



# Tar Heel Van

FOURTH QUARTER

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- 58 Dean Barrett** 3
- USA Home Listings/Live Switch** 4
- Wheaton/Bekins/Yembo** 6
- Wells Insurance** 7
- Rightsizing Your Priorities**
- Sherry Witchey** 12
- Cold Weather Advisory** 16
- Associate Members** 20
- Streamlining The Move Process** 22
- Smartoving** 25

## Dean Barrett 1960-2024

Stuart Dean Barrett, of Haw River, born on August 3, 1960, in Greensboro, North Carolina, passed away peacefully at his home on December 14, 2024, at the age of 64. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Dean's life was marked by dedication to his family, community, and profession.

Dean was a proud alumnus of Page High School and East Carolina University. His career spanned over four decades, during which he made significant contributions to both the mobile home and moving and storage industries. Dean dedicated 17 years to the mobile home industry, serving with distinction at Oakwood Homes for 10 years, where he was inducted into the Hall of Fame, and at Clayton Homes for 7 years, earning the prestigious Circle of Excellence award.

Transitioning to the moving and storage industry, Dean devoted 25 years of service, including 16 years with Mayflower Transit, where he was recognized as Salesperson of the Month for the Continental 48. He also worked with Steele & Vaughn for 4 years and was with City Transfer & Storage for 5 years until his passing. His exemplary work was honored with the Mover of the Year and the James P. Dorman Award from the NC Movers Association.

Dean was deeply involved in his community, serving as Vice President of Community Development with the Camden County (GA) Jaycees and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees with the Greensboro Elks. He was a committed leader within the NC Movers Association, having served as President and Board Member. His passion for fostering community spirit was evident as a Founding Member and Board Member of the Page/Grimsley Rivalry Reunion Golf Tournament.

Dean's legacy is cherished by his surviving family: his devoted mother, Nancy Bruce Bishop; his beloved wife, Belinda Barrett, whom he affectionately called the "Pride of my Life"; his sons, Jonathan and Nathan Barrett; and his eleven adored grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father, John Roscoe Barrett and his brother, Gregory Barrett.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00pm on January 10, 2025, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Greensboro, NC. A reception will follow to celebrate the life of Dean. His memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Greensboro, NC.

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## NCMA Board of Directors

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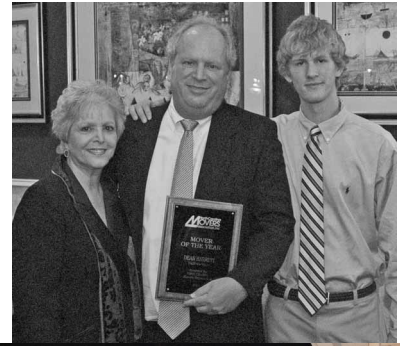
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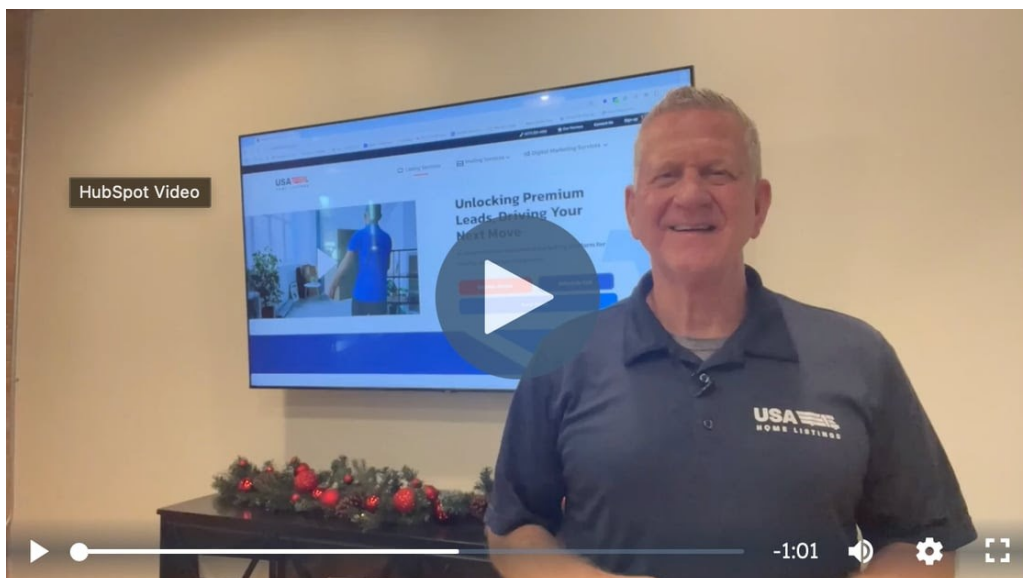
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# Wheaton | Bekins Partners with Yembo to Provide Higher Customer Satisfaction for Customers Moving Nationwide

