

C & B Newsletter

Issue 60

November 2017

Lazy Bench

The Christmas Tree Ship

Greg Schabell

Safety Manager

The *Rouse Simmons* was a three-mast schooner that hauled lumber during the height of the age of sail on Lake Michigan in the late 1900s. By that time, the German tradition of decorating an evergreen tree in the home was popular in the US, and the demand for Christmas trees was great. Herman Schuenemann had acquired an interest in the “tramp” vessel and hauled trees directly to Chicago docks to sell, using the slogan “Christmas Tree Ship: My Prices are the Lowest” with electric Christmas lights and a tree atop the mast. The Chicago newspapers and residents bestowed him with the title “Captain Santa” for his reputation for generosity and giving trees to the city’s needy. On November 22, 1912 they sailed with ~5000 trees, so that the vessel looked like a “floating forest.” Severe weather and approaching storms had deterred most ships from sailing. The vessel passed several docks flying its flag at half-mast, a universal sign of distress, and a rescue attempt was made with a powered vessel, but the ship never made it to Chicago and was never seen again. Christmas trees washed onto the shore for months. The legacy of the ship and crew lives on in frequent ghost sightings and ghost stories for tourists. In early December of each year, the final voyage of Captain Santa and the Christmas Tree...

Ship is commemorated by the USCG Cutter *Mackinaw*, which makes the journey from northern Michigan to deliver a symbolic load of Christmas trees to Chicago’s disadvantaged.

Ed “Griswold” Eichhorn’s Christmas light display is keeping local power plants in business!



Safety Department

Holiday Stress Tips

Greg Schabell

Safety Manager

As you all know, the Holidays can be stressful. Working in the barge and towing industry is sometimes hard enough without the pressures the holidays can bring. We all seem to be under some kind of pressure during this time of the year: fitting in all our complicated family time, added expenses, etc. Still some of us make this the best holiday time of the year. Here are some simple reminders to help you cope with some of those items:

1. **Acknowledge your feelings.** If someone close to you has recently died or you can't be with loved ones, realize that it's normal to feel sadness and grief. You can't force yourself to be happy just because it's the holiday season.
2. **Reach out.** If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out community, religious or other social events. They can offer support and companionship. Volunteering your time to help others also is a good way to lift your spirits and broaden your friendships.
3. **Be realistic.** The holidays don't have to be perfect or just like last year. As families change...

Inside This Issue

1. The Christmas Tree Ship
2. Holiday Stress Tips
3. Calling Management for Critical Maintenance Issues
4. Christmas Tree Fire Safety
5. Getting Your Vehicle Ready for Winter
6. Carbon Monoxide
7. Quote of the Month
8. Photo Gallery
9. Calendar Events
10. Announcements



and grow, traditions and rituals often change as well. Choose a few to hold on to, and be open to creating new ones. For example, if you're adult children can't come to your house, find new ways to celebrate together, such as sharing pictures, emails or videos.

4. **Set aside differences.** Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don't live up to all of your expectations. Set aside grievances until a more appropriate time for discussion. And be understanding if others get upset or distressed when something goes awry. Chances are they're feeling the effects of holiday stress too.

5. **Stick to a budget.** Before you go gift and food shopping, decide how much money you can truly afford to spend. Then stick to your budget. Don't try to buy happiness with an avalanche of gifts. As we all know, the simplest gifts from the heart are the best and most memorable. Multiple studies prove that a child will remember and be impacted more by an experience you share together than any present.

6. **Don't abandon healthy habits.** Don't let the holidays become a free-for-all. Overindulgence only adds to your stress and guilt. Sleep is very important so get plenty of it! Incorporate regular physical activity into each day, if nothing more than just a good morning or pre job stretch!

7. **Take a breather.** Make some time for yourself. Spending just 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to handle everything you need to do. Find something that reduces stress by slowing your breathing and restoring some inner calm (serenity now).

8. **Seek professional help if you need it.** Despite your best efforts, you may find yourself feeling persistently sad or anxious, plagued by physical complaints, unable to sleep, irritable and hopeless, and unable to face routine chores. If these feelings last for a while, talk to your doctor or other health professionals. Remember the **Employee Assistance Program** is available and strictly confidential for all members of the C&B Marine family.

Marine

Calling Management for Critical Maintenance Items

Ed Lapikas

C&B Marine General Manager

Effective immediately, we need to ensure that everyone is completing an ERL daily, and are reporting any critical findings back to myself, David, and your immediate supervisor via phone call in addition to documenting on your ERL. It is vital that we stay on top of these logs because they contain vital information that informs us how the boat is functioning. The issue that we're having is...

employees are just documenting on logs and not advising management if there is a major issue. I can't stress enough that we have to be aware of anything that would affect our boats performance or cause harm. Our equipment is the companies and employees livelihood and must be maintained as effectively as possible – that's why we need notification via phone call for any major issue that arises. Many things can change operationally in the time it takes to receive and read an email the following morning. Therefore, please call immediately with any critical issue so we can take the proper steps towards resolution. Our team is the backbone of this company. Thank you for all that you do every day!

Safety Department

Christmas Tree Fire Safety

Greg Schabell

Safety Manager

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. When showcasing a live tree in your home, the combination of tree dryness, electrical malfunction with lights and poorly located heating sources can make for a deadly combination.

Picking the tree – choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the tree – ensure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights; it is not blocking an exit; and add water daily.

