



# ON STATION

The Newsletter of the American Pilots' Association

December 15, 2010

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## AT LAS VEGAS CONVENTION EVERYONE'S A WINNER!

The 2010 Biennial Convention of the American Pilots' Association was held in Las Vegas at the Palazzo Resort Hotel and Casino from October 24-29. It was attended by more than 230 pilots, nearly as many family members and guests, and dozens of maritime-related vendors. By any measure, the convention was a rousing success. The APA would like to recognize the hard work and support of the convention co-hosts, the Gulf States Region pilots: the Aransas-Corpus Christi Pilots, Associated Branch Pilots, Brazos Pilots, Brazos-Santiago Pilots, Crescent River Pilots, Galtex Pilots, Mississippi Pilots of Gulfport, Houston Pilots, Lake Charles Pilots, Matagorda Bay Pilots, Mobile Bar Pilots, New Orleans Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots, Pascagoula Bar Pilots, and Sabine Pilots. Thank you!

On Sunday, October 24, prior to the formal start of the convention, important "business" was conducted at the Rio Secco Golf Club - the 12th biennial APA golf tournament. On this sunny day, a foursome led by a scrappy, but aging New York pilot claimed the coveted *Admiral's Cup* by posting the low gross score. A group from Maryland, with help from NOAA, came in with the low net score. See page 6 for more on the tournament.

The golf outing was followed the next day by an equally fun-filled event, the Attorneys' Meeting. In all seriousness, this was an important opportunity for the APA and pilot attorneys from around the country to discuss recent developments in pilotage law, regulations, and other legal matters impacting the piloting profession. Later in the day, the Trustees of the APA gathered and the Finance Committee held its important meeting. The first day ended with a Welcome Reception for pilots and their

**"Unlike what the Las Vegas slogan calls for, what we discuss at these important meetings should not "stay in Vegas." We should share our experiences and best practices, bring them back to our groups, and continue to make our profession better, safer, and stronger. We owe this to our partners who couldn't attend the Convention and to the citizens of the states that issue our licenses."**

**- Captain Mike Watson  
2010 APA Convention**

guests. Even though the reception had to be moved inside due to high winds (the pilots could withstand the gale winds, but not the caterers!), it was still a wonderful event and a great start to a busy week.

To kick-off the business meetings, Captain Mike Watson delivered the traditional President's Address. Captain Watson gave an overview of important events and developments since the last biennial convention and also discussed the challenges and opportunities the piloting profession faces in the coming years. Delegates also had the honor of hearing from APA Honorary Life Member Captain Michel Pouliot, past President of IMPA and the Canadian Maritime Pilots' Association. Throughout the remainder of the week, Regional APA Vice Presidents, Captain Eric Nielsen (North Atlantic), Captain Gary Maddox (South Atlantic), Captain Mike Torjusen (Gulf States), Captain A.J. Gibbs (Gulf States, Louisiana), Captain Pete McIsaac (Pacific Coast States), and Captain Roger Paulus (Great Lakes) updated convention attendees on issues of general interest from their respective regions.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Season's Greetings

From the American Pilots' Association



**Left to right: Clay Diamond (Deputy Director), Captain Mike Watson (President), Lisa Powell (Executive Assistant), and Paul Kirchner (Executive Director - General Counsel) .**



## CAPTAIN MIKE WATSON REELECTED TO 2ND TERM AS IMPA PRESIDENT

The 20th International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA) Congress was held from November 14th-19th in Brisbane, Australia. On the first day of the Congress, Captain Mike Watson was unanimously reelected to a second term as IMPA President. Captain Watson, the first American in more than thirty years to be elected IMPA President, was first elected in 2006, after serving a four-year term as an IMPA Vice President.

The theme of the 2010 Congress was "World Pilots Together." This was a fitting theme as several hundred pilots from around the globe, including a number of state-licensed pilots from the U.S., gathered in the "land down under" to discuss the current state of the piloting profession, share important experiences, consider the challenges facing the profession, and to look to the future of piloting. In his address to the Congress, Captain Watson stressed that he is as determined as ever that IMPA will work to ensure that every pilot receives the support of his or her government, is respected in the maritime community, and has a safe, secure and rewarding career.

