



# ROADSIDEREADER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF INDEPENDENT TRUCKERS

## 4 MATS 2026



For three days each spring, Louisville, Ky., becomes the undisputed heart of the trucking industry.

From March 26-28, the Mid-America Trucking Show (MATS) 2026 - The Largest Trucking Show in North America returns to the Kentucky Exposition Center, bringing together tens of thousands of professionals, innovators, and enthusiasts for what organizers are calling the most ambitious show yet.

Stop by Booth #38713 to connect with NAIT's Mona Brimeyer and Marc Ballard of Truckers Healthcare

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### MORE INFO

NAIT Specialist Mona Brimeyer

[877-770-6248](tel:877-770-6248)

[MemberBenefits@NAITUSA.com](mailto:MemberBenefits@NAITUSA.com)



## MARCHING INTO INNOVATION

### THE 2026 MID-AMERICA TRUCKING SHOW

For three days each spring, Louisville, Ky., becomes the undisputed heart of the trucking industry. From March 26–28, the Mid-America Trucking Show (MATS) 2026 – The Largest Trucking Show in North America returns to the Kentucky Exposition Center, bringing together tens of thousands of professionals, innovators, and enthusiasts for what organizers are calling the most ambitious show yet.

#### **A Gathering Without Equal**

What sets MATS apart isn't merely its scale – more than 800 exhibitors and 50,000+ attendees are anticipated from around the world – but its breadth of influence across the trucking ecosystem. From cutting-edge powertrains to advanced fleet management solutions, this is where trucking's future takes shape.

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### **What's on the Floor**

Across nearly 1.4 million square feet of exhibit space, attendees can touch and tour the latest equipment and services. Whether it's diesel engines, telematics platforms, or ergonomic driver tools, the show's hands-on nature makes it invaluable for decision-makers.



In addition to the exhibits, MATS 2026 features a range of seminar sessions and educational content designed to help fleet owners, safety directors, and operators stay ahead of regulatory changes, operational challenges, and emerging technology trends.

### **Celebrating Truck Culture**

Beyond the business side, MATS has a pulse on the culture that drives the industry. Events like the PKY Truck Beauty Championship, a celebration of custom trucks and craftsmanship, return to spotlight the artistry and pride inherent in trucking. These competitions culminate in awards recognizing custom builds, best-in-show rigs, and crowd favorites on the final day.

Another favorite tradition – the MATS Concert – brings attendees together for an evening of music and camaraderie, underscoring that MATS isn't just about commerce; it's about community.

### **Networking and Knowledge**

Seminars on technology adoption, safety, driver wellness, and operational efficiency are woven throughout the three-day schedule. These sessions offer practical takeaways that executives and drivers alike can bring back to their fleets.

Professionals new to the industry often note that the most valuable moments at MATS happen between the booths – in conversations, exchange of business cards, and shared passion for the road ahead.

### **A Must-Attend for 2026**

For the uninitiated, MATS is more than a trade show. It's a hub of innovation, a networking powerhouse, and a celebration of an industry that keeps America moving. Scheduled with VIP hours on Thursday, March 26, followed by full exhibits on Friday and Saturday, it offers a

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packed agenda for anyone with skin in the trucking game.

Registration for free-admission attendees is still available, making this not just the biggest but also one of the most accessible MATS editions yet.

Whether you're a fleet manager scouting new tech, a parts dealer looking to forge relationships, or a driver who lives and breathes highway culture, MATS 2026 stands poised to deliver an experience as informative as it is unforgettable.



Stop by Booth #38713 to connect with  
NAIT's Mona Brimeyer and Marc Ballard of Truckers Healthcare



# Truck Parking & Hotel Savings

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## Tax Season Preparation Checklist

Get a head start on gathering the things you'll need to file a successful tax return. Consider using this information to prepare for the upcoming tax season!