Lighting the tree - use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory (some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use); replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections (read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect); never use lit candles to decorate the tree; always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Finally, when your tree begins to drop its needles, it's time to say goodbye. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program near you.

Safety Department

Getting Your Vehicle Ready for Winter

Larry Cox

Safety, Training and Compliance Coordinator

The winter season can be detrimental for cars, which

is why it's important drivers prepare well in advance of when the harshest conditions arrive. Although the best time to begin preparing vehicles for cold weather is in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, it's not too late. The following are six things to consider when preparing your vehicle to withstand cold weather and for a safe driving experience:

Monitor tire pressure – It's important to check your tire pressure once a month, especially during the winter, since a tire's pressure can drop as the air becomes colder. An under-inflated tire underperforms and can experience excessive wear. If uncertain about what level of PSI your tire should be, the proper inflation level can typically be found inside the driver's door jam.

Have your battery tested – Battery capacity decreases significantly in cold weather, so it's important to have the battery tested to ensure it's at peak performance. Parking a car in a garage, out of the freezing cold, is another way to ensure battery performance. Having jumper cables handy or a booster pack is also important.

Look for cracks in windshields and make sure wiper blades are in working order – cracks or chips on the windshield are likely to worsen in extreme cold temperatures. Getting those repaired can help prevent these from becoming more extensive. Replacing wiper blades to ensure they can handle the various elements and keep the windshield clear is recommended. In addition check washer fluid and use a washer fluid that's rated for subfreezing temperatures. In addition, make sure the defrosters are in proper working order to help keep the windshield from ice and snow accumulation.

Add a coat of wax to your car – a fresh coat of wax before the snow starts falling can help protect a car against damage from salt and dirt on the roads. Road salt, while an important factor to combat icy roads, can cause extensive damage to vehicles over time because it is corrosive. Applying wax especially on the lower parts of the vehicle, including behind the wheels, quarter panels and front grille is recommended because ice, snow and salt tend to build up and stay in these areas the longest.

Inspect headlights and brake lights – it's vital to have fully functioning headlights and brake lights when dealing with thick winter fog or heavy snow. Plastic headlight covers can develop a haze or become discolored and this can have a negative effect on the brightness of the headlights.

Coolant Levels and mixture – top off the coolant and anti-freeze levels of your vehicle before heading out for a drive. Adjust your engine coolant and anti-freeze to manufacturers recommended mixture ratio (typically 50:50 water and coolant) to prevent freezing.

Safety Department

Carbon Monoxide

Gordon Putzke

Compliance Manager

Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors save lives, but less than one-third of American homes have one installed. According to the CDC, more than 400 people die each year in the US from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning and more than 4,000 others are hospitalized. As December and January are considered to be the peak time for CO poisoning, now is a good time to take these precautions: install a battery-operated CO detector in your home near the bedrooms; check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall; have your heating system, water heater and any other gas or coal-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year; do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors; never use a generator inside your home, basement or garage or less than 20 feet from any window, door or vent; fatal levels of carbon monoxide can be produced in just minutes; have your chimney checked and cleaned every year, and make sure your fireplace damper is open before lighting a fire and well after the fire is extinguished; make sure your gas appliances are vented properly; never use a gas oven for heating your home or let a car idle in the garage; know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

If your Carbon Monoxide Alarm Sounds:

immediately move outside to fresh air; call emergency services, fire department or 911; do a head count to check that all persons are accounted for; do not reenter the premises until emergency responders have given you permission to do so

Quote of the Month

"Boats, like whiskey, are all good." R.D. Culler



JL Braden and Endeavour from Ghent Cleaing by Norman Cutter. 1st winner of the best pic of the month!



Wayne C passing through Markland Lock by Wayne Freeman. 2nd winner of the best pic of the month!



Hebron Cleaning by Adam Solomon. 3rd winner of the best pic of the month!



The Enterprise taken by a drone from Jason Pennington.



Jeff Cumpian

Ghent in fuchsia by Norman Cutter.



Keeping the lights on through the fog by Jerry Abrams.





BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Full Name	Full Name	Birthday
RAINES	TERRY	12/29
MONROE	ANTHONY	12/22
PENNINGTON	JAMES	12/3
BURGESS	JEFFREY	12/9
CALDWELL	JOHNNY	12/27
CLARK	JAMES	12/10
MONDAY	SARAH	12/16
RAINES	ANTHONY	12/25
RAINES	TERENCE	12/26
WESTRICH	DAVID	12/12
WHITE	JOSHUA	12/13
MARKSBERRY	ANDREW	12/18
SHERWOOD	JOSHUA	12/3

Full Name	Anniversary
EICHHORN, EDWARD	12/15/1994
YOUNGMAN, RICHARD	12/01/2015
LONGFELLOW, ROGER	12/05/2011
BAYLESS, CHRISTOPHER T	12/01/2015
KOSSEN, ANDREW	12/06/2016



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Will Brooks – Will Brooks received his pilots license!
If you see Will, please congratulate him!



Seaman's Church – C&B continues to send our pilots to Seaman's Church for supervisory training.



Questions and Answers

We are asking that if you have any questions or would like clarification on something that you send us your questions and we will address them in this section. We look forward to hearing from everyone.

Q: How do I send in pictures for the monthly contest?
A: Email Greg Schabell at gschabell@carlislebray.com to send in pics for the contest.

Q: Who do I contact for the employee referral program?
A: Emma Obertate.