APA OFFICERS HOLD BIENNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON

On Monday, September 29th, the APA officers (President, Vice Presidents and Secretary-Treasurer) gathered in Washington to hold the latest meeting of the APA’s executive body. The officers meet twice each year to confer regarding the affairs of the APA, as well as to discuss local, national and international issues impacting pilotage and the piloting profession.

Among the numerous topics discussed at the meeting were pending federal legislation with potential impact on pilots; State/local legislative issues; credentialing and medical certification matters; the latest USCG marine safety bulletins; APA dealings with federal agencies, including the USCG, NOAA, and the NTSB; and APA’s participation in various national, regional and international conferences.

At the outset of the meeting, Captain Michael R. Watson, APA President, said, “I very sincerely thank the APA officers for the tremendous talents and leadership that each of them bring to our association. These gentlemen give of their time and their expertise and they make the APA better and stronger.”

The Newsletter of the American Pilots’ Association

2014 APA CONVENTION: A LONE STAR SUCCESS!

The APA Biennial Convention, held in Houston from October 20-24, was a resounding success! Hundreds of U.S. and international pilots, pilot association legal and support staff, and navigation and marine technology suppliers came together for a very productive week.

In addition to hearing reports of APA Trustees from the coastal and Great Lakes States, Convention attendees heard updates from APA President, Captain Mike Watson, and IMPA President, Captain Simon Pelletier. The agenda also included two panel discussions—one on various topics related to cruise lines and another on handling Ultra Large Container Carriers. The USCG Commandant, Congressman Gene Green, and the Mayor of Houston also addressed the Convention.

In addition to these important substantive sessions, attendees also enjoyed the traditional APA golf outing (see page 6 for the winners!), as well as some special local events—a rodeo, visit to NASA’s Johnson Space Center, and a night at MLB’s Minute Maid Park.

For more on the Convention, including photos and a report on the NAVTECH Committee meeting, see pages 4 and 5.

As a mariner myself, I am humbled to stand before the most professional mariners.”
Admiral Paul Zukunft
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

“The team we have at APA, including the Vice Presidents and our top-notch legal counsel, along with the leaders of the pilot groups throughout this country give me great confidence in our future.”
Captain Mike Watson
APA President

Front Row (l to r): Capt Whit Smith (Secretary Treasurer), Capt Michael Watson (President), Capt Eric Nielsen (VP, North Atlantic States).
Back Row (l to r): Capt Jorge Viso (VP, South Atlantic States), Capt Pete McIsaac (VP, Pacific States), Capt Mike Torjusen (VP, Gulf States), Capt Stephen Hathorn (VP, Gulf States/La.), and Capt Danny Gallagher (VP, Great Lakes States).

The APA wishes all Members and their families Happy Holidays and a Safe and Healthy New Year!
IALA HOLDS LATEST eNAV COMMITTEE MEETING

The e-Navigation Committee of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse-Authorities (IALA) kicked off its 2014-2018 work program during a meeting held from October 13-17. APA’s Navigation Technology Advisory, Mr. Bill Cairns, attended the meeting.

The eNav Committee is comprised of 5 working groups (WGs) - Harmonization, Implementation, Telecommunication, e-Nav Services, and Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT). The Harmonization WG is developing S-100 product specifications for items in IALA’s areas of responsibility (e.g., AtoNs, AIS, VTS). The Implementation WG is considering e-navigation test beds, which may include some controversial notions such as electronic route exchange, sea traffic management, and VTS beyond territorial seas. The Telecommunication WG has responsibility for AIS matters.

The agenda of the e-Nav Services WG was particularly relevant to pilots. This WG is developing technical input to the IMO e-Nav concept of Maritime Service Portfolios (MSPs), which define a set of operational and technical service provided in a given sea area or waterway. One of the IMO-identified MSPs is Pilotage Service, but the WG agreed that this falls outside IALA’s competence. In what seems to be a positive new direction, the e-Nav Committee and IALA Secretariat both appear to be supportive of APA positions on e-navigation and particularly that, internationally, only IMO and IMPA have competency in pilotage matters.

