Dear McAllister Friends and Family,

In the wake of yet another year’s end, I am pleased to introduce the first McAllister newsletter. 2003 saw so much positive change on many different fronts, and these pages will keep you up-to-date on what’s new, what’s developing, and what’s on the horizon. Look here to find news, updates, announcements, photos, and information to keep you connected and current. Here are just a few of 2003’s highlights.

We acquired 10 tugboats this year, including two newly-built firefighting escort tractor tugs the Emily Anne McAllister and A.J. McAllister. Other welcome additions to our tug fleet are the Megan, Christine, Michaela, Katie G., Colleen, Bridget, Roderick, and the Charles D. We also converted the YTB’s Beth M. and Kaleza into tractor tugs. The new ferry Grand Republic was christened in Port Jefferson, NY at a Caribbean-themed party enjoyed by many McAllister employees, friends, family and local public figures.

McAllister’s new tugs aren’t the only front on which we have advanced technologically. We’ve expanded our IT department company wide and launched a first-rate McAllister webpage, which lists all of our offices, ports, vessels, and featured tug specifications. The webpage also contains numerous color photos and a webstore offering an assortment of McAllister gear, including clothing, hats, and bags.

While we are steering a steady course into the future, we’re also honoring the past. The long-awaited publication of the McAllister History is also moving forward. Stephenie Hollyman’s years of research into McAllister’s long and dramatic family and company history will culminate in a handsome heirloom volume.

McAllister is entering its 140th year now, and I believe we have enough fuel to keep steaming for another 140 years or more. I want to thank each of you for your energy and talents that keep this company running at full throttle.

Happy New Year!

Captain Brian A. McAllister
President
NEW TRACTOR TUGS KEEPING McALLISTER SHIP SHAPE

Everyone’s buzzing about the Emily Anne McAllister and the A.J. McAllister, our two newly-built Z-drive tractor tugs. The construction and delivery of these two high-tech, 5,000 hp vessels have made headlines in such industry publications as American Tugboat Review 2003, Marine News (workboat show edition), and Workboat Magazine. These tugs are newsworthy because of state-of-the-art features like their Z-drives and their FIFI 1 and Escort classifications from ABS. Both the Emily Anne and A.J. were specially designed by Jensen Maritime to fit the needs of the newly-reopened LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) terminal at Cove Point, near Baltimore. The shipping industry surrounding LNG has recently seen an upsurge, and the LNG tanker-escort services are now in high demand. With 11,000 gal./minute of firefighting, McAllister is at the forefront of the LNG upswing with Emily Anne and A.J. comprehensively outfitted to provide top-notch maneuverability, power and firefighting capacity. Soon these sister tugs will be joined by a third Z-drive workhorse, the Shannon McAllister, which is currently in construction and designed identically to the A.J. McAllister’s fleet of tugs is increasing in number, power, and versatility. With the additions of the Emily Anne, A.J. and the forthcoming Shannon our fleet now numbers over 70 tugboats, including 12 tractor tugs. The future is ship-shape.

For detailed specs on these tugs please see www.mcallistertowing.com.

RIDING THE TECHNOLOGY WAVE

In August of 2003, Mike Cassels was hired as Director of Management of Information Systems, to revamp the company e-mail system with an MS Exchange Server, upgrade to the Microsoft XP operating system, and administer ongoing and new projects. This overhaul will allow us a fully integrated network and smoother sailing all around. We’ve come a long way since the days of the plug -in switchboard.

GRAND REPUBLIC CHRISTENING

On a beautiful starry night in Port Jefferson, NY, the newest ferry for The Bridgeport and Port Jefferson Steamboat Co. the GRAND REPUBLIC was christened. The new GRAND REPUBLIC is 306’ in length, 52’ breadth and 16.5’ depth. She was built by Eastern Shipbuilding and has the capacity for 120 vehicles and 1,000 passengers. Her twin EMD 16-645-E7B engines provide a 6,140 hp.

