

Southern Towing Company

Newsletter

April 2010

FCC License

During a recent boarding of one of our boats it was noted that no one in the wheelhouse had their FCC radio license with them. You have to carry the FCC license with you while you're working. That gives you four documents to carry; your TWIC card, your USCG license, your Radar Certificate and your FCC license.

Crossing the Bar

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Hilda Adams, retired cook, who passed away on June 26, 2009. She rode the M/V Charles Southern, M/V JoAnne Stegbauer and M/V Baxter Southern. She was 76. Also in our prayers is Katherine Melton who passed away November 9, 2009 at the age of 80. She worked as a cook 1977 to 1993.

Health Insurance

As of 8/01/09 we changed our Health Insurance to Pittman and Associates. You should have received your new ID cards by now, if not please contact Paula. Also, be sure to let your health care provider know that you have new insurance.

Monthly Training & Fire Drills

Our STOP Manual requires monthly crew training in various safety subjects. All boats have the safety films and can conduct training without specific direction from the office. Fire drills are required by regulation and must be conducted each month. Be sure to log all training and all drills.

Physical Evaluation Forms

The Coast Guard has published new physical evaluation forms to be completed for any license or MMD application requiring a physical examination. We have a link to those

forms on our web site (www.SouthernTowing.net).

Tankerman Class

Congratulations to Albert Chapps, Michael Jason Martin, Michael Jordan, Andrew Hager, Stacy Sparks, Edward James Malone, and Billy Ridgell for recently completing our Ammonia Tankerman School.

Weekly Inspections

It is the Captain's responsibility to be sure that the weekly National Pollution Discharge Elimination System inspections are completed. Anyone properly trained can do the actual inspection. Inspection report forms are available and training has been provided. These inspections must be done every week.

Boardings

We will be stepping up our boarding program over the next few months. We will be checking for compliance with all federal and company safety, pollution prevention, security, and drug and alcohol policies.

Service Awards

Congratulations to David Gallaher for completing 5 years and to Bobby Lepard for completing 10 years of service with Southern Towing Company.

Chamber of Shipping 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:

Boat	No. of Years
M/V JO ANNE STEGBAUER	15
M/V BOBBY JONES	13
M/V CHERYL STEGBAUER	13
M/V LAURA ELIZABETH	11
M/V MARY ELIZABETH	11
M/V FRANK B. TAMBLE	10
M/V BAXTER SOUTHERN	6
M/V FRANK HOLLOMON	5
M/V CAPT. RICHARD SIDES	2

These 9 vessels operated a combined total of 86 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.

Changes to License and MMD Application Processes

The Coast Guard is working to make things easier in the process of applying for a license or a Merchant Mariner's Document. If you provide your email address they will keep you up to date on the status of your application. As of 1/10/10 you can send your application (including a copy of your TWIC card, service letter, physical, and evidence of drug testing) to the REC via email. For the latest information on licensing go to www.uscg.mil/nmc.

HAZWOPER Refresher

Congratulations to Bill Stegbauer, Larry Tilley, Mike Slack, Roy Victory, Chris Hughes, Tony Condy, Mitchell Meek, Lee Courville, and Dave Gallaher for recently completing an annual 8 hour hazardous waste operations and emergency response refresher course.

Chaplain Mills Leaves SCI

Chaplain Ann Mills of the Seaman's Church Institute Ministry on the River

has moved on and is no longer affiliated with SCI. She was with SCI for 6 years.

Delayed Issuance

The Coast Guard will still allow "delayed issuance" of a Merchant Mariner Credential. But, you have to ask for it on your application. Go to <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/> for more information.

Change of Address or Phone Number

Notify Paula whenever you have a change of address, a change of phone number including cell phone, or any changes in your banking information.

Life Insurance

If you have had a change of beneficiary notify Paula.

401K Plan

Enrollment dates for the 401K plan are the first of January, April, July and

October. If you need any 401K plan information contact Paula.

Oxyacetylene

Boats are to have only one bottle of oxygen and one bottle of acetylene. If your boat has more than one bottle of each turn in the extra bottles to the shop.

Phil Payton

Mr. Phil Payton recently joined Southern Towing Company. He comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the industry including the transportation of ammonia in barges. He will be working out of Baton Rouge handling situations as they arise regarding ammonia barges and our customers.

Kudos to the M/V Bobby Jones

We recently received a letter from Warrior and Gulf Navigation expressing their gratitude toward the crew of the M/V Bobby Jones. On Feb. 9th M/V Biloxi and her tow were pinned against the Naheola RR Bridge in a perilous situation. The crew of the Bobby Jones

responded securing the Biloxi safely downstream of the bridge.

STOP Manual

Every crewmember is required to be aware of and comply with all directives, policies and procedures contained in the Safety, Training, Operations and Personnel (STOP) Manual.

TWIC PIN Number

If you obtained your TWIC card after 10/21/08, and forgot your PIN, bring your TWIC card to an enrollment center for the PIN to be reset.

If your TWIC card was issued before 10/21/08, and you forgot your PIN, you will be issued a replacement card free of charge. To do this, contact the TWIC Help Desk (866) DHS-TWIC to open a ticket and receive further instructions. Once your replacement card is ready for pick up, you will be notified via phone or e-mail (the option you selected during enrollment). At that time you can make an appointment for activation at www.tsa.gov/twic.