The next meeting of the IALA e-Navigation Committee is set for April 20-24, 2015.

INTERTANKO ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN

In November 2014, Mr. Nikolas Tsakos was elected INTERTANKO Chairman. Tsakos, Vice Chairman since 2012, is President of Tsakos Energy Navigation. Captain Michael Watson, APA President, said, “I congratulate Mr. Tsakos for his recent election. APA signed an MOU with INTERTANKO in 2010 and we look forward to continuing to work constructively with INTERTANKO in advancing our shared interests.”

PANAMA CANAL HITS MILESTONE

The Panama Canal Authority issued a press release stating that the last set of gates for the Pacific side of the Canal Expansion Project has completed its transit to the new locks. All the gates are now ready for installation, which should occur during the next several months. The project is now 82% complete.

APA’S CAIRNS TAPPED BY RTCM FOR KEY ROLES

The Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM) has selected Mr. Bill Cairns, APA Navigation Technology Advisor, to serve on its Board of Directors and to chair its e-Navigation Steering Committee. RTCM is an international nonprofit scientific, professional and educational organization developing standards for maritime communication and navigational systems. Upon Cairns’ selection, RTCM President Robert Markle, said, "We are pleased to have Bill as a member of the Board of Directors and to chair its e-Navigation Steering Committee. His years of domestic and international eNav policymaking experience, along with the perspective he offers from the American Pilots’ Association, make him ideally suited for the RTCM team.”

UNITED KINGDOM’S eLORAN OPERATIONAL

In October, the General Lighthouse Authorities of the United Kingdom and Ireland announced the operational capability of the UK maritime enhanced eLORAN, or eLORAN. Seven differential reference stations are in operation to provide additional PNT information, enhancing safe navigation in the event of GPS failure. To date, despite repeated calls from the professional mariners, including the APA, and the maritime industry, the U.S. has not moved forward with GPS backup, such as an eLORAN system.
CONGRESS AGREES ON COAST GUARD / MARITIME TRANSPORTATION BILL

With time running out on the 114th Congress, on December 11 the House and Senate passed the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. The bill is named after retiring Rep. Howard Coble, long-time North Carolina Congressman and good friend to pilots. The Act, which the APA has watched closely for the past two years, passed both chambers with huge bipartisan support.

While the primary focus of the law is to authorize funding for the Coast Guard and Federal Maritime Commission, there are some provisions of interest to pilots. The law requires the preservation of existing LORAN infrastructure for at least a year and mandates that after a year, the infrastructure may only be dismantled if the Dept. of Homeland Security certifies that it is not needed as a PNT system to provide fallback redundancy to GPS (e.g., “eLORAN” as a GPS back-up). This provision also authorizes the federal government to enter into cooperative agreements with public or private entities to build an eLORAN or other system to serve as a GPS backup.

Another section of the Act directs the USCG to establish a permit program under which marine exchange or non-federal VTIS operators may receive permission to use AIS to transmit weather and other navigation safety information to vessels. Finally, the Act reauthorizes the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) until 2020, and continues the requirement that the Coast Guard appoint at least one pilot to serve on the advisory Committee.

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS: PILOTS WELL REPRESENTED

The Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (MEDMAC) met on September 29 and 30 in Piney Point, MD. Captain Beth Christman (Maryland Pilots) attended as an appointed MEDMAC member, and Captain Andrew McGovern (Sandy Hook Pilots) attended as MERPAC Chairman. MEDMAC continued its work on revising NVIC 04-08 (mariner medical standards) and CG-719K (mariner medical evaluation form), as well as reviewing statutory and regulatory medical requirements for mariner credentialing.

On 12-13 November 2014, the annual eNavigation Conference was held in Seattle. This event, now in its 14th year, is focused on e-navigation users and “real world” applications and is the most established and significant e-navigation conference in the U.S.

