



# SAMS® NEWS

Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors®, Inc.

Volume 21, Issue 1

Editor, Donald Walwer, AMS®

Spring 2011

## *We Have Moved*

*Our New Building is located at:  
7855 Argyle Forest Blvd., Suite 203  
Jacksonville, FL 32244-5730*



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# SAMS® NEWS

Newsletter of the  
**SOCIETY OF ACCREDITED  
 MARINE SURVEYORS®, INC.**

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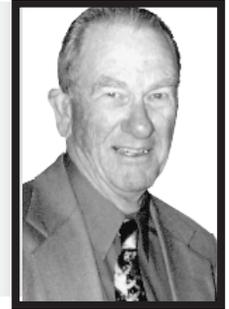
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## Editor's Corner

by Donald Walwer, AMS®  
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Twenty Five years. How and where did the time go? From our early beginnings, where we had several raucous meetings to form the bylaws, rules, ethics etc. to top of the hill in the world of Marine Surveying. A fantastic accomplishment. Those of us that are still hanging on are beginning to hear Kenny Rogers great line, "you have to know when to hold them and when to fold them". Not yet, but getting there.

How often, when doing a used boat survey, do any of us go on the USCG's web site and look at the recalls, but more importantly, the safety defects that they come across and list. A lot of them pertain to older boats, and today, a lot of them are on the market. The website: USCG BOATING.ORG. Boating Safety Resource Center. Or Google boat recalls. Some of the info goes back many years. The safety info covers the whole gamut of boating. Construction, gear, equipment etc. Beyond the usual required life saving equipment.

Hopefully you have noticed the transformation of the Newsletter. Rhea and her office staff now have a computer program that allows the publication to be done in

*Continued, Page 3*

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The SAMS® INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER is a publication of the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors®, Inc. (SAMS®). Views and opinions expressed in the articles and editorials are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the official views and policies of SAMS®. Articles are edited only for grammar, punctuation, spelling and language so that they fit into the allocated space.

### SAMS® Has Come A Long Way Happy 25th Anniversary!

George Gallup, AMS®



SAMS® has something to celebrate! We have grown from a dream at a small gathering of surveyors in Brunswick, Maine to become the world's premier professional surveying association. If you look back to the beginning we have truly come a long way. As most of you probably know the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors® has its roots in the International Maritime Technical Institute Conference

held in Brunswick, Maine during the latter part of 1986. Most of the participants expressed a desire to belong to a professional society of Marine Surveyors who would have a different purpose and outlook than found in the existing professional organizations of the day. Of the fifty Charter Members that were solicited to be the foundation of the organization over twenty are still active members. All of us members owe a big debt of gratitude to those forward thinking and dedicated professionals that sought a different and better path. Thank you.

So here we are now in our Twenty Fifth Anniversary year. As part of our celebration year we are planning a truly gala International Meeting and Educational Symposia in Halifax, Nova Scotia this October. The city of Halifax and Nova Scotia in general enjoy deep roots planted in maritime heritage. Our venue is being held at the Marriott right on the waterfront and in the heart of historic downtown. The

sights, sounds, and the maritime history surround our hotel with local flavor. The maritime museums alone offer an education unto themselves. Our educational venue has tapped into the local maritime community to enhance our educational opportunities. Come get educated and celebrate the 25th with us.

If you were at the last two Annual Meetings I am sure that you've heard about the search for a new SAMS® home. Well, the search is over. We have landed a terrific property located in an established upscale professional office development in Jacksonville. The building committee worked very hard to locate and secure the best possible space. We feel that the new space enhances our professional visibility as well as offers a terrific working environment for our hard working office staff. We expect to be into our new office within the next couple of months.

I would like to announce our new Surveyor Associate Review Program. In an effort to provide our Surveyor Associates (SA's) with every opportunity to become better surveyors and to hone their skills, SAMS® is rolling out a review program where the Surveyor Associate will be required to submit sample surveys on an annual basis for review and critique. This will help to ensure their path towards Accredited Marine Surveyor status is moving along in the right professional direction.

Last, but not least I would like to acknowledge Affiliate Members who have been so loyal and provide so many resources to our members. Thank you. If you know of any marine related professionals that might like to joins SAMS® as an Affiliate Member, please have them contact our International Office for more information. We can all benefit from more resources and networking.

**See you in Halifax!**

Continued from Page 2

house. A big saving in the overall cost. It is a tricky setup but they have it figured out. Our goal is to bring as much news as possible that is germane to our surveying. That brings up another situation.

When an event or incident that would be of interest, and in some cases a good source of information to members occurs in your area, make note of it and forward it to both the International Office and our editor. Things happen that are of real interest and in a lot of cases they are educational. As an example: On the West coast, back some years, a SAMS® member was called to look at a sailboat that had a sag in the coach roof. The owner did not like the post in the middle of the cabin and had it removed. Turned out, it was the support for the mast step on the coach roof. One other tidbit. If you are within range, you can drive to Nova Scotia and you can go from Maine by auto Ferry. The trip is worth taking either way.

#### In Memory

**Morris I. Johnson, Jr.**, known as Capt. Mo. He lived in Yarmouth, Massachusetts on Cape Cod.

Morris (Mo) came on board SAMS® in 1987, one of the originals in the early years. He Died on March 30, 2011 in Stuart, Florida.

Mo was a crew member on the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Ship after he graduated from school in Yarmouth and never left his connection with boats and the sea. He had a charter boat, actually a couple over the years and on occasion I skippered it for him.. One of his projects was converting a WW II PT boat into a yacht for an owner. I used to check on the progress as it was more than just interesting.

He was always a gregarious and happy person.

A local service in Yarmouth will held at a later date.

