



National Association of
Independent Truckers

NOV2023

ROADSIDE READER



UNSUNG HEROES

This holiday season, we give thanks to owner-operators

OPEN ENROLLMENT CONTINUES

Enroll in an affordable health insurance plan quickly and easily

Open enrollment is underway, and now is the time to call and get info. NAIT partner Truckers Healthcare is here to help members shop and enroll in an affordable health insurance plan quickly and easily. Allstate Benefits is offering open enrollment on life and disability insurance. We want you to know that having the proper protections is critical to you and your business, so please take advantage of this limited-time opportunity.

NOTE: If you miss open enrollment, you may have to wait until next year to enroll.



**TRUCKERS
HEALTHCARE**

(888) 472-4114

www.truckershealthcare.com

CONTACT US

Association & NAIT Member Benefits
NAIT Specialist Mona Brimeyer 877-770-6248
MemberBenefits@naitusa.com



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FEATURE



As an independent trucking owner-operator, you understand what makes the wheels go 'round. Owner-operators typically own the truck they operate or lease it from another party. This gives you control over the equipment and allows you to make maintenance, upgrades, and customization decisions.

Unlike drivers who work for a specific trucking company, owner-operators have more flexibility and independence in choosing the loads they want to haul, determining their routes, and managing their schedules.

The late 19th century saw the introduction of motorized vehicles, including early trucks. Steam-powered trucks were among the first attempts at motorized freight transportation. The early 20th century marked the trucking industry's growth as internal combustion engine technology advanced. In the 1920s and 1930s, trucks began to replace horse-drawn wagons for the transportation of goods.

World War II significantly impacted the trucking industry, as the need for efficient transportation during the war years contributed to the further development and adoption of trucks for freight. The construction of the Interstate Highway System during the 1950s and 1960s greatly facilitated long-distance trucking. This infrastructure development played a crucial role in expanding the trucking industry.

The trucking industry continued to grow and modernize throughout the 1980s. Advances in truck design, technology, and logistics further increased the efficiency and capacity of freight transportation. The industry also faced regulatory changes, including the deregulation of the trucking industry in the 1980s, which significantly impacted how trucking companies operated.

Today, the trucking business is a fundamental component of the global economy, responsible for transporting goods and products across vast distances. The industry has continuously evolved in technology, environmental considerations, safety regulations, and operational practices. The history of trucking reflects broader trends in transportation and commerce, highlighting trucks' critical role in the movement of goods.

You play a critical role in the U.S. economy, contributing significantly to the movement of goods and overall economic activity. According to the American Trucking Associations (ATA), the trucking industry substantially contributes to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). It has accounted for around 80% of the nation's freight bill recently.

But have you ever thought that you're essentially a small business owner? You are responsible for managing all aspects of the trucking business, including finding and securing loads, negotiating rates, handling administrative tasks, and ensuring compliance with regulations.

As an owner-operator, you are responsible for fuel, maintenance, insurance, permits, and other operating costs. You also have the potential to earn a higher income than company drivers, but you also bear the financial risks and responsibilities associated with the business.

Owner-operators also must adhere to regulations governing the industry, including safety standards, hours-of-service regulations, and licensing requirements. Staying compliant with these regulations is crucial for the success and legality of the business.

As an owner-operator, you must build relationships with shippers, brokers, and other parties in the logistics and transportation industry. Building a good reputation and maintaining positive relationships can lead to consistent business opportunities.

Being an independent trucking owner-operator can be a challenging but rewarding career choice for individuals who enjoy the freedom of entrepreneurship and have the skills to navigate the complexities of the trucking industry.

NAIT understands the employment and small business opportunities, movement of goods, supply chain connectivity, infrastructure investment, consumer impact, and the vital role owner-operators play in facilitating trade by transporting goods.

This holiday season, we give thanks for ensuring the timely and reliable movement of goods nationwide.

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NAIT BENEFITS

NAIT has long-term partnerships with providers that share its dedication to the industry. We have worked with our members to develop association benefits to meet their needs.