Paul Kirchner, APA Executive Director-General Counsel, moderated a panel discussion on the operational perspective, posing some thought-provoking questions regarding how navigation practices may have changed or will change as a result of e-navigation. The panel consisted of experienced merchant mariners and a commercial fishing vessel master. Captain Paul Amos (President of the Columbia River Pilots), one of only two participants who has attended all 14 of these conferences, served on the panel and offered the pilots’ perspective.

Bill Cairns, APA Navigation Technology Advisor, moderated a panel session on the international (i.e., IMO and IALA) development and implementation of e-navigation. In his presentation during this session, Captain Simon Pelletier, IMPA President, cautioned all that the implementation of e-navigation must: (1) be focused on the human element, (2) meet the needs of the bridge team and pilot, and (3) continue to emphasize the need to “look out the window.”

In a session covering the manufacturers’ perspective on technology, Captain Jorge Viso (APA South Atlantic Vice President and NAVTECH Chair) discussed pilots’ use of PPU’s and advancements in PPU development. Pilots were well-represented at this year’s conference, with over twenty pilots from all APA regions in attendance.
NAVIGATION AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE MEETS AT CONVENTION

The NAVTECH Committee, chaired by Captain Jorge Viso (Tampa Pilots and APA South Atlantic Vice President) met on October 22 during the APA Convention. Bill Cairns, APA Navigation Technology Advisor, kicked off the meeting by giving an overview of e-Navigation events at IMO and IALA, including the current status on “S-mode.” He also reported on the USCG’s plans for its DGPS network.

NAVTECH members also heard a presentation by Eric Gakstatter, contributing editor to GPS World magazine, on the future of the global navigation satellite system (GNSS). Gakstatter informed the committee on the expansion in the number of satellites anticipated over the next decade and how this will improve the accuracy of positional fixes. He also covered multi-system receivers and the future of augmentation systems.

Viso and Captain Wayne Bailey (NAVTECH Vice Chairman and Bay & River Delaware Pilots) gave a presentation on the use of ‘rate of turn’ (ROT) data, derived from piloted vessels or carry aboard ROT devices. While some vendors are including a ROT generator in some PPU models, Viso and Bailey offered a cautionary note on the use of predicted path software. Training on ROT devices and their associated predictor software was also highlighted.

NAVTECH-member pilots from around the country reported to the committee on their current PPU configurations, along with any lessons learned and advice. As has been recent practice, PPU vendors that were exhibitors at the Convention were offered an opportunity to give a short description of improvements or additions to their product lines.
SCENES FROM THE 2014 APA BIENNIAL CONVENTION

1. Captain Mike Watson welcomes Captain Don Marcus, MM&P President.  
2. APA regional vice presidents receive instructions in the art of cow chip tossing.  
3. RADM Gerd Glag, Director of NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey, addresses the Convention.  
4. Captain Jonathan Ward, Puget Sound Pilots President, (second from right) moderates a panel discussion on cruiselines.  
5. Paul Kirchner, APA’s Executive Director-General Counsel, does Grand Marshall duties at the rodeo.  
6. Clay Diamond, APA Deputy Director -Associate General Counsel, addresses the Attorneys’ Meeting.  
7. Captain Ward “The Bambino” Guilday (President, Bay & River Delaware Pilots) enjoys a special night at Minute Maid Park.  
8. Captain Pete McIsaac (APA West Coast Vice President and San Francisco Bar Pilot President) facilitates a panel discussion on ULCCs.  
9. Captain Dewitt Withington of the St. Lawrence Seaway Pilots, doesn’t quite make 8 seconds on the mechanical bull.  
10. Captain Mike Watson (far left) and Admiral Paul Zukunft (second from right), along with RADM Kevin Cook, Paul Kirchner and Clay Diamond, talk before the Commandant’s Convention speech.

DON’T FORGET THE APA PAC FUND

Send your voluntary contribution to:  
APA Political Action Committee  
499 South Capitol St., SW  
Washington, DC  20003
APA NEWS

RETIRÉ PILOT ELECTED PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL PROPELLER CLUB

Captain San Juan “Sandy” Dunbar, Portland (Maine) pilot, was recently elected President of the International Propeller Club of the United States. The Propeller Club is “dedicated to the promotion of the maritime industry, commerce and global trade.”

