

THE CONNECTION

VOL. 13, ISSUE 4 • WINTER 2008

PUBLISHED BY SGS PETROLEUM SERVICE CORPORATION FOR ITS EMPLOYEES

HELPING HANDS AFTER THE STORMS

First came Gustav, then Ike — unwelcome visitors that sent big trees crashing, power lines snapping, and waves of water slamming into homes and businesses along the central Gulf Coast. After these powerful hurricanes blew through during the first two weeks of September, it was hard to find a PSC employee in Louisiana or southeast Texas who hadn't been impacted in one way or another.

But what wasn't hard to find before, during and after the storms were helping hands within the PSC family. In this issue of *The Connection*, we'd like to take this opportunity to salute ALL of our employees and their family members who rose to the challenge and went to the aid of their co-workers, PSC's customers, and others in need. Here are just a few of their stories...

PART I - GUSTAV POUNDS LOUISIANA ON LABOR DAY

As Hurricane Gustav approached the Louisiana coast over the Labor Day holiday weekend, PSC employees at work sites from New Orleans to Lake Charles were busy making preparations to help minimize the storm's impact to our customers' plant and terminal operations. We're thankful to these employees for their hard work and dedication, and we also appreciate the support of their spouses and families who took care of things at home so that they could do a very important job.

At Occidental Chemical in Taft, **Gabriel Oubre** and **Justin Palia** arrived around noon on Saturday, August 30th to begin securing railcars and supporting the



Joel Prejean, Jimmy Stockton, Rustin Mickles, Rob Hardy, Jimmy Horn and Kevin Martin (shown l. to r.) helped unload a truckload of generators that were delivered to the Baton Rouge Office by Danny Sharp (far right).

last-minute loading operations. After the storm made landfall around midday on Monday, September 1st, they spent the next five days helping with clean-up efforts and setting up railcars as the plant prepared to resume full operations.

Just up the river in Plaquemine, LA, a team of eight PSC employees was serving in a similar role at Dow Chemical. This hurricane squad was made up of **Shi Crossley, Wyketrick Johnson, Joey Martin, Marty Mitchell, Chris Morris, Dustin Pirtle, GW Son** and **Antoine Warner**. They provided 24-hour coverage for five straight days.

At the nearby Placid Refinery in Port Allen, a team of four dock operators, **Shelley Delapasse, Albert Jagielski, Martin Kirumba** and **Albert Reeves**, took shifts on "sump watch," monitoring the docks which tend to flood in storms. "When I got there on

the afternoon the storm hit, the power was out at the docks and in the plant, and there wasn't a single sump pump working anywhere in the facility," recalled Albert Reeves. "There was a lot of wind and rain, and we had several trees on the levee that fell near the docks. That didn't bother me too much being out there during the storm, but what was a concern was that I had to leave my family in that mess. The eye wall of the storm passed near my home, and the phones were out, so I didn't find out how they were until I got home that night. We lost some shingles off our house, but nothing like the damage that some of the folks around us had, so we were fortunate."

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SGS



AS I SEE IT . . .

By Brian Haymon, CEO
SGS Petroleum Service Corporation

I recently had the opportunity to visit a unique and very interesting place: Fort McMurray, Alberta. Fort McMurray is the jumping off point for the Canadian Oil Sands region, which is the second largest known crude oil reserve in the world. SGS came to the Oil Sands region a little over two years ago and today employs about 150 people there. I thought our employees might be interested to learn more about the Oil Sands and the SGS operations there.

A huge deposit covering hundreds of square miles in Northern Alberta, the Oil Sands region holds an estimated 130 billion barrels of oil—second only to Saudi Arabia. Although oil companies have known about this region for years, only when the price of oil reached \$45 a barrel did large scale recovery make economic sense. Companies have spent billions of dollars so far, with more than \$100 billion in additional investment scheduled over the next few years.

