

Thursday July 21, 2016

Great Dane Plant Tour – Statesboro

Please join GMTA's Savannah Chapter on Thursday, July 21st for a special tour and presentation at the Great Dane Trailer manufacturing plant in Statesboro. For more than 100 years, Great Dane has been known in Georgia and around the world as a leader in trailer manufacturing, providing innovative technology and a variety of premium and specialty trailers for the trucking industry.



First established in Savannah in 1900 as The Savannah Blowpipe Company, it served as a sheet metal blowpipe system that collected dust and chips from sawmills, planing mills and furniture plants through the Southeast. By 1912 the Savannah Blowpipe Company had begun to fabricate light structural steel and steel plate products. In 1919, the company moved to a new location on Lathrop Avenue and remained there for 90 years.

By 1931, the Georgia-based manufacturer was known as The Steel Products Company and had begun its long legacy of trailer manufacturing for over-the-road freight hauling. The trailer's name, Great Dane, came from William Lowndes, an expert trailer builder from Greenville hired to implement the new trailer manufacturing process. Great Danes, known for their great strength and stamina, represented the vision of The Steel Products Company so the name remained. The Steel Products Company engineered a lightweight trailer made of high tensile steel becoming the principal Great Dane product in 1938. A few years later, the company pioneered the refrigerated trailer industry by building the first produce van with a wet ice bunker, a gas engine and blower system. It was soon followed by the first factory finished refrigerated van. The Great Dane reefer, as this type of trailer came to be known, has never relinquished its leadership. In 1958 The Steel Products Company changed its name to Great Dane Trailers, Inc. and the following year, Great Dane brought out a redesigned line of van trailers built largely of lightweight aluminum. The company also phased out all structural steel products and further expand trailer production. Great Dane was finally in the trailer business 100 percent. The company continued to grow and expand throughout the country and the world over the next 50 years.

In January 2009, Great Dane closed its original manufacturing plant in Savannah, GA which was operational since 1919. In 2010, Great Dane unveiled sweeping changes to its complete product line and century-old brand. Great Dane continued expanding the company by rebuilding ties close to its hometown of Savannah, with the construction of its eighth trailer manufacturing plant in Statesboro, Georgia. Strategically located in the Southeast, this new reefer plant features the latest technology, making it the most modern and efficient plant in the world.

Over the years, Great Dane has built an enviable reputation as an industry leader in technology, innovation and quality. They market products through a network of company-owned branches, full-line independent dealers and parts-only independent dealers, with distribution points across North and South America. Great Dane has become a tradition building from its history as it continues to grow with innovation and expansion.

And please bring your appetite for a great lunch at the Boiling Shrimp restaurant in Statesboro just before the tour hosted by our friends from Great Dane. Join us for a great afternoon of information and discussion with your friends and industry colleagues. Please let us know if you can join us and send in your reservations promptly. Remember, friends, guests and potential GMTA members are always welcome.

Please register me for the:

- Lunch meeting at the Boiling Shrimp before the tour at 1:00 pm hosted by Great Dane Trailers
- Great Dane Plant Tour: Thursday, July 21, Beginning at 2:30 pm

Boiling Shrimp Restaurant * 12218 US Hwy 301 * Statesboro * 912-871-5888
Great Dane Trailers * Gateway Pond House Drive (just off Hwy 301) * Statesboro * 912-871-8100

Please make your reservation by Tuesday, July 19. *Thank you!*

NAME(S) _____

COMPANY _____

PHONE () _____ E-MAIL _____

You may mail, fax or email your reservations to:

GMATA Safety & Security Council * 2060 Franklin Way, Suite 200, Marietta, GA 30067 * Phone: (770) 444-9771 Fax: (770) 444-9442