



Grand Lodge  
International Ship Masters' Association

Volume 28, Number 5  
September-October 2014

# ISMALLETTER

## PLAN NOW TO ATTEND ISMA CONVENTION

The 125th Grand Lodge Convention, hosted by ISMA Twin Ports Lodge #12, will be held February 4-8, 2015, at the Radisson Hotel overlooking Duluth harbor. The NELC meets at 1600 on Wednesday, February 4, followed by the Delegate Caucus at 1900. The Grand Lodge convenes at 0800 on Thursday, February 5. The Grand Ball on Friday evening will be at the Harbor Side Ballroom, Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, with transportation provided.

The Radisson Hotel (505 West Superior Street, Duluth 55802, 218-727-8981) is offering a room rate of \$84 per night; be sure to mention the Shipmasters Convention when making your reservations. *See you there!*

## FROM THE LODGES

### Port Huron Lodge #2:

Lodge #2 has announced an upcoming "Tribute to Captain Pat Owens" on January 15, 2015. Member **Frank Frisk** will be showing the 1989 NBC-WDIV special, "Risky Business, Iron Boat – Iron Men." This is a one-hour documentary about a trip aboard the *Benson Ford* under the command of the late PGP Capt. **Patrick Owens** as the ship travels from the Rouge River to Marquette to load taconite for the Ford Rouge Steel Plant.

### Chicago Lodge #3:

On August 21, 2014, the US Maritime Administration (MARAD), local US Coast Guard personnel, and ISMA Chicago Lodge #3 sponsored a Vessel Fire Incident Response training program. The one day event was divided into two sessions: an in-class presentation/discussion and an on-board vessel familiarization/walking tour. The morning session, held at the Total Marine Safety Great Lakes classroom, featured **Jerry Robinson** and **Scott Ousky** from the MARAD Tole-

*continued next column...*

do Fire Training Center. Participants included Chicago, Lemont (IL), Romeoville (IL), and Tri-State Fire Departments as well as representatives from the passenger vessel and towboat segments of the industry. Topics covered included: USCG assistance and responsibilities at vessel or waterfront fires; the NFPA 1405 instructions for firefighters responding to vessel fires; vessel layout, equipment and terminology; shipboard firefighting hazards/tactics and crew's knowledge and training. The afternoon session was hosted by Kindra Lakes Towing LP and was conducted aboard their Tug *Buckley*. The program achieved high marks from all who attended. ISMA Lodge #3 looks forward to partnering with the USCG and MARAD to provide future training opportunities.

Lodge #3's October 8, 2014, meeting will be at 7:30 pm, aboard *Chicago's First Lady*.

## New US Coast Guard Navigation Rules Handbook

The *US Coast Guard August 2014 Navigation Rules and Regulations Handbook* has replaced the *US Coast Guard Commandant Instruction Navigation Rules, International-Inland* (COMDTINST M16672.2D). Besides containing updated material to the previous publication, the new handbook has additional pertinent navigation regulations, such as Vessel Traffic Management rules.

The handbook is available for download at the US Coast Guard's Navigation Center at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=navRuleChanges>, and will be available on the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's (NGA) Digital Nautical Publications – Quarterly Update (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2014) DVD-ROM. The *Handbook* is not available in government printed form, but commercial reproductions may be available in the future.

Future changes to the handbook will be published in the USCG Local Notices to Mariners, NGA Notice to Mariners, and the *Federal Register*.

### ISMA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

ISMALetter distribution is via e-mail through local lodge secretaries.

**Make sure your local lodge secretary has your correct e-mail address.**

ISMALetter is always available on our website, [www.shipmaster.org](http://www.shipmaster.org), for viewing at any time. (Arrangements can be made for members without e-mail or internet access to receive a printed copy.)

*Thank you.*



## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Port Huron Lodge #2 member and ISMA webmaster **Frank Frisk** was quoted in a Port Huron *Times Herald* feature, "Coast Guard has long history and big presence in area," on September 21, 2014. The article covered the various US Coast Guard missions in the St. Clair River area. You can read the illustrated article at <http://www.thetimesherald.com/longform/news/local/2014/09/20/coast-guard-long-history-big-presence-area/15893795/#> = .

Cleveland Lodge #4 honorary member **Frank Samsel** was recently interviewed about pollution in the Cuyahoga River half a century ago for a Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel* article, "Toxic algae cocktail brews in Lake Erie," that appeared on September 13, 2014. His comments added historical perspective to the remainder of the piece that dealt with the toxic algae that blooms periodically in Lake Erie. You can read the article at [www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/toxic-algae-cocktail-brews-in-lake-erie-b99344890z1-274542731.html](http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/toxic-algae-cocktail-brews-in-lake-erie-b99344890z1-274542731.html).