Donald Walwer, AMS®

## Maintaining Independence, Integrity & Objectivity

Joe Lobley, AMS®  
Executive VP



Here in Maine, I saw my lawn for the first time in three months. The Ft. Lauderdale Annual Meeting last fall was a great success on many levels. For those of you that did not attend there was a short ethics quiz which was a success before the quiz was even given. Prior to the meeting, the SAMS® office received a high number of member requests for copies of the

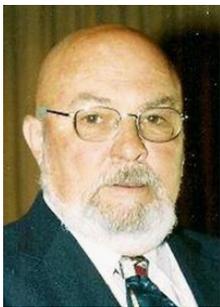
SAMS® Code of Ethics and Rules of Practice, which I am sure you all are aware, are printed in the Membership Roster and on our Website at [www.marinesurvey.org](http://www.marinesurvey.org). There was no pass or fail grade for the quiz. It was designed to create interest in understanding the rules and policies that govern this society and to provide information so we can direct future education. The results showed that most if not all of us will make the correct ethical decision when given the opportunity to think the situation through. There were a considerable amount of wrong answers pertaining to the General Membership Policy Manual. This is an area that needs work. Thank you to the 300 plus members that filled out the quiz and double thanks to Anne Nolan in the International Office for tallying the results.

As a Board member and particularly the Chairman of the Ethics Committee, I receive quite a few e-mails and phone calls that start with "I don't want to write a formal complaint but I just wanted to bring this to your attention..." I always politely listen to a variety of concerns from underwriters, adjusters, brokers, boat yard owners; surveyors, and boat owners. By policy the Board will not act without a formal written complaint, but there is one issue that I would like to discuss which was from a yacht broker with great concern about what he feels might be a growing trend with some members of SAMS®. This broker stated that on more than one occasion he has heard first or second hand that surveyors have said to potential buyers that XYZ boats all have this or that problem, or XYZ boats are junk, and so on. If this is the mindset of the surveyor, how does that surveyor inspect that boat and maintain independence, integrity, and objectivity as required in the SAMS® Code of Ethics and Rules of Practice? Shouldn't the boat be fully inspected before making such disparaging comments? On occasion I have read several queries on "Boatpokers" such as, "I am going to survey a 35' XYZ, what should I look for?" Of course, there are always a plethora of responses because "Boatpokers" is there for the exchange of information. However, if you perform a survey with a predetermined opinion, either by experience or advice from others, are you unbiased? Shouldn't the boat be surveyed first then ask the appropriate questions later? We all use the internet for research, but understand there is as much misinformation out there as reliable information. So, be careful not to fall into bad habits and always conduct yourself and your business within SAMS® Code of Ethics and Rules of Practice and Policies.

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## Our Next Annual Meeting Is Right Around the Corner

Jim Wood, AMS®  
Meetings/Conventions VP



Now that our Ft. Lauderdale meeting has come and gone it's time to think about planning & registering for our next SAMS® Annual Business Meeting and Educational Symposia, scheduled for October 5th, through 8th, 2011, at the Marriott Halifax Harbourfront, 1919 Upper Water Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3J5 Canada. Kenny Weinbrecht is already hard at work

planning our next lineup of speakers and would welcome helpful suggestions from our Canadian Brethren.

The hotel is conveniently located on the Halifax waterfront, just steps through the tunnel to the Casino. Local

attractions also include the Art Gallery, Pier 21, Bluenose II, Citadel Hill, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Historic properties, Titanic Memorial and Cemetery and Keith's Brewery right next door. There are also a number of tours available.

Individual hotel reservations **must** be made by **Wednesday, September 14, 2011**. Considering the events outlined above I suggest you book early. You can call hotel reservations direct at **902-421-1700** or toll free from the US or Canada at **800-943-6760**. Identify yourselves as part of the **Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors®**, or **Reference # 1-ZIINAC**. The Group block standard rate is \$177.00 single or double. Premium room rate is \$217.00. The group rate is guaranteed three days pre & post for those wishing to make an extended vacation out of it. Stanfield airport, (YHZ) is 30 minutes from the hotel. Other travel options include train, ferry, or automobile.

Contact the SAMS® office for additional info.

I hope to see you there.

## Greetings to you All!

Stu McLea, AMS®

Secretary / Treasurer



We have made changes in SAMS® HQ; we have upgraded the office network with a new server and workstations for our staff. This is something that was long over due and with the renewing of the workstations and software, we are bringing more work to the office, less work being contracted out and with that, there is a cost savings. We are still being diligent in finding ways to

cut costs and be more efficient.

It is important that you inform SAMS® HQ of any changes in your contact information especially your email address. We are in the process of improving our use of email and internet communication and the only way we can do this is with current and reliable contact information.

Our next AGM and Educational Symposium will be in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, my home town. Please remember you will need a current passport to travel to Canada (just like us Canadians need to travel to the USA), as I have been asked a number of times by members planning to attend “You **DO NOT** need a **VISA** to travel to Canada”. When you are traveling to the conference and pass through Canadian Immigration you are coming to Canada for **PLEASURE** not Business. Our location is the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel. This is the best location for a conference because it is right on the Halifax waterfront and just in front of the shipping channel. The location of this hotel is right downtown and you are close to a number of restaurants, shopping and historical interests.

This is SAMS® 25th anniversary and I would encourage all to come and let's celebrate this event in style. There will be lots to do and lots to see.

The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic is a short walk and they have an excellent area on the “Titanic” in fact there is also a “Titanic” cemetery. Several of those that died were taken to Halifax, being the closest port. And yes this is where Jack Dawson is buried.



**Newsletter Material Deadline** Have an interesting topic? Send it in! If your article is published in SAMS® NEWS, you not only contribute news and information, you may be eligible to receive one (1) CE Credit\* for your article. The cutoff date for material to be submitted for publication in the next SAMS® International Newsletter is **June 10, 2011**. The editor must receive all articles by this deadline or they MAY NOT be published in the next issue. If you have access to e-mail, please send articles to Don Walwer at [DDWSURVEY@aol.com](mailto:DDWSURVEY@aol.com). Faxed articles will be accepted provided they are followed up with an e-mail copy. Fax to 508-255-2406. We welcome photos accompanying your articles or as stand-alone items of interest in the newsletter. Kindly send either color or black & white prints. Prints will be scanned and returned upon request. \*See SAMS® Continuing Education Requirements POLICY.

