



SAMS® NEWS

Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors®, Inc.

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Editor: George Gallup, AMS®

Spring 2013



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SAMS NEWS

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George Gallup,
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Do you have an interesting topic that you would like to appear in your newsletter? Send it in! If your article is published in SAMS® NEWS, you not only contribute news and information to your peers, you may be eligible to receive one (1) CE Credit for your article.

Refer to the SAMS® Continuing Education Requirements Policy for more information. Please send original written articles, photos, etc. to me at GallupYachtSurveying@gmail.com. And copy to International Office. Kindly send a copy of the original content - high resolution images and scans by the set deadline for the next issue.



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President's Message Spring 2013 Newsletter



**Joseph Lobley, AMS®
President**

Greetings,

It has been an interesting winter season for me. I spent several months working Super Storm Sandy claims in New Jersey and New York and have a great appreciation for the victims in the affected areas and those that work and live in a post-hurricane environment. It was remarkable to witness the destruction and devastation turn into recovery and rebuilding. Several days after the storm, I traveled to Toms River, New Jersey and met up with George Gallup. We initially shared a hotel room that had one bed, a small cot (for guess who?), a hot tub and not one, but two stripper poles! Fortunately, George found us more appropriate digs a few days later where we lived for a month. As the nation saw, there was wide spread damage but one particular area that was hard hit was Laurence Harbor, NJ, just south of Staten Island and Amboy. I drove into Vikings Marina and was met by one of our past members, now marina manager, Larry Kosinar who gave up the survey

business due to bad knees. He immediately recognized me and we struck up the usual conversation about the storm and damage. The marina was completely destroyed. The marina office was two stories at one time and now is a crumpled mess (see below photo). The boat I was sent to inspect has, to this date, not been found and likely never will. My best wishes to Larry, and those of you that remained after the swarm of surveyors left the area.

Upon returning home, business has been more than brisk in both the commercial and recreation boats in my area. I have been fortunate to maintain all of my business relationships when I was away and I am reaping the benefits at this time. I also was able to maintain my normal duties with SAMS®. Thank heavens for smart phones!

I am happy to report that the BOD, Rhea and the office gang have been working to continue the goal of reducing expenses and fine-tuning the operation. Rhea has been working with our Web site designer, Jacksonville Website Design, to create an on-line pay system. In a short while, we will all be able to pay our dues and meeting registration fees on-line. This will be the next step getting us “up to date”. The BOD is currently setting up a Members Only Corner on the web site which will be password protected and will give you access to information that we would not typically publish. Hopefully, this feature will allow us to set up simple questionnaires for each of you to vote your choice, such as “what topics would you like to see at the next annual seminar?” and “what is your favorite venue for meetings over the last few years?” Also, I would like to allow each member to check on their credits to date and other important membership status information. It is a very exciting time to implement this type of technology. It certainly is not ground breaking but the costs associated with setting up these systems have greatly reduced, making it appealing to organizations of our size. By the way, if you are interested in sprucing up your personal web site, contact Jared Bartholomew at Jacksonville Website Design for a quote.

Keep swinging those hammers and as always, feel free to contact me or any of the Board Members at any time.



Good day to you all:

I want to discuss a subject that has been causing me some sleepless nights. Yes, sleepless nights and you all say why?

I am still receiving a number of Ethics Complaints (approximately 90%) from clients, which are on the edge of an ethics infraction. These are work product issues, completing a survey and not telling it the way it is. Now if this is because of your lack of experience then YOU are in contradiction of Section 3 A of the SAMS® Code of Ethics and Rules of Practice.

So that you do not have to look it up, on page 7 of your SAMS® Roster....

3. CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER

The surveyor will:

A) Accept only assignments that can be completed with professionalism.

Now as a surveyor, you are asked to give an informed opinion of a vessel. You have been hired by a client who has trusted you to ensure that this vessel is well constructed, maintained, and free of any deficiencies. They trust you because that vessel will be carrying the client's most important cargo, their loved ones.

The client expects that you will consult with him/her before, during and after the completion of the survey. They also expect that you will answer all of their questions (remember you are an experienced professional). The client expects a written report in a timely fashion. The client will for your services, provide you with some sort of numeration for your professionalism and experience. You as a surveyor have to make sure that you charge enough so that your time is covered.

Now let's not forget one thing: If you do something right only a few people will know, but if you do something wrong, the whole world will get to know your name. It will be said that you are not a good surveyor and cannot be trusted to give a professional opinion. Your actions in the survey not only reflect on you as a surveyor, but also your fellow SAMS® members. One of the factors that person hired you was because you are a member of SAMS®.