Unlike oil that lies trapped as a liquid in deep underground pools, here the oil is found in a sand mixture relatively close to the surface. The oil, referred to as “bitumen,” gives the sand a very dark brown color, almost black. The sand smells like crude oil but does not stain your skin. It packs more tightly than normal sand—the result of pressure from glaciers that passed over this area 10,000 years ago. You could build a large, smelly, black, and very tall sand castle with this stuff.

The sand is found at different depths, some as close as 30 feet from the surface. Getting to this first layer requires removing the trees, rocks, and topsoil, known as “muskeg,” which is a combination of soft earth and lichens that is very boggy when not frozen. Mining is done mostly in the winter, when the surface is frozen and can support heavy equipment.

Wintertime temperatures in the region often reach -40 degrees Fahrenheit. This is too cold for most outdoor work. But at a relatively balmy -30 degrees, the work goes on. Most days the temperature is about the same as in your freezer at home (the locals say you get used to it).

The process of removing the sand near the surface is similar to strip mining coal. The equipment involved is massive. Cranes with arms as long as a football field and buckets that hold enough sand to fill your living room are used to scrape away the earth. Up to 100 tons of sand at a time are lifted and placed into the largest dump trucks in the world. Called “heavy haulers,” they each carry a load of 400 tons. (By comparison, a fully loaded 18-wheeler weighs about 40 tons.) A heavy hauler stands about 30 feet high and is the size of an average house. It has eight tires, each of which is 12 feet high and costs \$25,000.

Once full, a heavy hauler takes its load of sand and travels to a nearby “extraction plant” where it dumps the sand onto a large conveyor. The conveyor takes the sand inside the plant and deposits it into a drum about 20 feet in diameter and 100 feet long. The drum sits on its side and rotates. Rocks embedded in the sand fall to the bottom of the drum and are screened out. At the same time, hot water and steam are injected into the sand mix, which liberates the oil from the sand. The sand and water mix, known as “slurry,” is pumped out via pipeline to a “tailing pond.” These are not ponds, but more like lakes. Most are at least a mile wide. The largest one we saw was about six miles wide.

Once the slurry reaches the tailing pond, the sand settles fairly quickly to the bottom. However, there is a good bit of matter called “fines” that remain suspended in the water. It can take up to 50 years for the fines to completely settle to the bottom. Once the settling process completes, the

remaining water is pumped out of the pond, and the soil can be reclaimed and re-planted with trees and vegetation. Scientists are currently trying to determine how to speed up the settling process so that the tailing ponds can be more quickly returned to their natural state.

As you can imagine, this type of surface mining is very disruptive to the environment. During my tour through the region I saw brown and scarred land stretching to the horizon. The environmental issues are almost overwhelming. They include the tremendous volumes of water taken from the nearby Athabasca River, pollution from runoff, and the length of time for the land to be returned to its natural state.

This method of strip mining will be used to recover about 20 percent of the oil that lies close to the surface. The rest of the oil-producing sand lies about 300 feet down, too deep for strip mining. To recover this oil a series of holes are drilled down to the level of the oil sand. Steam and hot water are then injected into the holes. Eventually the steam and hot water cause the oil to be liberated from the sand. The oily water and sand mix is then pumped to the surface and sent for further processing.

Because this method of recovery takes place below the surface, there is no scarring of the land, and no tailing ponds. The main challenge is the cost. Scientists are studying ways to make this process more energy efficient and cost effective.

So what does SGS do in the Oil Sands region? For one, SGS tests the sand to determine which areas are likely to produce the most oil. This is done by drilling deep into the sand and taking core samples that are about eight feet long and six inches thick. Based on what these core samples show, SGS can advise its clients on the best places for extraction and the volume of recovery expected.

SGS also operates a "pilot plant." Recently completed at a cost of over \$10 million, this is a miniature version of the plant used to separate the oil from the sand. The benefit of the pilot plant is that SGS can work with its client to optimize the processes so that when the client builds its real extraction plant (at a cost of over a billion dollars) it will know the best engineering and design features to use.

