



## IHC PROSTAR CUSTOM CREW CAB COMPLETED

Another first for Prairie Technology was the conversion of a standard ProStar sleeper truck by replacing the 73 inch sleeper and equipping it with a crew cab from an IHC 4400 vocational truck. The result is an extremely versatile day cab with the ability to transport a 5 or 6 person work crew on a Class 8 chassis with a high horsepower big block Cummins motor.

The profile of the crew cab is consistent with a flat top configuration. Custom fabricated rocker panels were manufactured to give the side perspective a more finished look. A new headliner, side and back panels were molded out of fiberglass and wrapped with fabric to give it a "factory" finish. A new paintable fiberglass bumper was also crafted to give an affordable option to owners needing replacement parts.

The professional design team and technicians at Prairie Tech have again distinguished themselves with a unique product for a discriminating buyer. Please consider sending photos and a brief description of a project that you and your staff completed in your shop. We are always looking for examples of other custom jobs done by our Certified Partners that we would like to highlight and share with others in upcoming editions of the Prairie Tech Post.



# Bill of Writes

by Bill Osman, Founder

Four months ago my younger brother passed away leaving me with solemn thoughts concerning the brevity of human life. It's these thoughts and considerations that compel me to love, respect, embrace, and forgive the people in my life. I have a deep seeded passion and commitment to leave this life with no regrets.

I have a fundamental motive in my life to lead by example while exercising a renewed responsibility to those around me. The God given choices that we all encounter direct the lives of our families, businesses, communities, and our country. Our influence is often overlooked with the hustle and bustle of the day to day challenges of life.

I challenge you to consider how important you are to the people in your life. Is your influence positive and encouraging? We need to evaluate our lives and choose to be honorable and loving to those around us. May the God of our Founding Fathers bless you with wisdom, peace and eternal forgiveness.

## VIDEOS ADDED TO PRAIRIE TECH WEB SITE

Increasing interest in the company web site and a proliferation of questions about what we do spurred the production of several videos designed to enhance awareness of the various products and services available from Prairie Technology. The roll out of the web site [www.customdaycab.com](http://www.customdaycab.com) two years ago has been instrumental in the growth of the company as well as the market penetration we have secured through our Certified Partners and our direct customers.

A series of three short videos were produced by Gavin Wigg at Steam Digital dealing with specific parts of our business. The first is primarily a history of the company from its inception as an idea in Bill Osman's head to our current position as the industry leader in the development of kits for the reconfiguration of sleeper trucks into day cabs. The second deals with the significance of the training that is provided initially and on an ongoing basis with our Certified Partners who represent us throughout Canada and the US. The third one stresses the importance of safety and integrity in the design, manufacture, and installation of the day cab kits onto the many makes and models of trucks on the road today. A comprehensive video was also produced incorporating all three videos into one larger presentation.

Many people have never seen the day cab process as it unfolds from the time a sleeper truck is pulled into the shop until it is completed and driven out to be painted and delivered. A time lapse sequence was produced over a two day period highlighting the conversion of an International ProStar as well as a Peterbilt being reconfigured simultaneously in the background. The end result is a quick 60 second snap shot of the conversion demonstrating the process and protocol in an abbreviated fashion.

The final video is a conversion of a 1978 Peterbilt 359 that was restored and customized in our Sioux Falls facility. The truck was stripped down to the bare metal and rebuilt in an "old school" fashion with many parts fabricated by our R & D staff. A handcrafted headache rack, light bars, and a custom sound system highlighted the finished product. Look for more videos to be released in the months ahead.

# CONVERSION SHOP AND STAFF SET HIGH STANDARDS

The day cab conversion shop at Prairie Technology's main facility in Sioux Falls is at the center of the development of best practices and technical advances in day cab protocol. It is also the "laboratory" for final design of the fit & finish, and structural fitness for all of the day cab kits before they are released to our Certified Partners.

Staffed by technicians with a multitude of skill sets, these guys are our "boots on the ground" when it comes to refining techniques and methods for the successful reconfiguration of sleeper trucks to day cabs. Under the direction of Josh Larson, we day cab all makes and models of trucks for which we have developed custom kits. We also excel in providing services including frame work, axle installation, body repair, and custom truck fit out.