Wheaton | Bekins, a leading U.S. moving company, has partnered with Yembo, the leader in AI-driven solutions for the relocation industry, to elevate customer satisfaction through AI-powered virtual survey and estimate technology.

## *Benefits for Wheaton | Bekins Customers*

“With Yembo's technology, we’re providing our customers another tool for a smoother, more efficient moving experience,” said Mark Kirschner, CEO of Wheaton | Bekins. “Customer satisfaction is at the top of our priority list, and we’re excited to use the Yembo platform to create quick, accurate surveys to delight our customers.”

Families and individuals moving with Wheaton and Bekins agents will now have the option to conduct video surveys of what they need moved at their convenience, rather than having to make appointments during business hours to show their relocation consultant in-person what will need to fit on the moving truck. Yembo’s AI will immediately process the video survey to generate an accurate inventory list.

## *How the Pre-Move Process Works*

Customers who want to DIY the survey can record a walkthrough of their home, while those looking for guidance can connect with an agent via live video chat. Then, with Yembo’s instant processing capabilities, customers receive more timely accurate quotes, rather than having to wait days or weeks.

Aside from getting a quick estimate to help make their decision about choosing a mover, customers also receive a detailed visual inventory list, allowing for more transparency and better coordination on moving day.

## *Innovative Technology in the Moving Business*

“AI technology is reshaping customer experiences across industries, and moving is no exception,” said Sid Mohan, co-founder and CEO of Yembo. “Today’s customers are looking for a stress-free moving process, and through our collaboration, Wheaton | Bekins can offer its customers a streamlined pre-move experience.”

Wheaton | Bekins will continue to strengthen its service offerings through technology such as Yembo’s platform, offering customers the most stress-free moving experience. The adoption of such a platform underscores the van line’s commitment to embracing innovative technology to enhance the moving process.



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### Starting out in the moving and storage industry can be challenging.

Movers usually have to obtain coverage through the Excess and Surplus marketplace. This means expensive premiums, multiple policies with multiple carriers, and coverage placed with non-standard markets.

Once a mover qualifies for our programs, we can put them with a standard market, consolidate all their policies into one program, implement risk management and regulatory compliance strategies, and ultimately reduce their insurance cost.



**Chris Burkauskas**

Account Executive

**[cburkauskas@wellsins.com](mailto:cburkauskas@wellsins.com)**

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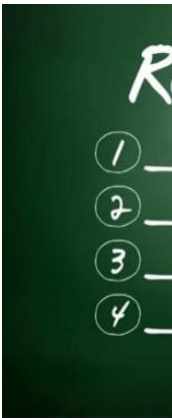
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# Rightsizing your priorities

By Steve Gilliland



As the reality of post-Christmas responsibilities begins to set in, the aftermath of the holiday season can create stress that contrasts abruptly with the joyful expectation that leads up to Christmas.

While some of you are sitting enjoying a cup of coffee this morning, reflecting on the outcome of this year's celebration, my wife (Diane) and I are heading to the Charlotte Douglas International Airport to drop off our youngest son, Alex. He flew in on Christmas Eve and is already returning to his Tampa home.

So now what? As Diane and I navigate the next few days and prepare to welcome 2025, something we have been discussing throughout the holidays is how we plan to rightsize our priorities not just to combat the post-holiday blues but to get excited about what the New Year will bring. Consider doing something similar.

First and foremost, we will **reflect on the positive things from this year and the most memorable moments**. One will include July 27th, when our foundation (Gilliland Foundation) was honored and privileged to build another backyard playset for a child fighting cancer. Normal family activities are replaced with doctor's appointments and treatments that leave children with weak immune systems, which often don't allow them to interact in public. The backyard playset provides a safe, germ-free place to play and gives the child and family an escape from the reality of fighting cancer and a way to create happy memories together.

We will also discuss and **create a list of meaningful resolutions that allow us to change and grow**. Part of this process is reflecting on the lessons we learned this year in our personal and professional lives that will enable us to use that wisdom to navigate the future with optimism. These resolutions will promote growth, not induce stress. They will inspire us, not weigh us down.