The issues around extraction and production are interesting and challenging. However, even more important are the economic and political issues. The Oil Sands represent Canada's largest concentration of natural resource wealth. The economic development of the region and the projected tax revenue will be of major importance to the Canadian government for the foreseeable future. The region is also strategically important to the United States, since it contains a vast amount of oil in a friendly and adjacent country. Currently there is talk of building a pipeline from the region into the U.S. However, China is also lobbying for a pipeline to Canada's west coast, where the oil can then be transported by ship.

If this is your first time to read about the Canadian Oil Sands, my bet is that it won't be the last. Should you want to visit, Fort McMurray is about 300 miles north of Edmonton, Alberta. This may sound far away, but the region's impact on our energy future strikes close to home.

I visited the Oil Sands this past August. At that time the price of oil was near \$140 per barrel, and gasoline was above \$4.00 per gallon. The challenge facing the industry at that time was how to import enough people to the Oil Sands region to meet the labor demand. Wages were sky high.

Three months later, the price of oil is under \$50 a barrel, and gasoline is less than \$2.00 a gallon. Companies in the Oil Sands region are cutting wages and putting projects on hold as they wait to see what happens with oil prices. How fast things change.

Closer to home, the sudden downturn in the economy is causing some plants to begin to scale back production, resulting in some loss of work for PSC. This is certainly disappointing, and more cutbacks may be on the way. On the other hand, a slowing economy should create growth opportunities for PSC, as refineries and chemical plants look for ways to operate more efficiently.

We will be alert to these opportunities, and do our best to retain our existing work. In the coming weeks and months, I will be communicating frequently with our employees so that everyone stays informed of developments.

As we celebrate the upcoming holidays, let us pause to reflect on our many blessings. On behalf of our PSC management and staff, we wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season. □

PROMOTIONS AND SUPERVISORY CHANGES

We are pleased to announce that **Dwayne Bouvier** has been promoted to a supervisory role for our Louisiana Tankerman Group. Dwayne has worked for PSC since 1995, and he has been an instructor for PSC's Tankerman Career Academy for more than five years.

Houston Haymon has been selected as the new Business Development Manager for our Texas operations. Houston will report to Phil Johnson and work with Joel Dickerson and Ron Owens as we continue to grow both our in-plant and marine businesses. Houston has been with PSC for six years, serving as Operations Manager and as our Texas HSE Leader.

Jesse Ruiz has recently been promoted to the role of Site Supervisor for our Flint Hills Resources work group in Corpus Christi, TX. Jesse has been with PSC for four years at Flint Hills working as a shift leader. His experience includes 14 years in operations at Koch in Corpus Christi and seven years in rail switching and loading at Occidental in Ingleside.

Jimmy Stockton has been promoted to a role in our HSE group as the Safety Leader in our Baton Rouge Office. He began working as a loader and team leader at Dow in Plaquemine in 1998, working for J E Merit. He joined PSC in February 2007 and has since served as the Liquids Loading Supervisor and the Safety and Training Supervisor.

We extend our congratulations to Dwayne, Houston, Jesse and Jimmy and wish them much success in their new roles. □



Cordell and Brian Haymon stand in a giant bucket used to mine oil sands near Fort McMurray, Alberta. In the background is an excavator more than 400 feet long.

BACK AT HEADQUARTERS...

At the Baton Rouge Office in the days before Gustav's landfall, PSC's management team was monitoring the storm's track and proceeding with implementation of the Crisis Management Plan that had been developed following Hurricane Katrina. I.T. Manager **Don Richardson** and I.T. Assistant **Kevin Martin** were burning the late night oil shutting down all the computers and transferring the phone lines from the Baton Rouge Office to the Pasadena Office.

"Dispatchers **Lance Catlett, Jamie Tallman** and **Ashley Simon** were sent to the Pasadena Office. They stayed there for about five days, taking shifts to keep our dispatch operations going day and night," said VP of Administration **Jacquelyne Janneck**. "**Roman Firmin**, our HSE Leader in Texas, who used to be a dispatcher, also helped man the phone lines."