I would ask all SAMS® members to take stock of your business and how you interact with your customers. In my life before SAMS®, I was involved as an investigator for a number of internal investigations with my past employer. I found that more conflicts could have been resolved if all parties involved communicated openly and constructively. Lastly, if you are in a conflict with a client or even a Broker, **NEVER** have the last word, it might make you feel good but it will come back to bite you.

My hope is to see you all in San Diego; it is shaping up to be a great meeting and an excellent educational opportunity. So come and support your organization and meet other surveyors and maybe even get an assignment lead.



Stuart J. McLea AMS®
Executive Vice-President
Ethics Chair

“What you do under the SAMS® banner affects us all.”



CHEERS!

I have had a couple of members ask if they could pay their annual dues semi-annually or quarterly, and the answer to that is not through our International Jacksonville office. The reason for this is the time that would be spent with one of our staff to enter the payments and keep track of the dollars. This might not sound like a big job, but it is a very timely job and must be accurate and checked. However, you can pay your dues by making the payments to your credit card company. They are set up for that type of service.

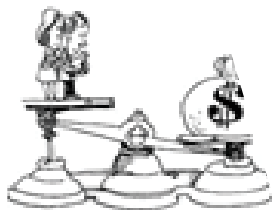
We are working to get our office into the twentieth century and updating procedures and in my opinion the staff has succeeded in many areas. We still have some issues but, they are being worked out and overcome. I hope you see the progress from your end.

We are in line with expenses and Rhea and I are monitoring the finances on a daily basis. Preparing a good working budget is a difficult thing to create and follow but, we seem to be on track in almost all areas. We do monitor what is coming in as well as what is going out.



Lloyd Kittredge AMS®
Secretary / Treasurer

I hope you are considering attending this year's Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium on October 16th through the 19th, in San Diego. It is a great city to visit and meet old and new colleagues. It is one of the best ways, I know of, to promote your business and services you provide. Again, think of expanding your skills and services.



Spring is just starting up North and I hope everyone has a successful year.



Bill Trenkle, AMS®
Public Relations
Vice President

After 5 months in my new role as your VP of Advertising and Public relations, I am starting to feel like I am getting a bit of a handle on the job. Rhea, the Board of Directors and former holders of this job have all been hugely helpful in sharing their knowledge. Very quickly I was deep into the budgeting process, in preparation for the January board meeting, and that was eye opening.

Review of the budget and past expenditures have led me to make some changes and I continue to evaluate where we are spending the budget, which is very time consuming but rewarding. We made some adjustments and have focused our publication spending on publications that reach out to potential customers and potential future surveyors, less institutional advertising. Each new contract has been renegotiated, and in many cases, we have brought the costs down significantly or required that we be included in the publications online presence. We had a great opportunity with Great Lakes Boating that wanted a Surveyor article, which yours truly penned, and in exchange they gave us a full page

ad for the price of a 1/4 page. I received some nice feedback from a few members who really liked the one two punch we received.

I would like to ask all of you to help with this goal of leveraged advertising. If you are writing an article or being interviewed in a publication or web site, please let me know so we can piggy back on with some advertising at a favorable rate. Also, what would be helpful is for you all to provide me some leads on your favorite web sites that SAMS® should be advertising on. I strongly believe we need more web presence and less print, but there are so many sites and I need your help in targeting the best ones. Getting more bang for your buck is my goal, so please reach out to me when you get a moment in your busy spring.

Thanks.

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Jim Sepel, AMS®
Membership
Vice President

Greetings from the chilly and still snowy rain forest of SE Alaska:

As your VP Membership, I am happy to report that we are seeing a large influx of promising new applicants. Just since the 1st of January, we have processed 41 new member applications, which is at a rate of at least twice the number of applicants we have been seeing. And, there have been just a few denials of membership. Your RD's and I continue to vigorously research each applicant.

Looking at who our new members are, since I took over this position in October of 2011, we come from all types of maritime and other careers. In the photo below is my partner, Todd Sharp, SA who is a retired State of Alaska Wildlife Trooper, Marine Operations. Many of you met Todd when he attended his first International Meeting in Baltimore last October. So

where do our members come from?

1. Former USCG.
2. Former USN and other branches of our Armed Forces.
3. Former Canadian Coast Guard and Mounties.
4. Former State Troopers and Police Officers.
5. Former yacht captains.
6. Former boat builders.
7. Boat repairers (tired of turning wrenches and fixing fiberglass).
8. Masters and licensed engineers from blue water vessels, tugs, commercial fishermen, etc.
9. Professionals from a wide variety (not necessarily maritime, but they owned and operated boats, participated in yacht clubs, racing, pleasure boating, etc). These include: former marine insurance underwriters and claims adjusters, aircraft inspectors, nurses, business and corporate officers, and several of our members have a variety of community college, university, and post-graduate degrees.

