

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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June 2015

www.wapgh.org

June Highlights

A total of (34) thirty-four members were registered for the June 10, 2015 luncheon meeting at Bella Sera. Dan Lacek welcomed everyone to the meeting. The following first-time attendees were introduced: Jordan Miller of Colona Transfer; Anthony Laslavic of Gibson Machinery and Robert McCaughan of Allegheny Health Network.

At this time, Dan Lacek & Eunice Ratcliff recognized LT Eric Jesionowski, Prevention Department, for all this leadership and dedication to the port during his tenure in Pittsburgh. LT Jesionowski is headed to Fort Lauderdale to lead the Coast Guard's Cruise Ship Inspection Center of Expertise.

Coast Guard News

LT Devin Adams presented the **attached** report. The initial information regarding the marine event entitled, "Rice's Landing Riverfest" reported the incorrect waterway. The full river closure on June 13th is on the Monongahela 6.7-6.8.

NOTE: Included in the report is the tentative Three Rivers Regatta River Closures and Opening. Please review this information as to avoid any navigational issues.

Army Corp of Engineers

Dane Summerville covered the **attached** lock closure report. Richard Lockwood covered the remaining items of interest that were included in the report.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Steve Martinko covered the following information:

- A strong collaborative effort yielded an "efficient funding level" of \$52 million for FY 2016 for the lower mon project. This places the project in a strong position at this point in the Congressional appropriations process.
- A recent visit by Congressman Mike Simpson, Chairman of Energy and Water Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee along with Congressman Murphy and Messrs Edward Belk SES and Mark Mazzanti SES to the Charleroi Lock and Dam provided an excellent opportunity to tour the lock and be briefed on the Lower Mon Project.

- Several other upcoming visits include the Appalachian Regional Commission; National Association of Counties along with the June 24-25th visit from Chief of Engineers LTG Bostick. Plans are currently underway to coordinate an event with Chief Bostick during his visit.

Education Committee Report

Ryan Newton reported the following:

- Mike Graham is at home and is recovering well. He can be reached via his email at mgraham@gatewayclipper.com. Ryan Newton from Campbell Transportation gave the report.
- Who Works The Rivers - The next WWR is scheduled for October. As always everyone is invited and encouraged to attend as a speaker and/or a presenter. The success of the program continues to thrive with local student turnout increasing substantially over the past few years, and on the national level the WWR program (through Riverworks Discovery) is growing in popularity with events in locations like NOLA, Cincinnati, and Memphis (to name a few).
- Man Overboard Seminar - The MOB seminar is scheduled for Thursday July 16th at the MonVale Health Plex. The detailed flyer has been sent to the membership and is also posted on the website at www.wapgh.org. In order to increase program interest and raise safety awareness, we are looking for people who could personal stories this year. If there is any interest please contact Mike, Daria Schwartz or Ryan Newton.
- Barge Breakaway Seminar-The Barge Breakaway seminar is scheduled for October 15, 2015 (Florefe Fire Hall). As we get a little closer to the date, someone from the group will be reaching out to potential speakers/presenters.

Navigation Committee Report

Eunice Ratcliff provided the following report:

- The Emsworth chamber will be closed to all commercial traffic from June 29th through July 2nd which will result in a complete lock closure or shutdown to commercial navigation.
- A revised Local Notice for Mariners regarding the Rice's Landing Riverfest stating correct waterway of Monongahela will be sent.
- Attending the Safe Boating Council Meeting recently proved very productive. During the meeting, radio communication was noted to be a real issue on the rivers. At this time, investigations into utilizing boosters to improve communications are being conducted.
- Work continues with the Army Corp to identify areas is desperate need to dredging.
- Progress at the Emsworth is steady with the self-help program in place.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider was unable to attend the meeting. Patrick Kelly highlighted the importance of WRDA and funding. He personally thanked Mary Ann Bucci for providing the opportunity for industry partners to be

present during the recent Charleroi Lock and Dam visit by Congressman Mike Simpson and Congressman Murphy. Initially, this invitation had not been extended to industry.

Other Comments

CDR Lindsay Weaver reported that LT Devin Adams will provide continuity for the Prevention Department with the departure of LT Jesionowski until the new Prevention Department Head, LT Eduardo Valdez arrives in July.

Richard Lockwood announced the Jim Fischer has officially retired from the Corp. Several events were held to honor his service.

July Membership Meeting

The *next* membership meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2015 at The Gateway Clipper Fleet. Cost of the picnic luncheon will be \$25. Prior to the meeting, the Pittsburgh Maritime Association will present the 2015 scholarship winners. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, July 2, 2015 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Gateway Clipper Fleet

July 8, 2015

Picnic Luncheon Menu:

Hot Dogs w/Condiments
Oven Fried Chicken Breast
Molasses Baked Beans
Corn Cobbettes
Potato Salad & Creamy Coleslaw
Chilled Watermelon Wedges
Apple Cobbler

Cost: *\$25/per member*

_____ YES, I will be attending

_____ No, I will not be attending

****Special Dietary Requirements:** _____

NAME: _____
(Please print)

COMPANY: _____

Please respond **by Thursday, July 2, 2015** to:

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