Detroit Lodge #7 member **Garrett Myers** was interviewed for a *Detroit Free Press* article about New York's Erie Canal. He and his crew spent 11 days navigating the canal aboard the sailboat *Cariad*. You can read the August 28, 2014, article "Erie Canal barges in on modern world" at <http://www.freep.com/article/20140828/FEATURES07/308280168/erie-canal-tours>.

## Caught on Camera



Past Grand President Capt. **Ray Sheldon** aboard MV Joseph L. Block, August 1, 2014.

Salute Your Fellow Members with the  
**SHIP MASTERS' SALUTE:**  
*3 Long, 1 Short*

## NEW MEMBERS

### Chicago Lodge #3:

Active Professional: **John Lenhard** #12870  
**Michael J. Terrien** #12871  
**Craig Thompson** #12872

### Cleveland Lodge #4:

Active Professional: **Kristina Jacobs** #12869

### Georgian Bay-Huron Lodge #15:

Active Professional: **Gary Adcock** #12879  
**John Brookham** #12875  
Cadet: **Zack Peters** #C-12874  
**Tommy Pink** #C-12878  
**Abigail Ploeg** #C-12877  
**Kathryn Watton** #C-12876  
**Kaitlin Whittall** #C-12873



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A  
NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

## FINAL BELLS

Former Detroit Lodge #7 member Capt. **Donald C. Schmidt** (310663) passed away on September 23, 2014, at the age of 74.

## Twin Ports Lodge #12 FREIGHTER TRIP RAFFLE

Twin Ports Lodge #12 is conducting a raffle for a trip aboard a Great Lakes Freighter. Grand Prize is a multi-day voyage for four aboard an Interlake Steamship Company vessel during the summer or fall of the 2015 navigation season.

Ticket prices are: \$10.00 each; 3 tickets for \$25.00; 6 tickets for \$50.00; 12 tickets for \$100.00; 25 tickets for \$200.00; 50 tickets for \$400.00; 100 tickets for \$750.00; 500 tickets for \$3,500.00  
Payable in **US funds only (check or money order)**

Tickets may be obtained from  
International Ship Masters' Association  
Twin Ports Lodge #12  
PO Box 122  
Superior, WI 54880  
Phone: 715-392-6287

The winning ticket will be drawn during the Grand Ball at the Grand Lodge Convention at the Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center, Duluth, MN, on Friday, February 6, 2015. (Winner need not be present.)

(State of Wisconsin Raffle License #R0021501A-13763)

For further information and an order form, visit  
[www.freightertrip.com](http://www.freightertrip.com)

## Industry Newsbriefs –

### Weather and Research Buoys

Environment Canada has deployed several weather research buoys in United States waters on Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and the Detroit River. The buoys are yellow in color and equipped with a flashing light and radar deflector. Mariners are requested to use caution in the area. Notice will be given in the fall upon removal.

US Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office has two small yellow foam research buoys deployed in positions 42-05.400N and 081-00.700W, and 41-56.600N and 081-28.800W from 11 August 2014 through 15 October 2014. Notice will be given upon final removal.

### Canada-EU Trade Deal

On September 8, 2014, the Canadian Shipowners Association (CSA) issued a statement in support of Canada's cabotage law, amid concerns that it may be jeopardized in the current negotiations of a trade agreement with the European Union. Four U.S. maritime unions also issued a statement in support of Canada's domestic shipping industry. (ISMA has repeatedly supported cabotage laws in both the U.S. and Canada.)

Members of the Canadian Shipowners Association (CSA) are concerned that the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union (EU) will hurt Canada's shipping industry, its workers, and suppliers and shippers. "While the CETA deal is good for the Canadian economy, it cannot be allowed to jeopardize the Canadian short sea shipping capacity that the domestic marine industry, labor and the government have collectively developed to meet Canada's unique domestic shipping challenges," said CSA President **Robert Lewis-Manning**.

### Key Role of Marine Pilots Recognized

At the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Marine Pilots' Association (CMPA) Congress in Niagara Falls, ON, on September 10, 2014, Transport Canada recognized the key role of marine pilots in the economy and transportation system. In his remarks, **Jeff Watson**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Honourable **Lisa Raitt**, Minister of Transport, said "Marine pilots play a central role in Canadian marine transportation, and will continue to be an important part of a transportation system that is experiencing tremendous change. The Government of Canada is pleased to continue to work with the Canadian Marine Pilots' Association to help maintain a marine transportation system for Canadians that is safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible."