After attending to IMPA business, such as the Secretary General's and Treasurer's reports, the program continued with sessions on Pilots' Personal Safety, Environmental Issues, Operations, Regulatory Aspects and Criminalization, Bridge Technology, and reports from various IMPA-member countries. During these sessions, Mr. Paul Kirchner (APA Executive Director-General Counsel) gave a presentation titled "The Role of the Pilot in the U.S.," and Captain Jorge Viso (Tampa Bay Pilots and Chairman of APA's NAVTECH Committee) discussed PPU's, including current PPU practices and future trends.

A ceremony was also held in remembrance of those pilots who lost their lives during pilotage duties over the

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 Paul G. Kirchner.....Executive Director-General Counsel  
 Clayton L. Diamond.....Deputy Director  
 Lisa E. Powell.....Executive Assistant

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past two years. This solemn event served as a stark reminder of the hazards of the piloting profession and for the need to ensure that every IMPA-member pilot goes to work with the best equipment, the best training, and the best support structure.



## MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE CONVENES IN LONDON

The International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Maritime Safety Committee met for its 88th Session (MSC 88) from November 24th through December 3rd in London. APA and IMPA President, Captain Mike Watson, attended the meeting.

As has been detailed in the last several editions of *ON STATION*, amendments to Chapter V of the SOLAS Convention aimed at improving the safety of pilot transfer arrangements have gone through an extensive review by a number of IMO subcommittees, including the Safety of Navigation Subcommittee and the Design and Equipment Subcommittee. APA has been a driving force throughout this process and we are pleased to report that MSC 88 formally adopted these amendments and, pending approval by the IMO Assembly in November 2011 (which is considered a formality by most IMO observers), the amendments will enter into force on July 1, 2012. The new Chapter V regulations will require pilot ladders to be inspected as part of the ship's other safety equipment; require accommodation ladders, when used in combination with pilot ladders, to be secured to the ship's hull; and prohibit the use of mechanical hoists.

Following MSC 88's adoption of these amendments, Captain Watson said, "Making real improvements to the safety of pilot transfer arrangements has been among the APA's and IMPA's highest priorities at IMO. I am pleased that these important safety amendments have finally been adopted. I especially appreciate the hard work of Mr. Paul Kirchner (APA Executive Director-General Counsel) and Mr. Nick Cutmore (IMPA Secretary General) in making these new regulations a reality."

As has been the case during most of the past several meetings of the MSC, issues relating to combating piracy loomed large on the agenda. On the piracy issue, MSC 88 adopted new guidelines for preventing stowaways and established a correspondence group to finalize a draft manual aimed at consolidating existing IMO security and piracy related guidance, such as SOLAS Chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code.

Finally, MSC 88 adopted changes to required testing of Automatic Identification System (AIS) equipment. Commencing on July 1, 2012, AIS equipment must be tested annually to verify the correct programming of the ship's identification information (e.g., call sign) and the correct data exchange with connected sensors (e.g., speed and heading).



### CONGRESS PASSES FIRST USCG AUTHORIZATION ACT SINCE 2006

In late September, the House and the Senate resolved their differences over a number of provisions in the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 and sent a final bill, H.R. 3619, to the President for his signature. The President signed the bill on October 15, and it became Public Law No. 111-281.

The APA has monitored the progress of the Coast Guard authorization bill in both the House and the Senate over the past two years of the 111th Congress and has, when necessary, met with Congressional members and staff on provisions of interest or concern. We are pleased to report that no provision to which the APA raised an objection was included in the law that was eventually signed by the President.

However, several provisions that were included could be beneficial to all mariners, including pilots. For instance, the new law directs the U.S. Coast Guard to establish a “merchant mariner medical advisory committee” that would give advice to the Coast Guard on mariner physical examination policy and process. The Coast Guard is also given the specific statutory authority to renew a merchant mariner credential (MMC) up to 8 months in advance of the expiration date of the previous credential to address “license creep,” and would be authorized to extend the duration of a MMC for one year if necessary to reduce an administrative backlog at the National Maritime Center. Under another provision of this law, the Coast Guard is required to ensure that seaman aboard a ship moored at port or maritime facility, as well as certain other personnel including pilots, are able to board and depart a vessel through the facility in a timely manner and at no cost to the individual. Finally, the Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee has been reauthorized for another 10 years.