Payroll Manager **Charlotte Henriquez** and her team made up of **Carolyn Dennis, Rhonda Douglas, Patti Fitzgerald, Rhonda Gourges, Janet Rowan** and **Amanda Stark** worked on contingency plans and necessary preparations to be able to pay employees, even if information wasn't readily available regarding the number of hours worked. Thanks to their hard work and advance planning, everyone was paid on time following both hurricanes.

GENERATOR HELPERS

In the Baton Rouge area, wind damage from Gustav was the worst of any storm in memory, with few homes escaping

roof damage. Most of the city was without electrical power, and for some employees, it took three weeks or more for power to be restored to their homes, which made for some miserable conditions with temperatures hovering in the 80s and 90s.

After learning of the widespread damage and power outages, VP of Marine Operations **Phil Johnson** came up with the idea to purchase some generators in Houston to bring to employees in the Baton Rouge area. After the first truckload was delivered, Phil quickly learned that the demand far outpaced the supply, and so he and Operations Manager **Ron Owens** set out in the Houston area to find more generators.

"They were able to get a supply of generators at a substantial discount, and we sold them to our employees at cost," said Contract Administration Manager **Tracy Casebonne**, who helped to coordinate the generator distribution process through the Baton Rouge Office. "The managers in the office began to spread the word about the generators to the supervisors of our work groups in the hardest hit areas. Unfortunately there wasn't a lot of time to send out a memo to everyone or to be real organized in our communications. It was just one of those things that happened real fast as everyone was trying to help those who had been hard hit by the storm."

A total of 173 generators were purchased and distributed to employees in Louisiana. "We did this for a few days until we realized that the Texas employees were about to need

generators with Ike's arrival," said Tracy. So, a similar generator distribution process was established in the Pasadena Office, under the direction of Ron Owens and Office Manager **Lernette Patterson**. After Hurricane Ike knocked out power to much of southeast Texas, a total of 108 generators were distributed to PSC employees there.

At the risk of omitting some names, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank others within the company who assisted with purchasing, transporting, loading/unloading and coordinating the distribution of the generators:

- Houston Tankerman Group - **Mason Dela Cruz, Robert Franks, Robert Neuman, Danny Sharp** and **Deon Singleton**;
- Baton Rouge Office - **Sherie Faulkinberry, Cindy Hill, Jimmy Horn, Jamie Kuhns, Glenda Lyssy, Kevin Martin, Rustin Mickles, Rodney Plauche** and **Joel Prejean**;
- Louisiana Tankerman Group - **Don Cheek, Jason Faul, Robert Hardy, Jon Johnson, Joshua Juneau, Greg Lindley, Jack Miller, Jody Sanders, Walter Smith** and **Rodney Vickers**;
- Dow Plaquemine Group - **Michelle Rivet** and **Jimmy Stockton**;
- Dow St. Charles Group - **Heather Cortez**;
- Corpus Christi Office - **Jack Berry**.

We'd also like to recognize and thank Phil Johnson's son Micah for his help in locating and purchasing a supply of generators in Austin, TX. He also managed to find some much needed gas cans, which were in short supply in the Houston area following the storms.

ADDRESSING OTHER NEEDS

With schools in the Baton Rouge area closed for more than a week following Gustav, VP of HR and Training **Marsha Ramsey** knew that child care was going to be an issue for many of the employees in the Baton Rouge Office. "My son Jordan wasn't in school, and so I knew there were other moms within the company who were going to be stressed out trying to figure out what to do with their kids in order to be able to report to work. Many within our group, myself included, had suffered damage to



Deon Singleton, Ron Owens and Robert Franks were part of a team from the Pasadena Office who helped load generators for delivery to hot and tired Gustav victims in Louisiana.

our homes, and we were also dealing with those problems. So, to add the kiddie stress to the mix was just not a good thing," said Marsha.

