

THE PUSHBOAT

October's Birthday Greetings

- 10/4 Michael Anglin
- 10/5 Brian Coxwell
- 10/6 Eugene Bean
- 10/14 *Randy Baygents*
PTC Profile
- 10/14 Ronnie Clark
- 10/19 Josh Brazeal
- 10/20 Glen Freeman
- 10/24 Travis Curington
- 10/29 Larry "Bobo" Norris
- 10/31 Jeff Kelley

Congratulations

Parker Towing Cub Pilot Program Enrollees!!

- Phillip Huckabee
- Brandon "Squirrel" Lovelady
- Tyrone Scruggs
- Todd Trimble

Visit us on the internet at:

www.parkertowing.com

Future Newsletters

If you have ideas, interesting stories, pictures, etc. that you would like to see in the newsletter, please let me know. Also, anyone who has old photos of PTC employees or PTC boats, please bring them by the office.

Thanks,

Ron Jesser
391-1114

Bracing for Ivan

Editor's note: Thank-you to all of the crewmen who stood watch on the boats while Hurricane Ivan advanced.

I am certain that many, if not all, in the Parker Towing family currently possess more than a modicum of respect for Mother Nature's fury. Just prior to Ivan's arrival, store shelves across the state were bare where days earlier a seemingly endless supply of batteries, drinking water and candles waited to be purchased. Personally owned vehicles crept along I-65 bumper-to-bumper from Mobile to Montgomery in the hopes of escaping the full



Hurricane Ivan - picture courtesy of NOAA website

force of the hurricane. Much was done by Alabamians in an effort to minimize the risk to family and property. Parker Towing Company was no different.

The logistics of ensuring the safety of the men upon the boats, the structural integrity of the boats and barges and the protection of customers' products was indeed a daunting task.

As the possibility of a hurricane entering the Gulf of Mexico increases, so does the attention it garners from maritime industry. There are triggers in place that dictate very specific actions. For example, once a hurricane in the Gulf reaches 27 degrees north latitude barges in certain fleets in Mobile are locked down and no longer able to evacuate. In addition, once

Bobby Joe's "Did You Know?"



Did you know that when we speak about the **gross tonnage** of a ship that it has nothing to do with the ship's actual weight or the water the ship displaces? The term **gross tonnage** actually indicates amount of cargo the ship is able to carry. The formula to calculate the gross tonnage of a vessel is:

$$GRT = (\text{Hull volume} + \text{Deckhouse volume})/100$$

The gross register tonnage for vessels in the Parker Towing fleet ranges from a modest 40 gross register tons (M/V Naheola) all the way up a sizeable 549 gross register tons (M/V Gilbert Taylor.)

PTC Profile - Randy Baygents

Randy Michael Baygents was born in Greensboro, Alabama. He is a Port Engineer for Parker Towing Company. Randy has been working for PTC since 1966! Randy's wife is named Sharon. They have two boys, Michael and Mitch, and two grandchildren, Seth and Sam. If given an option, Randy would

rather be searching for a car to restore -- preferably one between 1955 and 1972.

5 Questions for Randy:

Paved or Dirt: Paved

Coke or Pepsi: Coke

Fly or Drive: Drive

This or That: This

Jeans or Slacks: Jeans



Bracing for Ivan - continued from page 1

sustained winds at 14 Mile Railroad Bridge reach 35 mph, the bridge closes. Boats and barges begin the trek north of these locations days before the hurricane is predicted to make landfall in order to lessen the effects of the impending weather.

An approximate timeline shows the efforts taken to brace for Hurricane Ivan:

Sunday:

- Orders are changed: Begin to move equipment north

Monday:

- M/V Bobby Joe James ordered to stay in Jackson, AL
- M/V Heloise drops 8 barges at mile 78
- M/V Alice Parker stops at mile 78 and stands watch over the barges it currently has and the 8 left by the Heloise

- More barges are moved north throughout the day
- Loading of coal suspended

Tuesday:

- (2 pm) US Coast Guard gives 24hr timeframe to move equipment from Mobile if desired
- More equipment is moved north
- Mobile Shipyard, Walker Springs Gravel Yard and Ports begin tying down

Wednesday:

- Last of the equipment is moved from Mobile during the morning hours
- Boats are instructed to separate empty barges from loaded barges. Empty barges are to be tied off. Loaded barges are to be grouped and secured to the surrounding boats.

- M/V Heloise, Miss Jodie, Charles Haun and the Alison Haun are to stay at Barry Steam Plant. They are to secure the boats to one another as well as the loaded barges.
- M/V Gilbert Taylor will stay in Tuscaloosa
- M/V Tim Parker is to stay in Brookwood
- M/V Rhett Parker and the M/V Gorgas will stay at Gorgas
- M/V Cathy Parker will stay at Shoal Creek
- M/V Selden Hurtt will stay at Columbus, MS
- Crewmen are instructed to stay inside the boats.
- If an empty barge separates from the pack, attempt to discern the direction in which it was headed, but under no cir-

cumstances give chase.

Thursday:

- Ivan arrives

Although Parker Towing Company had over 50 crewmen working, no injuries were sustained! As for the 14 boats in the water and 204 barges being utilized, the only damage done to the fleet was the loss of one window aboard the M/V Alison Haun! This is a wonderful testament to the leadership and experience present upon the boats. In addition, it speaks volumes about the extraordinary amount of attention to detail used by the crewmembers while preparing the barges and vessels for Ivan's fierce winds. The planning, coordinating and executing of safe plan of action requires a group effort in order to be successful. The wise gentlemen in barge traffic combined with an experienced and motivated group of crewmen provided that effort.

October Crew Changes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 AH RP	2
3	4 AP SH	5 CP Hel TE	6	7 Tim MJ CH	8 GT Gor	9
10	11 BJJ	12 AH RP	13	14 AP SH	15 CP Hel TE	16
17	18 Tim MJ CH	19 GT Gor	20	21 BJJ	22 AH RP	23
24/31 <i>Fal-</i>	25 AP SH	26 CP Hel TE	27	28 Tim MJ CH	29 GT Gor	30

Please be sure to call Ron at (205) 391-1114 and check in a day or two ahead of your anticipated crew change date.

NewFaces

- Terry Nicholson
- Glenn Gunter
- Gene Whitehead
- Early Jones Jr.

Comments? Suggestions?

If you would like to leave suggestions for future newsletters or comments about the current or past newsletters, please e-mail them to :

rjesser@parkertowing.com