Captain Dunbar graduated with honors from Maine Maritime Academy in 1960 and became a pilot in Portland Harbor in 1968. He retired in 2006 after 38 years of service as a pilot. Captain Dunbar, a former APA Trustee for the State of Maine, is the first pilot ever elected to this prestigious office.

APA President, Captain Mike Watson said, “I congratulate Captain Dunbar for his recent election as Propeller Club President. He has added yet another distinction to his accomplished career.”

SAN FRANCISCO PILOTS RECEIVE RAILROAD AWARD

In the latest example of State pilots willingness to partner with local stakeholders to improve transportation system efficiencies, the San Francisco Bar Pilots Association (SFBPA) were recently awarded AMTRAK’s important Presidential Achievement Award.

The SFBPA were recognized for their work in coordinating ship traffic in order to reduce rail delays at the Union Pacific lift bridge that carries rail passengers over Suisun Bay.

2014 GOLF WINNERS

The big winners at the APA golf outing held in conjunction with the Houston Convention were members of the host pilot association. The coveted Admiral’s Cup (low gross score) went to the foursome of Captain Steve Conway, Captain Don King, Captain Craig Newkirk, and Captain Ted Schendel. Local knowledge pays off again!

Other winners included Men’s Longest Drive: Captain Hank Coombs (Charleston Pilots), Women’s Longest Drive: Connie Kirk (Houston Pilots spouse), Men’s Closest to the Pin: Walt Tabler (Puget Sound Executive Director-General Counsel) and Women’s Closest to the Pin: Captain Beth Christman (Maryland Pilots).

ELECTIONS, SELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The following groups announced their 2015 officers:

- Houston Pilots: Captain Mike Morris (President), Captain Clint Winegar (Vice President), and Captain Mike Riggle (Boat Captain).
- Sabine Pilots’ Association: Captain Ellen K. Warner (President), Captain Michael M. Egan (Vice President), Captain Brian P. Thibodeaux (Secretary-Treasurer), and Captain Joseph C. Arnaud (Boat Superintendent).
- Southeast Alaska Pilots’ Association: Captain Ed Sinclair (President), Captain Paul Merrill (Vice President), Captain Doug Sturm (Secretary), Captain Fred Montez (Board Member), Captain Barry Oliver (Board Member), Captain Richard Preston (Board Member), and Captain Michael Tamney (Board Member).
- San Francisco Bar Pilots’ Association: Captain Pete McIsaac (President), Captain John Carlier (Vice President), Captain Richard Hurt (Chief Financial Officer), Captain Steven Teague (Secretary), Captain George Dowdle (Member-at-Large), Captain Zack Kellerman (Member-at-Large), and Captain David Wainwright (Member-at-Large).
- Hawaii Pilots’ Association: Captain Tom Heberle (President), Captain Sinclair Brown (Vice President), Captain Steve Baker (Secretary), and Captain Tom Collins (Treasurer).
- Columbia River Pilots: Captain Steve Woods (President), Captain Rick Gill (Vice President), and Captain Mike Balensifer (Treasurer).
- Aransas-Corpus Christi Pilots: Captain Robert L. (Louis) Adams (President), Captain Bob L. Lippold (Vice President), and Captain Kenneth T. (Todd) Olson (Secretary-Treasurer).
- Southwest Alaska Pilots’ Association: Captain Ronald A. Ward, II (President), Captain Peter S. Garay (Vice President), Captain Donald J. Ryan (Secretary-Treasurer), Captain Eric R. Eliassen (Director), Captain Jeffrey D. Pierce (Director), Captain Bryan D. Vermette (Director), and Captain Joshua S. Weston (Director).
- Crescent River Port Pilots’ Association: Captain Allen “AJ” Gibbs (President/Treasurer), Captain Scott A. Loga (Vice President), Captain Eric M. Short (Secretary), Captain E. Michael Bopp (Director), and Captain Craig B. Clasen (Director).