### Income Documents and Information

- 1095-A Federal Marketplace Health Insurance (This is non-employer insurance)
- W-2 Wage and Tax Statement
- 1099-NEC Non-Employee Compensation
- 1099-INT Interest Income
- 1099-DIV Dividends & Distributions
- 1099-R Taxable Pensions, IRAs, Annuities
- SSA-1099 Social Security Benefit Statement
- 1099-K Rideshare, Payment Card & Third Party Network Transactions
- 1099-MISC Miscellaneous Income
- 1099-B Proceeds from Broker & Barter Exchange Transactions
- 1099-G Unemployment Compensation & Gov't Payments
- W-2G Certain Gambling Winnings
- 1099-C Cancellation of Debt
- K-1 Other Investment Income

### Deduction Documents and Information

- Medical, Dental, and Vision Expenses
- 1098-E Student Loan Interest
- 1098-T Tuition and Fees
- 1098 Mortgage Interest Statement
- 1098-VLI Vehicle Loan Interest
- Charitable Contribution Amounts
- Casualty / Theft Losses
- Real Estate / Property Taxes not included on Form 1098
- Fees paid for registering personal vehicles (car, RV, boat, motorcycle, etc)
- Gambling Losses (you must have gambling winnings AND a year-end Casino Statement)
- Unreimbursed education expenses
- Form 5498 (IRA, SEP, HSA, or SIMPLE Contributions)

### Additional Documents and Information

- Prior Year Tax Return (if your Return wasn't filed by ATBS)
- Dependent Social Security Numbers and Birthdates
- Buying / Selling Assets Information
- Financial Brokerage Information
- Year-end Bank / Credit Card Statements (if you operate a business entity, like an S-corp)
- Secondary Business Information
- Rental Property Information
- Foreign Bank Accounts or Investments
- Buying / Selling Digital Assets Information



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## CHROME, GRIT, AND QUIET SACRIFICE

*Three things that make big-rig drivers special*

By any objective measure, driving an 80,000-pound combination vehicle across state lines, through mountain passes, urban congestion, and unpredictable weather requires technical skill. But what separates big-rig drivers from the rest of us isn't just horsepower and air brakes.

It's a distinct blend of discipline, resilience, and responsibility that most people never fully see from the driver's seat of a passenger car.

Here are three qualities that make America's big-rig drivers truly special:

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### **1. Mastery of a Machine Most People Couldn't Handle**

Driving a passenger vehicle and piloting a tractor-trailer are fundamentally different disciplines.

A fully loaded rig can stretch more than 70 feet long and weigh up to 80,000 pounds. Stopping distances increase dramatically. Turns must be set up wide and deliberate. Blind spots – “no-zones” – are substantial. Wind, grade, and cargo weight all affect handling dynamics.

Professional drivers demonstrate knowledge in air brake systems, load securement, hours-of-service compliance, trip planning, and defensive driving. They maintain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), undergo medical certification, and follow strict safety regulations.

Beyond compliance, there's craftsmanship.

Backing a 53-foot trailer into a tight dock with inches to spare. Managing a descent on a steep grade without overheating brakes. Anticipating traffic patterns long before they become hazards. These are not casual skills – they are trained, refined, and earned through repetition and accountability.

In short, big-rig drivers are professional operators of complex equipment. That matters.



### **2. A Resilience Built on Time Away From Home**

Long-haul drivers routinely spend days or weeks away from home. Birthdays, ballgames, anniversaries, and ordinary Tuesday dinners often happen without them. Even regional drivers operate under compressed schedules, tight delivery windows, and regulatory time limits.

Fatigue management is real. Weather doesn't pause for convenience. Traffic congestion doesn't accommodate personal stress. Yet freight still has to move. Resilience for a big-rig driver isn't motivational language – it's an operational necessity.

They learn to sleep in sleeper berths, eat on unpredictable schedules and adapt to unfamiliar cities and facilities. They plan routes around road construction, weather systems and detention delays. They maintain professionalism even when docks run late or traffic stalls for hours.

The public sees the truck. What they don't

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see is the emotional discipline required to do the job consistently and safely while balancing family life from hundreds of miles away.