Our new members are bringing a wealth of life experience to our ranks that have been slowly dwindling as we age. Although this is a second (or even third career) for some and most are in their mid to late 40's in age, we are beginning to see younger members who hope to succeed in this profession at a much earlier age. In every newsletter, Rhea publishes the new members in your area. So, please seek out these new folks in your area. Let's continue to help and mentor our new members. The future of our Society (and perhaps your own business) depends on it.



Todd Sharp, SA working on M/V SUSITNA Survey



**Alison Mazon, AMS®
Testing
Vice President**

The mind as a blank canvas can be a good thing. But, when you have a blank screen, a blank mind, and a newsletter article to write.....So, I just reviewed the past 10 years of Testing VP newsletter articles and wasn't too surprised to find the overriding theme was preparedness.

Logic would dictate the reason each past Testing VP has stressed preparedness is due to the lack of same demonstrated by too many AMS® candidates. So I will cut to the chase. The AMS® exams are difficult. Period. Difficult because they are thorough. They are thorough because the charter members founded SAMS® as a professional organization where membership has value and where the AMS® designator commands respect. That is the reason SAMS® defends our trademark on this designator so fiercely.

Regardless of your chosen specialty -- Tug & Barge, Cargo, Hull & Machinery, Fishing Vessels, Engines, or Yachts & Small Craft -- attaining the SAMS® Accredited Marine Surveyor designator demonstrates your commitment to your craft, to continuing education, and to our society. In short, it indicates you are a professional.

So, you professionals out there, I know its rock and roll time right now and sitting in a class or studying dry, boring standards in a quiet corner somewhere may seem like a luxury. But, it is an absolute requirement.

Budget your time wisely, don't let the phone calls plan your schedule. Get your CE's, get your certifications if those are applicable, study, prepare, and plan to sit for your AMS® exam in San Diego this October 16th. I would like the focus of my winter newsletter article to be welcoming 100% of the San Diego candidates as new Accredited Marine Surveyors® -- not reporting the percentage of those who didn't qualify!

Please review past newsletter articles for information on the exams, suggested study material, training recommendations, CE opportunities you may not have thought of, and mentoring ideas.

And, speaking of mentoring, I can tell you that Boatpokers E-mail Reflector provided many mentoring moments for me over the years. Having direct access to about 400 colleagues is priceless. And, while Boatpokers is not affiliated with SAMS®, all of its members are SAMS® members. And, most of our members join SAMS® after careers in diverse spectrums of the marine industry. You can ask about a specific vessel, a specific CFR, a specific technology, and likely, you will get multiple responses from members with direct, hands-on experience with the topic. That's mentoring.





San Diego Here We Come



Kenneth Weinbrecht,
AMS®
Education Vice President

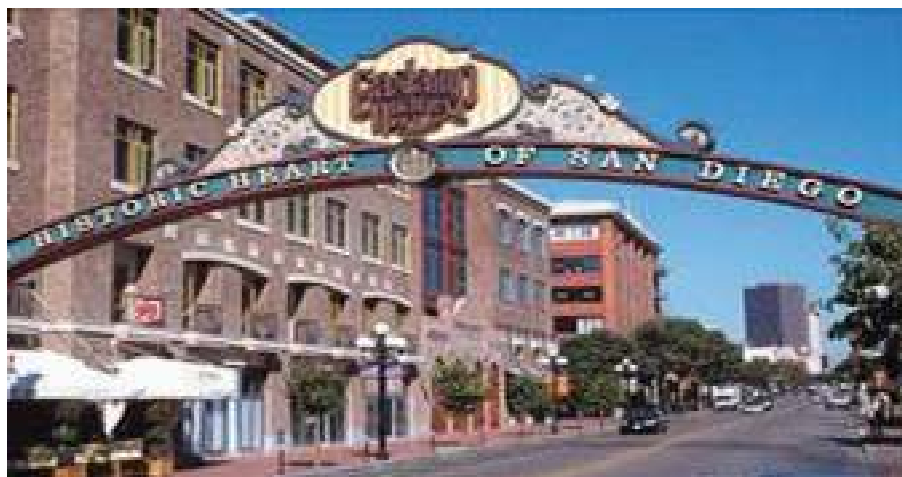
First, let me apologize for not having anything in the last newsletter. We were swamped with Hurricane Sandy claims and have been working seven days a week till the beginning of the year and now we are down to six days a week. Some of you that experienced the storm know what it's been like.

I have been working on the San Diego meeting and here's what you can expect to see.