This legislation, the first Coast Guard authorization act adopted since 2006, also authorizes the Coast Guard to undertake a major national reorganization, although new Coast Guard Commandant, Admiral Robert Papp, announced that he does not intend to carry out all of the authorized organizational changes, but will instead focus on “steadying the service.”

### NTSB AUTHORIZATION BILL PASSES HOUSE; APPEARS STALLED IN SENATE

On September 27, the House adopted H.R. 4714, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Reauthorization Act of 2010. As previously reported in *ON STATION*, H.R. 4714 contains some proposals for significant changes to NTSB’s marine accident-related authorities that raise serious questions and concerns.

Under this House-passed bill, for instance, NTSB would be authorized to release select portions of VDR transcripts deemed “relevant” by the agency and withhold the remainder of the transcript. However NTSB would still be permitted to refer to the unreleased VDR information in making public safety recommendations. H.R. 4714 would also authorize NTSB to delegate “the full authority of the Board” to a USCG officer to investigate a major marine casualty. This new authority has the potential to create confusion as to which entity’s rules would apply during an investigation and seems inconsistent with the NTSB’s intended independence from federal regulatory agencies.

The Senate has not yet passed an NTSB reauthorization bill and, as of the time *ON STATION* went to print, APA understands that Senate action is unlikely before the 111th Congress ends.

### HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON U.S. FLAG VESSELS IN FOREIGN TRADE

The House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing in September to gather information on “U.S.-Flagged Vessels in U.S. Foreign Trade.” This hearing did not address pilotage, but given the hearing’s topic, the APA monitored it closely.

The primary witness at the hearing was Maritime Administrator, Mr. David Matsuda, and the topics examined included cargo preference laws, the costs of operating under the U.S. flag, and the decreasing numbers of U.S.-flagged vessels engaged in international trade.



### ELECTIONS TO BRING BIG CHANGES TO HILL COMMITTEES

The November 2nd mid-term elections led to a Republican takeover of the House and a smaller Democratic majority in the Senate. These changes to the party make-up in the 112th Congress will have a significant impact on key committees and subcommittees, particularly in the House.

Nearly one-third of the Democratic members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee were defeated, including the surprising loss of 17-term T&I Committee Chairman Jim Oberstar (D-MN). Current T&I Ranking Member, Rep. John Mica (R-FL), will assume the chairmanship and Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) is expected to be named Ranking Member of T&I. On the key T&I Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation (CG&MT), the likely scenario is that the current Chairman, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and current Ranking Member, Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ), will switch roles.

The next edition of *ON STATION* will include a listing of committee and subcommittee assignments in both the House and Senate for the upcoming 112th Congress.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Reflecting the respect given by federal agencies to this biennial meeting of the Nation's professional maritime pilots, a number senior officials attended, including Rear Admiral Kevin Cook (Director of USCG Prevention Policy), Captain Anthony Lloyd (Commanding Officer of the National Maritime Center), and Mr. Richard Edwing (Director of NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services).

APA Deputy Director Clay Diamond and Chairman of the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee, Captain Andrew McGovern (New Jersey-Sandy Hook Pilots) gave an overview of the Coast Guard's licensing and medical review programs, including ongoing concerns and problems pilots have encountered with this process. Mr. Diamond also detailed the APA's ongoing efforts to work with the NMC to rectify these problems and to improve the NMC's overall licensing programs.

APA's Navigation and Technology Committee (NAVTECH) also met. The meeting included discussions of AIS issues, ECDIS training, e-Navigation, PPU updates from pilot groups, as well as presentations by USCG officials with responsibility for navigation support activities. NAVTECH continues to be rightly seen as a leading, respected and steady voice in the national dialog on enhanced electronic navigation tools.

The week ended with Friday evening's black-tie gala. This was a wonderful conclusion to a great week.



APA President, Captain Mike Watson, addresses the assembled delegates of the 2010 Biennial Convention of the American Pilots' Association.



Mr. Paul Kirchner, APA Executive Director-General Counsel, (right) presides over the Attorney's Meeting. Deputy Director, Mr. Clay Diamond, is featured on the left.



