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**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE**

House Coast Guard Subcommittee Holds Update Hearing on TWIC.....1

Congress Back in Session – Senate Reconvenes on January 22.....2

Congressman Baker to Retire in Early February.....3

Mississippi River Commission Announces Schedule of Public Meetings in April.....3

TWIC Enrollment Update.....3

Thirteen More Members Certify RCP Compliance.....4

Buzzards Bay Marine Safety Information Bulletin Released by Coast Guard.....5

Southern Region Holds Annual Meeting.....6

LMRWSAC Application Deadline Extended.....7

Corps - New Orleans District Invites AWO Members to Conference Calls.....7

Register for the Inland Waterways Conference.....7

Washington State Bill Regulating Oil Transfers Introduced.....8

Pacific Region to Hold Regional Meeting.....8

## House Coast Guard Subcommittee Holds Update Hearing on TWIC

On January 23, the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing on the status of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) rollout process. The hearing was chaired by Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and attended by the ranking Republican member Congressman Steve LaTourette (R-OH) and a half dozen other subcommittee members. Chairman Cummings stated that the subcommittee “reconvened for an update on the rollout status of the TWIC card” as a followup to the hearing held last summer at which AWO and several other maritime organizations testified. (See July 20, 2007 *AWO Letter*.)

Chairman Cummings noted that since the beginning of the TWIC enrollment process in October, approximately 50,000 enrollments had been completed and approximately 12,000 cards issued. As of January 11, 49 of 147 permanent enrollment centers have been opened nationwide, and 20 mobile enrollment centers have been established. Recognizing that there is still a long way to go, Chairman Cummings nevertheless noted that “although we have waited years for the rollout of TWIC, it appears

the time has been used constructively to put processes in place.”

Administration witnesses included RADM Brian Salerno, Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship, and Maurine Fanguy, TWIC Program Manager for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). RADM Salerno reviewed the previous efforts on TWIC, and stated that the original estimate of 750,000 to 1.5 million individuals required to obtain a TWIC would likely be “at the high end of that range.” He also said that the Coast Guard, with the support of TSA, has commenced work on the second TWIC rule which will cover card readers. RADM Salerno said that reader pilot programs had been initiated in the ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach; New York/New Jersey; Brownsville, TX; and, with Watermark Cruises in Annapolis, MD, all of which have volunteered to participate and have received grants to purchase and install readers with necessary equipment. He also announced that the Coast Guard had reached an agreement the week of January 14 to conduct a reader pilot program on towing vessels with Magnolia Marine of Vicksburg, MS.



*(continued on page 2)*



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## House Coast Guard Subcommittee Holds Follow-up Hearing on TWIC

(continued from page 1)

Ms. Fanguy reviewed the numbers achieved in the TWIC rollout so far, and deemed it “successful.” She said that the program was being improved with lessons learned as the rollout continues and that the pace of enrollments and card issuance was accelerating. She noted the enrollment center at Baton Rouge where the initial estimate of applicants was too low and wait times were lengthy. She said that TSA had shifted resources from other areas to increase the work stations at the Baton Rouge center five-fold to reduce wait times. In general, enrollment centers in the Gulf region have been processing a higher number of applicants than estimated and extra resources were being shifted to a number of Gulf region enrollment centers. She also said that TSA was instituting an appointment system for card pickup, in an effort to reduce wait times for obtaining the cards once issued. Chairman Cummings asked what the rejection rate for applicants was, and Ms. Fanguy indicated that so far it had been low, but based on TSA’s experience with HazMat Driver’s certifications, they anticipate a rejection rate of approximately one percent.

Chairman Cummings noted that the deadline for mariners to obtain a TWIC card – September 25, 2008 – was coming up “fairly soon,” and asked about the rate of mariner enrollments. Ms. Fanguy said that so far, approximately 6,000 mariners have been through the enrollment process, out of an expected 220,000 applicants. Asked about implementation deadlines, RADM Salerno said that implementation for shoreside facilities would be handled on a port-by-port basis, and that the Coast Guard would be “mindful to balance the motivation to enroll with the capacity to deliver.” RADM Salerno said that the compliance deadline for all mariners remained September 25, 2008, and he gave no indication that the Coast Guard was planning to change that date.