1. Forensic Photography - both digital and thermal imaging - Todd Schwede, AMS®
2. Americas Cup (the race is the month before our meeting) - results and the vessel construction and design - Bill Trenkle, AMS®, VP Advertising
3. Ethics and the Marine Surveyor - How close is the line that we sometimes get to? Stu McLea, AMS®- Executive Vice President
4. Metallurgical Failure Analysis - Mark Bell, P.E., Affiliate - You're in the field, see a failure and come up with an opinion. It then gets sent to a lab.....UGH!
5. A Maritime Attorney will speak about what not to put in your report and copyrights.
6. Web Site Optimization...how can you get the most out of your web site.
7. Electrical Shock Hazard - Kevin Ritz will speak about the testing for electrical shock hazard and how we can identify problems.
8. ABYC..Subject to be determined.
9. Engine Manufacture...innovations in diesel and gas technology.
10. Restoring antique vessels with new materials.

These are some of the items you can expect to see. I hope to have it all firmed up by June and it will be in our summer newsletter.

If you have never been to San Diego, it is a wonderful place. Lots of history and rich nautical traditions. Start saving now...weather is beautiful and the venue is very nice.





News - Meeting and Conventions



Paul Logue, AMS®
Meetings/Conventions
Vice President

Business is Brisk in the Northeast

After Hurricane Sandy business has been very good. All of the boat owners who were affected by Sandy are starting to get their insurance money and are buying another used boat. There have been numerous people from New Jersey and New York purchasing boats up here since the beginning of February. Unusual to have that many people buying at that time of the year. Another area of brisk business in the winter has been the amount of damage claims coming in. Practically every weekend there have been blizzards and windstorms knocking trees down on top of boats stored in private yards. Rumor has it Cape Cod will be a sand bar in 100 years. Sea conditions of 25 to 30 foot waves have been battering beaches causing erosion.

Meetings Update

2013

Our next meeting will be in San Diego at the Bahia Resort in the Mission Bay area. Nice facility. A little bit more casual than Baltimore as the rooms are laid out over the whole property. Not too many high rises. Check out the web site at www.thebahiahotel.com. The rate is excellent at \$139.00 per night. Please do not expect this rate everywhere we go. We plan on having another golf tournament and a sail regatta with Catalina Capri's on Mission Bay. Still working out the logistics. I think they even have drinks with umbrellas in them. The Pacific Ocean beach and shops are within walking distance.

2014

New Orleans is set at the Hyatt near the Superdome. There is a trolley that runs down to the Quarter and waterfront. The Hyatt is a real nice property at \$209.00 per night. The other properties that were looked at ranged from \$199.00 to \$239.00 per night. There are also some good food choices right around this hotel that are not expensive. There are not too many places right in the French Quarter that could accommodate our group size or wanted the \$239.00 per night. It will be easy to go into the quarter if you want via trolley.

I would like to thank Kristoffer Diel, AMS®, SAMS®, Gulf Regional Director, and his associate Phyllis Mayo for their assistance in selecting a location for our 2014 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. I was unable to get away and Joe Lobley, AMS® stepped in to help in this search. They spent a lot of time walking and looking at potential sights. Their valuable thoughts and

suggestions assisted me in choosing an excellent location for our meeting.

2015

Wisconsin. Site to be determined.

Very important about planning ahead.

We need to come up with a way to try and get our members to book early and give an indication if they plan on attending. We all have business to attend to but as many of you experienced in Baltimore, you will have a hard time finding a room if you wait too long. I have to give the hotels the amount of rooms we need to block out when the contract is signed. That is approximately 1 ½ years away from the date. If we do not fill those rooms then we are responsible for paying for them. It's a percentage scale, but none the less it's wasted money. The same is true with the Food and Beverage. In Baltimore, we had more people than expected wanting to attend at the last minute and we could not accommodate at the set price.

I am proposing that we set up our email system and poll all of our members 1 ½ years out. Then for the current meeting we do the same. We have historically sent out a card to fill out in the mail, but that goes out at a later date. We are going to see if we can do this sooner via email and keep that list in the office so I can plan better. I am open to any suggestions or feedback.

Best



**Eddy J. Assaf, Jr., AMS®
Canadian Regional
Director**

‘A Long Snowy Winter for the East Coast’

Well winter is over for most of us, and soon coming for the others.

With spring around the corner, so is our busy season.

Still lots of snow in sunny Quebec, but slowly going down, which will be great for our low water levels, and even better for the maple syrup.

I want to thank Peter McGuire, AMS® and Wallace Gouk, AMS® for setting up the Canadian Regional Meeting in Hamilton.

I also want to thank Peter for the great work he did for 7 years representing the Canadian members as our RD and for helping me make the transition of being the new Canadian Regional Director so easy.