## Halifax Here We Come

Ken Weinbrecht, AMS®  
Education VP



What a wonderful venue for an international meeting; thank you Jim Wood for all your efforts securing this beautiful hotel and convention center. Also my sincere thanks to our man on the ground, Stu McClea who lives in Halifax....it would have been extremely difficult setting up anything without a good man on the ground. Thanks Stu! If you've

never been to Halifax it is one of the most beautiful cities in Canada and has a history that overwhelms that of many cities in the United States.

Many pirates used Halifax as a central location to distribute their booty and as a matter of fact, Captain Kidd and many other pirates have been reported to have buried their treasure on Oak Island. For hundreds of years treasure hunters have searched the island looking for their treasure. As a matter of fact, there are tours of the island from what I've heard.

There is something else about Halifax that many peo-

ple don't know. The port was used to bring survivors and the deceased from the Titanic. There is a museum located in the city with artifacts as well as the history of the rescue operation. Also; one of the largest explosions that have ever taken place happened in this beautiful city in 1917. An ammunition ship exploded and destroyed almost the entire city.

So....what can you expect to see in our international meeting.

A historian to speak about the history of Halifax.

Structural failure analysis of cores

Lunenburg forging and casting

ABYC, getting to know Webstir

Transport Canada

Nova Scotia Boat Builders

Hinckley

Maritime attorney speaking about salvage

Marine insurance companies.

Insuring antique vessels

These are just a few of what we have lined up. This is going to be a really great international meeting, something you don't want to miss.

Start making plans now!

*Please be sure SAMS® has your current contact information. This is important for referrals, mailings and to keep your website listing current.  
SAMS® Website is changed at least twice a month by our Webmaster.  
The current information is furnished to the webmaster by the International Office.  
Also don't forget to send in your education credits.*

## Redesigned Show Booths

Tom Benton, AMS® Public Relations VP



We are in the process of redesigning our show booths. We will be purchasing new header boards, and new back drops for the existing display frames. We have purchased a large digital photo display unit to be the center piece of the booth, and we are working on panels for each side that have text information about who we are, and what we do. In the past

we just had a bunch of pictures stuck on the back drop.

I thought it might be a good time to speak a little about our trade show booths, and what we expect of our members who man the booths. First of all, the trade show booths are intended to support the entire SAMS® organization. If you are providing your time to man the booth, we hope that you understand that it is for the

benefit of all our members. What we want booth attendants to do is to promote SAMS® as the high quality professional organization that it is. This means that you are expected to dress appropriately, and put forth a professional look and attitude. If you want to promote your individual business, and pass out your personal business cards, we expect you to step out of the booth to do so. The booth space and display are paid for out of the advertising funds that belong to all of our members, and the purpose is to promote all SAMS® members, not individual members. Please respect the fact that it is for the benefit of all of us. We do not allow individuals to lay their business cards or business brochures on the tables in the SAMS® booth. If you want to promote your own business, I suggest that you purchase your own booth space.

I hope this newsletter finds all of us busy and prosperous.

# Greetings From the Snowy & Bitter Cold “Rain Forest” of Southeast Alaska

Jim Sepel, AMS®

Immediate Past President



Our SAMS® International Conference was a rousing success! The line-up of speakers arranged by Kenny Weinbrecht was excellent. We had a wide variety of topics from cargo, stability, CE inspections, fire investigation, and much more. I especially enjoyed hearing a real judge (Honorable Maria Espinosa Dennis) talk about her actual court room experiences with expert witnesses. And, that was quickly followed by a sharp attorney (Jim Mercante) who amplified on what the judge said. The turnout was fantastic, and my only regret is that I did not get to spend more time with many of you. I would see an old acquaintance way across the room, try to get over to say hello, only to discover that I couldn't find them because of the crowd!

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## PROFESSIONAL NOTE:

Have you ever started a fire during a survey? Well, that almost happened to my assistant and I. We were surveying a 32' "bow-picker" gill-net fishing vessel, on the hard, in winter storage. The prospective buyer was with us; but, the owner was out of town. During the course of the survey, I asked my assistant to test the engine room bilge pump (Rule 1500) by raising the float switch lever. He lifted the lever and nothing happened. I turned the bilge pump breaker on and off and still nothing happened. We noted that the bilge pump did not appear to work, and we moved on to another area. Meanwhile, in a couple of minutes, all three of us "smelled something". It was that distinct odor of something electrical that was over-heating. We quickly began to look around and retrace our steps. My assistant said: "there's something going on with this bilge pump!" Closer examination showed white smoke pouring out of a crack in the top of the pump.

I quickly went to the breaker and repeatedly turned it ON and OFF. The pump kept smoking, so I had my assistant disconnect both leads to the pump. We let it cool down and removed it from the vessel. (By the way, we never found a fuse.) Here's a photo of the pump "smoking". The white smoke is faint and may be hard to see. This incident was reported in the survey with the recommendation to "consult with a marine electrician".

## ETHICS NOTE:

So, regarding this bilge pump "over-heat", should the owner of the boat be contacted? My client was the buyer.

Yes, the thought occurred to me that I might be buying

the owner a new bilge pump. And, I believed it was my responsibility to contact the owner. So, I gave him a call and described what happened.

That call revealed a lot of information:

1. He thanked me and was not surprised that there was an issue.
2. He said that his mechanic "may have stepped on top of the pump".
3. And, more importantly, he said portions of the 12 volt system had been rewired, and that the panel with the bilge pump breaker was actually "disconnected"!

Nothing like some white smoke to get your blood pressure up! And, it was a relief not to have to involve our general liability insurance in this.

## One more thing:

I recently received another one of those "indemnity" agreements from an insurance company that I have done damage claims for. I won't mention their name, but it begins with the letter "C". They wanted me to sign the indemnity agreement that they drafted. We (your Board of Directors) have gone over this in the past and have advised our members not to sign these things; but, just for fun I ran this agreement by my attorney. He recommend that I not sign it because I would be agreeing to indemnify (pay for) any "negligence" from the "beginning of time" to the "end of time", including not only survey errors but also incidents involving my motor vehicle or even my computer (example is that my computer infects their computer with a virus). The fact that I carry legal liability with my SAMS® membership and personally carry E & O should be good enough according to my attorney. Enough said! Don't sign these.