Judy Marks, President of Lockheed Martin Transportation and Security Solutions, the TWIC contractor for TSA, testified on some of the lessons learned during the rollout process. She said that the fingerprint rejection rate was running at about two percent, meaning that those applicants were required to return to the enrollment center for additional fingerprinting. She said that TSA was working on a procedure to take dual sets of fingerprints from applicants so that if one set was rejected, the applicant would not have to make the extra trip.

She also listed the three top “lessons learned” in the enrollment process so far:

1. “Walk-ins” for card pickup should be eliminated in favor of an appointment system to reduce wait times. She said that a pilot program would be started in Baton Rouge the week of January 28, and would be extended to other enrollment centers nationwide;
2. The need to respond to underestimates of the volume of applicants. She cited the Baton Rouge enrollment center where the initial estimates were 6,000 applicants but turned out to be more than 40,000. She said that they had responded by stationing more personnel at Baton Rouge and making use of mobile enrollment centers to deal with the higher numbers; and,
3. Longer lead times are needed for the opening of enrollment centers. This will allow enrollment center personnel to provide better customer service from the time the center first opens.

If you have any questions about the hearing, or would like copies of any of the testimony, please contact Boyd Hollingsworth at (703) 841-9300, extension 258, or via email at [bhollingsworth@vesselalliance.com](mailto:bhollingsworth@vesselalliance.com). ❀

### Congress Back in Session *Senate Reconvenes on January 22*

The Senate reconvened for the second session of the 110th Congress on January 22, joining the House of Representatives which had reconvened a week earlier. Both the House and Senate will meet in a joint session on January 29 to hear President Bush’s State of the Union Address. The President will be sending his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009 to the Congress the week of February 4. Both chambers will adjourn for the President’s Day recess period at the close of business on February 15. ❀



## Congressman Richard Baker to Retire

On February 6, Congressman Richard Baker (R-LA), the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, will retire to pursue a career in the private sector. During his 11 terms in Congress, Congressman Baker was a true ally of the tugboat, towboat and barge industry, championing the cause of gaining a workable Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) interim work authority provision in the Coast Guard Authorization bill, as well as supporting the industry's need for critical infrastructure improvements and national ballast water legislation.

Congressman Baker began his career in public service at the age of 23 when he was elected to the Louisiana state legislature, where he served for 15 years until being elected to represent Louisiana's sixth district in the House of Representatives in 1986. Now, after 37 years in government, Congressman Baker will serve as president and CEO of the Managed Funds Association.

AWO thanks Congressman Baker for his many years of support of, and hard work for, the towing industry, and wishes him well in his new endeavors.

For more information on AWO's efforts to secure a workable TWIC interim work authority provision, please see the Members Only section of this newsletter on page 9. 🌐



Rep. Baker

### Important Dates and Reminders

..... at a glance

*For more information, please contact Hermoine Wellman at (703) 841-9300, extension 291, unless otherwise noted.*

**January 30-31, 2008:**  
Midwest and Ohio Valley Regions Joint Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN.

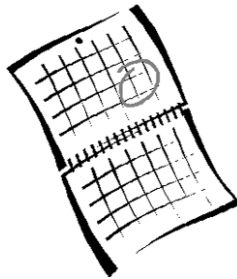
**February 6-7, 2008:**  
Pacific Region Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.

## Mississippi River Commission Announces Schedule of Public Meetings in April

On January 9, the Mississippi River Commission (MRC) announced the following schedule of public meetings in April: April 7 in Tiptonville, TN; April 8 in Memphis, TN; April 9 in Lake Providence, LA; and April 11 in New Orleans, LA.

All meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. on board the *m/v Mississippi*. The meetings will consist of an overview and project reports from the Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as presentations by local organizations and the public.

