

# The International Propeller Club of the United States Port of Tampa, Inc.

Proudly Hosts the 84<sup>th</sup> International Convention - October 6th-8th, 2010  
Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel - Tampa, Florida

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March - April 2010

Port #5

Chartered May 25, 1929

## Admiral Allen Storms the Tampa Bay Area

Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, was our keynote speaker at the Propeller Club's annual *Salute to the Coast Guard Dinner*, which was held on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at the Quorum Hotel. It was a "packed house" and we thank The Tampa Council, Navy League of the United States and the Coast Guard Foundation for joining us as co-hosts in recognizing the men and women of the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve, and Coast Guard Auxiliary in the Bay area we all appreciate their faithful and untiring service to our nation particularly as heavy demands are being placed on their duties both overseas and at home. Team Coast Guard members from the Tampa Bay area joined us for an exciting evening and an event that will be remembered for a long time. Admiral Allen addressed the group on the enduring qualities of dedication and selflessness exhibited by the men and women of Team Coast Guard on a daily basis. He also commented on the extraordinary experience of being suddenly assigned as the Principal Federal Official for response and recovery operations for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, which took him away from his duties as Chief of Staff at Coast Guard Headquarters. Admiral Allen concluded his remarks by outlining the challenges of providing adequate resources for Coast Guard personnel in the midst of the current restrictive domestic federal budget climate.



Admiral Allen (c) with Captain Tim Close (left), RADM Branham (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Captain Todd Sokalzuk with our 2010 USCG Salute Award Recipients. (Award recipient representatives from both Sector St. Petersburg and Airstation Clearwater are: LT James Jenks, AET2 Evan Wilcox, AET2 Aaron Withington, AMT3 Christopher Roberts, BMCS Stephen Smith, LT Bruno Baltazar, BM1 Aaron Fjestad, MK3 Joseph Fodor)

This year's "special recognition" awards were presented to: CGC *Marlin* for the rescue of the master of the Motor Yacht *Skylark* in the Gulf of Mexico during Hurricane Ida; the aircrew of the CG helicopter 6012 stationed at CGAS Clearwater for their daring rescue of two mariners off of the foundering sailing vessel *Monbata* in the Caribbean Sea south of Haiti; and a group award presented to individuals from both USCG Sector St. Petersburg and CGAS Clearwater for the coordinated offshore rescue of three-year-old Luke Finch following a massive search in the Gulf of Mexico.

Once again, thank you to our co-sponsors this year, the Tampa Council Navy League and the Coast Guard Foundation. Thank you also to our Program Sponsor, Tampa Bay Pilots Association. Additional table and guardsmen sponsors were: A.R. Savage & Son, Captain & Mrs. Timothy Close, CF Industries, Clark Environmental, Coast Guard Foundation, Diversified Environmental, Faircount Media Group, Gulf Marine Repair, Gulf Sulphur, Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, International Ship Repair, Janet Dougherty, Marine Towing of Tampa, Martin Operating Partnership, M.E.B.A., Merlin Management, Mosaic Fertilizer, Phelps Dunbar, Odyssey Manufacturing, OSG, Seabulk Towing, S.R.I. (Captain Smith & Mr. Supnick), Tampa Bay Pilots Association, Tampa Council - Navy League, Tampa Port Authority, United Ocean Services, Wetherington Hamilton & Harrison and Wilcox Law.

Prior to our Salute to the U.S. Coast Guard dinner, Admiral Allen also attended the Blackthorn Memorial Ceremony held each year honoring those coast guardsmen who lost their lives that fatal day January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1980. Presenting a memorial wreath on behalf of the Propeller Club, Port of Tampa were Tony Austin (Club President) and Captain Allen Thompson (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President).



Friday morning January 29<sup>th</sup>, Terry Fluke, Chairman of the Tampa Bay Harbor Safety and Security Committee and the TBHSSC Executive Committee held a special breakfast, in honor of Admiral Allen, followed by their quarterly meeting at the Tampa Port Authority.