## Our Time is Important

Lloyd Kittredege AMS®  
Membership VP



The 2010 Annual Meeting & Educational Symposia held in Ft. Lauderdale was very well attended and the topics were great. Even though some of the speakers talked about subjects that do not fit in my scope of work, it sure broadens my knowledge and one never knows when you will be called on to do something different. I know in my case this has happened and has increased my income.

I don't know about you, but that is important to me and has produced dollars when we are shut down in the winter here in the north.

Membership is hovering around the 1000 mark with all of our categories. With the economy still soft in a lot of areas of the country, I think we are doing well by holding our own. Rhea and our office staff continue to improve our methods of handling paperwork and membership falls into this area. It takes time to make changes of this scope, but

we will be making savings on labor, paper and postage in this portion of our corporate business.



Our Regional Directors are doing a very good job of reviewing applications. Their turn around time is getting shorter. They are making good decisions and doing an outstanding job in reviewing candidates files. Again I ask that when the RD calls you for your input and leaves a message on your phone, please return his call so he does not have to keep trying to reach you. Their time is just as important as yours and you can sure make his job a little easier by doing this. My last point is the same one that I have been writing about in the last several issues and that is for the SA's that are getting close to testing--DO IT TIMELY AND TEST AS SOON AS YOU CAN. If you don't pass it the first time at least you will have an idea of what the tests are like. We all went through this part of our organization. Now I will get off the soap box.

Have a good spring and for the people up north, expand your scope of work, it puts dollars in your pocket and makes you more valuable to your clients.

**“Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death”**

Albert Einstein

## You May Be More Qualified Than You Think

Darrell Boyes, AMS®  
Pacific Regional Director



This has been a year of change and professional growth for many surveyors in the Pacific Area. I fielded phone calls from several surveyors that had been asked to provide a service that they had concerns about. These concerns revolved around the question of qualifications.

In each case we spent some time in conversation about what experience was needed for the assignment, as well as what experience they possessed. As we discussed this, it became apparent that they may be more qualified than what they had first thought.

Please do not misunderstand what I am attempting to convey here. I am not recommending that every assignment be taken without careful consideration of personal qualifications. What I am suggesting is that before turning down an assignment you find out what is needed. Then, carefully consider experience you may have that you do not use on a regular basis.

In one instance a surveyor had been contacted by an Insurance company and was requested to look at some damage for them. The carrier indicated that they had no one available anywhere around the area except this surveyor. (They had used the SAMS® directory to locate this surveyor.) The surveyor initially declined, and after we talked, contacted the carrier and was able to take the job.

The surveyor was able to discuss the needs of the carrier in detail, and shared with this carrier the fact that they did not have a great deal of experience with this type of assignment. The carrier acknowledged this and they were able to work together and complete the task.

Again, I want to stress that not all assignments should be taken and that care must be exercised not to take an assignment that you are not qualified for. Remember, whatever the assignment is; we are called to inspect / investigate and report.

I would like to close by thanking all of you that have helped me in planning events and putting together our Regional Newsletter.

## Let's Clean Our Desks

Alison Mazon, AMS®

Testing VP



I recently resolved to see what the top of my desk looked like. I spent a full day clearing, filing, tossing, and organizing. Amazing! In doing so, I feel like I have a far better handle on my work. All current work is in folders and prioritized and I feel more effective. I now have the current SAMS® Bylaws, and General Membership Policy on top of my clean desk for immediate access. I keep a sheet under my clear desk mat to tally all CE credits. And, I have to say, being organized makes me feel more professional. So what you ask? Well, I have a good reason for boring you with my office cleaning.

In the course of work, home life, bills, politics, hobbies and other mind cluttering events, it is common to lose sight of the basics necessary to succeed in important areas. About the most important goal for a Surveyor Associate is to build a success path to becoming a successful, professional, respected marine surveyor. Within the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors®, the single most important benchmark is to achieve Accredited Marine Surveyor status.

A good majority of our SA's make it through and become successful AMS®s. However, as a board member, we too often see those who approach their "up or out" date unprepared. They may lack CE credits, the 12 surveys per year requirement, and/or sufficient knowledge to pass the AMS® exam. No one wishes to be in this situation. The good news is that it is entirely avoidable. If this is your chosen profession (and it must be if you're reading this),

then you owe it to yourself to ensure your success. Below is a very brief outline that should guarantee your success if you follow it:

### Preparation

Education: ABYC, NFPA, IAMI, NAMS, Webinars, PROBOAT, trade pubs

Library: build a quality resource library

Mentor: Try to associate with senior members, attend local surveyor's functions

Upgrade survey report quality

Local education opportunities

Monitor and Report your CE credits annually

### Planning

Keep the SAMS® Policy Manual, Bylaws, and Recommended Survey Content at the ready.

Know your eligibility date and what your CE requirements are  
Write a short "Success Plan" incorporating the above.

### Execution

Follow your success plan, Strive to learn every day

Strive to be the best professional surveyor

Never get in an ethics bind

Always act in a professional manner

Request upgrade immediately upon eligibility

Sit for exam at earliest opportunity

So, if you haven't done it yet, **clean off your desk**, post a copy of the above Steps to Success in an always visible location, and be a successful AMS® candidate.



*"To reach a port, we must sail—Sail,  
not tie at anchor—Sail, not drift.*

*Franklin Roosevelt*

## News From the Northeast

Paul Logue, AMS®

Northeast Regional Director



Some trends that have come out of the last meetings: We should all start documenting how we arrive at our values. For instance state your sources and the value ranges you used to arrive at the value. We all do it any way. Now like school we need to start showing our work. I have reviewed a fair amount of applications and the reports state just a

value. No ranges or sources are listed. In the long run this will only help you. Especially when someone questions it. There are many good sources out there to use. Soldboats, ABOS, NADA, BUC and Yachtworld. As you know you just have to know how to use which source for the type of vessel you are valuing. I am actually seeing BUC and NADA come down to a more realistic number. They used to be 20 plus % above soldboat averages and actual asking prices on Yachtworld. You will see soon this part of our recommended survey content.