Captain Anthony Lloyd (Commanding Officer of the National Maritime Center) gives an overview of the USCG's credentialing and medical review programs. During and after his presentation, Captain Lloyd received numerous questions and comments about these programs.



USCG Rear Admiral Kevin Cook, (Director of Prevention Policy), addresses the convention. Rear Admiral Cook discussed the latest Coast Guard policy initiatives and planned national reorganization.



Captain Jorge Viso (Tampa Bay Pilots) chairs the meeting of the APA Navigation and Technology Committee.

Captain Michel Pouliot, former Canadian Maritime Pilots' Association and IMPA President and Honorary Life Member of the APA (left) and Mr. Paul Kirchner, APA Executive Director-General Counsel.



Pilots from around the country participate during the Biennial Convention of the American Pilots' Association.



## WAVE AND VISIBILITY DATA ADDED TO PORTS®

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently announced additions to its suite of observations available through the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) program. Specifically, wave information will now be included in four PORTS stations, and visibility will be included in two stations. If inclusion of this new information proves successful in these limited areas, NOAA envisions expanding to new areas in the future. The wave and visibility data will enhance existing PORTS outputs, which includes real-time observations of water levels, currents, salinity, wind, atmospheric pressure, air and water temperatures, and air gap (bridge clearance).

Wave information is being delivered through four PORTS regions in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and real-time data observations from buoys operated by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The new PORTS stations with wave data available are San Francisco Bar, Los Angeles/Long Beach, Lower Columbia River, and Southern Chesapeake Bay.

Regarding the addition of visibility to PORTS, the NOAA press release stated that since fog is a major concern for maritime traffic and Mobile Bay, AL is susceptible to heavy fog throughout fall and winter months, NOAA and the Alabama State Port Authority selected Pinto Island and Middle Bay Port as sites for two operational visibility stations. In addition to visibility sensors giving mariners the ability to ascertain visibility condition, these two stations also contain air temperature and relative humidity sensors to supplement visibility measurements. According to NOAA, the visibility sensor has been extensively tested, evaluated, and selected in a collaborative effort between NOAA, the Federal Aviation Administration, USACE, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Additional visibility installations are planned for other PORTS, including Narragansett and Chesapeake Bays.



## USCG WARNS ABOUT “DISTRACTED OPERATIONS”

In August the NTSB issued a recommendation to the Coast Guard to “issue a safety advisory to the maritime industry” regarding promoting awareness of the risk posed by the improper use of cellular telephones and other wireless devices while operating vessels and encouraging the voluntary development of operational policies to address the risk. On October 29 the Coast Guard complied with the NTSB recommendation and issued a “Marine Safety Advisory” on the topic of “distracted operations.”

This Safety Advisory details the potential opera-

tional risk in marine operations that can be caused by a mariner’s personal or improper use of a cell phone or other wireless device. The Advisory goes on to note NTSB investigations involving other transportation modes have found that the use of cellular telephones and other wireless devices can degrade performance, slow response times, and increase attention lapses of those in safety-sensitive positions.

The Advisory concludes by stating that “the Coast Guard strongly recommends vessel owners and operators to develop and implement effective operational policies outlining when the use of cellular telephones and other devices is appropriate or prohibited.”

The full alert is available at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> under “Alerts and Notices.”

## LARGE CONTINGENT OF PILOTS ATTEND ANNUAL E-NAVIGATION CONFERENCE

State-licensed pilots continue to demonstrate that they are leaders in efforts to improve the electronic navigation tools available to mariners. This was clearly demonstrated at this year’s annual “E-Navigation Conference” held in Seattle on November 16th & 17th. Nearly a dozen pilots attended this event, which is supported by the APA, and made their presence and experience felt. Most notably, Captain Wayne Bailey (Pilots’ Association for the Bay and River Delaware) was featured as a presenter during the conference.



APA-member pilots and association staff attending the E-Navigation Conference (from left to right): Captain Charlie Steinmuller, Mr. Dave Halmagyi, Captain Chris Brown, Captain Paul Amos, Captain Duane Bennett, Captain Bob Winter, Captain Ed Marmol, Captain Wayne Bailey, Captain Tom Rutter, Captain Andy Coe, Captain Mike Morris, Captain Sean Gabe, and Mr. Clay Diamond.

