

Southern Towing Company

Newsletter

February 2009

TWIC Cards

Get one by April 15th

When you receive your TWIC card be sure to give a copy of it to the office. If we don't have a copy we will assume you do not have one and you may be out of work.

Environmental Achievement Awards

The Chamber of Shipping of America recently awarded us with their Environmental Achievement Award. This award is given for operating at least 2 years without an environmental mishap. The awards are as follows:

<u>Boat</u>	<u>No. of Years</u>
M/V CHARLES SOUTHERN	17
M/V LARRY TILLEY	17
M/V LAURA TAMBLE	17
M/V DENNIS COLLINS	16
M/V FRANK STEGBAUER	14
M/V JO ANNE STEGBAUER	14
M/V BILL STEGBAUER	12
M/V BOBBY JONES	12
M/V CHERYL STEGBAUER	12
M/V LAURA ELIZABETH	10
M/V MARY ELIZABETH	10
M/V FRANK B. TAMBLE	9
M/V BAXTER SOUTHERN	5
M/V ROBERT INGLE	5
M/V FRANK HOLLOWAY	4
M/V KEVIN CONWAY	3

These 16 vessels operated a combined total of 177 years in environmental excellence. Congratulations and well done to the crewmembers of those boats. Our environmental record is exemplary. Those who have made it so are our crewmembers. Thank you for your contribution to our environmental excellence.

W2 Forms

W2 Forms were mailed out in January. Review those forms to be sure all information is correct. If changes are necessary notify the office.

Direct Deposit

Most banks do not post your deposit until after 10:00 AM. Please wait until at least 11:00 am before calling Paula that your check is not in the Bank.

Don't Waste Your Time

Don't waste your time coming to the office to see someone without first talking to that person to be sure they will be here. We all have things to do and cannot always drop everything to help you. We are not always here. So if you plan to come to the office, call first.

Post Accident Drug Test Kits

Check to be sure you are using the correct post accident drug test kits. You should be using the ones in the small box. Discard any drug test kits in envelopes that you may still have. We changed drug test companies and we must use the new kits.

Ice & Snow

This is the time of year you can expect boats and tows to get covered with snow or ice making dangerously slippery conditions. Even a light dusting of snow will be slippery. When you go out be sure to wear proper work boots, walk carefully, take small steps and hold on to something. Remove the snow and ice as soon as possible. Above all, be careful. Falling into the river this time of year will cause hypothermia very quickly.

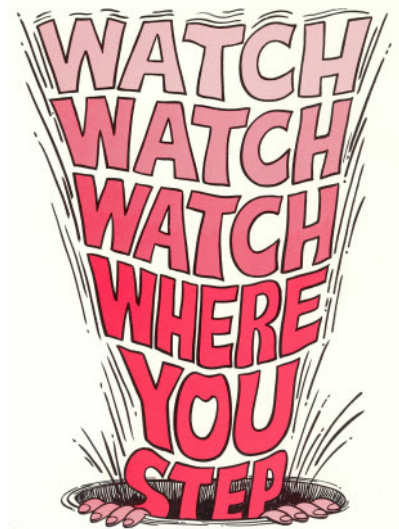
Ways to Energize Your Life

Reduce your caffeine consumption. The energy boost you get from drinking coffee, tea or cola is followed by an energy slump a few hours later.

Limit alcohol consumption. Alcohol depresses your central nervous system and contributes to fatigue.

Exercise regularly. Walking, running, cycling and other aerobic exercise can boost your physical and mental capabilities.

Eat more complex carbohydrates such as fruits, vegetables, bread, pasta, rice and grains. Carbohydrates provide long-lasting energy.



FCC License

Don't forget if you have a license and work in the wheelhouse you must have an FCC license also. This license is good for life so don't lose it. The Coast Guard has been checking for the FCC license during their routine boardings.

Crossing the Bar

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Robert "Rufus" Maness who passed away on December 23rd. Rufus worked on the boats and then in the shop as a mechanic until he retired.

License Delays

The National Maritime Center is experiencing delays in processing license and MMD applications. The delays are running about 90 days at this time. Don't wait to apply for renewal of your

license or MMD. You can still request delayed issue by writing "delayed issuance requested" in the [applying for] box on the application.

Wheelhouse Meetings

The next wheelhouse meeting will be March 16th, and the final one will be April 20th. Contact Bobby Jones if you have any questions.

Larry Tilley

Larry Tilley placed third in his class at the National Tractor Association Pull in Columbus OH. He was also inducted into the National Tractor Pulling Association Hall of Fame for his work with and helping to promote tractor pulling.

HAZWOPER Training

Congratulations to Bill Stegbauer, Larry Tilley, Mike Slack, Tony Condy, Frank Hollomon, Arne Christiansen, Lee Courville, Mitchell Meek, David Galiher, Chris Hughes, Roy Victory, and Tommy McCoin for recently completing

an 8 hour refresher course for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response recertification.

Boat Inspections/Boardings

The office and shop people have noticed that our boats and barges are not being maintained at the level we want and require. We have been stretched on supervisory personnel the last eighteen months as more equipment was added and the company's new construction program began. With the current slowdown in business and the new construction program half finished, we hope to spend more time checking boats and barges. As part of this increased oversight, Richard "Ric" Singley of Singley Maritime Consulting will be visiting STC tows at docks below Baton Rouge and along the Gulf Coast starting in March. Ric will be using the same check sheets and looking at the items found in the STOP Manual. He will not be dealing with personnel problems except to report if they affect the safe operation and care and maintenance of equipment. Ric has extensive experience in vessel inspection, auditing, training, safety, and general marine experience.

We look forward to having Ric work with everyone at STC and hope all our crew members will welcome him when he visits their tow.

Vessel Security

You are reminded to check the identity of persons coming on board if you do not know them. If your boat is covered by a Vessel Security Plan, you must contact the Company Security Officer before allowing anyone on board who you do not know and did not expect. This goes for anyone claiming to be a government official, anyone claiming to be there to conduct a random drug test or anyone who you had no prior notice of their visit.

Service Awards

Congratulations to Michael Ditto and Mitchell Meek for completing 5 years, to Robert White for completing 10 years and to Lee Courville and Billy Walker for completing 20 years with Southern Towing Company.