# Surveying A Haunted Freighter

By D.G. Walton, AMS®

In the Great Lakes Area in the Winter time, one must find, "alternative" sources of income, when the Marine Surveying slows down. For me the only choice was to go "Ship Keeping". For the novices out there, picture a Lighthouse keeper around the year 1900 and you will know what I mean.

My job for four years was to Baby Sit huge "Ore Carriers" during the Winter lay up season. This consisted of being on "Watch" 24-7, painting, cleaning etc.

My first "Command", was of the most famous Great Lakes Ship, next to the Ill Fated Edmund Fitzgerald. She was the 730' S.S. Middletown, formally the U.S. Navy Oil Tanker, "Neshanic". 75' on the beam, at 26,300 tons. An "Un-Lucky" omen, was that she was launched on Halloween, October 31, 1942. Lucky or un-lucky, I was born on Halloween, October 31, 1948.

This is the only vessel still working, that was awarded "Battle Stars" by President Roosevelt for its participation in the Battle Of Midway.



She was sunk twice and beached and hit by Kamikaze Suicide planes. After the war she was sold to Gulf Oil and exploded in a collision with another vessel killing all on board. However, she was refurbished and still sails to this very day, as the "American Victory".

All told it is reported that at least 350 people have been killed on this vessel and her "Hard Luck" continues with a series of fatal accidents occurring on a regular basis. It is said she is 'Haunted' by all the lost "Spirits", that roam her decks. I can attest to that fact after being the only

"Living" Soul aboard her for two very long Winters.

Not only hearing things that go Bump in the night, but hearing footsteps in the halls, when no one was there. I would shut doors at night, only to find some of them open the next day. I would put heavy steel round bars up against the main entrance door and the next day find them 25' away, neatly spaced on the deck. Spooky Stuff.

As a Musician, I would practice my music after Supper and I think the "Ghost" must have liked my music, because they would leave me alone. I would see things out of the corner of my eyes, but in an instant, they were gone.

Dock workers would sometimes come aboard to do some required maintenance, only to run off the vessel screaming they had seen a "Ghost". This happened on more or less a regular basis. Many is the night I would hear something, "Not of this Earth" and pull the covers up over my head. This seemed to keep the "Spirits" at bay.

After a month or so, boredom started to set in, so I decided to do a "Survey" on the vessel. She is one of the last "Steamers" still around, with Massive Boilers that are now Oil Fired. One can still find traces of old machine gun bullet holes that were filled in with welds and repairs that were made after the torpedoes from Japanese Submarines hit her. All in all a very interesting piece of History. Her steel plating was approx. 1" thick with years of paint on her decks. She will be around longer than most of us.

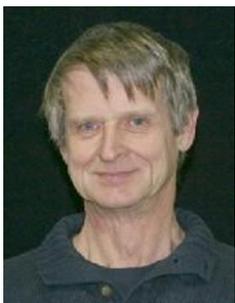
That is, if the "ghost" don't get us.

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## A Banner Year

Peter McGuire, AMS®

Candian Regional Director



Our 2010 Regional Meeting was held in late November at the Port Credit Yacht Club. 23 attended and heard presentations on "Auxiliary engines", "Sailboat rigging" and "Yacht insurance". The meeting was rounded off with a visit to the "Canada Centre for Inland Waters" at Burlington, ON where the group toured the Hydrographic department and boat repair workshop.

My thanks to Wallace Gouk, AMS® for arranging the Port Credit venue and to Al Geyer, AMS® for the Canada Centre tour.

As in previous years, SAMS® had a booth at the 2011

Toronto International Boat Show in January. My thanks to those who volunteered shifts. At the SAMS® Board meeting in February I collected a SAMS® banner. This is for use by all Region members at local shows and presentations etc. Please contact me if you wish to use it.

I am pleased to announce that Mike Savage, AMS® has been appointed SAMS® Sub Regional Director for Quebec. Mike's role is to keep an eye on the surveying scene in La Belle Province and to assist your RD in screening new applicants.

We are looking to coordinate a Regional Meeting in Ottawa in the fall to coincide with the November session.

Finally, congratulations to Craig Morley of West Lorne, Ontario. Craig passed his Yacht and Small Craft exam in March so is now officially a SAMS®, AMS®. Doing a quick tally, I believe that Craig's was the 11th AMS® test I have proctored here in Toronto!!

Wishing all our members a prosperous surveying year. Looking forward to seeing a great turnout in Halifax, NS for the 2011 (25th anniversary) SAMS® International Meeting!

## NFPA Update

Kenneth J. Weinbrecht, AMS®, CMS, ASA, CMI  
Education VP

I would like to inform everyone that SAMS® Board of Directors has approved a committee to pursue a requirement with the USCG to require smoke detectors on vessels as per NFPA 302, 12.2.

If everyone of us put a recommendation in our comments that smoke detectors although not required by the USCG on un-inspected vessels of 26' or more in length, should be installed as per NFPA 302, many fires might have been caught before it got to the point of a disaster. They are required in homes, hospitals, buildings, restaurants, INSPECTED VESSELS, RV's, etc. Why not recreational vessels?

NFPA is an international standard, they require it.....why shouldn't every other standard! Funny the CG requires them on inspected vessels but not on un-inspected vessels?

You can all help SAMS® by requiring this on your recommendations. The committee is determined to make this a CFR!