To address that need, the "PSC Day Care" was born, and it remained in operation for over a week until most of the schools and day care centers in the area had reopened. "At its peak, we had about a dozen children here, playing games and having fun in our HR Training Room," said Marsha. "An added bonus was that we had power at the office, whereas most of us didn't have power at homes, so the kids could be in air conditioned comfort here."

Two adults were in the training room at all times to supervise and care for the children. **Diane Netters**, who works on a temporary basis in our HR Department, was one of the "day care ladies," and Staffing Manager **Sosha Record** recruited a neighbor of hers who had done some babysitting for her daughter. An LSU student also volunteered to help, and some of the older children pitched in to help care for the youngsters.

Tracy Jackson, our Baton Rouge Office Receptionist, was one of the parents who took advantage of the day care service for her three children. "It took a bunch of stress off me because I didn't have to try to figure out where they were going to be and what they'd be doing," said Tracy. (*brandon conner sr*)

Her youngest son Cameron, who will be five years old later this month, now asks

when he's going to be able to go back to work with Mommy and to see his "girlfriend" Jordyn, the 12-year-old daughter of Administrative Assistant Cindy Hill.

"They absolutely loved it," said Accounting Manager **Brigette Major**, who brought her 12-year-old daughter Brionne and nine-year-old son Brandon to work with her while the PSC day care service was in operation. "I was getting up and coming to work at 7:00 a.m. because there was air conditioning here, and the kids were thrilled to come along with me. On the last day, Brionne and Cindy's daughter Jordyn choreographed a dance routine that they performed for the group. When Brionne's school reopened, she was most disappointed that she could no longer come to work with me!"

Marsha also credited the HR staff for quickly adapting their work routines in the weeks following the storms to assist employees as needed. "We weren't able to really do much in terms of our normal hiring processes with so much shut down. So, we focused our efforts on assisting employees in finding emergency contact numbers and other resource information like where to get blue tarps and ice and how to apply for FEMA benefits," she said.



This photo taken by Randy Wheat shows the damage to his son Kade's bedroom after Hurricane Ike's storm surge blew out the walls of the house and washed away all their belongings.

PART II - HURRICANE IKE ROARS ASHORE ON SEPTEMBER 13TH

While many Louisiana employees were still struggling to recover from Gustav, Hurricane Ike popped up in the Gulf and quickly developed into a monster storm that had everyone in southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana scrambling to make hurricane preparations and get out of the storm's path.

For **Randy Wheat**, Operations Manager for our Port Arthur Tankerman Group, the days since Ike made landfall have been like a nightmare from which he can't awaken. His home on the south side of Bridge City was completely destroyed, and his family is still reeling from the blow.

"We had about 10 feet of water in the house, and the pressure from the storm surge blew out the walls and blew the bricks off the house," said Randy. "The front of the house still has some brick on it, but there's not much else left other than the studs."

Randy's two children, 11-year-old son Kade and 9-year-old daughter Reilly, had their bedrooms on the first floor of the home, and everything they had was a total loss. "We had moved some things up to our room on the second floor, thinking we might get a few feet of water in the house. But all of the stuff we had upstairs was damaged when a neighbor's tree fell through the roof," he added.



Pictured above are some of the happy kiddos enjoying their stay at the post-Gustav PSC Day Care. They are (front row, l. to r.) Cameron Jackson, Jordan Ramsey, Cooper Scott and Brandon Major; (back row) Quisha Jackson, Brionne Lewis, Jordyn McDempsey and Isabella Record.

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PART II HURRICANE IKE *continued from page 5*

Two days after the storm they registered with FEMA for housing assistance. "We were told we were approved for a hotel stay until November, but we couldn't find a hotel with rooms available that would take us, since most of them said they still hadn't been paid for Hurricane Katrina evacuees," said Randy. "My mother ended up moving in with my sister, and we're now living in my mom's 900-square foot home, with my kids sleeping on a couch."