Much of the work we complete in this shop comes from repeat customers and referrals made to their friends, family members, and business associates. Our commitment to doing things right in a timely and financially feasible manner keeps our schedule busy with a wide variety of work. Working in teams, quality and efficiency are gained through shared knowledge, years of experience, and a firm commitment to excellence.

If you have questions concerning training or how you can learn more about the installation of day cab conversion kits from Prairie Technology, please contact Josh at 605-274-0444. We will be happy to share our time and experience with you.

## PRAIRIE TRUCK SALES EXPANDS FOCUS

Changes in the EPA regulations commencing with the 2008 model year trucks mandated tougher emissions standards to reduce NOx and particulates in the exhaust generated by diesel powered trucks. The net result was the introduction of Diesel Particulate Filters (DPF) which were incorporated into the downstream exhaust which were designed to catch and trap particulates. The system was designed to automatically "burn" the particulates into soot at certain mileage intervals while the truck was running down the road.

However, in some vocational applications where short haul distances are common, there is never enough driving time to allow the requisite heat to build up to adequately incinerate the particulates. In those circumstances, a stationary regeneration is required where the truck is "idled up" for nearly 40 minutes while parked to allow for the regeneration of the particulates to soot. With tight schedules, this process is not only very time consuming, but also a challenge and potential hazard given the heat generated during regeneration.

As the supply of decent mileage pre-DPF trucks tightened, many of Prairie Technology's customers began to ask us to source or find good quality pre-owned trucks for them in addition to providing day cab and custom frame services. We now have a good selection of 2007 and older pre-DPF trucks to choose from. The trucks are from various truck manufacturers and feature Cummins, Detroit, and Cat engines as well as manual and automated manual transmissions.

Please give us a call if we can help you locate a truck and have it specifically customized for your application. You can reach us at 605-274-0444 or check out some of our inventory at [www.customdaycab.com](http://www.customdaycab.com) under the "Buy A Truck" tab.

# DPF RELOCATION UPDATE

With a series of design and re-design efforts completed, the DPF relocation kit for the ProStar powered with a Cummins ISX engine is ready for release. Our R & D team was faced with a series of challenges relating to the design of the brackets that hold the DPF canister under the passenger side door. They had to be designed to keep the canister with as much clearance from the ground as possible while maintaining an acceptable distance from other components to limit the amount of heat transfer generated by the exhaust.

A specially designed exhaust pipe coming off the turbo to the DPF had to be manufactured with stainless steel pipe and wrapped with heat resistant material. The end result should afford users the opportunity to relocate the DPF if it is located in a position that impedes the ability to add an axle, shorten the frame, or install a box or other vocational component.

Federal law prohibits the removal or disabling of the DPF or other device intended to limit or reduce certain emissions proscribed by the EPA. Anyone who intends to use the relocation kit must make sure to properly install it. We believe that this modification will be an acceptable and useful tool for 2008 or newer model trucks that are reconfigured from sleeper trucks into day cabs.

We are currently working on other DPF relocation efforts for other truck models and engines. For more information on this and other products available from Prairie Technology, please give us a call at 605-274-0444 and we will be happy to respond to your questions or inquiries.



## Tips from Tracy

By Tracy Koenekamp, Shop Foreman

Efficiency and proper fit and finish are both important aspects of a good day cab conversion process. The use of templates to enhance both is standard shop protocol at Prairie Technology. We use templates for proper hole alignment for the exhaust stand, lift axles, and cab corners. We also employ a roof template for proper bracket placement on the Freightliner "C" Class.

We have heard from some of you recently with questions and comments about capping bunk AC lines. We encourage you to cap the lines as close to the "T block" as possible. We have had some issues with AC compressors when the lines are left too long. The oil from the compressor can "pool" in the capped line and the component can fail.

We are always looking for tips and suggestions from our Certified Partners on means or methods to enhance the installation process. Please contact me at [tracy@customdaycab.com](mailto:tracy@customdaycab.com) or call 605-274-0444 to discuss these or any questions you may have including the use of templates.