The members of the committee are:

Ken Weinbrecht, AMS®, SAMS® Education VP, CMS, ASA, CMI - NFPA 302 Motor Craft Safety  
John McDevitt, SA - NFPA 302 Motor Craft Safety  
Kristoffer Diel, AMS®, Gulf Regional Director  
George Gallup, AMS®, SAMS® President  
Joe Loble, AMS®, SAMS® Exec. VP

Here's how you can help. If you've had a boat fire claim let the committee know via email. Did they have a smoke detector? Was there a loss of life or property? Was the Boating Accident Report CG3865 filed? (loss of life or damage over \$2000). How many of you do claims more then \$2000 and the insured never filed the report? We should make them file one.

The USCG boating accident report form is not being filled out by the boat owners and sent to the CG. At a recent conference I was informed that only about 10% of all reported accidents and property damage get reported, especially fires to the USCG. The statistics are skewed.

Help your organization start a new CFR and protect the boating public from loss of life and property!

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## Meet the New Florida Regional Director

Robert Heekin, AMS®  
Florida Regional Director



Many of you already know it, but I have been branded as the new Florida Regional Director. Just so everyone can differentiate, I am the Frick of the Frick and Frack duo. I sincerely look forward to working with our Board of Directors and other Regional Directors in making SAMS® the best of the best. I candidly took the position

because of my fondness and utter respect for our President George Gallup. I also feel that I was secretly being groomed for something by Jim Wood presently from Idaho where boats are something of an anomaly.

I replace the hard working Jerry Schmitt of Ft. Pierce, Florida. Jerry has been very supportive in my indoctrination period. It was news to me but the Florida Region captivates the Bahamas and the Caribbean as part of its massive membership body. I now wonder what the rest of Florida and my region are doing for work because it seems that everyone has selected surveying as their primary occupation. I recently attended the Florida Regional meeting in mid March at the Pelican Yacht Club. Jerry presided with a huge turn out and a very interesting and

diverse group of speakers. I hope I can keep the meetings at this beautiful venue as I found it perfect in terms of price, logistics and amenities. We had a remarkable view of the Ft. Pierce Inlet and the Regional Director seems to get VIP treatment.

I was recently in Jacksonville on non SAMS® business and I decided to poke my head into the SAMS® headquarters. Once again I was surprised at what I witnessed at our corporate command center. We "own" this small but cute house in a part of Jacksonville that is striving to obtain civilized status. I also witnessed 3 wonderful gals headed by Rhea Shea carefully sharing space and working hard behind the scenes. The SAMS® related paperwork has grown exponentially in complexity since the days when Mary Stahler was in charge. It is obvious that we have come a long way with Downing Nightingale providing his unparalleled local knowledge and guidance along the way. I am told that our new and improved headquarters is on the horizon.

As part of my job, I get to submit these seasonal reports. I hope that my reports will add some color to the newsletter that appears to be evolving into a literary art form.

# How to Ensure Our Continued Success

Randy Renn, AMS®,  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Director



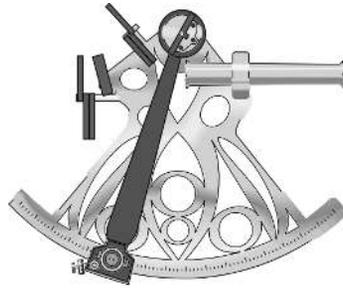
Hello There Surveyors from the Mid Atlantic! First I would like to thank all those who attended the International Meeting and Conference in Ft. Lauderdale and in particular our Office and Board who work tirelessly for the benefit of us all. What a job they do indeed!

Here we go again with yet another Spring on the horizon and Winter behind us.

We have seen the new boat dealers and old line repairers falling away like flaking paint and the strongest surviving the maelstrom as they always will. With Spring upon us it is time to get our houses in order to be ready to get up and go for it one more time. You have heard this article say again and again that we have to make our presence known and no better time than now. Yes, now is the time to prepare that waterside for your return in just ninety odd days.

One way to ensure our continuing success is our wonderful networking system. Whether it is Boat Pokers, Boat Shows or Association meetings we are always in some form of contact so make it to your advantage. One of those contact possibilities lays in sub regional early AM breakfast meetings. Val Lippa, AMS® and company in Norfolk VA have a meeting the third Tuesday in Norfolk and Bill Love, SA, the Third Thursday in Annapolis. Anyone else wish to set one up closer to your location? A great networking tool and enables those of us of differing stripes to access a larger talent pool.

Time will not pass when a surveyor will call and ask if we can inspect a Weak Bottom 41 with twin burnt whatizts ....



and sometimes you just have to say no Thank You but Capt Pier Bumper who I have recently met may be able to help. On an advisory heading, please, please do not take an assignment you cannot properly perform! If you can not tell someone or their attorney in glowing terms the difference between a Ketch and a Yawl, a Running Back stay and a Triactic then do not presume to be able to opine on sail condition when set!

Recently I took a lesson when told by another surveyor that the job I turned down on a recently designed engine required that the spark plugs be "Indexed" as to electrode location! Wonderful lesson and Wow that could have been a costly error without that information. Thank You! Fellow Surveyors.

Our region numbers are as usual staying roughly the same with the numbers of AMS® going up at an impressive percentage ratio. What has not gone up however is the average passing grade on the AMS® test. This may be that the test has become more defined or expansive. Whatever the case it indicates that you should prep well before you test and test as soon as possible so that you might not run out of time in order to retest if required. Remember to keep your surveys for reference during the upgrade procedure as well as records of your CE units.

Still looking for any tidbits or large news items to install in the upcoming Regional Newsletters. How about something educational from a hard fought survey, delivery voyage or schooling adventure. We have some funds available for local activities in our region so if you have an activity in your area run the idea up the mast and we can work on it. The Mid Atlantic phone is always open for questions so please do call with questions and comments-tell me surveyors don't have comments.

All the Best and keep those hammers swinging.....

IF YOU GIVE IT AWAY IT HAS NO VALUE!!

The upcoming elections for SAMS® Board of Directors will be held at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on October 8, 2011.

