

Owner Operator Couple Describes How Teamwork and Hard Work Pave the Way to Success

“When I was a mechanic, the best performing trucks I saw were ones that used Mobil Delvac oils and, for me, using Mobil Delvac has been one of the best choices I have made,” says James Dunn, Owner Operator, J&L Dunn Trucking. “I mean, all the proof I need is our Freightliner truck. It has logged more than 1.3 million miles without a major overhaul, and still runs great.”

For Owner Operator couple James and Linda Dunn, owners of J&L Dunn Trucking, being on the road together “is a great way of life.” While hard work and teamwork have paid off for the Duns financially and personally, they do realize the road to success has come with sacrifices.

Recently, the Duns shared with us their secrets for keeping their business and relationship strong, and why they enjoy being on the road together.

Q: How long have you been driving and what do you enjoy most about being Owner Operators?

James: I have been driving professionally for more than 10 years. The things I like most about it are that I am my own boss and my wife travels with me. We are a real team; I drive and she handles all the bookkeeping and other stuff. We are the only ones in charge of our own success.

Linda: I like the freedom of it. It’s a way of life for us that we enjoy. It’s not for everybody. We transport all kinds of loads, lately lots of military supplies, which pays well. But overall, the best part for us is we get to manage our own schedule and see the whole country.

Q: James, you were a mechanic for many years before becoming a professional driver. How has that helped you as an Owner Operator?

James: I was a mechanic for commercial trucks and automobiles for many years. It has been a big asset for me, as I can do a lot of my own repairs or, when I have to get something done, I know if they are doing it right and what the costs should be. I also know what the best things to use are. One of things I have always used since I began driving is

Mobil Delvac heavy duty engine oil. As a mechanic, the best performing trucks I saw were ones that used Mobil Delvac oils and, for me, using them has been one of the best choices I have made.

I mean, all the proof I need is our Freightliner truck. It has logged more than 1.3 million miles without a major overhaul, still runs great, and helps us get the job done.

Q: You are both passionate members of the Owner Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA). Why is the organization so important to you both?

James: There is a lot of legislation and things going on that all drivers should care about. If you want to have your voice heard, you have to make an effort to do so. Getting involved in OOIDA is a great and powerful way to get our feelings heard.

Linda: Really, the OOIDA is one of the few organizations out there is really concerned about protecting the rights of people like us, individual Owner Operators.

Q: What advice would you give to young drivers who want to become successful Owner Operators?

James: Be prepared to work very hard. Most people know this job is hard work, but it’s even harder than most people expect. Also, make sure to take the best care of your truck. Don’t take short cuts.

Linda: I would tell couples that travel together to respect and listen to each other. Being on the road together can be hard. So, to make it work you need to really be there for each other and be a team. That way, you can share equally in the success you achieve and it can bring you closer together.



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