

VOLUME 65, No. 19 • DECEMBER 5, 2008

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

TSA Advises Waiting to Check Card Status.....1

IMO Bunker Convention Takes Effect...1

Appeals Court Issues Stay on New DOT Drug Testing Rule.....2

TSAC to Meet by Teleconference.....3

Key Amendments Made to Senate Oil Spill Prevention Bill.....3

AWO and Coast Guard Host 3rd Successful Cape Cod Canal Stakeholders' Meeting.....4

Brent Nissen, ARTCO, Elected as RIETF Interim Vice Chairman.....5

Delaware River and Bay Oil Spill Advisory Committee to Hold First Meeting.....5

Save the Date for the Pacific Region Annual Meeting.....5

2009 AWO Safety Calendar on Sale....5

TSA Advises Waiting TWIC Applicants to Check Card Status

Forgotten PIN Alert Issued

Anyone who applied for a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) more than two months ago and has yet to receive word that his or her card is ready for pickup should contact the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) TWIC Help Desk at (866) 347-8942 or check the status of their TWIC online, TSA has advised. At the December 2 meeting of the TWIC Stakeholder Communication Committee, TSA told attendees that a small percentage of workers who applied for a TWIC might have had their data overwritten. While TWIC enrollment contractor Lockheed Martin is working to identify applicants who need to reapply, TSA advises that anyone who is still waiting for a TWIC two months after enrolling contact the TWIC Help Desk rather than wait to be advised of a problem.

In addition, TSA advised that TWIC holders who activated their cards before October 21 and have forgotten their personal identification number (PIN) will need to be issued a new card if they expect to require a PIN in order to gain access to facilities where they work. TSA told stakeholders that the power outage that disrupted the TWIC activation system in October permanently damaged the equipment used to reset TWIC PINs. While no personal information was lost, affected TWIC holders who have forgotten their PIN will need to obtain a

new card. Applicants will not have to pay for the new card, and TSA has assured industry that this policy will remain in effect indefinitely. For more information, TSA's TWIC FAQ can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

For more information, please contact Brian Vahey at (703) 841-9300, extension 251, or via email at bvahey@vesselalliance.com.



IMO Bunker Convention Takes Effect



On November 21, the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001, entered into force. The Bunker Convention affects vessels that draw on or transport bunker fuel and travel internationally through the waters of countries that are signatory to the convention. Convention signatories may enforce the convention by not permitting vessels without proper insurance and certification to enter their ports.

The convention requires vessels over 1,000 gross tons to maintain insurance or

(continued on page 2)



Trinity Marine Products, Inc.
2525 N. Stemmons Freeway ♦ Dallas, TX 75207
(214) 589-8446

← This edition of the
AWO Letter is
sponsored by:
←

TSAC to Meet by Teleconference

On December 16, the Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) will hold a meeting by teleconference from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EST. The meeting is open to the public and all TSAC members are expected to call in at this time.

The agenda for the meeting will include discussion and voting on three documents or issues in follow up to the September 2008 TSAC meeting in Linthicum, MD.

These are: a task statement that clarifies the responsibility and authority of the Apprentice Mate (Steersman) license; the revised report of the Economic Analysis Working Group; and, a revised resolution from the Commercial/Recreational Boating Interface Working Group. For a brief summary of the meeting, click [here](#).



To participate in the meeting by phone, call (877) 950-5410 and, when prompted, enter the passcode 9876776 followed by the (#) key. The number of teleconference lines is limited and lines will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants in the Washington, D.C. area can also join the call by coming to Room 1303, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 2nd Street, SW Washington, DC 20593.

To read the meeting notice, please click [here](#). For more information, please contact Jennifer Carpenter or Benjamin Rogers at (703) 841-9300, extensions 260 or 264, respectively, or via email at jcarpenter@vesselalliance.com or broggers@vesselalliance.com.