If anyone is interested in running for a position on the SAMS® Board of Directors, please contact the International Office at 800-344-9077, 904-384-1494 or [samshq@marinesurvey.org](mailto:samshq@marinesurvey.org)



Good Day Surveyors of All Stripes:

This is another letter to inform and entertain on the hot subject of Global Harmonization. Wow what a late night read, full of enlightening moments! Actually this may be a fairly good time to feebly explain by way of example how the process works in basic form. One subject of the many subject in progress might be an "ISO" Working Group(s) concern over the return temperature of diesel fuel to "Plastic" fuel cells. Note: This subject is a tiny part of the process which is varied and endless.

This results in suggested additions to the ISO Standards #21487:2006 and 10088:2009 both of which deal with installed fuel systems and have counterparts in ABYC H-24 and H33. The suggestions to the ISO Standards are straight forward and in simple terms suggest that "plastic" tanks have markings that indicate what operating temperature they are capable of handling. The changes may define "Petrol" as being a hydrocarbon and denatured ethanol and adds to diesel definition "Bio Fuels". Another change might be diesel tanks having 200mm access openings and some testing references for integral tanks. This is the type of thing we may cross as part of a repower or new build inspection-PDA.

How would we know about this? Well the answer is painless and you likely have it on your desk! Just engage your fingers and peruse ABYC H-24 and H-33-fuel systems Annexes. There in clear print are the ISO, ABYC/CFR comparisons and wonderfully clear explanations. ABYC with ISO additions equals ISO compliance and ISO with ABYC additions equals ABYC and USCG compliance.

What are "Working Groups"-a very generic term. The foreword of ISO Standards states in large part. "ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a world wide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO also take part in the work.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75% of the member bodies casting a vote.

ISO 21487 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC(Technical Committee) 188, Small Craft". TC 188 could be made up Industry parties, NMMA, ABYC, perhaps fuel tank manufacturers and fuel line or component builders in this case. Shifter or engine builders on a neutral safety switch committee or fly by wire control group.

There you are, I think. A situation arises, a concern is voiced, a committee put it out to a working group, suggestions are made from the group, interested parties are heard from and amendments could possibly be made or standards created. From this vantage point this is a drawn out process as the process of harmonizing past and established standards is difficult enough without having such a rapidly expanding product market.

On a completely different note the Association of Marine Surveying Organizations-AMSO is to be announced on November 19, 2010 in Singapore at the IMO-International Marine Organization meeting. The working group for the organization was formed in December of 2008 of which SAMS® is a participant. SAMS® was in attendance as were NAMS and fourteen other surveyors groups for the 2008 meeting.. Will update as progress is made in one direction or another.

Hope the explanation was of some help. Please call with questions-Seeing You on the Quay.....Randy

## International Office Staff Doing A Great Job!

Kristoffer A. Diel, AMS®,  
Gulf Regional Director



Congratulations are in order to our renewed AMS® member Mr. Luka Frankovic, AMS® in Hull and Machinery, Metairie, Louisiana.

Also Mr. Casey J. Brooks of Rio Dulce, Guatamala, has joined SAMS® and is qualified to sit for his exam at his earliest opportunity.

We also have 4 new Surveyor Associates in the Gulf Region:

Mr. James F. (Scott) Phillips, Galveston, Texas  
Mr. Gary Goldstein, San Carlos, Mexico  
Mr. Clinton Evans, Corpus Christi, Texas

I ask all members to reach out to the new members and offer support and mentoring.

We held the SAMS® Gulf Regional Annual Meeting, December 3rd. Captain Chris Rieder, recently retired as the President of the New Orleans / Baton Rouge (NOBRA) Pilots Association, was our featured speaker. He gave a fine presentation about the "Importance of Inland Maritime Commerce". Mr. Jim Merritt, AMS®-SMS, NAMS President Dick Frenzel, AMS®-SMS, and Tom Benton, AMS®-SMS spoke on several topics ranging from Ethics to Litigation Support. Thanks to the speakers and thanks for the members who attended.

Stay safe. Tie down your ladders. Check your records for your CE credit status. Best wishes for a prosperous 2011!

I am on the other end of the line if you need some assistance.

# New York State extends deadline to meet ballast water regulations

Dan McDonald, AMS®  
Cargo Chairman



I have written previously about legislation coming out of the state of New York that requires ships to meet ballast water treatment regulations that are not achievable with current technology. To their credit, New York State authorities have extended the deadline for ships to meet its ballast water regulations from January 1, 2012 to August 1, 2013. New York State explains that the extension of the deadline for meeting the New York Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification is due to the lack of available technology to meet this standard, which is 100 times more stringent than that of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention. In reality, pushing ahead with the new regulations at this time would cause untold harm to the economy, as it covered not only ships calling at ports within New York State but also ships passing through.

Meanwhile, IMO's Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (BLG) concluded its 14th session on February 11, 2011. The work on the Ballast Water Management Convention agreed on a recommendation for guidelines on approval of other methods of ballast water management. There was also agreement for more shipboard testing of type approved systems of ballast water treatment.

It is clear that we are getting closer to a solution to ballast water issues, but even the new deadline set by New York State does not seem realistic based on current testing of possible systems. All of this leaves ship-owners in a very precarious position. I know of more than one major marine carrier that are in the process of fleet renewal, with several ships being built, but must wait for both technology and regulations to be updated before the ballast treatment systems can be installed. It seems likely that there will soon be a new set of regulations for ballast water management, including a need for more monitoring. I encourage fellow marine surveyors to keep abreast of these regulations, as there could be opportunities to become part of the solution.