*Photo left: Propeller Club President Tony Austin with Vice President Allen Thompson present wreath during the Blackthorn Memorial Ceremony*

## [Annual Shrimperoo – Another Successful Year!](#)

On Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated yet another successful Shrimperoo! This annual fundraiser for the Propeller Club was enjoyed by over 800 individuals from our port community and surrounding areas. We also enjoyed seeing some of our Port Canaveral friends who dropped in to see “just how we do it”.

This year we are pleased to welcome Port Consolidated as our first Event Sponsor for this event. Thank you very much for your contribution which is enormously appreciated. Thank you to everyone for coming out and for your added participation and support through the \$5.00 service fee that was added to the ticket price in an effort to help raise money for upcoming 84<sup>th</sup> International Convention, hosted by our Tampa chapter. So thank you all for your contributions, and remember this is “your” club.

Every year we hold this event and thank the normal “volunteers” for their hard work. This year we would like to emphasize this process. Though there are many volunteers, one individual and his group remain at the top of our list. **Rusty Ferrell along with his wife Pam and their group from Marine Electric are simply amazing.** They tote their own equipment, pay their workers, buy them all tickets AND work tirelessly throughout the night, setting up, cooking, serving and cleaning up. They start with firing up the “shrimp” boiling pots then move ever so quickly move over into the “oyster roasting” task, not to mention preparing and laying out the “raw” oysters and condiments. Rusty is truly an amazing individual who never asks for anything and who always gives 200%. Along with his group, we honor them with the “best volunteer” nod once again. As many of you know, Rusty and his group not only do this for our annual shrimperoo event, but for our annual StoneCrabFest event as well. So, when you see Rusty, Pam, Ron or anyone else from Marine Electric, please be sure to tell just how grateful you are for their hard work and dedication. Rusty, Pam, Ron & staff, you are simply “the best” and we cannot thank you enough for all you do for us. The reviews are in and with your “newly revised” process for this year’s shrimp was truly the best ever! Keep up the good work!



*Photo right: Our Shrimperoo Chefs - Kate Savage, Will Woodroffe, Ron Holtz and Rusty Ferrell*

Thank you to Arthur Savage, Shrimperoo Committee Chair who has organized this event for 26 years and whose father started it in the mid 1950's, and his committee of Will Woodroffe (USAmeribank), Mark LaFon (Tampa Pipe & Welding/Marine Metal Works), and Nancy Simms (Club Administrator). Thank you also to our team captains: Allen Thompson, Bill Lofgren and Tony Austin. In addition to these individuals we also thank: Neil McManus, Art Whiting, Dennis Manelli, Rick Watts, Dick Massari, Pat Allman, Burt Linthicum, Dave & Susan Sessums, Richard Ghent, Pam & Bryan Baylor, John Thorington, Ron & Barb Kobosky, Beth Clark, Tad Humphreys, Tina Tickles, Danielle and Steve Johnson, Dwayne Keith; Anne Hicks and her gang from Fifth Third Bank; Ken Stover and the staff from Pasco Terminals; Gulf Marine Repair drivers Robbie Simpson and Shawn Haynes; Bill Kuzmick, Luke and many volunteers from the American Victory Ship; George Collier & the gang from Sunbelt Equipment Rental; Angelea Provenzano and Jessica with P.S.I., Maureen Dowling, Debra Davis, Andy Fobes, John Hanlon, Jim Marchese and the staff from the Tampa Port Authority; Danny Williams, Barbie Blank, Erin Heitman, Tina Hazellief, Scott Simms, Shannon and Paul LeMoine and Kate and Laura Savage.



*Our beer volunteers from Fifth Third Bank and PSI with Board Members John Murray and Tony Austin*

In addition to this year's Great Oysters and Shrimp, many of you complimented us on the "side" dishes. The baked beans, cole slaw and potato salad were provided this year by **Robert's Meats located on S. Westshore Boulevard. Great job Robert – thanks!**

Once again we thank each and every one of you who continue to come out to support us and please know just how grateful we truly are for your dedication.

### January – February – March New Members

Holly Benfield  
InterConn Resources

Harry Posner  
North American General Agents, Inc.

James Wachtel  
J.R. Wachtel Associates

John Walmsley  
Infra-Metals Co.

