

THE PUSHBOAT

Parker Towing Company's Newsletter

September's Birthdays

- 5/22 Larry "Duck" Ragland
Captain
M/V Gorgas
- 9/5 Ernest "Sarge" Watts
Deckhand
- 9/6 Scott Kurtz
Deckhand
- 9/8 George McAteer
Happy 70th
- 9/9 Tyre Wilder
Deckhand
- 9/11 Edward Duff
2nd Engineer
M/V Miss Jodie
- 9/12 Jack "Pop" Morgan
3rd Engineer
M/V Rhett Parker
- 9/12 Richard Williams
Chief Engineer
M/V Charles Haun
- 9/13 Sam Jones
2nd Engineer
M/V Selden Hurtt
- 9/15 Billy Hilburn
Pilot
M/V Cathy Parker
- 9/20 Steven "Nero" Norris
Relief Captain
M/V Gilbert Taylor
- 9/20 Will Dailey
Deckhand
- 9/21 Tracy Hughes
Payables
- 9/23 Wayne Harris
Deckhand
- 9/25 Benny Blanks
Deckhand
- 9/28 Bret Wildrick
Captain
M/V Bobby Joe James

Parker Wheel on Display

The following is inscribed upon the plaque displayed in front of the Parker Wheel -

The Parker Wheel

Parker Towing Company founder, Captain Tim Parker (1902-1992), began his career on the Black Warrior-Tombigbee River working on and later piloting paddlewheel steamboats. In 1946 he built his first diesel powered propeller driven boat, the M/V R.G. Parker. After putting it into service, he discovered the propellers or "wheels" available at that time were designed primarily for pushing ahead and did not provide sufficient thrust when the boat was in reverse or "backing".

With his years of experience piloting paddle wheelers, he knew how critical "backing" was to safely navigate the narrow bends between Tuscaloosa and Mobile. Captain Parker worked with a propeller manufacturer in Mobile, Alabama to design a propeller to increase its thrust in reverse or "backing". That propeller de-



The Parker Wheel on display in front of the Parker Towing Company main office in Northport, Alabama.

sign became known as the "Parker Wheel".

The propeller on display here is of that design. It was used on the M/V Dallas, a diesel powered twin propeller driven towboat owned by Parker Towing Company and operated for

many years moving barges on rivers throughout the southeast. This propeller is made of bronze and is 72 inches in diameter with a pitch of 67 inches, manufactured by Doran Alabama Propeller Company.

2005 United Way Campaign



The 2005 United Way fund raising campaign is here! The campaign helps support numerous worthwhile organizations. Some of the organizations the

United Way helps fund are: Caring Days, The Phoenix House, Hospice, United Cerebral Palsy, Easter Seals, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Turning Point, Youth Emergency Ser-

vices, Child Abuse Prevention Services, Family Counseling Services, and the YMCA.

Please contact me at (205) 391-1114 for details on how you can help those who are not always able help themselves. Together we can make a difference.

PROMOTIONS!!

- **Ron Clark**
3rd Engineer - M/V Selden Hurtt
- **Stephen "Hillbilly" Newton**
3rd Engineer - M/V Heloise

NEW FACE

- **R. Allen Johnson** **Deckhand**



The Captain of the M/V Alice Parker, Robert Landolt, receives an automated external defibrillator (AED) for his boat from the Vice President of Administrative Services, Rick Snow.

PTC Profile - Randal Handley

Randal Handley was born in Birmingham, AL. He is the second engineer on the M/V Alice Parker. Randal has been with Parker Towing Company since November 5, 2002. During his time off Randal enjoys yard work, the company of friends, and an adult beverage.

5 questions for Randal:

1. M/V Alice Parker or the Millennium Falcon:
M/V Alice Parker
2. Earth or Dagobah:
Earth
3. Rock, Paper, or Scissors:
Paper
4. Barefoot or Shoes:
Shoes
5. Luke Skywalker or Luke Duke:
Luke Skywalker



Randal "Yoda" Handley



Congratulations to Eric and Lori Frazier on the news that a baby "Killer" is on the way!



Have an announcement you would like to share? Let me know and I will try to include it in the Parker Towing Company newsletter.

Newsletter suggestions, questions, or comments...please forward them to me at rjesser@parkertowing.com

September Crew Changes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1 BJJ MOR RP	2 T2 AH	3
4	5 AP SH Labor Day 	6 CP HELO TE	7 0900 FIRST AID, CPR, & AED TRAINING	8 TIM MJ CH	9 GT GOR	10
11  Patriot Day	12 BJJ MOR RP	13 T2 AH	14 0900 FIRST AID, CPR, & AED TRAINING	15 AP SH	16 CP HELO TE	17
18	19 TIM MJ CH	20 GT GOR	21 0900 FIRST AID, CPR, & AED TRAINING	22 BJJ MOR RP	23 T2 AH	24
25	26 AP SH	27 CP HELO TE	28 0900 FIRST AID, CPR, & AED TRAINING	29 TIM MJ CH	30 GT GOR	1

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