

Southern Towing Company

Newsletter

November 2007

Keeping Good Phone Records

Once again we have been challenged regarding making proper reports to the IRVMC with respect to departure times. Fortunately the boat had a good phone contact record and we could verify that we made the required reports. Remember when you deal with the IRVMC or any other government agency to respond professionally and keep good records. If you need help don't hesitate to contact Mike Slack.

Crossing the Bar

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Porter Brown and Jerry Hall who passed away recently. Porter Brown started as a deckhand and later worked in the shop. Jerry Hall was the engineer on the Frank Stegbauer.

Vessel Security

It is required that we check the identification of everyone coming on board our boats. State law enforcement officials, Coast Guard personnel and all vendors are included in the term everyone. If someone refuses to show their ID contact the Company Security Officer (Mike Slack or Bill Stegbauer.)

License Renewal

Remember when you renew your license or MMD we need a copy of it in the office. So either mail a copy, fax a copy or bring the original in so we can copy it. We cannot put you to work when our records reflect an expired license or MMD.

Reports to the Coast Guard

Not everything that happens out there is required to be reported to the Coast Guard. In a written policy letter the Coast Guard has told us that "bump and

go" groundings are non-reportable. They define "bump and go" groundings as groundings of uninspected vessels (which includes towboats, solution, coal or rock tows) where there is no damage, no pollution, no injuries or unintentional breaking apart of the tow and the boat is able to regain control of the tow. If you report these bump and go groundings to the Coast Guard they most likely will hold your tow until they come out to investigate. Call Mike Slack or Bill Stegbauer before reporting everything to the Coast Guard.

Aflac

We now offer Aflac insurance. Benefit packages were sent out to each boat. Please complete these forms even if you do not want the benefit and send them back to the office. If you have questions please call Dan Brown @ 901-405-1585.

Designated Examiner

The Coast Guard recently evaluated the credentials of Stephen Wage and renewed his Designated Examiner authority. Congratulations!

Welcome Aboard

Welcome aboard to Chris Hughes who will be working out of the shop as a mechanic.

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.

Environmental Achievement

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:

Boat	No. of Years
M/V CHARLES SOUTHERN	16
M/V LARRY TILLEY	16
M/V LAURA TAMBLE	16
M/V DENNIS COLLINS	15
M/V FRANK STEGBAUER	13
M/V JO ANNE STEGBAUER	13
M/V BILL STEGBAUER	11
M/V BOBBY JONES	11
M/V CHERYL STEGBAUER	11
M/V LAURA ELIZABETH	10
M/V MARY ELIZABETH	9
M/V FRANK B. TAMBLE	8
M/V BAXTER SOUTHERN	4
M/V ROBERT INGLE	4
M/V FRANK HOLLOWOMON	3
M/V KEVIN CONWAY	2

These 16 vessels operated a total of 162 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.

Kudos to the M/V Bobby Jones

We recently received a letter expressing appreciation for the 'utmost professionalism' exhibited by the M/V Bobby Jones and crew when they helped a pontoon boat which was adrift and out of fuel at night on the Tennessee River. The Bobby Jones was maneuvered along side the pontoon boat and provided assistance, averting a potential disaster. **Well Done!**

License (MMD) Form On-Line

The Coast Guard has made their license and MMD application available to be completed on line and printed out. You can find a link to that form on our web site.

Latest TWIC News

TSA & USCG have published a guide for applicants that has much information to help you apply for a Transportation Worker Identification Credential. We have a link to that publication on our web site. TSA has started the application process. Enrollment centers are open in Baton Rouge, Corpus Christi and Beaumont, TX. All boat crewmembers, shop staff and some office personnel will need a TWIC by Sept. 25, 2008.

Finally!

In the 9/17/07 Federal Register the Coast Guard proposes to eliminate the requirement to have a radar observer endorsement on a license. The requirement to renew your radar observer will remain. To obtain a copy of that proposed rule change, go to the links page on our web site and click on Federal Register or contact Mike Slack.

VTS User Guides

We've distributed updated VTS User Guides to all boats. Call Mike Slack if you did not receive one.

Changes

Notify Paula if you have any change in phone number, address or banking information.

Ammonia Tankerman Class

Congratulations to Robert Chambers, Chris Hughes, Cody Green, William Mason, Stephen Stratton, Ben Ray and Matt Neher for successfully completing our Anhydrous Ammonia Tankerman Class.

M/V Capt. Sam Yount

We recently added the former M/V Louis Develle to our fleet. It was renamed in honor of Captain Sammy Yount who has been employed with Southern Towing Company for 39 years.

USCG Proposed NVIC

In September 2006 the Coast Guard published a draft NVIC; "Medical and Physical Evaluation Guidelines for Merchant Mariner Credentials." With comments received from mariners and

the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) that draft NVIC has been changed and a new draft is available. This NVIC puts the current Coast Guard practices into writing.

Lower Cholesterol with Lifestyle Changes

Choose fiber-rich food (whole grains, legumes, nuts) as the main source of carbohydrates, along with a high intake of fresh fruits and vegetables. Avoid saturated fats (found mostly in animal products). In selecting proteins, choose soy protein, poultry, and fish over meat. Controlling weight, quitting smoking, and exercising are essential companions of any diet program.

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