The MRC is responsible for the project and engineering work in the Mississippi River drainage basin and its members are appointed by the President. For more information, please contact Lynn Muench at (314) 446-6474 or via e-mail at [lmuench@vesselalliance.com](mailto:lmuench@vesselalliance.com), or visit the MRC Web site at [www.mvd.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil). 🌐



## TWIC ENROLLMENT UPDATE

TWIC enrollment will begin at the following ports:

- › **January 31, 2008:** Vicksburg, MS; Muskegon, MI, and Miami, FL

For the complete up-to-date TWIC Quarterly Deployment Plan, please click [here](#). 🌐

## Thirteen AWO Members Recertify RCP Compliance

Thirteen more AWO member companies have certified or recertified their commitment to the Responsible Carrier Program®. Congratulations to these companies on their successful participation in the program! The Responsible Carrier Program (RCP) is the award-winning safety management program of the tugboat, towboat and barge

industry. Members are required to undergo a certification audit by an AWO-certified third-party auditor within one year of joining AWO and to recertify every three years to verify their compliance with the Responsible Carrier Program.

For these companies, this achievement is tangible proof of their commitment to improved safety and environmental protection, and is concrete evidence of their dedication to the continuous journey toward this goal. AWO is proud of their accomplishment. For information on the RCP or the audit, please contact Bob Clinton at (703) 841-9300, extension 253, or via email at [bclinton@vesselalliance.com](mailto:bclinton@vesselalliance.com)

### ***The following companies have recently achieved audited recertification:***

- › B & G Towing, L.L.C./Acme Marine, L.L.C. Lafitte, LA
- › Dann Marine Towing, LC Chesapeake, VA
- › Eckstein Marine Service, LLC Harahan, LA
- › Gore Marine Corporation Meridian, GA
- › Higman Marine Services, Inc. Houston, TX
- › IMMC/Huey L. Cheramie, Inc. Galliano, LA
- › JB Marine Service, Inc. St. Louis, MO
- › John W. Stone Oil Distributor, L.L.C. Gretna, LA
- › Rodgers Marine Towing Service, Ltd. Baton Rouge, LA
- › Sause Bros. Coos Bay, OR
- › Seaboats, Inc. Fall River, MA
- › South LA Boat Co. Inc. Larose, LA
- › TECO Ocean Shipping Tampa, FL

## 2008 AWO Safety Calendar Orders Now Being Accepted

The 2008 AWO Safety Calendar was unveiled at the Fall Convention in Houston, TX, revealing the winners of the seventh annual Photo Contest. The theme of this year's calendar is "Crew



Endurance Management" and each page contains an important safety message. It is also a tool that AWO uses to promote the industry's commitment to safe operations by distributing the calendar to members of Congress, regulators in the Coast Guard and other federal agencies, state legislators and the media. Each AWO member company will receive a calendar as a gift soon, and additional calendars are on sale for \$12 each. If you would like to order calendars, please fill out the attached form and mail it with a check, or fax it and be invoiced, to:

Mary McCarthy  
The American Waterways Operators  
801 North Quincy Street  
Suite 200  
Arlington, VA 22203  
(703) 841-0389 (fax)

# CEMS

## Training Opportunities

The Crew Endurance Management System (CEMS) is a system for managing risk factors in maritime work environments that can lead to human error and performance slumps. The Coast Guard and AWO have been working together to help companies implement the principles of CEMS. In this space, AWO will publish details of CEMS training opportunities around the country. For further information on CEMS training opportunities, please contact LCDR Vivianne Louie, U.S. Coast Guard, at (202) 267-0173.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>DATE</b>     | February 12-13   |
| <b>LOCATION</b> | Ingram Barge Company<br>Paducah, KY  |
| <b>CONTACT</b>  | LCDR Vivianne Louie<br>(Contact)<br>(202) 372-1358<br><a href="mailto:Vivianne.W.Louie@uscg.mil">Vivianne.W.Louie@uscg.mil</a> |

If you receive a hard copy of the *AWO Letter* and need to know the exact Web addresses of the hyperlinks in any articles, please contact Mary McCarthy at (703) 841-9300, extension 254, or via email at [mccarthy@vesselalliance.com](mailto:mccarthy@vesselalliance.com).