Darren Monzingo  
Elliott Bay Design Group

Christopher Rutgers  
Hapag-Lloyd

Andrew Mancone  
R&M American Marine Products

Lisa Wilcox  
Wilcox Law, P.A.

Justin Byczek  
Lisa Ragan, CHB

Stephanie Chrisman  
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney

John Ferrell  
EnviroTrac Ltd., Inc

Jason Knost  
Wills

Daniel Chase  
Sysco International Food Group

John Dos Santos  
United Ocean Services

Mark Barthle  
ISMAS

Andrew E. Leggae  
OSG Ship Management

Donna Harak  
Management Consulting

Edmund Hughes  
CSA International

Gene Fenton  
Hydrex

Sam Schambeau  
ISMAS

Nicholas Soucy  
Eagle – SWS

Rachel LaPresti  
United Maritime Group

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p><b>Annual Steak &amp; Corn Dinner</b></p> <p>Davis Island Garden Club</p> <p><b><i>Tuesday, April 20th</i></b></p>  <p><i>(see details on the enclosed flyer)</i></p>	<p><b>National Maritime Day</b></p>  <p><b>Tuesday, May 18</b></p> <p><b>Details to Follow!</b></p>	<p><b>Installation of Officers Dinner</b></p>  <p>Columbia Restaurant</p> <p><b>Tuesday, June 15</b></p> <p>Details to follow!</p>
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## **Mark Your Calendar For These Events!**

**Remember, our flyers are available on our website along with the current monthly newsletter and our on-line membership application. You'll find all of the above publications at [www.propellerclubtampa.com](http://www.propellerclubtampa.com).**

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Maritime Industry Nights Celebration and Awards Banquet – March 1, 2010

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, members and guests joined us for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Maritime Industry Night Celebration and Awards Banquet which was held at the beautiful TPepin Hospitality Center. Tony Austin, Club President thanked everyone for coming and began the night thanking all of our event committee chairs: Terry Fluke – Golf; Arthur Savage – Shrimperoo; John Timmel – CrabFest and Bill Merlin – Salute to U.S.C.G. Tony also thanked Mike Henderson for serving on our board of directors. Mike recently stepped down as a director and Bill Lofgren was elected to fill in as Interim Board Member. Welcome Bill.

After Allen Thompson - Vice President of Programs, announced our upcoming events, Tony Austin took a moment to recognize Tad Humphreys (our 2009 Maritime Person of the Year) as the 84<sup>th</sup> International Convention Chairman and presented Tad with the humorous token of appreciation of a “Crown and a Scepter” to help guide him through this huge endeavor. Tad (though we think he may have actually blushed at little) moved quickly through his “update” finishing with his commitment and his respect for his “convention committee”, sharing his confidence in getting this job done. Tad recognized the convention committee members, and thanked them for their hard work. Tony then turned the program over to Mark LaFon, Event Chairman, thanking everyone that joined us for this wonderful occasion and extended his sincere thanks for our sponsors: Mosaic Fertilizer – Event Sponsor; International Ship Repair and Gulf Marine Repair – Bar Hosts, United Ocean Services and CF Industries – Program Sponsors; CF Industries, Clark Environmental, Gulf Marine Repair and Marine Towing of Tampa, OSG, Seabulk Towing, Inc., the Tampa Port Authority and United Ocean Services – our corporate sponsors: and, Custom Outsourcing/Brown & Brown, Gulf Marine Repair, Marine Metals with Tampa Pipe & Welding, Mosaic Fertilizer, Padgett Swann Machinery and Tampa Bay Pilots Association – our table sponsors. Thank you to everyone that helped make this evening special.



*Convention Chair Tad Humphreys*

Mark LaFon, our Immediate Past President and Event Chair for this evening’s awards ceremony then introduced us to our keynote speaker, Mr. Marco Rubio – U.S. Senate Candidate. Mr. Rubio spoke passionately about the current state of our Country and the need for all Americans to become engaged in the process. He encouraged everyone to participate in the debate and weigh-in on the issues most important to the Maritime community. Mr. Rubio confirmed his support of Florida Ports and the Maritime Issues and looked forward to the opportunity to serve Floridians in Washington DC where he would be a proponent of strengthening the role of Florida Ports in the economy of Florida.