The event was held on September 6th and benefited the emergency departments at John T. Mather Memorial Hospital and St. Charles Hospital. The ferry was christened by The Honorable Jeanne Garant, Mayor of Port Jefferson. Captain Brian McAllister, dressed in full captain’s regalia gave an eloquent and emotive speech; as did distinguished members of both hospitals, Senator Kenneth P. LaValle and Mayor Garant before she smashed the bottle of bubbly against the hull.

A distinctive Caribbean theme permeated the evening. Immediately following the christening, party guests were kidnapped by a “rowdy” group of pirates who ushered them on board the vessel. Once aboard the GRAND REPUBLIC, passengers, crew and pirates shoved off and relished a picturesque sunset cruise. From there, revelers enjoyed festive food and danced to the rhythmic Island sounds of calypso provided by King Wellington and The Earth Peeples. In short and in connection with her name, a GRAND time was had by one and all.
Welcome the 2003 new additions to the McAllister fleet!
After 83 days, the Marianne McAllister returned to her homeport of Charleston, SC on Dec. 23rd completing a long haul transit to San Diego, CA. and transit of the Panama Canal. From my perspective as Captain, the voyage went as smoothly as could be expected.

The trip to California included some of the finest weather I’ve ever sailed in. Dead calm conditions for nearly two weeks made a long voyage very pleasant. The transit of the Panama Canal was a new experience for all but two of the crew. This was my 9th transit, but first towing a barge. Three pilots were required, due to the width of the barge, and a “tail” boat assisted throughout the transit. Advice to any of our crews that may transit in the future – have twice as many copies of all paperwork as required!! Customs, Immigration, and Health in Panama each want “extras”.

We encountered all manner of sea life, from a pod of pilot whales to an approximately 500 lb. Blue Marlin which we nearly ran over. Off the West Coast of Costa Rica, we saw over 500 sea turtles on the surface in a space of three hours. And inevitably we encountered rainbows and waterspouts.

The crew enjoyed a two week layover in San Diego, while a contract and subsequent backload of the barge was worked out. Exploring Southern California was relaxing for the whole crew. The Embarcadero on the waterfront and the Gas Lamp District offered a welcome break from shipboard food.

Sailing Nov. 18th from San Diego with a load for Jacksonville, FL, put arriving home for Christmas very much in doubt. Delays in Balboa and Cristobal, did not help matters. Then, the weather that had been cooperating, took a bad turn with a series of fronts coming down from the Gulf of Mexico. At last, on Dec. 22nd we took the last leg of the trip from Jacksonville, arriving in Charleston on Dec. 23rd to the relief of all, especially wives and girlfriends.

I would like to thank my crew for their perseverance on a long, successful and incident-free trip. Another piece of advice is to bring plenty of books, movies and any other entertainment you enjoy. Your favorite snacks also help. That’s why this was a 450 Tootsie Pop Trip.


All Hands on Deck! A storm is on the horizon. A brainstorm, that is! This issue of the McAllister newsletter is only the first of what we hope will be a semi-annual (possibly quarterly) issue. We need your help!

The editorial staff is holding a company-wide contest to re-name our newsletter. McAllister Log is too generic to reflect the McAllister experience. We want a creative name for our new publication. The person who comes up with the best one will enjoy company-wide stardom and also win a McAllister tote bag.

We are also seeking any McAllister-related stories, anecdotes, news items, photographs and more for inclusion in our next issues. We encourage you to submit your own contributions big or small for consideration by the editorial staff. Submit your ideas via email to Beverly Reilly or Craig Rising for possible publication in future newsletters.

Photo Credits:
Alan Aden, Bob Alonso, Eastern Shipbuilding, Pat Kinnier, Brian McAllister, Buckley McAllister, James McGuire, Beverly Reilly, Matt Stern, and Joe Tesoriero