## 2008 AWO Letter Sponsorships Now Available



AWO is now accepting sponsorship applications for the 2008 *AWO Letter*. Each great advertising opportunity costs \$500, which includes a front-page “sponsorship block” featuring your company’s name, location, logo, and Web site address. The following issues are available:

- › February 8
- › February 22
- › March 7
- › March 21
- › April 4
- › April 25
- › May 9
- › May 23
- › June 6
- › June 20
- › July 7
- › July 18
- › August 1
- › August 15
- › August 29
- › September 12
- › September 26
- › October 10
- › October 24
- › November 7
- › November 21
- › December 5
- › December 19

If you are interested in securing a sponsorship, please contact Mary McCarthy at (703) 841-9300, extension 254, or [mmccarthy@vesselalliance.com](mailto:mmccarthy@vesselalliance.com).

### Atlantic Region

## Buzzards Bay Marine Safety Information Bulletin Released by Coast Guard

On January 7, the Coast Guard released Marine Safety Bulletin (MSIB) “Vessel Movement Reporting System (VMRS) Buzzards Bay: Status Report #1.” The VMRS for Buzzards Bay has been in effect for a month, and the MSIB was released to remind mariners of the following:

- › The VMRS Users Guide, which provides guidance for mariners and an opportunity for them to give feedback to the Coast Guard, can be found at [www.homeport.uscg.mil/sene](http://www.homeport.uscg.mil/sene).
- › While the Coast Guard does not require vessels to use the Recommended Vessel Route (“green lanes”), operators not using them should alert the VMRS control center.
- › Single hull barges carrying 5,000 or more barrels of oil or other hazardous materials must fulfill the requirement of having a federally-licensed pilot and escort tug BEFORE entering the VMRS zone, unless the vessel is granted an exemption by the Coast Guard Sector Southeastern Command Center.
- › A definition of “hazardous materials,” which includes ethanol (ethyl alcohol), can be found in 46 CFR 153.40.

For a copy of the MSIB, click [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Ed LeBlanc, Sector Southeastern New England Waterways Division, at (401) 435-2351, or via email at [Edward.G.LeBlanc@uscg.mil](mailto:Edward.G.LeBlanc@uscg.mil).

Southern Region

## SOUTHERN REGION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

### Senator Mary Landrieu Addresses the Membership

The AWO Southern Region held its annual meeting on January 18 in New Orleans, LA. The meeting included remarks by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA); the election of regional directors; a review of 2008 regional and national priorities; and, several Coast Guard and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presentations. The continental breakfast was generously sponsored Trinity Marine Products, Inc. and the beverage service was kindly sponsored by Harbor Towing & Fleeting, Inc. and Jeppesen Marine.



Sen. Landrieu

Senator Landrieu made a substantive presentation to the membership on the need for, and her support of, an interim work authority provision for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC); her commitment to move forward to fund the projects authorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007; and, voiced her firm opposition to any user fee that may be proposed by the Administration.

Southern Region Chairman Roger Harris, Magnolia Marine Transport Company, began his comments with a request of the membership to become more engaged and active in all advocacy activities, especially grassroots and the AWO Political Action Committee (PAC). He further encouraged supporting the Coalition to Protect the Missouri River (CPR) to ensure that Mississippi River flows are not negatively impacted by changes in the Missouri River flows.

Southern Region Vice Chairman Bob Fry, Jr., Megafleet Towing, Co., Inc., presented the Southern Region directors' slate. The nomination committee of Mr. Harris; Mr. Fry; James Calhoun, Bisso Marine Co.; Inc.; Taylor DuChaine, Cenac Towing Company; Inc.; Tommy Echols, Echo Marine, Ltd./Echo Towing Service Inc.; Walter Kristiansen, E.N. Bisso & Son; and, Matt Woodruff, Kirby Corporation nominated Steve Golding, Golding Barge Line, Inc.; Charles Haun, Parker Towing Company, Inc.; Charles H. King, Buffalo Marine Service, Inc.; Z. David DeLoach, Delaware

Marine Operators; Frank Morton, Turn Services, Inc.; Clark Todd, Blessey Marine Services; and, as an Alternate, Paul Janoush, JANTRAN, Inc.