Most importantly, Diane and I will discuss the choices and changes we must make to **create a life that aligns with our goals, priorities, and values**. We will assess our relationships with people, recreational activities, professional endeavors, and charitable intentions. It could mean choosing simplicity and convenience, and instead of being the starting quarterback, maybe it's time to embrace a backup role.



Only you know what is right for you and what will make your life more fulfilling. As you begin the New Year, it is a great time to consider how you will spend your time, energy, and financial resources in the future and whether they support your ambitions. Living in alignment with your values allows you to be the most authentic version of yourself in all aspects of your life. There are no right or wrong answers, but it's essential to be honest about what matters most to you.

So, as you navigate this post-Christmas time and bid farewell to another holiday season, remember that the journey toward a positive and fulfilling New Year begins with ***rightsizing your priorities.***

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Congratulations to Sherry Witchey on her retirement. Sherry was the Office Manager for All American Relocation in Charlotte for 22 incredible years. It is bittersweet to share that Sherry Witchey is retiring. Her hard work, kindness, and leadership have made a lasting impact on All American Relocation and everyone who had the pleasure of working with her. Sherry, we thank you for everything—you'll be deeply missed!



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# WELLS BENEFITS YOU



## Launch Your Safety Program

Safety programs are not only the responsibility of your supervisor or safety manager – everyone must take part to keep the workplace free from hazards. Lots of work goes on behind the scenes to make your job as safe as possible, but there are also some things you can do to take accident prevention into your own hands.

Safety is important because nothing less than the future of your family is at stake. They are counting on you to provide food and shelter, and an on-the-job accident could very easily disable you and leave you without security. Whatever your job status is and whatever your duties include, use these tips to help make our safety program a success.

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### Work as a Team

Each person in the workplace, from employees to supervisors and management, must work together to achieve our safety goals. With everyone pitching in ideas and suggestions, we can solve problems and get through tough situations.

If you see a co-worker being careless or unsafe, it is your job to speak up. Remember that you have the right to work in a place free from hazards.

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### Make Safety Suggestions

If you are a seasoned employee, you can use your years of valuable experience to spot potential safety hazards. Or if you are a new employee, you may be able to spot something right away that a long-time pro may have overlooked.

You and your co-workers can get your own safety program off the ground by giving your supervisors or safety leaders ideas on how things can be made safer. Any idea, no matter how small it may seem to you, could prevent a serious accident.

---

### Ask Questions

If you are unsure about any aspect of Wells Insurance's safety program, ask. It is better to ask a question if you are hesitant than wait until after a serious accident occurs.

It's easy to make a safety program successful if everyone does their part. Follow these simple guidelines, and you will be one of the keys to keeping our safety program on solid ground.



## CUSTOM MOVERS SERVICES

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### Cold Weather Service Recommendations

The cold weather affects many aspects of our lives, so why would the relocation industry be any different? Through over thirty years of experience in the industry, Custom Movers Services has learned that delaying certain services in extreme cold temperatures is the most effective and efficient way to minimize damage to household goods. **Between November and April, CMS recommends next day service on certain items** in order to give them sufficient time to acclimate to room temperature. Read a little more about why we make these recommendations below:

**Electronic Equipment** – Manufacturers of TV's, computers, sound system components and other electrical/electronic items warn that extreme temperature changes can cause condensation in electrical components and they "highly recommend" waiting 24 hours before servicing / reconnecting these types of items.

**Grandfather Clocks** – Cold temperatures can cause the small gears, components and moving parts of the clock mechanism to contract and therefore restrict movement. The oil used to lubricate clocks also can be affected by cold weather causing restricted movement within the mechanism. Clocks should be allowed to acclimate and reach room temperature before servicing or re-starting the clock.

**Washing Machines** – Our technicians drain water from the pump at origin, however the washer will always retain some water in the mixer valve, pump housing and internal hoses. Attempting to operate any style of washer with moisture frozen internally may result in damage to internal components.

**Dryers** – Internal components such as igniters, ceramic heating elements can become brittle in cold temperatures, attempting to operate the dryer will cause a "sudden" temperature change and can damage internal parts.

**Icemakers** – Our technicians drain the solenoid valves, supply lines and the water filter (if applicable) when servicing at origin, however residual moisture in those internal parts may freeze. The icemaker / refrigerator should be allowed to reach room temperature to ensure a complete and thorough system check upon reconnection.