Important Dates and Reminders

..... at a glance

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

January 20-22, 2009:
Joint Safety Committees Meeting, New Orleans, LA

January 22-23, 2009:
Southern Region Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

January 28-29, 2009:
Midwest & Ohio Valley Regions Joint Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA

February 4-5, 2009:
Atlantic Region Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL

February 11-12, 2009:
Pacific Region Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA

Key Amendments Made to Senate Oil Spill Prevention Bill

As reported in the May 23 edition of the *AWO Letter*, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee approved the Oil Spill Prevention Act (S. 2699) on May 15. To read this article, please click [here](#). The article can be found on page 2. During the six months that it has awaited action by the full Senate, several amendments have been made to the bill that are relevant to AWO. The amendments that are of particular concern to AWO include the following:

- The encouragement of the U.S. Coast Guard to draft regulations that would require existing vessels to double hull their fuel tanks;
- Allowing a Coast Guard Vessel Traffic System to take affirmative control of the vessel;
- Calling on the Coast Guard to conduct a study on the need for tractor tug escorts to accompany vessels carrying petroleum in the five U.S. ports that see the highest amount of that liquid come through;

- Requiring vessel owners to submit a bond or surety when such a bond or surety assists the Coast Guard in investigating or adjudicating the administration or enforcement of any of its laws or treaties. The bond or surety may take a variety of forms including covering expenses for mariners involved in an investigation that the Coast Guard deems appropriate, stipulating to facts regarding the ownership of the vessel, appearing in court and complying “with directions regarding payment of funds.”

AWO is reaching out to the sponsors and cosponsors of S. 2699 in the remaining days of this Congress to express the industry’s concerns with the bill. To read the complete version of S. 2699, please click [here](#). For more information, please contact Chris Coakley or Benjamin Rogers at (703) 841-9300, extensions 297 or 264, respectively, or via email at ccoakley@vesselalliance.com or broggers@vesselalliance.com.

Atlantic Region

AWO and Coast Guard Host 3rd Successful Cape Cod Canal Stakeholders' Meeting

On December 1, 2008, AWO and the U.S. Coast Guard co-hosted the third semiannual Cape Cod Canal Stakeholders' Meeting at Coast Guard Regional Headquarters in Boston, MA. AWO members in attendance were David Clark, Boston Towing & Transportation Company; George Lee, Boston Harbor Docking Pilots/Boston Towing & Transportation; Dave Malvik, Boston Marine Transport, Inc; Bob Glas, Bouchard Transportation; Arthur Fournier, Canal Towing & Assist; Patrick Fournier, Canal Towing & Assist; Marc Villa, Constellation Maritime Company; Tom Sullivan, K-Sea Transportation; Gary Oliviera, McAllister Towing; Alan Bish, Reinauer Transportation; Dick Miner, Seaboats Inc. and Mike Riley, Vane Brothers.

Participating from the Coast Guard First District were RADM Dale Gabel (Commander, First District); CAPT Tim Skuby (Chief of Staff, First District); CAPT Liam Slein (Chief of Prevention, District 1); CAPT Tom Lennon (First District Legal); CAPT Ray Perry (Sector Southeastern New England); CAPT Daniel Ronan (Sector Long Island Sound); CAPT Gail Kulisch (Sector Boston); CDR Brian Downey (Sector Northern New England); CDR Kevin Oditt (Sector Long Island Sound); CDR Patrick McElligatt (Sector Southeastern New England); LT Scott White (First District); Ed LeBlanc (Chief, Waterways Management Division, Sector Southeastern New England) and Kevin Blount (Port Security Specialist, Sector Southeastern New England). Participating on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were COL Tom Feir and Cape Cod Canal Manager, Frank Fedele. Howard


McVay participated on behalf of the Northeastern Pilots Association.

The meeting began with general waterways management and navigation updates. AWO presented the Atlantic Region approved *Pilot Safety Best Practices* for the Cape Cod Canal and requested ongoing feedback from the Coast Guard and the pilot organizations as to the effectiveness of these best practices. The Coast Guard provided updates on other waterways management areas of concern to AWO members, including the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Rescue Tug regulations and the Risk Assessment for the East End of the Cape Cod Canal. Unfortunately, on both issues, AWO must wait for further analysis from Coast Guard legal representatives. The Corps announced to the group that the Cape Cod Canal dredging project has received funding and that it anticipates the Canal will be dredged to its Congressionally authorized depth of 32 feet by late winter or early spring.

The Coast Guard then updated the group on the 2008-2009 Ice Season Plan and Marine Transportation System (MTS) Recovery. They announced the December 15 launch of the new Ice Reporting System for current conditions. HOMEPORT will be utilized to pass relevant MTS recovery information along to stakeholders. Additionally, a communication matrix for AWO-Coast Guard communication will be developed for ice season that is similar to the one used for joint hurricane planning and communication.

