

# The **TRANSPORTER** Quarterly

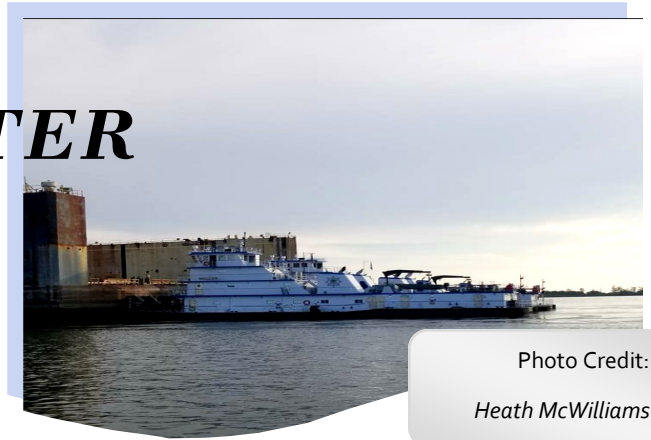


Photo Credit:  
Heath McWilliams

## State of the Inland Towing Industry

By: Capt. Norm L. Antrainer, NAMS-CMS, ASA

January 2018

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With the stock market soaring, a low unemployment rate and many other economic indicators showing progress nationwide, why has the business we devote our lives to that feeds our families been in a downward spiral for nearly three years?

It is a complex answer, but it boils down to a simple economic principle of 'Supply and Demand'.

Simply stated, there are more inland barges (supply) than the barge market demands; this is true in both the liquid and the dry cargo barge markets.

Several uncontrollable economic events have occurred in the last three years that have created this situation.

1. When the extraction of crude oil from an amazing process called 'fracking' was developed, it started a gold rush of domestic crude oil for use in the United States to the point some predicted we would be completely free of imported oil by 2018! This domestic market demand required lots of barges. The OPEC nations reacted by flooding the market with cheap, imported crude oil,

not so good for tank barges. This has caused an oversupply of tank barges in the market place.

2. The EPA's war on coal (Clean Air Act) literally killed the domestic movement of barged coal, again bad for hopper barges. This created an oversupply of open hopper barges.
3. A perfect storm hit in the commodity barge movement of covered hopper barges. An over production of crops, floods, strong dollar value overseas, and coal barges created an oversupply in the covered hopper barge market.

This is the first time in modern history all three markets have been hit at the same time with an oversupply of barges.

Our business has been, and will always be a cyclic business; a roller coaster ride with highs and lows, much like the old Zephyr roller coaster (Pontchartrain Beach) in the past, now it's like the Kingda Ka (world's most dangerous roller coaster).

In conclusion, the inland towing industry will be a survivor; we are the safest, most economical,

and lowest emitters of greenhouse gases of any transportation form in the world – bar none! Barge production is at the lowest it has been in 18 years, allowing the older surplus barges to be slowly dissolved. Efficiencies and cost control are making operators more efficient and productive. Our country needs us to move its gasoline, farmers need us to move their crops, and manufacturers need us to move their chemicals, steel, and stock. We are a vital part of the United States. We are **TOWBOATERS!**

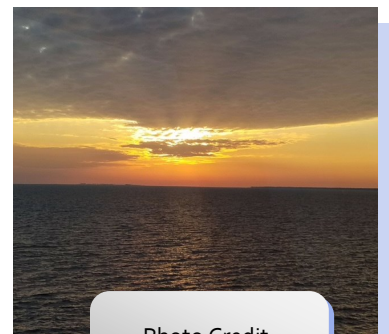


Photo Credit:  
Ricky Boudreaux



## TRANSPORTER

### Pin Oak Terminals Facility

On September 20, 2017, the M/V Dennis J. Pasentine arrived at the newly opened Pin Oak Terminals facility in Mt. Airy, LA. FMT transported a 6 pack of 30k barrel barges with a quantity of approximately 150,000 barrels of ethanol to the terminal. Pin Oak is a new multi-faceted liquids and chemicals terminal located on the Mississippi River near Garyville, LA. The 431