### Vessel Incidental Discharge Act

US Rep. **Duncan Hunter** (R-CA) introduced HR 5609, the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, which would establish a nationally uniform framework for regulation of ballast water and other vessel discharges. It is the companion bill to S 2094, which was approved by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in July 2014. HR 5609 will replace the current regulatory system (in which two federal agencies and more than two

dozen states regulate vessel discharges in overlapping and sometimes contradictory ways) with a uniform, federal framework. HR 5609 was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 18, 2014.

The ISMA Navigation, Legislative and Engineering Committee (NELC) has contacted most of our Great Lakes legislators in support of this bill.

### Champion of Maritime Award

The American Maritime Partnership (AMP), voice of the US domestic maritime industry, presented the Champion of Maritime Award to Rep. **Bill Shuster** (R-PA), Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, on September 17, 2014. The award recognizes someone who has displayed extraordinary dedication to and consistent support for the American maritime industry. **Shuster** and his committee have consistently highlighted the critical role that our maritime industry plays in the country's national, economic and homeland security.

### Waters of the US Regulatory Overreach Protection Act

The bipartisan Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act (HR 5078), introduced by Rep. **Steve Southerland** (R-FL) on July 11, 2014, passed the US House on September 9, 2014, and has been referred to the Senate. HR 5078 upholds the federal-state partnership to regulate the nation's waters and prohibits the US EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers from implementing a rule that threatens to open many new waters and private property to federal regulation, including ditches, man-made ponds, etc. It requires the groups to engage in a federalism consultation with the states and local governments to develop a consensus regulatory proposal.

### NOAA Seeks Applicants for Advisory Panel

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) is accepting nominations for membership on the Hydrographic Services Review Panel, an advisory committee advising NOAA on issues related to hydrographic surveying, nautical charts, tides and currents, geodetic and geospatial measurements and coastal resilience. Applications must be received by October 10, 2014. The *Federal Register* notice, including applicant qualifications, can be viewed at [www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov](http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov).

### Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

NOAA has released a final rule and environmental impact statement expanding the boundaries of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Lake Huron from 448 square miles to 4,300 square miles. The sanctuary now protects an additional 100 known and suspected historic shipwreck sites. The final rule and environmental assessment may be viewed at the sanctuary's website, [www.thunderbay.noaa.gov](http://www.thunderbay.noaa.gov).

### Seaway Shipments Increase

Total cargo shipments on the St. Lawrence Seaway have surpassed 2013 levels by 594 tonnes through August 31, 2014, despite a difficult start to the shipping season due to ice coverage.

Industry Newsbriefs, continued

### Lakes Cargos Up

Lake Carriers' Association reports that in August 2014, for the second month in a row, shipments of iron ore on the Great Lakes reached their highest level in six years. Higher water levels helped offset the lengthy delays early in the season due to ice in March and April; however, water levels normally begin a seasonal decline in autumn. Shipments of limestone on the Great Lakes totaled 3.7 million tons in August, an increase of 2.8 percent compared to a year ago.

### New SLSMC Chairman

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) named **Tim Dool** Chair of the Board of Directors, effective September 1, 2014. Appointed to the Board in November 2012, **Dool** (the former president and CEO of Algoma Central Corporation) represents domestic carriers.

### AGLMH Conference

On September 12 and 13, 2014, the Detroit Historical Society and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum hosted the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History (AGLMH).

### Merchant Marine Examinations Guide

The US National Maritime Center (NMC) has developed a new *Deck and Engineering Guide for the Administration of Merchant Marine Examinations*, implementing changes as a result of the March 24, 2014, Final Rule (78 FR 77796) implementing amendments to STCW. During the transitional period, the NMC will maintain two examination guides and two sets of examination questions and illustrations to support evaluations under both the previous and new rules. Further information can be found at [http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/exam\\_administration\\_guide\\_notice.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/exam_administration_guide_notice.pdf).

### Ashtabula River Cleanup Complete

On September 4, 2014, the US EPA announced the completion of all cleanup work required to remove the Ashtabula River from the binational list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

### Coming Events of Interest

- November 10, 2014: Lost Mariners Remembrance, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Detroit, MI, 6-8 PM.
- November 19-20, 2014: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Highway H2O Conference, Toronto Airport Marriott, Toronto, ON.
- January 12-15, 2015: Industry Days, Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI, sponsored by the Great Lakes Captains Association.
- February 10-11, 2015: Great Lakes Waterways Conference, Marriott Downtown at Key Center, Cleveland, OH.



ISMA Membership Applications  
Available Online at  
[www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm](http://www.shipmaster.org/membership.htm)

## International Ship Masters' Association

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