

THE PUSHBOAT

August Birthday Greetings

- 8/1 Tony Lowros
- 8/1 Faron Keith
- 8/8 Hunter Jones
- 8/10 Tim "Red Bone" McAllister
- 8/10 Nathaniel Rockarts
- 8/12 Terah Huckabee
- 8/15 Drew Ware
- 8/16 Joey Franklin
- 8/18 Rick Howell
- 8/20 Bobby Joe James
- 8/21 Keith Brazeal
- 8/22 Cedric DuBose
- 8/23 Mark Curl
- 8/25 Rick Snow
- 8/29 Francisco Rivera

A Family Tale

As all at Parker Towing Company are well aware, there are a whole bunch of Huckabees employed at PTC -- Terah, Temple, Tom, O'Neal, Charles and Phillip. There are boat captains, a port manager, a chief engineer and the Vice President of Terminal Services. Their service to Parker Towing has spanned the better part of four decades.

O'Neal, Tom, Temple, Terah and Charles are the sons of Dorothy Nelson and Winston Huckabee. They have one sister, Patsy Hutto. Phillip, their 1st cousin, is the youngest of Mack and Jean Huckabee's five children.

The Huckabees' roots are in Sweet Water and Thomasville. Their youth was spent farming, running trot lines and watching boats on the river pass by.



The exodus from the small, southern town to Tuscaloosa began shortly after Tom mentioned to his step-father, Ralph Nelson, that he wanted to try work on the river. Ralph's first cousin, Robert Jowers, agreed to take Tom and Temple to Parker Towing to apply for a job.

Tom and Temple were met by

Colonel White (PTC operations manager) and given an application. Temple had yet to turn 18 and would have to wait a brief time before he could be considered for employment. Tom, however, must have made an immediate positive impression upon the operations manager. His application has an annotation by Col. White stating that Tom would be a "great worker."

Unlike today, all crew changes used to take place at the offices in Tuscaloosa. Although nearly 100 miles separate Sweet Water from Tuscaloosa, the family would not miss their first son leaving home. The entire family made the trek north to bid Tom a fond farewell as he set off on his first hitch -- and thus began the Huckabee/Parker Towing Company relationship.

Promotions!!

- Randal Handley - 3rd Engineer
- Antoin McMillian - Top Deckhand
- Joe Dukes, Jr. - 2nd Deckhand
- Jeremy Averette - 2nd Deckhand
- Ronnie Clark - 2nd Deckhand

The Great Bobby Joe's "Did You Know?"



Thirteen, 163, and 1 gallon. Envelope please.

What are the number of boats in the Parker Towing fleet, the number of barges in the fleet and the amount of banana pudding I ate at Ezell's lunch buffet.

PTC Profile - Sam Jones

Samuel Lee Jones, Jr. was born in Austin, Texas. He is the 2nd Engineer on the m/v Selden Hurtt. He has worked at PTC for 10 years. Sam is married to Brenda and has 2 children, Landi and Marquita, and 3 grandchildren -- Kehars, Kaylyn and Anastasia. Sam's favorite pastime is spending time with

his family.

5 questions for Sam:

College or Pro:

College

Fried or Grilled:

Grilled

Apple Pie or Pumpkin Pie:

Sweet Potato Pie

Coal or

Wood

Chips:

Wood Chips

Rain or

Shine:

Shine



Future Newsletters

If you have ideas, interesting stories, pictures, etc. that you would like to see in the newsletter, please let me know. Also, anyone who has old photos of PTC employees or PTC boats, please bring them by the office.

Thanks,

Ron Jesser
391-1114

A Family Tale - continued from page 1

Tom's initial hitch would be spent on the m/v Tuscaloosa under the guidance of Parker Towing's current Vice President of Operations, Bobby Joe James. Tom made his way to the wheel house in 1979. Tom is currently the captain of the m/v Gilbert Taylor.

Temple was the next to find employment on the river. He began his career at PTC on the m/v Alice Parker. It was there that he would find his way into the wheel house. He did so under the tutelage of Captain Cullen Landolt (father of David Landolt, a valued member of the shop crew, and Bobby Landolt, captain of the m/v Alice Parker.) Temple is currently the Port Manager of the Port of Naheola.

Charles began work at Parker Towing on June 6, 1980. As a deckhand he earned \$35 per day. Charles' first hitch was spent on the m/v Tuscaloosa (where his brother, Tom, was pilot). The m/v Thelma Parker was where Charles would become a mainstay. He spent a majority of his 15 months as a deckhand on this boat. Under the watchful eye of Bobby Joe James, Charles cubbed on the m/v Thelma Parker as well. Charles has been a pilot on the m/v Cathy Parker and the captain of the m/v Mobile. He is currently the captain of the m/v Charles Haun.

Phillip's career at Parker Towing began on September 28, 1981 at 3:15 pm (he recalls the event like it was yesterday).

He caught the m/v Mobile at Fosters Ferry Bridge. On February 3, 1984, Phillip was promoted from top deckhand to 2nd engineer on the original m/v Alice Parker. He has been the Chief Engineer on the m/v Dallas ('86), m/v Thelma Parker ('88) and m/v Alice Parker ('89). Currently he is the Chief Engineer on the m/v Alison Haun.

O'Neal went to work at Parker Towing back in 1977. After a brief hiatus he returned to Parker in 1982. His first hitch as a wheel man was aboard the m/v Lady Nica. It was a memorable trip for all onboard. O'Neal is currently the captain of the m/v Cathy Parker.

Terah, who is also known as T. Henry and Terapin, began

work for PTC in 1977. His first hitch was aboard the m/v Thelma Parker - - the same vessel he would cub upon in later years. He became a pilot aboard the m/v Thelma Parker in May 1980. Terah moved from the boats to Naheola port in 1990. In 1993, he was named port manager of Naheola. He has been Parker Towing's V.P. of Terminal Services since 1997.

Combined, the Huckabees have amassed over 150 years of work experience associated with the river! If you have the chance, ask them to spin a tale about an experience or two they have on the river. I promise that it will be time well invested.

Coup Attempt Thwarted

An early morning coup attempt on the m/v Gilbert Taylor has been quashed. Before the sun's rays could begin to chase

away the darkness, chaos reigned supreme on the Parker Towing Company vessel.

At 0400 on Tuesday, July

13th, 3rd Engineer Heath Stokes nearly met his maker as he came face to face with an 85 lb beaver intent on making the

engine room his new area of operation. Thanks to the quick thinking and selfless service of William "Rambo" Gill and Steven "Audie Murphy" Norris the beaver's nefarious intentions were thwarted after nearly seven hours of intense negotiations.

Editor's note - no beavers were harmed during the failed coup attempt.

August's Crew Changes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 AP SH	3 CP Hel TE	4	5 Tim MJ CH	6 GT Gor	7
8	9 BJJ	10 AH RP	11	12 AP SH	13 CP Hel TE	14
15	16 Tim MJ CH	17 GT Gor	18	19 BJJ	20 AH RP	21
22	23 AP SH	24 CP Hel TE	25	26 Tim MJ CH	27 GT Gor	28
29	30 BJJ	31 AH RP				

Please be sure to call (205) 391-1114 and check in a day or two ahead of your anticipated crew change date.

New Faces

- Keith Granada
- Melvin "Leo" Head
- Scott Walters

Stay Hydrated!

Remember to drink plenty of water while working on the river. Dehydration can rapidly become a serious medical condition if left unchecked. So please, drink water.