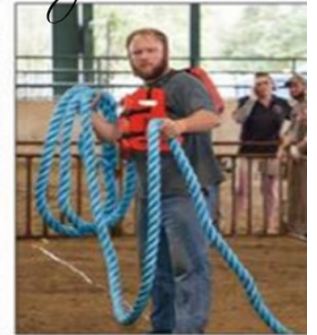
acre site is well located to handle all modes of liquid and chemical transportation including rail, pipeline, barge, ship and truck. Florida Marine held a close relationship with Pin Oak Terminals in helping to prepare for the arrival of the very first transfer at their new facility, which is capable to flow up to 30,000 barrels per hour. Vessel and crew completed the transfer on September 21, 2017 without fail and have since made additional transfers at this facility.

CONGRATS TO  
LOUISE & JERRY  
WILTZ ON  
CELEBRATING  
50 YEARS OF  
MARRIAGE!



Louise & Jerry Wiltz

*Congratulations*



Brandon Breeland

### The Maritime Throwdown

By: Suzy Montalbano

In October, the social media group Hooked Up Hard Down The Towboater Lifestyle presented The Maritime Throwdown. The three competition event featured an all-out line handling competition that is designed for mariners from all maritime fields.

The main event was the Maritime Throwdown line

handling obstacle course, which included four tie-off sections and three long-distance throws. Prizes went to the top three finishers. The second event was the ABCO life ring toss, with the top three distances garnering prizes. Finally, the Anchored In Muscle Challenge awarded \$1,000 to the longest distance

caught with a single part line.

Six mariners competed in all three events; with one of our own, Brandon Breeland, a 28-year-old Pilot for Florida Marine, winning both the Maritime Throwdown course—by a wide margin—and the ABCO life ring toss.

Breeland said that the competition was more about pride in his profession than competing for money.

“It wasn’t all about the prize money,” he said. “It was a pride thing. I think anyone out on the water has a certain pride about them, their job and how they do their job.”

## Safety Spotlight

By: Jenny Trahan

Safety is the key to success here at FMT. Our new Safety Manager, Chad Hidalgo, has been a huge asset to our Compliance Department since joining the Florida Marine team in March of this year. Chad retired from the Navy in December 2016 with 20 years of service as a Chief Petty Officer; he holds an MBA in Marketing and is currently working on a Doctorate in Management in Organizational Leadership.

Currently, Chad is focusing on revamping the Safety Training Lesson Plans, which include providing the crews with Facilitator Guides, Trainee Guides, and Updated Quizzes. All the new training materials can be found in Policy Tech under Safety Lesson Plans. Over the course of the next 3 months all Safety Lesson Plans will be revised, uploaded and sent out to the fleet. People generally remember 10% of what they read compared to 70-90% of what they say, write and do. The intent of these updated

lesson plans is to make the training more interactive to try and get to that 70-90% retention rate which follows the Shell Maritime Partners in Safety Training Initiatives.



Along with updating various policies and procedures for compliance with RCP and TMSA guidelines, Chad has been communi-

cating valuable information to the FMT crews using Fleet Messages, Safety Alerts, Lessons Learned, Question of the Day, What's Wrong with this Picture, hands-on training and MOC Notifications. These current improvements to safety and compliance will help FMT continue on the path toward the pursuit of excellence.

## Welcome Aboard

By: Suzy Montalbano

Working on the water can be a safety sensitive yet rewarding occupation. Coming into the industry, the job can be daunting. FMT takes great pride in teaching green deckhands the importance of safety as well as the basics of what is expected of them.

While in class, they learn terminology, back safety and proper use of PPE. They visit the fleet and learn how to work with lines and wires, along with hard rigging and building tow. From our partners at Delgado, they learn JHA (Hearing Conversation, Lockout/Tagout, PPE, Respiratory), First Aid/

CPR, H2S, Confined Space, Bottle Watch, Benzene, HazCom, MSA, Man Overboard, Skiff training, and Firefighting.