The Coast Guard then presented the First District plan for implementation

of Operation Big Tow, which will include outreach to companies for personnel data, radio and Vessel Traffic System (VTS) checks of licenses and dockside boardings. The original First District plan included a reference to underway boardings, to which AWO staff strongly objected and expressed its understanding from conversations with the Commander of LANTAREA that underway boardings would not be utilized in Operation Big Tow. It was subsequently agreed upon that underway boardings will not be a component of the First District plan for Operation Big Tow.

Lastly, the Coast Guard updated the attendees on personnel increases which include an additional 25 billets in the First District for maritime safety, including specific billets focused on the towing industry. AWO offered to provide industry education opportunities to the new Coast Guard personnel where appropriate. The next Cape Cod Canal Stakeholders' Meeting is expected to take place in April 2009. For more information, please contact Nicole deSibour at (703) 841-9300, extension 292, or via email at ndesibour@vesselalliance.com. 

Welcome, New Affiliate Member!

Channel Ship & Marine Services, LLC

3801 N. Causeway Boulevard
Suite 310
Metairie, LA 70002

Rep: Mr. George Janssen
President

Midcontinent Office**Brent Nissen, ARTCO, Elected as RIETF Interim Vice Chairman**

On December 2, the nominating committee for the River Industry Executive Task Force (RIETF) announced that Brent Nissen, Vice President of Operations for the American River Transportation Co. (ARTCO), has been elected as interim Vice Chairman of RIETF. Mr. Nissen takes over the role for Scott Noble, Ingram Barge Company, who was recently elected Chairman of the task force. Mr. Nissen will fill the role of interim Vice Chairman until the March 2009 Annual Meeting, at which time he will be up for reelection.

RIETF was formed to develop a productive and ongoing dialogue between senior decisionmakers within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard and industry to facilitate coordination during crisis situations and to avoid future crises. Formed in 1988, the seven corporate officers charged to represent industry on RIETF were chosen by AWO members. RIETF, a standing AWO task force, meets regularly with Corps and Coast Guard leaders.

For more information about RIETF, please contact Lynn Muench at (314) 446-6474 or via email at lmuench@vesselalliance.com. ☘

Pacific Region**Save the Date for the Pacific Region Annual Meeting**

If you haven't already marked your calendars, please take the time to do so now! The Pacific Region Annual Meeting has been scheduled for February 12 from 8:00 a.m. to noon with registration starting at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at Salty's on Alki Restaurant, 1936 Harbor Avenue S.W., Seattle, WA. There will be discussion on the regional priorities, new board member nominations and updates on issues that are critical to both the regional and national tugboat, towboat and barge industry. For more information, please contact Jason Lewis at (206) 245-5758, or via email at jlewis@vesselalliance.com. ☘

Atlantic Region**Delaware River and Bay Oil Spill Advisory Committee to Hold First Meeting**

On December 17, the Delaware River and Bay Oil Spill Advisory Committee will hold its inaugural meeting in Philadelphia, PA, to kick off its work to improve oil spill prevention and response strategies for the Delaware River and Bay. The meeting will focus largely on organizational matters, including introduction and swearing-in of new members, election of the chair and vice chair, and establishment of subcommittees. The committee will also discuss technical terminology and basic oil response and removal procedures and future committee business.

The meeting will be open to the public. Members of the public will not be allowed to make oral presentations during the meeting, but may submit written information for the committee's consideration. Written material should reach the U.S. Coast Guard no later than December 11. The Committee will meet at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay, 1 Washington Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Written material may be sent to Mr. Gerald Conrad, U.S. Coast Guard, at the address above.

For a copy of the meeting announcement, click [here](#). For further information, please contact Mr. Conrad at (215) 271-4824. ☘

2009 AWO Safety Calendar on Sale!

The 2009 *AWO Safety Calendar*, which features 13 beautiful, full-color industry photos, is now for sale. The theme of this year's calendar is "Safe Line Handling," and each page contains an important safety message.

To order calendars, please fill out an order form and mail it with a check, or fax it and have it invoiced, to:

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