AWO Chairman of the Board Royce Wilken provided an internal and external look at AWO's successes in 2007 and challenges in 2008.

CAPT Tim Close, Chief, Western Rivers, gave a brief update on the state of affairs with the Eighth Coast Guard District; CAPT Mike Blair, Chief, Office of Operating and Environmental Standards, discussed the rulemaking process for the inspection regulation and the medical Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC); and CAPT Dave Stalfort, Commanding Officer, National Maritime Center (NMC), provided a complete update on the state and future of the NMC. Sector, District and Division remarks were also provided by CAPT Bill

Diehl, Sector Houston; CAPT Lincoln Stroh, Sector New Orleans; COL Al Lee, New Orleans District; and, Jim Hannon, Mississippi Valley Division.

The regional priorities were accepted with slight modifications. The national priorities were accepted. Priorities will be further vetted and discussed at the other AWO regional annual meetings, the Executive Committee meeting in February and at the Board of Directors' meeting in April.

The annual meeting reception held on January 17 was generously sponsored by Budwine & Associates, Inc.; Buffalo Marine Service, Inc.; Harbor Towing & Fleeting, Inc.; and, Marine Systems, Inc. 🌊

### Midcontinent Office

## The Midwest and Ohio Valley Regions Joint Annual Meeting to Be Held Next Week!

The 2008 Midwest and Ohio Valley Regions Joint Annual Meeting will be held on January 31 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville, TN. A reception is scheduled on January 30 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact Hermoine Wellman at (703) 841-9300, extension 291 or [hwellman@vesselalliance.com](mailto:hwellman@vesselalliance.com). 🌊

Southern Region

## LMRWSAC Application Deadline Extended

During his comments at the Southern Region Annual Meeting, CAPT Lincoln Stroh, Commander, Sector New Orleans asked for the AWO membership to consider applying for a seat on the Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee (LMRWSAC). LMRWSAC is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).



The terms of all 24 members have expired, but the Coast Guard has only 17 viable applications. The Coast Guard is tasked with filling two seats representing vessel owners or ship owners domiciled in the state of Louisiana; two members representing organizations which operate harbor tugs or barge fleets; two at-large members who utilize water transportation facilities; two members representing licensed merchant mariners; one member representing an organization that serves in a consulting or advisory capacity to the maritime industry; one member of the general public; and, 14 other seats. The application deadline has been extended until February 28, 2008.

If you would like to apply, please fill out the attached form. Fax the completed application to LT Tonya Harrington at (504) 565-5113. For more information, please contact Lynn M. Muench at (314) 446-6474, or via email at [lmuench@vesselalliance.com](mailto:lmuench@vesselalliance.com).

Midcontinent Office

## Register Now for the Inland Waterways Conference:

### *“Environmental Partners for a Safe and Sustainable Waterway”*

On March 4-6, the Inland Waterways Conference (IWC) will be held in St. Louis, MO. The conference is hosted collaboratively by the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the towing and passenger vessel industries. Due to the ever-increasing interest in environmental issues, the theme this year is “Environmental Partners for a Safe and Sustainable Waterway.”



The conference will be held at the Hyatt Hotel (formerly the Adams Mark Hotel), 4th and Chestnut Streets, St. Louis, MO, (314) 241-7400. Registration for the conference is \$225 before January 17 and \$250 after January 17. Room rates for the IWC are \$109 for industry and \$106 for the government. For more information on the conference, and to register, please visit [www.inlandwaterwaysconference.com](http://www.inlandwaterwaysconference.com).

Southern Region

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District Invites AWO Members to Conference Calls

During a discussion with COL Al Lee, Commander, New Orleans District, and his key staff following the Port Allen closure, the District committed to institute quarterly conference calls with the shallow draft industry to improve communications. The first conference call was held on January 15. The group discussed coastal zone consistency and impact to shallow draft; status of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) closure; status of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock replacement; and, the lock rehabilitation schedule.