That endurance sets them apart.

### **3. A Daily Commitment to Keeping America Moving**

Every store shelf, hospital supply room, construction site, and fuel station depends on freight movement. And freight movement depends on drivers.

According to the American Trucking Associations, trucks move the majority of the nation's freight by weight. That includes food, medical supplies, building materials, retail inventory, and energy resources.

Drivers operate under federal hours-of-service regulations. They log time electronically. They manage inspections, weigh stations, and compliance audits. They operate in a system designed around accountability because the stakes are high.

When natural disasters strike, trucks deliver water and generators. When supply chains tighten, trucks keep distribution centers stocked. When economic growth expands, trucks move the materials that build it.

The commitment is daily and largely unseen. There is no applause when a load arrives on time. There's simply another dispatch,



another route, another responsibility.

### **More Than a License**

What makes big-rig drivers special isn't romanticism – it's reliability.

They combine technical competence, personal sacrifice, and civic responsibility into a profession that underpins modern life. They operate complex machinery safely in a highly regulated environment. They absorb long hours and missed milestones. And they do it so the rest of us can live without having to think about how goods get from point A to point B.

That quiet professionalism is rare.

And it deserves recognition.

## Word Search

### National Parks

- Acadia
- Arches
- Badlands
- Big Bend
- Bryce Canyon
- Death Valley
- Denali
- Glacier National
- Grand Canyon
- Grand Teton
- Great Smoky Mountains
- Hawaii Volcanoes
- Kenai Fjords
- Mount Rainier
- Olympic
- Rocky Mountain
- Sequoia
- Yellowstone
- Yosemite
- Zion

S W D Z F Z U D S B W K K K O J N I D E N A L I F  
 E J X I W H K G L A C I E R N A T I O N A L Q E A  
 Q K G M P B D O G U Z C C W N H X F E O E D L R R  
 U A Y U T Q E J R N J Q J W E P T Z R M K Z V V Q  
 O R Q N G V A D A J E Y S B G N L V C H J J O F N  
 I C F Z O H T Q N B M D O W Z B Y I S A M W G Y Y  
 A H Q R R U H C D I R M Q S N P V I T W A W R D J  
 F E P Q N T V L T G O Z L N E F P Z J A C M A O F  
 K S V H W Y A Y E B C U B V Q M M Q T I A B N D J  
 X B A A G A L J T E K K U R Y B I H Q I D O D I G  
 U D Y J B I L T O N Y P Q U Y V P T W V I I C G X  
 W G D O A S E E N D M E Z B C C E F E O A F A H P  
 K R R R D H Y O U E O V G O N D E V Y L F S N S S  
 E Y E C L N Z D G H U Y G D E B Y C A C D R Y V H  
 N I O T A O N D M U N W D D Y I P Z A A I W O U E  
 A O L S N U A R G Z T Z T W K S V G I N N L N Y D  
 I I Y Z D E J R S B A Z V Z Q D J E X O Y Q N E K  
 F N M S S Q D L W O I H T M N T P B D E N O Z O T  
 J Q P P S J N O J Q N J J A M E U G B S G O N J F  
 O Q I I N N D L F V I E Y E L L O W S T O N E D V  
 R U C K R M O U N T R A I N I E R X D U G W N B M  
 D L L C X G R E A T S M O K Y M O U N T A I N S U  
 S P A Z E Q Z F C G A S Z P E H J L L O M Z A U M  
 H J X D Y J X K D A L S J A M S Y D Z R M R R C A  
 C N A T N H W D I V B L K T S Q M W K Y X E I Z W

5	3		8	2	4		1	6
6		2		7	1	8		4
4	8	1	5	9		2		
7	5	9			3			
2							9	
			9		5	3	7	
			4	3			2	
9					2			3
3	2		6			7	8	1

## Sudoku

The goal is to fill a 9x9 grid with digits 1 through 9, ensuring each digit appears only once in each row, column, and 3x3 subgrid.