The Canadian Regional Meeting had the privilege of having guest speaker David Rifken, AMS®, who’s subject was ‘Electrical Inspections Techniques for Marine Surveyors,’ which all found extremely interesting. If you have never been to one of his seminars, you should try to attend one.

It is nice to know that Transport Canada has finally made a ruling with TP14761 which protects Quebec internal waterways from any solid waste disposal, fuel and any other contaminants. I am sure the future of our internal water will profit from it but remember that the responsibility is always ours, so let’s abide by the new ruling.

For all of you upcoming AMS® candidates, a word of advice, don’t waste time!

As soon as you are eligible get the wheels turning for writing your exam. Waiting until the last moments, have proven to be a bad decision. Take the earliest advantage you can to upgrade.

Announcements on the 2013 Canadian Regional Meetings will be coming soon.

Wishing all a prosperous surveying year ahead and hope to see many of you at the International Meeting in beautiful sunny San Diego.



Life In Quebec

ADIOS SANDY

Many of us were called upon to handle claims as it pertains to the historic weather pattern named Sandy. Sandy, while more of a tidal event than a wind event, wreaked havoc in the Northeast with most of the damage being sustained in New York and New Jersey. Even if you did not tour the cities of devastation, the media gave comprehensive coverage with vivid video and photographic depictions that left nothing to the imagination. Sandy struck the northeast coast with a full moon in its arsenal as it inflicted its maximum punch to the marine community. Unlike some storms, boats that were properly stored or tied down on land became more vulnerable to damage than those that were properly moored in the water.

Another comparison that came to my mind was the subtle differences between another super storm Andrew in 1992, with the likes of Sandy. Andrew was a powerful South Florida storm that cut a swath through the Miami and Homestead areas. Had it tilted another 30-50 miles more to the north, the boat damage would have been much more severe. Sandy on the other hand, struck a very populated area of the northeast that seems to have an endless winding coastline adding to the boat carnage.

I was personally stationed in New Jersey with a commute to Staten Island as my area of focus. Virtually all the boats stored [land or water based], were swept by 8' 12' tides above normal to new albeit temporary berths. The first order of business for the insurance carriers was to locate their inventory and safely move it to its proper real estate. The company I

worked for engaged surveyor specialists who contracted with salvors and negotiated the best deals available. Gouging during these storms is a real concern, so establishing allies with local, mobile and could be pirates was a priority.

Being a Florida type person, I was in for a rude awakening when it came to some of the climate nuances that were foreign to me. For instance, before I could inspect certain watercraft, I had to lug off a 500 pound tarp that had pools of water to make this task literally impossible. Did I mention the temperature? Well I guess the locals are conditioned to temps below 80 degrees, but I always wondered how you write legibly with gloves on, not to mention keeping the ink from freezing in my pen.

We [surveyors] were also fighting time as many of the vessels required winterizing [another foreign subject] before the weather turned for the worse. I know that my northern brethren might laugh, but I even encountered great difficulty finding thermal articles of clothing, gloves and a hat, not normally sold in Florida Sears stores. If the store did carry some of these items, the selection was incredibly limited. A friend of mine also recommended that I leave my Sperry Topsiders safely at home and I was advised to pack a pair of high top boots in their stead. This turned out to be an invaluable piece of advice.

I am back home now and I have retired my Sandy gear for another era. In the meantime, the battle is still being waged to retire these multitude of claims with the constant reminder that spring will bring about a new round of claims issues for the adjusters to tackle. At least at that point, the tarps should be retired and the weather should be more conducive to climbing ladders.



Robert Heekin, AMS®
Florida Regional
Director



Luke's Boat Yard

(submitted by Joseph Lobley, AMS®, President)

Luke's Boat Yard in East Boothbay, Maine recently celebrated their 76th Birthday. The yard was started by Paul Luke in 1936 and is still family owned and operated by third generation Frank Luke. As well as being a fine boat building and repair facility, they manufacture the famous Luke soapstone stoves, Luke anchors, and of course the Luke automatic feathering propeller. The propellers are still custom made for each order and replacement parts and servicing are still available. If you are in the area, stop in to check out the machine shop or if you are in need of repair, pricing, or advice, call Frank Luke at (207) 633-4971 or email his son, the fourth generation, at andrew@peluke.com. Some things still need to be done old school!





Robert V. Horvath, AMS®
Great Lakes
Regional Director

Still Waiting For Spring in the Great Lakes Region

Greetings from the very cold and windy Great Lakes Region. I don't think spring is around the corner. The groundhog keeps seeing his shadow and giving us six more weeks of winter. It is not a good idea to perform surveys in this type of weather. I am only surveying boats that are indoor

heated.

