

Southern Towing Company

Newsletter

December 2008

USCG Light Lists

The Coast Guard publishes Light List Volumes annually; with Volume 5 being published biennially. In order to adjust to a new printing cycle, the Coast Guard will not publish the 2008 editions of the Light Lists, except for Light List Volume 5 (Mississippi River System), which has been sent to all boats. The Coast Guard is changing the publication cycle of the Light List so that annual editions are available early in each calendar year. Since the printing of the 2007 editions occurred in November 2007, they will remain effective for approximately 14 months.

Crossing The Bar

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Retired Captain Roy Al Hicks passed away on 8/29/08. He was the captain on the M/V Frank Stegbauer and had worked for Southern Towing Company for 35 years before he retired.

M/V Frank T. Stegbauer

The first of our four new boats has gone to work. The M/V Frank T. Stegbauer began working early in September. She is 120 feet long and 3200 HP. The Frank T. Stegbauer won an award at the Workboat Show as a "Significant Boat of 2008". The second boat, the M/V David Stegbauer has also been completed and will go into service soon.



Pick Up your Card

The Coast Guard tells us there are too many TWIC cards in Memphis waiting

to be picked up. Don't wait to be contacted by the TSA. Check the status of your TWIC on-line: <https://twicprogram.tsa.dhs.gov/TWICWebApp>.

Radar Endorsement on License

The US Coast Guard amended its regulations by removing the requirement for the expiration date of the radar-observer endorsement to be on the merchant mariner's license. In the future you will need to carry your current Radar certificate as well as your license.

Medical Guidelines

The Coast Guard has published NVIC 4-08 entitled Medical and Physical Evaluation Guidelines for Merchant Mariner Credentials. There is a link to this NVIC on our web site. Visit www.southerntowing.net.

Nautical Trivia

Clean Bill of Health. This widely used term has its origins in the document issued to a ship showing that the port it sailed from suffered from no epidemic or infection at the time of departure.

Medical Coverage

New health insurance ID cards have been sent to everyone covered under our medical insurance program. If you didn't get one or if you are having trouble getting claims paid, contact Paula.

Alcohol Test Kits

Alcohol test kits have been sent to all boats. Be sure to discard the old test kits when you receive the new ones. Don't confuse these for the drug test kits. Be sure to put these in a place you can find them when you need them.

TWIC Cards

Time is running out! You need to have a TWIC card in your possession no later than April 15, 2009 if you want to continue working with Southern Towing Company. Once you get your card the office needs a copy of it.

Ammonia Tankerman School

Congratulations to Robert Beckham, Darren Higgins, Danny Saucier, Andrew Hager, Stacy Sparks and John Parker for completing our Ammonia Tankerman School and Tank Barge Fire Fighting School.

Coast Guard Boardings

The Coast Guard has informed us that they are required to increase the frequency of boardings of towing vessels by the end of this calendar year. This means that you can expect to be boarded numerous times between now and the end of this year, checking lifesaving equipment, fire fighting equipment, general housekeeping and cleanliness, vessel paperwork, and general safety items. They will be verifying that required training is completed such as the required fire drills.

Pollution Incident

Following an investigation of a recent pollution incident on one of our boats the Coast Guard decided to fine the engineer responsible for the spill, and not Southern Towing Company. They told us this is a new effort to help eliminate pollution incidents. When you are the person-in-charge of a fuel transfer you must follow the procedures we provide for you. You're not to bypass any of the

pollution prevention devices installed on your boat, including the high level alarms. You are not to be doing anything else but attending to the fuel transfer and if you need help, get it.

Designated Examiners

Congratulations to Herbert Swenty. The Coast Guard recently approved him as a designated examiner. We now have 11 approved DE's.

Casualties/Accidents

Tell the truth after an accident/causality. The facts will come out anyway as time passes after the incident. Not telling the truth, particularly to the CG, can lead to termination, fines, or loss of license/document.

401K Plan

Every employee needs to manage the future of their 401(k). If you want to change what you invest in, look on the Principal web site or call them on their 800 number. Principal has many options available to help you do what you feel comfortable having your money in. If you don't understand how investing works or what to invest in, call or e-mail

the Principal. Principal wants to help you and there are no fees for this assistance. This is your money: look after it.

Employee Service Awards

Congratulations to Scott Lewis and Doug Ditto for completing 5 years of service, to Brad Hudgins for completing 10 years, to Rodney Hundley for completing 15 years, to Byron Gann for completing 20 years, to Gene Baker for completing 25 years and to Larry Tilley for completing 35 years of service to Southern Towing Company.

EMD School

Congratulations to Robert Dillon, Tory Riley, David Summers, Lester Farmer, and James Hemby for recently completing EMD School and Person-in-Charge Training.

License & MMD Renewals

The process for renewing a license or Merchant Mariner Document has improved. It is taking less time to complete the process. However, it is your responsibility to be sure to renew on time. So don't delay the process.

This is especially true if you currently have a medical waiver or if you think you may need a medical waiver when you renew.

Deadman Switch

If the deadman switch in the pilot house doesn't work let us know so we can repair it. Deliberately disabling a deadman switch is cause for termination of employment.

MSD Problems

Most causes of MSD's stopping up are caused by crewmembers flushing paper towels, cigarette butts, pinesol and other materials that do not belong. Before contacting the office with an MSD problem the crew should clean out the MSD.

Z-Drive School

Congratulations to Tom Mason, Herb Swenty, Chris Stickles, and Jacob Phelps for completing Pacific Maritime School's Z-Drive School.

Happy Holidays

We all wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season.