**Waterbed Mattresses** – Residual moisture inside the mattress will freeze during cold temperatures. Attempting to handle a vinyl waterbed mattress before it is allowed to reach room temperature may cause cracking in the vinyl. Waterbed mattresses should be allowed 24 hours to reach room temperature before handling / re-assembly is attempted.

Following these guidelines results not only in a better overall relocation experience for your customers, but a marked reduction in claims as well. Please educate your customers and staff to the importance of these best practices when planning a move, and don't let the cold weather get the best of you this season!

If you have any questions about servicing any items not on this list, please contact our team at 800-514-6927, or send us an email at [orders@custommoversservices.com](mailto:orders@custommoversservices.com).





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### OUR PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

## CONTACT US



To call or contact our Sales Manager,  
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AN

The advertisement features the EBS logo on the left, which consists of a red circle with white diagonal lines. To the right of the logo is the text 'EBS Ink-Jet Systems'. Below this is the slogan 'Helping Movers.... Move!' with 'Move!' in a large, bold, italicized font. On the right side of the ad is a photograph of a person's hand holding a grey handheld barcode scanner. The scanner has a small screen and several buttons. At the bottom of the ad, the website 'Ebs-inkjet-usa.com' and contact information for Patrick Newton are provided. The entire advertisement is enclosed in a red border.



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## 2025 NCMA Calendar

January 22—NCMA Board of Directors, Raleigh, NC

January 23—MRT Training Seminar, Western Wake Community College, Cary, NC

October 30-November 1—NCMA Convention  
Lumina on Wrightsville



The mission of the North Carolina Movers Association is to provide guidance to our members concerning rates, tariffs, rules and regulations as prescribed by the NC Utilities Commission. Most importantly we provide support for our members and sponsors so they can supply quality service to the moving and consuming public.

## Streamlining the Move Process

Selecting the right moving company is crucial to a smooth and successful relocation. After all, these professionals will be responsible for transporting all your belongings safely and efficiently. The best way to avoid unnecessary stress during your move is to choose a reputable moving company with experience and a solid track record.

When looking for **moving companies in North Carolina**, consider factors such as their reputation, customer reviews, services offered, and years of experience. Whether you are moving locally, across the state, or out of state, choosing a company with expertise in long-distance and local moves ensures you are in good hands.

Many **moving companies in North Carolina** offer a wide range of services, including packing, unpacking, and furniture disassembly and reassembly. Some companies even specialize in **How to Streamline Your Moving Process: Tips for Efficiency and Stress-Free Relocation**

Moving can be one of life's most exciting yet overwhelming events. Whether you're relocating for a new job, starting a family, or simply looking for a change of scenery, the process of moving can often feel like a huge task. One thing is clear: a little preparation goes a long way in ensuring the experience is as stress-free and efficient as possible. Whether you're planning to move within North Carolina, across state lines, or from California to North Carolina, the key to a smooth relocation is organizing each step and working with professionals who can handle the heavy lifting.

In this blog post, we'll share valuable tips to streamline your moving process, with a special focus on services like **North Carolina car shipping** and how to find the best **moving companies in North Carolina**. These tips will help reduce the stress of the move and allow you to enjoy the journey to your new home.

### 1. Start Planning Early

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your move is efficient is to start planning early. Most people underestimate how much time and effort moving requires, so it's crucial to give yourself enough time to organize everything without feeling rushed.

Start by creating a moving checklist. Break down each task into manageable steps, including hiring movers, scheduling utility transfers, and packing. You should aim to start planning at least 6-8 weeks before your move date. This timeline will allow you to sort through your belongings, discard items you no longer need, and figure out logistics well in advance. Early planning will also give you the flexibility to compare **moving companies in North Carolina**, research your car shipping options, and get everything in order without unnecessary stress.

another thing to keep in mind is whether the company is licensed and insured. This is important for your peace of mind, knowing that your belongings are protected in case anything goes wrong.

### 3. Don't Forget About Car Shipping

When moving long-distance, especially if you're relocating from California to North Carolina or another distant location, shipping your car can be one of the most cost-effective and convenient options. Driving a car across the country takes time, and you may not want to deal with the wear and tear on your vehicle during a long journey. Instead, consider working with a professional **North Carolina car shipping** service to get your vehicle safely to your new home.