Despite the weather, we managed to have a regional meeting. We had Dick Frenzel, AMS® give a presentation on Joint Field Surveys and Damage Surveys. There were a lot of interesting questions brought up and discussed by the group. We also had presentations on Thermal Imaging by a Flir representative. And thanks to Matt Morman, AMS®, who supplied actual surveys done with a Thermal Imaging camera, was able to explain the advantages of its use in surveying. There are several members thinking about purchasing cameras. We also had a presentation on the uses of oil samples in marine surveying. One very interesting thing our presenter brought up was that as of December 2013, all commercial vessels will be required to use 'environ-

mentally acceptable lubricants.'

Our Detroit area group is now working on the fall meeting. We hope to have a boat camp. One of the area yards is possibly going to donate two boats allowing us to perform destructive testing. Everyone, its hole saw time. I will email updated details to the Great Lakes members.

I did attend the winter board meeting in San Diego this past January at the Bahia Resort Hotel. The accommodations and pricing are great. Our Meetings and Conventions VP, Paul Logue, AMS® is doing a great job keeping costs down. As usual, Ken Weinbrecht, AMS®, Education VP, has an excellent program he is working on for our meeting. There are many interesting things to do and see while in San Diego. You should plan on going early or staying later to enjoy them.

There are a few of the Great Lakes Region members that do not have their five-year National meeting requirement fulfilled. Remember you have had at least five years to do this and not fulfilling this requirement will result in a suspension.

See everyone in San Diego.

SAMS® Gulf Region Spring 2013

Colleagues;

I want to welcome to SAMS® our newest Gulf Regional members, Mr. Bob Edwards and Mr. James Bailey.

While it has been a quiet winter in the Gulf Region, many surveyors had the opportunity to go up to the North East to help with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

A number of SAMS® surveyors recently attended the "Damage Surveying for Surveyors" course at Chapman School in Stuart FL. I want to thank Dave McFarlin, AMS® and Paul Case, AMS® for taking the time out from their Hurricane Sandy workloads to present a wonderful seminar.

As a Regional Director, I want to remind everyone to review their CE record. SAMS® requires 60 CE units every 5 years, and too many put it off until they are facing having to obtain all 60 CE's in the last year or two. The Board will not usually grant an extension/exception to the "up or out" policy.

Start planning now for attending the San Diego annual meeting and the 2013 Gulf Region meeting will be the first week of December.

Stay safe, stay hydrated.



Kristoffer Diel, AMS®
Gulf Regional
Director



Theodore Fred Wright,
AMS®
Mid-Atlantic Regional

Greetings from the Mid-Atlantic Region where it is sunny and bright, and remains somewhat chilly. I for one cannot wait for spring, when young folks' fancy turns to Boating.

Those folks just North of us sustained a significant tragedy with Hurricane Sandy's arrival in late October, poorly announced and a late addition to the ball (I was hooked onto a steelhead) near Lake Erie when it was announced, Sandy had taken a turn for the worse (West) and planned a visit to the most populous section of the states.

It was remarkable to see what a 14' storm surge can do in an area of coastal islands and canals with homes barely inches apart in the lower reaches of Brooklyn, Queens and the Rockaways, and tales of damage along Staten Island. The Atlantic Highlands, and the Long Island and New Jersey coasts were worse. Our hearts go out to those affected.

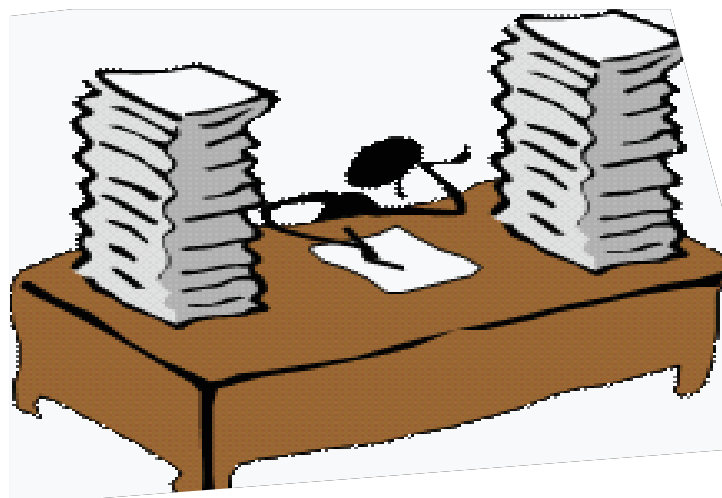
Kudos go to those members who responded in the face of adversity on behalf of Marine Insurance Underwriters, handling claims from the location of boats, to arranging salvage and assessing damage, and hand-holding shell-shocked insureds. This small community of Marine Surveyors should be proud to have been well represented by our members who participated (and continue to participate) in the storm recovery.

