woods on my side-by-side, 4-wheeler or my snowmobile.

Trucking isn't for everyone and it's changed a lot over the years, but it is a legacy I continue to carry on and take pride in doing.



Inclusion in the Workplace

Inclusion: Our Commitment to Respect and Zero Tolerance

At Unimark, inclusion in the workplace means creating a culture where all employees feel valued, respected, and empowered to contribute to the organization's goals. Our diversity is not just a checkbox—it is what makes us stronger. Here is what you need to know:

Respect: It is Non-Negotiable

Respect is the name of the game here. We are all different, and that is what makes us great. Whether you are talking to a colleague, a customer, or anyone else, treat them with the same level of respect you would want for yourself. It is simple, it is crucial, and it is what keeps our workplace running smoothly.

Proper Behavior: Keeping it Professional

We are professionals, plain and simple. That means behaving appropriately in all situations. Listen to others, think before you speak, and always act with integrity. It is not just about doing your job—it is about doing it with class and professionalism.

Zero Tolerance for Discrimination

Discrimination has no home here. Whether it is based on race, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, or anything else, it is not welcome. We are all about diversity, and anything that goes against that won't fly. If you see something, say something. We are here to listen and take action.

What You Can Do

So, what can you do to help? It's simple. Embrace diversity. Be respectful. Speak up if you see something wrong. We are all in this together, and by working as a team, we can create an even better workplace.

Thank you for being part of our commitment to respect and inclusivity.

Unimark Truck Transport

Upcoming Holidays

Mother's Day- Sunday, May 12th

Memorial Day- Monday, May 27th
offices will be closed

Father's Day- Sunday, June 16th



This nation will remain the land of the free only
so long as it is the home of the brave

Introducing Joplin Dispatcher Betty Cutlip

Hello, my name is Betty and I am your friendly dispatcher in Joplin. I started my forever job with Unimark in June of last year as the singles/firetruck dispatcher and have loved every minute of it. The staff and drivers are awesome!

I was raised in a small town in Kansas and joined the Navy right after high school graduation. I have been married for 20 years to my truck driver husband. I have three children, eight grandchildren and two and a half great grandchildren (and me being so young, ha!) I love animals but only have 2 little doggos. I was a flatbed truck driver for 13 and a half years before moving to straight truck for the last three years of my career. I was never happy with the way dispatch treated drivers so decided to change my career path to hopefully make a difference with the drivers I interact with.

My hobbies would include fishing, reading, shooting pool, bowling and a little gambling when I am bored. I spend every possible minute I can with my grandchildren and firmly believe everyone should have the grandchildren first, ha ha. I love to cook and bake and my all-time favorite past time is trying new concoctions that I've seen on a cooking show or the internet.

I look forward to a long and varied career with Unimark.



Pre-trip inspections: What are they and why are they important?

The pre-trip inspection can be seen as the most crucial step in guaranteeing that you, the driver, have a successful trip. Pre-trip inspections are thorough checks performed on vehicles before they are driven to ensure they are in safe and proper working condition. These inspections are crucial for maintaining safety on the road and preventing accidents. Here's why they are important:

What Pre-trip Inspections Involve:

Exterior inspection:

Check for any visible damage, leaks, cracks or loose parts.

Inspect tires for proper inflation, tread depth, and any sign of damage. Look at lights (headlights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals) to ensure they are working.

****This goes for temporary lights used by UTT drivers.**

Check mirrors for proper alignment and cleanliness.

Under the hood:

Inspect engine oil level and condition

Check coolant/antifreeze level

Ensure belts and hoses are in good condition.

Check battery condition and check connections.

Inside the Vehicle:

Test brakes before driving

Check steering for smooth operation

Ensure all gauges and warning lights are working properly

Adjust seats, mirrors, and steering wheel for comfort and visibility

Load Securement:

Chains and binders, or straps, are properly tensioned

All chain and strap tails are secured and not able to “flap” in the wind and cause damage

Dunnage properly secured and not loose in the trailer belly.

Saddles, and all their parts properly inspected

***Roll pins on the claw rocker pins have been a new concern.**

Sufficient thread count above nuts on all bolts.

A common standard for exposed threads on a bolt is that there should be at least one full diameter of the bolt exposed beyond the nut.

Legal lock washers on all bolts: still round and no gap.

Importance of Pre-Trip Inspections:

Safety: The primary reason for pre-trip inspections is to ensure the safety of the driver, passengers, and others on the road. Identifying potential issues before driving helps prevent accidents due to vehicle malfunctions.

Legal Compliance: Many jurisdictions and regulatory bodies require pre-trip inspections for commercial vehicles. Failing to perform these checks can result in fines and penalties.

Cost Savings: Catching small problems early can prevent them from becoming more significant, expensive issues later on. Regular maintenance and inspections can extend the lifespan of the vehicle and its components.

Professional Responsibility: Commercial drivers have a responsibility to operate their vehicles safely. Conducting pre-trip inspections demonstrates professionalism and a commitment to safety.

Peace of Mind: Knowing that the vehicle has been thoroughly checked before hitting the road provides peace of mind to the driver. It reduces anxiety about potential breakdowns or malfunctions during the trip.

In summary, pre-trip inspections are a critical aspect of vehicle safety and maintenance. They help prevent accidents, ensure legal compliance, save costs, uphold professionalism, and provide peace of mind to drivers. Every driver, especially those operating commercial vehicles, should make pre-trip inspections a routine and essential part of their driving habits.



Introducing Driver Ben Aikens

My name is Ben, I'm 55 years-old and I've been driving big trucks since 1997.

Besides driving trucks, I have also worked in an oil field and at a concrete plant.

I've been married for 20 years to my wife, Janice. We have four children, three girls and one boy. We also have six grandchildren.

When I'm not out on the road, I enjoy fishing, playing pool and hanging out with my two Great Danes. They miss me a bunch when I'm out on the road and really let me know it when I get home.

I also love to participate in BBQ cook-off competitions when I have the time and I also help my brother take care of our mother, Judy.