Deckhands are taught to keep a clean environment, basic cooking, and working as a team. It is impressed on them that not only is FMT looking

for hard workers, but also a good attitude and respect for each member of our boat family.

It is exciting to see them transform from young boys to men. It is equally exciting to watch them work their way up the ladder to the wheelhouse. Welcome Deckhands to FMT.

## 2018 Mantra

*H*appiness depends upon your outlook on life. - Find the good in all situations.  
*A*ttitude is just as important as ability. - Keep your attitude positive.  
*P*assion - find yours this year! - Do what you love and you will never work.  
*P*ositive thoughts make everything easier. - Stay focused and stay positive.  
*Y*ou are unique, with special

gifts, so use them. - Never forget you have talent.  
*N*ew beginnings with a new year.  
*E*nthusiasm is a true secret of success.  
*W*ishes - may they turn into goals.  
*Y*ears go by too quickly, enjoy them. - Wisdom from your elders, listen.  
*E*nergy, may you have lots of it. - Take care of yourself.

*A*ppreciation of life, don't take it for granted. - Live each day.  
*R*elax - take the time to relax this year. - Keep a balance in your life.

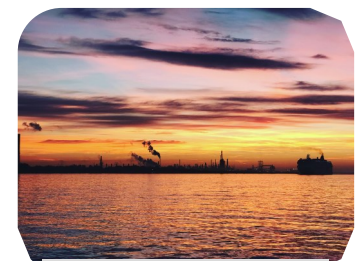
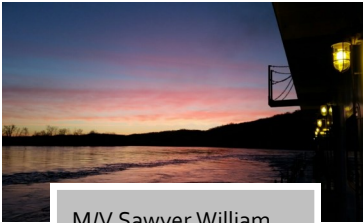


Photo Credit:

Daniel Hurst



# TRANSPORTER

## Pursuing Excellence

By: Chad Hidalgo

We saw numerous events in which employees failed to properly identify the hazards during their risk assessment. These events included some of the most experienced individuals and are directly attributed to a lowered risk tolerance level which is brought on by complacency. Risk Tolerance is defined as the willingness of a worker to take safety risks. JSA's and Last Minute Risk Assessments (SAFECheck) are controls that have been put in place to mitigate the effects

of an individual's acceptance of additional risk.

The following are some Lessons Learned from the events:

1. Regardless of your experience level and how many times you have done the task, you should never become complacent and accept unnecessary risk. Greater risks are often tolerated by individuals who overestimate their capability and experience.
2. Never assume that a task is routine. Always identify the hazards and ensure that you, and all the workers involved, understand the hazards. Greater risks are accepted when individuals perform familiar tasks; do not fall into the complacency trap.
3. Never underestimate a task and do not rely too heavily on equipment and PPE. In other words, always consider the worst possible outcome when assessing the hazards.
4. Use your experience to mitigate risk and serve as a role model for safety. The level of risk that supervisors

and experienced individuals accept will have a direct impact on the level of risk accepted by less experienced individuals.

5. Never tolerate unnecessary risks. Utilize your Stop Work Obligation when you see an unsafe situation.
6. Remember safety is a condition of employment at FMT. Hazards exist everywhere from work to personal lives, so please keep hazard recognition and safety a primary concern in your day-to-day lives.



REMEMBER EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF A PROBLEM IS KEY

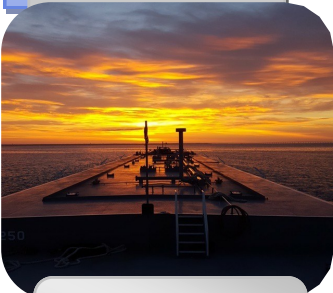


Photo Credit:  
Rod Miller

## Near Miss

By: Jason Bruce

The FMT 3272 had tied off on the lower end of the ship dock at KMI Pasadena. The crew member went out on the barge to make sure it was secured and safe to load. The piling on the far lower end of the dock was lying in the water and could not be used because it would leave half of the barge with no lines. Due to ships passing so close to this dock and the fact that the vessel is not allowed to stay with the barge, the crew member felt it was unsafe to hook up hoses and load.