Although they had been through hurricanes before, the house had never flooded and wasn't in a flood zone, so they didn't have flood insurance. After their homeowners' insurance company denied paying out any claims under their wind coverage, Randy applied for the low-interest SBA loan program set up to aid hurricane victims. To add insult to injury, they were told they didn't qualify because of their income.

"FEMA told us we had been approved for a 14 by 60-foot trailer, but now we're fighting with them over where to put it," said Randy. "They told us it couldn't be placed on some land that my mother owned, that our only option was for it to be placed on the same lot with our damaged home. That just isn't safe, and it would be too stressful for the kids," said Randy. "The other option was to have it placed in a trailer park in Vidor, which is 35 miles away from my kids' school and our jobs, and so that wasn't really feasible either. Now we've hired a lawyer to take on the insurance company, we've appealed the denial from SBA, and we've submitted more paperwork to FEMA to try to get approval to put the trailer on my mother's land. It's very frustrating, and we're just stuck playing a waiting game for now."

SAME SONG, SECOND VERSE

After spending Labor Day in the hospital recovering from a heart attack, **Charles Wallace**, Site Supervisor for our OxyVinyls work group at Pasadena and Deer Park, was certainly in no condition for the stress and strain brought on by Hurricane Ike. The home Charles had purchased on Trinity Bay in Anahuac, TX, just prior to getting married to his wife Lisa last November was heavily damaged by the storm surge.

"When I went to check on my house the Sunday after the storm hit, we came upon a 20-foot tall wall of debris near the Trinity Bay Bridge with dead cattle and hogs and all sorts of personal belongings," recalled Charles. "It was the worst thing I had ever seen. The homes near the bridge had been washed up against the freeway, and we knew then that we were in trouble."

The first thing Charles saw when he arrived at his home was what was left of a neighbor's house which had floated down the road and broke apart in his yard. "We'd had about four feet of water in the house that had already run off into the bay, taking a lot of our personal belongings with it," he recalled. "The electrical box had been ripped from the home along with all the wiring, and the storm surge had blown the doors off the house."

Charles is very appreciative of all the support he's received from his fellow PSC employees, in particular the people who came and helped Charles and Lisa clean-up and salvage what they could the weekend after the storm. "My Operations Manager **Brian Camp** and his son Kenneth came out, and they worked all day helping me get that wet, nasty, rotten stuff out of the house," said Charles. "They stayed until it was done, in spite of the mosquitoes and snakes. One of my employees at OxyVinyls, **Paul Walker**, also came out with his wife Amber to help us on two different occasions."

Charles and Lisa are now living in a travel trailer they bought the day after the storm hit. "It took over two months for my insurance company to respond, and the news wasn't good. And FEMA isn't providing any assistance either since we had insurance, so we're still trying to figure out what we're going to do," he said.

After all that has happened, Charles says he feels very fortunate. "There are people who are still living in tents in



Here's the scene that Charles Wallace found after Hurricane Ike blew through his neighborhood. His neighbor's roof was resting on the lawn of Charles' flood-ravaged house.

the park near my house. I followed the school bus the other morning and watched kids climb out of blue tarp tents to get on the school bus, and it was just heartbreaking," he said. "Hopefully the red tape will go away and things will be resolved to some extent by Christmas."

A SALUTE TO THE CLEAN-UP CREWS

Many of our Louisiana and Texas employees have worked long, hard hours following the storms assisting PSC customers in cleaning up and returning to normal operations. For the members of our work group at the Chevron operation in Orange, Texas, they have been working non-stop for the past three months helping with the post-Ike clean-up and restoration efforts after the plant was flooded with more than four feet of salt water and more than 400 railcars were damaged.

"We came back a week after the hurricane and began clearing debris that had washed up all along the fence line. We worked on that for a couple of weeks, and then we started on the railcar repairs," said Site Supervisor **Herb Ricks**. "Our crew had to raise the cars to change out all the wheels. After that, we began staging the cars for other needed repairs."