Apologies are extended to all those whose applications or reviews were delayed by my deployment to the storm ravaged region. We continue to dig out of the pile of paper generated by our members, but have made inroads and now are merely days/weeks versus months behind. Patience is requested, pardon is begged.

Regarding SA (C&V) reports sent for reviews; a few short comments; most are too long. Recently I received a 30-page Force 5 report on a 22' vessel (not including 20 pages of pictures). A survey report should be a concise document detailing findings, not a novella; keep it short and to the point, "Just the facts ma'am, just the facts" (my further apologies to Sgt. Joe Friday).

Speaking of the facts, some comment as to findings is relevant. A survey report with no comments as to conditions is a mere listing sheet that could be provided by a broker, and a survey without recommendations may be an indication that one is not looking closely, or does not know the purpose of the inspection, which should be to document findings and detail anomalies (damage and/or departures from recommended standards). Please burden your reviewers with reports detailing the worst of your vessels and your findings, not those reports detailing vessels that are "perfect" (if there be such a thing) with no recommendations listed. One might come to think no surveys are required since all the locals maintain their vessels to Bristol standards (or maybe the surveyor needs to put away their cane and put on their glasses).

Nuff said. Now go forth and multiply assignments.





Darrell Boyes, AMS®
Pacific Regional
Director

We have just completed our Pacific Regional Meeting in Portland, OR. It was held at the Oxford Suites along the Willamette River. It has been held in this location in prior years as this location works well, is reasonably priced and offers the amenities needed. It was well attended with 40 surveyors.

It was a two day event. Day one had different surveyors sharing from their claims files and offered some great insights for all of us to use. Joe Derie, AMS® presented a "Fire Investigation Presentation." This too was very insightful and reminded us of how we can at different times be involved in some type of fire event. The importance of knowing when an expert would be needed and of not going beyond our own experience levels.



Joe Derie, AMS®/CMS presenting Fire investigation.



Randell Sharpe, AMS®, Alameda, CA presenting some electrical nightmares.

Day two was an entire day spent with Kevin Ritz. Kevin is a Master technician and an instructor with ABYC. The first part of the morning Kevin gave us instruction on "Electric Shock Drowning." This is a driving force with Kevin and his instruction of this subject

as he lost his own Son to this and to that point, little was known about what occurs.

We then moved into Galvanic Corrosion and the effects of electron flow in dissimilar metals. We had a part of the day in the classroom and topped off the day with a corrosion survey on an aluminum fireboat in service on the Willamette River. Both the inexperienced and the experienced were reminded of what occurs in this science.

Education in our profession is critically important. This is not about CE's but about keeping a solid understanding of what we are or may be involved with.

Following our Portland meeting, Charles Solarek, SA contacted me regarding the holding of an ABYC certification class in the Seattle area. If 12-16 people can guarantee attendance, ABYC will set up a location and time. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact Chuck or ABYC.

Anyone wanting to be an author please consider providing an article for either the International newsletter or the Regional newsletter. Immediate Past President George Gallup, AMS® has assembled a great electronic newsletter and could use articles of interest to surveyors.

The Pacific Regional newsletter is provided by Randell Sharpe, AMS® and again could use people willing to share information. This does not have to be a technical article, just information about surveying that could be beneficial to others.

If your article is published you can receive CE's for it.

This year's Annual meeting is in San Diego and gives the opportunity for the Pacific Region to show their support. The meeting will be held at the Bahia Resort of which I have attended. This is a great place to stay and bring the family for a vacation. Golf courses are like Fleas on a dog. Great courses, ask Mike Oberg, AMS® who recently stayed and played golf for 5 days.

Sam Colt, AMS® recently retired. Sam was a Camano Island surveyor who served as the Regional Director for several years. If you are ever in the area look him up. You will most likely find him on the golf course. We wish you all the best Sam!

Low water levels are costing millions \$



Dan McDonald, AMS®
Cargo Chair

Low water levels and reduced dredging are costing millions of dollars to the shipping industry and recreational boaters throughout the St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes.

After a past winter (2011/2012) with little snow followed by a spring with minimal rain, each of the Great Lakes endured a 2012 boating season challenged by low waters. The water loss has shortened the recreational boating season for many, and forced the shipping industry to reduce the amount of tonnage its vessels can carry.

All the lakes were below their long-term averages for September, October, November and December of 2012, and lower than a year earlier because of an abnormal lack of snow last winter and the hot, dry summer according to the US Army Corps of Engineers. They are in charge of maintaining commercial harbors on the USA side. More than usual rainfall in October that included super storm Sandy has made only a slight difference. In February 2013, some of the Great Lakes were setting new records for low water, meaning they are lower than they have been in the last 100 years.