**MONTHLY
FOR \$5K
IN MEMBER BENEFITS**

New Benefits

- Telemedicine
- Chiropractic
- Dental/Vision/Hearing
- MRI and Lab Tests
- Pharmacy Discount Program
- Diabetes Care
- Vitamin Discounts
- Pet Telehealth/Vet Visit/Medicine
- ... and more!

Business Solutions

- Emergency Breakdown and Roadside Assistance
- NAIT Fuel Program
- Used Truck Purchase Program
- Computer Hardware and Software
- Form 2290 Truck Tax Assistance
- Heavy Duty Truck Parts
- Office products
- Tax Consultants/Preparation
- Mapping and Navigation App

Insurance Coverages

www.transguard.com

Comprehensive packages designed for members and families by IAT TransGuard.

Available coverages Include:

- Occupational Accident and Non-Occupational Accident
- Workers' comp for employee drivers and casual labor
- Occupational Compensation for casual labor
- Non-Trucking Liability – when your truck is used for a private passenger vehicle
- Physical Damage, including Collision Comprehensive, Glass Breakage, Towing, Rental, and Personal Contents
- Passenger Accident

Exclusive Benefits/Discounts

- Hotel
- Flowers and Gift Baskets
- Car Rental
- Epic Vue
- New Sleep Test Mobile App

 To receive a quote for any of these programs, call 877-770-6248

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PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

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1-833-900-1010 (Canada)

Everyday Heroes Needed



Truckers are the eyes and ears of our nation's highways. Victims forced into sexual slavery need your help. If you see a minor working the lot or suspect pimp control, call 1-888-3737-888 and report what you know.



www.truckersagainstrafficking.org

FUN FACT



Because of a mistake involving 260 tons of frozen turkeys, TV dinners were created in 1953, kickstarting the \$1.2 billion frozen dinner market. ... For the do-it-yourself crowd: 50% of turkeys sold in the U.S. are consumed in a single day - Thanksgiving.

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WHO'S HUNGRY?

Hasselback Potatoes



Hasselback potatoes are a type of baked potato that is cut about halfway through into thin, fan-like slices. They can be served as a main course or side dish. Various toppings can be added, such as salted butter sliced, sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese, feta cheese, chopped fresh chives, sautéed sliced mushrooms, crumbled bacon, or cherry tomatoes halved.



INGREDIENTS

- **Potatoes**, of course! Use medium-sized Yukon Gold potatoes, though small russet potatoes work well too.
- **Extra-virgin olive oil** helps the potatoes soften and brown in the oven.
- **Sage leaves** infuse the potatoes with an amazingly fresh, earthy flavor.
- **Garlic butter** gives the potatoes a rich, buttery flavor and a savory bite. It's easy to make with butter, garlic, herbs, and salt!
- **Salt and pepper** to make all the flavors pop!

DIRECTIONS

- Keep the slices thin. They won't become fully tender in the middle if they're too thick. Try to cut each one about 1/8 inch thick.
- You can use chopsticks as guides. Q: How do you cut hasselback potatoes without accidentally slicing through the bottom? A: It's easy! Use chopsticks, butter knives, or the handles of wooden spoons as guides. Lay them right next to the two long sides of each potato. As you slice downward, your knife will hit the chopsticks, knives, or spoons, stopping you from severing the potatoes at the bottom.
- Brush with garlic butter after 50 minutes. Roasting these Hasselback potatoes is a two-part process. First, cook them with sage, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Once they become tender, after about 50 minutes, you'll slather on the garlicky melted butter to enhance their flavor and keep them from drying out. Then bake for another 25 minutes or until the potatoes are tender in the middle and crisp around the edges. Remember that this timing is just an estimate; it may vary based on your oven and the size of your potatoes. Check the potatoes often, and don't hesitate to bake them longer if needed!
- You can season to taste before serving. It's tough to season between each potato slice when the potatoes are raw or only partially baked, as you can't pry the slices apart without risking breaking the potato. For that reason, it's crucial that you season them after baking when the slices have spread apart. Brush them with more garlic herb butter, and season them generously with salt and pepper.