

# Southern Towing Company

Newsletter

June 2007

## NOLA REC Address Change

As of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the new address and phone numbers for REC New Orleans are as follows:

USCG Regional Examination Center  
4250 Hwy 22, Suite F  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
Phone: (985)624-5700  
Fax: (985)624-5757

## Alcohol Test Kits

New alcohol test kits have been sent to the boats. If you have not received them or if you have questions contact Mike Slack. Remember we are required test for alcohol following any serious marine incident. This includes injuries requiring professional medical treatment, damage in excess of \$100,000, pollution in excess of 10,000 gallons, one or more deaths, total loss of a vessel, and release of a reportable quantity of hazardous material.

## High Blood Pressure?

Caffeine is a stimulant. Caffeine speeds up the heart rate and increases blood pressure soon after consumption. It seems that the effects of caffeine on blood pressure are related to the baseline blood pressure. For example, those with high blood pressure would likely experience a greater increase than those with normal blood pressure from the same cup of coffee or can of cola.

## Crossing the Bar

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Nicholas Braswell who recently passed away. He worked as a mate on the M/V Larry Tilley.

## Human Factors

To err is human but that isn't helpful when it comes to safety and

environmental protection. Recent studies have shown that about 80% of all marine casualties are caused in some part by human error. Most accidents are the result of someone not focusing 100% of their attention on the job they are doing at the time. It follows, then, that if you do pay attention to what you are doing you will likely not have an accident. PAY ATTENTION and avoid accidents.

## Food Safety

- Avoid Food Safety Problems:
- Watch expiration dates,
- Don't overstock, order quantities you will use,
- Watch for proper color, texture and overall appearance,
- Keep foods at correct temperatures,
- Don't accept food items in damaged containers
- Keep all food areas clean, clean hands before preparing food, and keep cooking utensils clean.

## Designated Examiners

The Coast Guard recently evaluated the credentials of Richard Sides, Robert Gates, Ray Kirtley and Richard Bender and renewed their Designated Examiner authority. Congratulations!

## Nautical Trivia

The expression Miss the Boat came from liberty boats that carried the sailors returning from shore leave out to their ships. Hence to miss the boat was to miss the only opportunity to get back to the ship.

## TWIC Enrolment Sites

A list of cities where you will be able to enroll in the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program has been published. Some of those cities include Memphis, TN, Greenville, MS,

Paducah, KY, and many other locations. The office will notify you when you are required to obtain a TWIC and the exact location to apply.

## License/MMD Info

The USCG website 'HOMEPORTR' provides mariners with real-time information on the status of pending mariner credential applications. Mariners can check the status of applications throughout the verification and approval process by logging into Homeport and clicking on the Merchant Mariners tab and then clicking on Merchant Mariner Application Status. When application information is entered, Homeport will display the information submitted with the application package and current application status information. Mariner credentials that have already been issued will be displayed in Homeport as "issued" for a 120 day period. Mariners who need additional information after visiting Homeport can request additional information by telephone or email. Regional Exam Center (REC) contact information can be found in Homeport by clicking on the Port Directory and then going to Community Outreach. To access Homeport go to <https://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/e/p/home.do>

## O2 Meter

Each boat has been equipped with an O2 meter. They are to be used following the instructions that came with them prior to entering a confined space or any space where the oxygen content is in question.

## Service Awards

Congratulations to Ronald McCoy for completing 10 years of service, to Tony Condy and Joe Pate for completing 20 years of service and to Bill Stegbauer for completing 30 years of service with Southern Towing Company.

## **M/V Capt. Richard Sides**

We recently added the former M/V Lillian K to our fleet. It was renamed in honor of Capt. Richard Sides who has been employed with Southern Towing Company for more than 35 years, and is currently our Port Captain. The Captain Richard Sides is a 3600 HP boat.

### **Aflac Benefits**

We are now offering Aflac benefits. These benefits are designed to help you financially during illness or injury. You will be offered a choice of policies ranging from accident, hospitalization and cancer to heart attack and stroke. We will be getting more information to you soon. For any questions contact Dan Brown at 901-405-1585.

### **License and MMD**

If you have a license or MMD don't forget to renew early. The Coast Guard has changed their internal process and there could be delays. This is especially true if you require any medical waivers.

## **TWIC Card Disqualifications**

Every STC employee will be required to obtain a TWIC card. All license and MMD holders, all crewmembers and all shoreside personnel will be required to obtain a TWIC card. The TSA will conduct a security threat assessment on all applicants. Permanent disqualifying criminal offenses include espionage, sedition, treason, terrorist crime, crime involving a transportation security incident, improper handling of hazardous material, crime involving explosive devices, murder or a violation of the RICO Act.

### **Pollution Prevention**

One of the most important considerations when preparing for a transfer (whether fueling the boat or transferring UAN or ammonia) is to be absolutely certain that all valves in the system are lined up properly. That means those that should be open are open and those that should be closed are closed. Check and recheck to be sure. If you are using a crossover hose make sure you are not loading a barge instead

of sending the product to the terminal. A good number of pollution incidents are caused by improper alignment of valves. Read and follow the transfer procedures; don't make a stupid mistake. It could be your last. Remember to take your time to do it right and pay attention all the time. Pollution prevention is always a priority.

### **Coast Guard Boardings**

The Coast Guard has been continuing their aggressive boarding program. In addition to reviewing security procedures on board, they will be looking at everything on board including life saving and fire fighting equipment, paperwork, signs, and pollution prevention equipment. They will be checking everyone's ID card, so be sure you have it with you. Prior to allowing them on board we must follow company security procedures found in the STOP Manual, which call for us to verify who they are before they board. If we just allow them on board without challenging them, our security program is failing.