- Called dispatch and was connected with Port Captain on call; ⇒ Proper Communication between Wheelman, dispatch and Port Captain on call;
- Port Captain spoke with representative for KMI; ⇒ Proper Communication between Port Captain on call and KMI representative;
- It was agreed that barges would be shifted back to fleet until upper end of ship dock was available for the transfer. ⇒ Effective critical thinking in assessing the situation and finding a solution that satisfied FMT and KMI;

### The keys to making this an effective Near Miss:

- ⇒ Early identification of problem; ⇒ Proper implementation of plan.
- ⇒ Proper use of Stop Work Obligation and Last Minute Risk Assessment;

### Follow up:

- Used Stop Work Obligation due to unsafe conditions;

## Wheelhouse Simulator Training

By: Jenny Trahan

Florida Marine and Delgado Community College have teamed up to conduct Pilot House Resource Management & Simulator Training with FMT Wheelmen. This training puts participants through real life simulations of maneuvers such as making bridge transits, topping a round in high current conditions, and flanking. The 360 degree simulator offers realistic views and sounds of the waterway and wheelhouse, along with simu-

lated vessel communication and traffic. In addition to the simulator training, all wheelmen review voyage planning, company policy and procedures, watch change checklist and past vessel tracks. These exercises are key to testing Wheelmen on their vessel handling abilities as well as situational awareness which allows for continual growth and improvement in their positions.



Wheelman: Donald Whittlesey-Stapp

## Word search puzzle: safety gear

Find and circle the following words. Words can be read forwards, backwards, or diagonally.

Apron  
Earmuffs  
Gloves

Earplugs  
Goggles  
Safety boots

Hard hat  
Safety vest  
Coveralls

Dust mask  
Face shield  
Hair net  
Safety glasses

D	U	S	V	S	S	C	E	T	A	H	D	R	A	H	D	Z	T	E	N
U	U	B	E	E	T	A	A	D	C	A	R	R	K	P	L	S	E	A	R
X	F	S	V	L	R	O	Z	N	M	J	Z	H	E	K	E	S	N	R	W
N	O	O	T	M	G	Y	O	E	O	L	N	C	B	V	I	Q	R	P	C
A	L	R	U	M	Y	G	Z	B	F	R	L	M	Y	E	H	Q	I	L	B
G	G	F	H	Q	A	L	O	Z	Y	N	O	T	V	N	S	X	A	U	P
L	F	X	Q	E	V	S	V	G	V	T	E	X	V	L	E	L	H	G	C
S	M	E	J	D	H	D	K	T	N	F	E	S	H	V	C	S	C	S	M
C	O	V	E	R	A	L	L	S	A	Q	R	F	M	B	A	F	G	X	I
A	G	A	P	R	O	N	A	S	X	N	F	W	A	K	F	D	A	S	M
S	E	S	S	A	L	G	Y	T	E	F	A	S	J	S	G	M	X	D	E
G	C	L	U	X	V	J	B	I	D	A	P	M	O	C	L	C	Q	K	D
H	M	W	C	R	V	O	D	P	G	C	I	Q	N	L	C	J	L	N	M



BRAIN  
WORKOUT  
TIME!!!