The plant is still shut down, but Herb and his employees are finishing the work to get the railcars ready, and they have begun to accept empty railcars for storage, which is one of the primary functions of the storage-in-transit (SIT) operation. In addition to Herb, the work group includes **Shane Dunwoody, James Harvey, Billy Osborn, Matthew Rodrigue, Josh Thomas, Richard Walters** and **Micheal Wimbley**.

"Everybody has been real cooperative, and they've done everything that was asked of them in spite of adverse conditions," added Herb. "Because of the flooding throughout the plant, we don't have an office or a break room, and bathrooms are limited. The Chevron employees are real busy right now trying to get the plant ready to resume operations, so whatever they need, we do it."

RELIEF FUND ESTABLISHED

After learning of the catastrophic losses suffered by Randy Wheat, Charles Wallace and others within the PSC family, the company established an Employee Hurricane Relief Fund and collected donations through the end of October. PSC matched the financial

contributions made by employees, and in November, we were able to distribute \$2,000 to each of the 11 PSC employees hardest hit by the hurricanes.

"PSC employees have always responded generously, particularly to help our employees in need," said CEO Brian Haymon. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the hurricane relief efforts. What we saw in the aftermath of these two devastating storms is certainly a testament to the quality of our people and their concern for others." □

A THANK YOU NOTE FOR THE PORT ARTHUR TANKERMEN

My wife and I were devastated by Hurricane Ike, which flooded our home with nearly four feet of water. The group of guys in the Port Arthur Tankerman Group found out about our problem and came to our rescue. Some of the guys were scheduled off, and some were on call and still managed to find the time to help us... In a matter of hours, these men accomplished what would have taken us days to do. These men are a blessing.

*With appreciation,
Jeff and Darlene Berry*



The clean-up crew assisting Jeff Berry (shown back row, first on the left) and his family included (back row, l. to r.) Ron Blocker, Chris Dalton, Jeremy Broussard, Russell West, Darrell Hulin, Corey Alphin, Jason Lejeune, Jeff Meiers and Trent Hebert; (bottom row, l. to r.) Jeff Berry's grandson Skitter with Dennis Shaddix, Chad Kingston and Ricky Gollihare. Not pictured are Chris Hubbard and Matt Wahl.

GETTING THE JOB DONE

We'd like to take this opportunity to commend Texas Recruiter **Mark McGlothlin** for his extraordinary effort to get needed staff hired for one of our operations in Pampa, TX. "With Hurricane Ike bearing down on the Texas coast, we asked Mark to leave on a few hours notice and fly to Pampa to recruit for switchmen," said Senior Operations Manager **Joel Dickerson**. "The workforce center had closed down in the Pampa area, and we did not have any quality referrals to interview."

Mark arrived at the hotel very late on the Monday before Ike's arrival, and he immediately began networking through the front desk clerk, who had a family member who worked in an HR role for one of the area businesses. Through this new contact, Mark was able to get phone numbers for some of the people who had previously staffed the workforce center.

"The next day, Mark contacted these women and was able to convince them to allow him to use their old files and comb through old applicants from the center," said Joel. "By the afternoon of the next day, Mark had conducted interviews and made offers to fill all of our open slots. He had just enough time to get back to the airport and catch a flight home to begin preparations for the hurricane."

We tip our hats to Mark for going above and beyond to meet our staffing needs!

With Sympathy

We were sad to hear of the death of Ed Workman, who had worked for PSC for 10 years at Flint Hills Resources in Corpus Christi, TX. He had resigned earlier this year after suffering a massive heart attack, and he passed away in early October at the age of 63. We extend our condolences to his wife Sylvia and all his family.