A typical freighter that enters the St. Lawrence Seaway/Great Lakes system will have tonnage reduced by about 100 tons for every inch of reduced water level. While the St. Lawrence Seaway itself has maintained water levels close to historic levels (maximum allowable draft of 8.08 meters, 26' 06"), many ports where these vessels load and discharge have restricted depths that results in vessels loading as much as 36 inches less draft (3600 tons less cargo). This is more than 10% of their overall capacity and has a huge impact on the industry. Who has to ultimately pay the cost of this reduction in tonnage (typically shipper, receiver or carrier) is often hotly debated, as some charter parties are not entirely clear.

The best solution would be for more rain (and snow) to occur and less evaporation due to hot summers. Another part of the solution would be for dredging to return to normal. In August, 25 US senators signed a letter calling on the Federal Office of Management and Budget to devote more money to dredging the nation's harbors.

Current water levels are at best just a few inches above all-time lows and could set more new low levels if we see another winter and summer similar to last year's.



Ocean freighter transiting St. Lawrence Seaway: 1 inch reduction in water level means 100 tons less cargo.



MEMBERS' CORNER

SPRING 2013 - JANUARY THROUGH APRIL



Rhea Shea
Office Manager
SAMS® International Office

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ARE NOW ACCREDITED MARINE SURVEYORS®, WITH THE EARNED DESIGNATOR:

“YACHTS & SMALL CRAFT”

Frank Barron, Jekyll Island, GA; Lyndon (Zeph) Despard, Salinas, CA; Stephen T. Duncombe, Bridgeton, NC; John R. Gulick, Punta Gorda, FL; Bunker A. Hill, Newport Beach, CA; Matthew Jones, Seward, AK; Robert Kriegel, Pensacola, FL; Bill Lee, Rockport, MA; Don Neese, San Marcos, TX; Chris Nye, Brentwood, CA; Richard James Russo, Lewis, NY; Kim Skov-Nielsen, Malaga, Spain; James R. Smith, Grand Island, NY; Lee Taylor, Ruskin, FL

THE FOLLOWING MEMBER IS NOW AN ACCREDITED MARINE SURVEYOR®, WITH THE EARNED DESIGNATOR:

“FISHING VESSEL”

Matthew Jones, Seward, AK



THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO SAMS® AS:

“SURVEYOR ASSOCIATES”

Patrick Yates Adams, Panama City, FL; Dan Agmon, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; James Joseph Bailey, Sr., Morgan City, LA; Bernard Berrouard, Quebec, Canada; Mark Thaddeus Clark, Long Branch, NJ; Charles Robert Darner, Jr., Ponte Vedra, FL; Eric Dickerson, Marietta, GA; Sylvain Dupont, Sainte Therese, Canada; Bob Edwards, League City, TX; P. Todd Frizzelle, Isle of Palms, SC; Alexander George Gillespie, Tequesta, FL; Michael Grame, Edgewater, MD; Brad Hawes, Oxnard, CA; Charles D. Holton, Buford, GA; George “Pete” Hosemann, Jasper, TN; Alex Humphrey, Holden Beach, NC; Wayne Arlen Ingman, Marshall, VA; Joel David Jenkins, Decatur, AL; Whitney E. “Ned” Jones, Newport, RI; Jeff Kibler, Charleston, SC; K. Wendell Lewis, Duluth, GA; Eric Carleton Lian, Cordova, AK; John M. Malool, Ridgefield Park, NJ; Arno William (Bill) McGraw, Cleveland Heights, OH; Serge Michaud, Breakeyville, QC, Canada; Raymond W. Pettengell, Burnett Heads, QLD, Australia; Christopher Max Pliske, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; David Alan Pliske, Plantation, FL; Henry (Butch) Pliske, Plantation, FL; Ronald C. Rybicki, Toms River, NJ; Neil M. Satterly, Schenectady, NY; Paul Darin Snider, Superior, WI; Chet Stephens, Tampa, FL; Kyle Michael Streck, Apollo Beach, FL; V.J. Suttmeier, Puyallup, WA; James R. Tipton, Lenoir City, TN; James M. Ward, Port St. Lucie, FL

NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

Mary Waddleton, Westbrook, CT



APPLICANTS SEEKING SAMS® MEMBERSHIP:

*Ronald J. Arend, Lake Wylie, SC
Scott Murray Austin, Tavernier, FL
Richard L. Avant, Jr., Arroyo Grande, CA
Donald M. Chido, Erie, PA
Travis Lawrence Palmer, Centreville, MD*

*Michael L. Previti, Solomons, MD
Thomas Koep Rose, Poulsbo, WA
William Lee (Bill) Rottgering, Grand Rivers, KY
Michael Topozini, Clarence Creek, ON, Canada*

SAMS® 2013
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