The second conference call is tentatively scheduled for April 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. CST. If you would like to receive the meeting notice, contact Victor A. Landry III, Operations Manager, Gulf Intercoastal Waterway, at (504) 862-2407, or via email at [Victor.A.Landry@usace.army.mil](mailto:Victor.A.Landry@usace.army.mil).

For more information, please contact Lynn M. Muench at (314) 446-6474, or via email at [lmuench@vesselalliance.com](mailto:lmuench@vesselalliance.com).

Pacific Region

## Oil Transfer Bill Introduced in Washington State Legislature

On January 16, a bill revising current oil transfer regulations was introduced in the Washington State legislature by Representative Mary Lou Dickerson. House Bill 2697 amends a current Department of Ecology oil transfer statute and would revise the subsequent regulation that went into effect in June 2006. The bill would allow broad rule writing authority to the Department of Ecology, and it is

possible that it would result in greater restriction on transfers. Specifically, the bill clarifies the existing statute to require vessels providing bunkering, lightering or refueling services to deploy containment equipment before every oil transfer, and it is possible that vessels providing bunkering, lightering or refueling services would not be allowed to fulfill the requirement by contracting out to a third party.

AWO is scheduling meetings with the Department of Ecology as well as state legislators and staff to discuss the bill. For more questions, please contact Jason Lewis at (206) 262-7308, [jlewis@vesselalliance.com](mailto:jlewis@vesselalliance.com), or Mary McCarthy at (703) 841-9300, extension 254, or via email at [mmccarthy@vesselalliance.com](mailto:mmccarthy@vesselalliance.com).

### Pacific Region Annual Meeting Is Fast Approaching

Please register for the Pacific Region Annual Meeting to be held on February 7 at Salty's on Alki, 1936 Harbor Avenue, SW, Seattle, WA. You can register by clicking [here](#) or by contacting Hermoine Wellman at (703) 841-9300, extension 291, or [hwellman@vesselalliance.com](mailto:hwellman@vesselalliance.com).

Registration and breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m., and the meeting will commence at 8:00 a.m. and end at noon. The agenda is packed with informative updates and discussion on regional and national issues. Along with issue updates, the membership and AWO staff will select the region's Board members, adopt the regional priorities and listen to a Coast Guard speaker discuss the future of licensing. For more information on the meeting, please contact Jason Lewis at (206) 262-7308, or via email at [jlewis@vesselalliance.com](mailto:jlewis@vesselalliance.com).

## Port of Seattle Passes Clean Air Strategy

On January 22, AWO testified before the Port of Seattle at a hearing regarding the Port's clean air strategy. Also attending the hearing were the numerous stakeholders that have been working on the strategy with the Port. A majority of the testimony given at the hearing focused on the need to make mandatory emissions reductions for the trucking industry and the amount of pollution the shipping industry contributes to the area. There were only a few comments made about the tug and barge industry and they focused on the need for harbor craft to use ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel.



AWO's testimony focused on the following points:

- › Expressed appreciation for the work of the Port staff;
- › Highlighted the positive elements of the strategy;
  - Alternative docking for vessels
  - Option to cold-iron (based on company preference)
  - Broadening of the fuel standard to include any alternative fuel, not just biodiesel
  - Partnership between the Port and industry
- › Encouraged the Commission to follow the Environmental Protection Agency's lead on engine standards; and,
- › Cautioned the use of retrofitting as primary means of reducing emissions.

The Commission unanimously approved the strategy after public comments were received. These voluntary measures outlined in the strategy will be used to reduce emission in the Puget Sound and are seen as a first step towards reducing emissions. For more information, please contact Jason Lewis at (206) 262-7308, or via email at [jlewis@vesselalliance.com](mailto:jlewis@vesselalliance.com).

# 2008 AWO SAFETY CALENDAR ORDER FORM



AWO's Safety Calendar is back and better than ever! The 2008 calendar focuses on the Crew Endurance Management (CEMS) program, and features a number of beautiful, full-color photos – all winners of AWO's seventh annual Safety Calendar Photo Contest.

To order copies of the **2008 AWO Safety Calendar**, please complete the form below and mail it with payment to the address indicated.

✂ *Detach lower portion and mail (with check or money order) to the address below.*

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