# TRANSPORTER

## Dimensions of Wellness

By: Joy Breath

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU  
Total wellness extends beyond diet and exercise. Learning about the Eight Dimensions of Wellness can help you choose how to make wellness a part of your everyday life. Wellness strategies are practical ways to start developing healthy habits that can have a positive impact on your physical and mental health. The Eight Dimensions of Wellness are:

**Emotional**—Coping effectively with life and creat-

ing satisfying relationships  
**Environmental**—Good health by occupying pleasant, stimulating environments that support well-being  
**Financial**—Satisfaction with current and future financial situations  
**Intellectual**—Recognizing creative abilities and finding ways to expand knowledge and skills  
**Occupational**—Personal satisfaction and enrichment from one's work  
**Physical**—Recognizing the need for physical activity,

healthy foods, and sleep  
**Social**—Developing a sense of connection, belonging, and a well-developed support system  
**Spiritual**—Expanding a sense of purpose and meaning in life  
What New Year's resolutions did you place on your list? Eat healthier? Drink a green smoothie daily for breakfast? Go to the gym every day? Learn a new language? This unique time of year presents opportuni-

ties to pause, reflect, assess balance in life, and implement changes for increased life satisfaction. Evaluate your past year and new resolutions with the "Wellness Wheel" in mind. HAPPY NEW YEAR!



ON AVERAGE,  
AMERICANS  
GAIN  
APPROXIMATELY  
ONE TO TWO  
POUNDS  
DURING THE  
HOLIDAY  
SEASON.

## What does Financial Wellness mean to you?

By: Rhonda Lamulle

What is Financial Wellness? That's a great question! The answer is that it means something different to everyone. For one person it may mean being able to retire comfortably at age 65. To another, it may mean being able to meet day-to-day expenses or being able to buy a home or send his children to college. It may mean having an emergency fund for those unforeseen expenses.

Prudential Retirement has asked

me to sit on their 2017-2019 Client Advisory Board. As a member of this board I have the opportunity to help shape future developments at Prudential Retirement. The Board's objective is to shape the programs that will help participants retire with confidence.

Our current focus is Financial Wellness. This is where all of you come in. I need your feedback. I need to know what Financial Wellness means to you. What

areas of money management would you like more information on? Would a budgeting tool be helpful to you? Etc.

If you would like to help me shape the future of Prudential Retirement, please give me a call. I would like a chance to speak to any employee who is willing to talk about what a financially secure future looks like. Your feedback will be helpful as I work with Prudential and other board members to help participants achieve Financial Wellness.

## Top Deck

By: Cynthia Pasentine Hull, Dennis J. and John Pasentine

### Top Deck

Happy New Year! As we enter into "2018" we are all filled with excitement of the beginning of a new year and new opportunities. As we reflect on all the joyous

births and heart breaking losses of some of our FMT family members, we bring our thoughts to the importance of family. FMT has always prided itself as a work family and we care very

deeply about each and every one of you. Thank you for your dedication and strong work ethic, it truly shows every day in your job performance. Let us all pray for

God's Blessings in this New Year.

## Anniversary between September - December? Thank you for your service!

### Twenty Four Years

Chris Pike

### Nineteen Years

Louis Develle

### Eighteen Years

Albert Pearson

### Seventeen Years

Bryan Allemand

### Sixteen Years

Kevin Box, Santto Cheramie, Jack Foster, Leighton Powe, Stephen Sikes

### Fifteen Years

John Crawford, Bruce Folse, Kaylor Jones, RD Quebodeaux, Jason Rogers, Ike Trosclair

### Fourteen Years

Brian Duffy, Bradley Landry, Jeremy McCulloch

### Thirteen Years

Michael Bennett, Dean Brown, Tim Burns, Douglas Elbert, Charles Kirkham, Anthony Lake, Robert Legendre, Nicholas Nunley, Travis Ritter, Randy Trosclair, Russell Vincent

### Twelve Years

Fred Anderson, Lee Champagne, Todd Forward, Kimberly Hidalgo, Ronald Hull, Aaron Moore, John Starcher, Heather Traughber, Dustin Wilson, Marcus Wiltz

### Eleven Years

James Adair, Timothy Bennett, Ryan Catalanotto, David Clifton, Patrick Cullnan, Shawn Delchamps, Ron Hobgood, Clyde Holmes, Ray Hynes, Ricky Jackson, Joshua Jones, Bobbie Myer, August Nienaber, Vincent Pergola, Ricky Porche, Karl Rapsilver, Mikel Roach, Santos Soto, Edward Uribe, Philip Wright