*Photo left: Captain Tim Close, Tony Austin, Marco Rubio, Mark LaFon and Tad Humphreys*

After dinner it was then time to start presenting some awards. Mark began with the Unsung Hero category. What is an “unsung hero”? Well, Mark explains, an “Unsung Hero” could be someone who is strong, intelligent, and maybe even daring. They could also be courageous, honest, brave and selfless or even better yet someone who can change things one small act at a time adding humility to the scenario. These individuals are not motivated by any other reason that do good for others, and would largely go unnoticed in their daily work if not for times like this evening provides. We found some unsung heroes in our maritime community and we celebrate them tonight.

***Our “unsung heroes” being recognized tonight are: Randy Coulter of United Ocean Services; Sherry Barrington of International Ship Repair and Marine Services; Jim Harris of the Tampa Port Authority; and, Shannon LeMoine of the United Maritime Group. Congratulations, well done!***

We then moved on to our “leadership skills” category. To take a quote from John C. Maxwell, Mark said “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way and “personnel determine the potential of the team. Vision determines the direction of the team, work ethic determines the preparation of the team and LEADERSHIP determines the success of the team. Mark also shared with us - from unknown authors, “The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example” and “a leader leads by example whether he intends to or not”.

Mark then announced the honorees of tonight's "leadership skills" award: **Bob Coggin** of CF Industries; **Maureen Dowling** of the Tampa Port Authority; **David Barry** of Gulf Marine Repair and **Oscar Wilson** of Mosaic Fertilizer. Thank you all for setting "a good example". Congratulations, well done!

Before Mark turned the podium over to Tony to announce the Maritime Person of the Year and Member of the Year awardees, he took a few moments to thank **Nancy Simms**, our **Club Administrator** for recently celebrating "ten years" with the Propeller Club, Port of Tampa. Mark thanked her for her many years of dedicated service noting that "attitude is everything" and presented her with a plaque commemorating her "infectious" attitude.

Afterwards, Tony presented the "**Maritime Person of the Year**" award to **Captain Tim Close** for all of his accomplishments during the past year citing Captain Close as one of the most "seen" COTP's (captain of the port) on local and national television due to numerous S.A.R.'s during his tenure. Capt. Close endeared himself to the Tampa Bay Maritime Community immediately after his arrival and quickly earned the respect and admiration of his staff and the entire Tampa Bay area. And finally, the "**Member of the Year**" Award was presented to our **Immediate Past President and tonight's Event Chairman, Mark LaFon**. Mark was applauded for his many attributes and his many sacrifices he has made over the past few years serving our club. Mark's commitment to "the job" is absolutely incredible. Mark has great sincerity and passion, is an excellent leader, well versed in issues, and is an "out of the box" thinker. We are glad to have him on our team! A special message to both Captain Close and Mark is "our port community is much better with you and your contributions in it!" Captain Tim Close and Mark LaFon will now both represent Tampa and compete for the Southeast Regional titles in Savannah, Georgia in early April. Good Luck!

*Congratulations to everyone on a great year and we applaud you for being a great example and for helping to make our port community so great!*



President Tony Austin (l) and Mark LaFon (r) with "unsung hero" award recipients (c) (l-r) accepting for **Jim Harris** with the Tampa Port Authority is **Zelko Kirincich**, **Shannon LeMoine** with United Maritime Group, **Sherry Barrington** with International Ship Repair and **Randy Coulter** with United Ocean Services.



Club President Tony Austin with "**Maritime Person of the Year**" **Captain Tim Close**, Sector St. Petersburg Sector Commander, Captain of the Port



President Tony Austin (l) and Mark LaFon (r) with "**leadership skills**" award recipients (c) (l-r) **Bob Coggin** with CF Industries, **Maureen Dowling** with Tampa Port Authority, **David Barry** with Gulf Marine Repair and **Oscar Wilson** with Mosaic.



Club President Tony Austin with "**Member of the Year**" **Mark LaFon** with Tampa Pipe & Welding and Marine Metal Works.