Choosing the right **North Carolina car shipping** service can save you time and energy. A reliable car shipping company will ensure your vehicle is transported securely and promptly, either by open or enclosed trailer, depending on your preferences and budget.

When researching [North Carolina car shipping rates](#), it's important to get quotes from several companies and understand the factors that affect pricing. Car shipping rates are typically influenced by the type of car, the distance, the mode of transportation, and the shipping company's reputation. For example, **North Carolina car shipping rates** may vary depending on whether you're shipping a luxury vehicle or a standard car, or whether you want it shipped in an enclosed carrier for added protection.

By using a car shipping service, you can focus on the other aspects of your move, such as packing and settling into your new home, while the professionals take care of transporting your vehicle. Plus, many car shipping companies offer tracking services, allowing you to monitor the progress of your vehicle along the way.

### 4. Sort and Declutter Before Packing

Packing everything you own can be an overwhelming task, especially if you have accumulated items over the years. To streamline your move, start by decluttering and sorting through your belongings. This not only helps reduce the number of things you need to pack but can also help you decide what to take with you and what to leave behind.

Take the time to go through every room and decide whether an item is worth moving. Donate, sell, or recycle anything that you no longer need or use. The less you have to move, the easier and faster the process will be. If you need help, consider hiring packing services from [moving companies in North Carolina](#), as they can assist with sorting and organizing items in an efficient manner.

Packing is often a time-consuming process, so it's helpful to plan your packing strategy ahead of time. Start with items you don't use often, like seasonal decorations, books, or out-of-season clothing, and leave daily essentials until closer to moving day. Using labeled boxes and packi

## 5. Consider Unpacking Services

Unpacking can be just as stressful as packing, especially if you're arriving at a new home after a long-distance move. However, many **moving companies in North Carolina** offer unpacking services to help you settle in more quickly. Having professionals handle the unpacking process allows you to focus on the essentials, like getting familiar with your new neighborhood or setting up your home.

When considering unpacking services, ensure that the moving company understands your preferences for organizing your belongings. For example, if you have fragile items, they may need to be unpacked and handled with care. Also, many moving services will help set up furniture, hang pictures, and even assist with organizing rooms.

Unpacking services can save you a lot of time and energy. Rather than being overwhelmed with a mountain of boxes, you can settle into your new home more quickly and comfortably.

## 6. Use Technology to Stay Organized

In today's digital world, there are a number of apps and tools designed to help streamline the moving process. From tracking your moving timeline to helping you inventory your belongings, using technology can help keep everything on track.

Apps like Sortly, MoveAdvisor, or TaskRabbit can help you stay organized, create moving checklists, and even find local moving services. You can also use Google Drive or other cloud-based platforms to store important documents related to your move, such as quotes from **moving companies in North Carolina**, car shipping contracts, and utility transfer details.

## 7. Plan for Your Vehicle's Arrival

If you are using a **North Carolina car shipping** service, it's important to plan for your car's arrival at your new home. Make sure the shipping company knows the exact address, as well as any specific details about your new location, such as parking restrictions or gated access.

Most car shipping companies offer flexible delivery windows, but it's a good idea to coordinate with them to confirm the delivery time and location. Be present when your vehicle arrives to inspect it for any damage and to ensure everything is in order.

## Conclusion

Relocating to a new home can be an exciting chapter in your life, but it can also be a stressful one. However, by starting early, working with reliable **moving companies in North Carolina**, and considering services like **North Carolina car shipping**, you can make the process much smoother. Remember to compare **North Carolina car shipping rates** and find a moving company that aligns with your needs. With the right planning and the right partners, your move can be as stress-free and efficient as possible, allowing you to focus on settling



**VIDEO: SmartMoving Software & CRM: 2-Min Demo**

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Link: <https://smartmoving.wistia.com/medias/qmd6uthjc1>

**BLOG: Virtual Estimates 2.0: How to Start or Scale Your Virtual Surveys**

Virtual estimates are no longer a Zoom-based workaround from the lockdown era. They're a key competitive differentiator for profitable moving businesses. And the best part? It's easier than you think.

Link: <https://hubs.la/Q02-zvjM0>

**BLOG: 50 Keywords to Boost Your Moving Company's SEO**

Keywords are the words and phrases potential customers use to find businesses, information, and resources online. In this article, we're sharing 50 moving company keywords to help you increase traffic

Link: <https://hubs.la/Q02-zqY80>