### Ten Years

Christopher Bittle, Emil Cancienne, Brandy Champagne, Jason Dillon, Dwayne Guerin, Damion Harris, Joseph Hawkins, Michael Lee, Suzy Montalbano, Matthew Pearson, George Seal, Ryan Smith, John Wille

### Nine Years

Brandon Breeland, Steve Cleland, Juan De Los Santos, Nolan Dufrene, Joseph Fabacher, Donnie Guthrie, William Hughes, Jacob Lynn, Lyies Lyons, Brandon Magee, Tommie Neal, Jason Potter, Garrett Prestenbach, Dennis Sepulvado, Bruce Sterling, Emilio Torres, Kevin Vega, Carl Vowell, Andrew White

### Eight Years

Craig Box, Shawn Casey, Paul Davis

### Seven Years

Mark Abshier, Kelly Arnold, Karen Bares, John Barthelemy, Evan



Bean, Joseph Beegle, Austin Bradburn, Phillip Fliehman, Jeremy Glidewell, James Gooding, Rusley Guidry, Daniel Hutchinson, Roderic Kelly, Robert Kingsbury, Christian Lancon, Eric Langlois, Timothy Laughlin, Cody Lepretre, Adam Magee, Christopher Moore, Rowdy Toups

### Six Years

Scott Baham, Hugh Claughton, Robert Collins, Jeremy Dillon, Shannon Fagen, Thomas Finney, Zachary Hodges, Andrew Howell, Jeffery Jones, Maria Joyner, Donald Panepinto, Dean Phillips, Matthew Seabrook, Jodie Smith, Jill Stock, Andy Traigle

### Five Years

Lawrence Allbee, Andrew Bowlan, Travis Chatellier, Joshua Collinsworth, Samuel Dauss, Joseph DeVan, Joseph Devillier, Dusty Dorey, Jason Dufrene, Ryan Elsperman, Caleb Graham, Joe Griggs, Jesse Hansford, Timothy McCoin, Justin Mizell, Ryan Poynter, Phillip Schutt, Michael Simmons, Jonathan Smith, Christopher Sowell

### Four Years

Rickie Adams, Leonard Allen, Orval Beaver, Joseph Blailock, Charles Boudreaux, Jesse Boudreaux, Jordan Brewer, Jason Bruce, Danny Garner, Darcy Garrett, Colin Given, Brandon McCollough, Jerry Morrison, Robert Pate, Dwight Pearson, Tannar Penny, Jesse Pierre, Christopher Polito, David Pritchard, Timothy Scott, Calvin Shamburger, Joseph Thibodeaux, Lance Thompson, Mitchell Wilson

### Three Years

Blake Artigue, Tracy Asbill, William Beavers, Michael Blackwell, Devin Box, Marcquerious Harris, Kody Hobgood, Steven Howard, William Hughes, Clayton Hunt, Colby Knight, Curtis Ladnier, Algee LeBlanc, Mitchell MacFadden, Patrick Martinez, Joshua Miller, Rafael Montanez, Christopher Morris, Devin Porter, Marcel Thomas, Jennifer Trahan, Jimmarquis White, Trenton Wood

### Two Years

Samuel Beach, Douglas Brewer, Karen Brumfield, Jackie Burns, George Cannatella, John Carnley, Susan Folse, Christopher Henry, Albert Johnson, William Johnson, Hayden Kreakbaum, Gavin Pellissier, Gary Pennington, Trades Phillips, Patrick Richard, Jordan Rothstein, Dustin Scott, Taylor Waguespack, Landon York

### One Year

Donald Aleman, Victor Allen, Clifton Breaux, Jonathan Cantrell, Bobby Inge, Patrick Jones, Zachary LaVallie, Joseph Mackie, Michael Martin, Gary Miller, Robert Moorman, Anthony Sagona, Brian Vosburg



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### *Our Mission*

Transport America's resources in the safest, most environmentally sound, and efficient manner as possible.



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**We're on the WEB!!**

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