## Members' Corner By Rhea Shea, Office Manager August 2010 - March 2011

The following members are now **Accredited Marine Surveyors**, with the earned designator: **"Yacht & Small Craft"**

<b>Alex Dormoy</b> , Miami, FL	<b>Marian Lambrecht</b> , Chicago, IL	<b>John C. Mantyk</b> , Algonac, MI
<b>David E. Ghidoni</b> , Key West, FL	<b>James R. Lang</b> , Las Vegas, NV	<b>David McFarlin</b> , Manchester, CT
<b>Ross "Butch" Immediato, Jr.</b> , Newark, DE	<b>Richard E. Leasure</b> , Grand Bay, AL	<b>Craig D. Morley</b> , West Lorne, ON, Canada
<b>Matthew R. Jamison</b> , Jamestown, RI	<b>Jean K. Levine</b> , Punta Gorda, FL	<b>Alan Wiersema</b> , Berlin, CT
<b>Geordie H. King</b> , Eliot, ME	<b>Ciro J. Malatrasi</b> , Fajardo, PR	

The following members are now **Accredited Marine Surveyors** with the earned designator: **"Tug & Barge"**

**James E. Stansbury, III**, Morgan City, LA      **Lloyd Griffin, III**, Elizabeth City, NC

The following members are now **Accredited Marine Surveyors** with the earned designator: **"Hull & Machinery"**

**Luka Frankovic**, Kenner, LA

The following people have been accepted into SAMS® as **Surveyor Associates (SA's)**:

<b>R. Dylan Bailey</b> , St. Augustine, FL	<b>Tracy James Duepner</b> , Page, AZ	<b>Brian McGillivray</b> , Port Clinton, OH
<b>Marino Rodriguez Batalla</b> , Miami, FL	<b>Todd A. Duff</b> , St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.	<b>Ian Ombres</b> , Tequesta, FL
<b>Doug Birely</b> , Stuart, FL	<b>Michael G. Fissell</b> , Little Silver, NJ	<b>Joe Phillips</b> , Hudgins, VA
<b>Priscilla Blankenship</b> , Bradenton, FL	<b>Gary Goldstein</b> , San Carlos, Mexico	<b>Richard Sassmann</b> , Miami, FL
<b>John M Brandes, II</b> , Guatemala	<b>Geoffrey S. Grainger</b> , Belgium, WI	<b>Joseph Thomas Tehton</b> , Spring Hill, FL
<b>Casey J. Brooks</b> , Guatemala	<b>David L. Gunderson</b> , W. Palm Bch, FL	<b>Kenneth Charles Walker</b> , Marina, CA
<b>Wendell E. Brunk</b> , Tukwila, WA	<b>Frank Sean Hodgson</b> , Ft. Lauderdale, FL	<b>Anthony R. Williams</b> , Wilmington, NC
<b>James "Kirk" Campbell</b> , Smith River, CA	<b>Matthew Kirk-Buss</b> , Vancouver, BC, Can	<b>Dean Williams</b> , Buford, GA
<b>Byron Capo</b> , St. Augustine, FL	<b>James (Terry) Lee</b> , Jacksonville, FL	<b>Malcolm Winter</b> , La Paz, BCS, Mexico
<b>Carl B. Carnevale</b> , Warwick, RI	<b>Thomas A. Martin</b> , St. Petersburg, FL	<b>Tolga Yalcin</b> , Turkey

**New Affiliate Members:** **Barney Gerdt**s of Plainfield, IN and **Douglas A. Graham** of Melville, NY

**Applicants seeking Membership with SAMS®:**

<b>Michael Maguire</b> , Warwick, RI	<b>Pierre Richard</b> , Chambly, QC, Canada
	<b>Clare Dennis Snider</b> , Thunder, ON, Canada

## Great Lakes West Systems Seminar was Well Received

Bob Horvath, AMS®

Great Lakes Regional Director



Since my last article we have had a lot of activity at the International Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale with a great educational program. Thank you Ken Weinbrecht, AMS® and the ladies at our International Office that work so hard to insure we have all the parts and pieces in place for our meetings.

The Great Lakes Region also had a great program at the “WEST SYSTEMS” facility in Bay City, MI. Big thanks to Jack Mormon, AMS® for getting me in touch with the proper person to arrange for our seminar. We sold out in a little over a week after it was announced where our meeting would be held. All of the attendees could not say enough good things about the program and workshop. The workshop was really hands on. We actually made a few items using advanced composites such as Carbon/Kevlar™ products. (See Pictures below).

We have also had another Great Lakes Regional meeting in Grand Rapids, MI at the Country Inn Hotel. The program was “Failure Analysis for Marine Surveyors” presented by Ms. Debbie Aliya, President of “Aliya Analytical Inc.”

I would like to thank Jim Cukrowicz, AMS® for getting Ms. Aliya to do the presentation. Also thanks to Bob Ptak, AMS® and Charles Miller, AMS® for their assistance in making my life easier.

As I have mentioned in the past it takes more than one person to put together these meetings.

I am happy to report that we now have a “Great Lakes Regional News Letter” thanks to the efforts of our newly appointed editor Matt Mathews, SA. The first edition was emailed back in September and we got a lot of excellent feed back. We thank you Matt for a job well done. Please do not hesitate to email Matt or myself with ideas on future articles that would be of interest to our group. We plan on having 3 to 4 issues a year so we need plenty of feed back.

I have not yet worked out the subject and place for our next regional meeting. I am in contact with several different people but have not yet gotten a commitment.

I will keep everyone posted as things progress through our “Great Lakes Members Only” email list.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Halifax for our International Meeting and celebration of SAMS® 25th anniversary.

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### West Systems Seminar - Bay City, Michigan





# SAMS<sup>®</sup> NEWS

Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors<sup>®</sup>, Inc

**Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors<sup>®</sup>, Inc**  
**7855 Argyle Forest Blvd., #203**  
**Jacksonville, Florida 32244-5730**

## **SAMS<sup>®</sup>** **Annual Meeting &** **Educational Symposia** **October 5 – 8, 2011**

*join us at the*  
*Halifax Marriott Harbourfront*

Hotel Information:

1919 Upper Water Street, Halifax, NS, Canada  
Phone: 902-421-1700 or 800-943-6760

(Identify yourself as a member of SAMS<sup>®</sup> Group)  
Deadline for Room Rate is Sept. 14, 2011

Registration Packets will be  
mailed in August

*A few scheduled topics include:*

- Structural Failure Analysis of Cores
  - Transport Canada
- Nova Scotia Boat Builders
- Lunenburg Forging & Casting
- Insuring Antique Vessels
  - Hinckley