### DON'T FORGET THE APA PAC FUND

Send your voluntary contribution to:  
**APA Political Action Committee**  
499 South Capitol St., SW  
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## APA NEWS & INFO

### COLUMBIA RIVER BAR PILOTS EARN PRESTIGIOUS WORKPLACE AWARD

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry recently announced its 2010 "Business Leadership Award Winners." Among the small number of businesses and organizations recognized by the Bureau was the Columbia River Bar Pilots, who received the "Workforce Development Champion Award." This award is presented to businesses that "show exceptional commitment to the education, training, and skill development" of its workforce.

The award lauded the Columbia River Bar Pilots for giving deckhands opportunities to train as boat operators, employing youth from local Job Corps programs as part-time summer help, assisting with college tuition, and encouraging advancement within the organization.

### BAY AND RIVER DELAWARE PILOTS FEATURED IN BUSINESS JOURNAL

Captain Robert K. Cook, Captain Howard B. Wyche, and Captain Kevin L. Barrow, all members of the Pilot Association for the Bay and River Delaware, were prominently featured in the October 2010 edition of *The Network Journal: Black Professionals and Small Business Magazine*. The article focused on the work of the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates (OBMG), an organization to which these three pilots belong, and its efforts to attract more minorities to the maritime profession.

Captain Cook is a founding member of OBMG and is the current President. Captain Wyche is also a founding member of the organization and serves as the Treasurer. Captain Barrow is the OBMG Secretary. The mission of the OBMG, which was founded in 1994, is to increase public awareness regarding minority involvement in the maritime industry through recruitment, mentoring, scholarships and fundraising. The OBMG offers scholarships and other financial assistance to deserving minority students and has awarded over 80 such scholarships since the OBMG was founded.

These three APA-member pilots are all graduates of SUNY Maritime College and the OBMG recently received the school's annual Admiral's Award for Outstanding Service.

A copy of the full article is available at: <http://www.tnj.com/career/organization-black-maritime-college-graduates-inc>.



### WINNERS CROWNED AT 2010 APA GOLF TOURNAMENT

#### *Admiral's Cup Winners*

United New York-Sandy Hook Pilots Benevolent Association (left to right): Captain Henry Mahlman, Mr. Jack Oltheius, Captain John Oldmixon (proudly holding the Admiral's Cup), and Captain Tom Walsh.



#### *Low Net Score*

The Association of Maryland Pilots (left to right): Captain Duke Adams, Captain Joe Smith, Captain Beth Christman, and Mr. Darren Wright (NOAA).

### ELECTIONS, SELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

- ◆ The 2011 officers for the Hawaii Pilots' Association are **Captain Steve Baker** (President), **Captain Ed Enos** (VP), **Captain Tom Heberle** (Treasurer), and **Captain Sinclair Brown** (Secretary).
- ◆ The new officers for the San Francisco Bar Pilots are **Captain Bruce Horton** (President/Port Agent), **Captain Peter McIsaac** (VP), **Captain Rick Hurt** (CFO), **Captain Ray Ridens** (Secretary), **Captain Dan Boriolo** (Member-At-Large), and **Captain Morgan Hoburg** (Member-At-Large).
- ◆ The Columbia River Pilots officers for 2011 are **Captain Paul Amos** (President), **Captain Steve Wood** (VP), and **Captain Stu Richard** (Treasurer).
- ◆ New 2011 officers for Southwest Alaska Pilots Association are **Captain Jeffrey D. Pierce** (President), **Captain Anthony J. Joslyn** (VP), and **Captain Robert O. Baker, II** (Secretary Treasurer).
- ◆ The 2011 Houston Pilots officers are **Captain Steve Conway** (Presiding Officer), **Captain Tom Goodwin** (VP), and **Captain Steve Nelson** (Boat keeper).
- ◆ The Sabine Pilots officers for 2011 are **Captain Duane Bennett** (Presiding Officer), **Captain Charles Lahaye** (VP), and **Captain David Byrnes** (Secretary-Treasurer).