SAFETY CORNER

I am pleased to announce the addition of **Jimmy Stockton** to our HSE team. Jimmy has transferred to the HSE Leader job in our Baton Rouge Office from our site at Dow Chemical in Plaquemine, where he was the Safety and Training Coordinator. Prior to joining our company, Jimmy was the site supervisor for J E Merit at Dow in the liquid loading area. When we took over that job, Jimmy was one of the people we hired, and he has excelled as a supervisor and in the roles we have given him.

The most important thing that Jimmy brings with him to his new HSE role is a passion for safety and a commitment to influencing the safety culture in our organization. In my conversations with him prior to his selection for this job, he told me that his goal was to make a difference in the lives of our employees by getting them home safely each and every day. That struck me as being totally aligned with the culture of our company and its management.

Jimmy will have responsibility for safety leadership in our work groups located in Louisiana. I am looking forward to introducing him to those work groups as well as work groups in other areas. I am excited to have him on our team, and I am asking that you join with me in making Jimmy feel welcome in his new role.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone to be particularly vigilant as we work through the holiday season, when we can tend to be distracted. Let us all remember that the holidays are a time when we want to be with family, and that family is the very reason why we need to remain focused on operating safely, both at work and at home.

While at work we all need to make a concerted effort to follow procedures, be aware of our surroundings, stay on the look-out for unsafe conditions, and intervene when we see others losing focus.

The holidays also present us with challenges off the job. Many of us will be putting up decorations and perhaps traveling to visit with relatives and friends. Please be aware that accidents off the job are more common than accidents on the job.

Whether the injury occurs on or off the job, the end results are the same. Both the injured person and their family suffers. So, be safe, stay focused, and enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

Melissa Charlet, Roman Firmin,

Jimmy and I want to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season and peace and prosperity in the New Year.



By Rodney Plauche
Director of HR and HSE

RECENT SAFETY MILESTONES

No Recordable Injuries

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <i>Flint Hills Resources - Corpus Christi, TX</i> | <i>10 years</i> |
| <i>St. Louis Tankerman Group</i> | <i>8 years</i> |
| <i>Upper Ohio Tankerman Group</i> | <i>7 years</i> |
| <i>Rubicon - Geismar, LA</i> | <i>6 years</i> |
| <i>Invista - Victoria, TX</i> | <i>5 years</i> |
| <i>OxyVinyls - Deer Park, TX</i> | <i>3 years</i> |
| <i>Solutia Chocolate Bayou - Alvin, TX</i> | <i>3 years</i> |
| <i>Targa Resources - Baytown, TX</i> | <i>3 years</i> |
| <i>Celanese - Bishop, TX</i> | <i>2 Years</i> |
| <i>CF Industries - Donaldsonville, LA</i> | <i>1 Year</i> |
| <i>Houston Tankerman Group</i> | <i>1 Year</i> |
| <i>LA Dock Group</i> | <i>1 Year</i> |
| <i>Nalco - Garyville, LA</i> | <i>1 Year</i> |
| <i>NuStar, LP - Texas City, TX</i> | <i>1 Year</i> |

No Spills

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <i>CF Industries - Donaldsonville, LA</i> | <i>34 years</i> |
| <i>Occidental - Convent, LA</i> | <i>29 years</i> |
| <i>Kirby - Plaquemine, LA</i> | <i>14 years</i> |
| <i>Kentucky Tankerman Group</i> | <i>11 years</i> |
| <i>Marathon - Garyville, LA</i> | <i>8 years</i> |
| <i>Helen G/166 Fleet</i> | <i>5 years</i> |
| <i>Invista - Victoria, TX</i> | <i>5 years</i> |
| <i>ExxonMobil - Beaumont, TX</i> | <i>4 years</i> |
| <i>MS / AL Tankerman Group</i> | <i>3 years</i> |
| <i>CITGO - Lake Charles, LA</i> | <i>2 Years</i> |
| <i>New Orleans Tankerman Group</i> | <i>1 Year</i> |

Employee Close-Up



Mack White

Meet Mack White, one of the 1,300 men and women who are SGS Petroleum Service Corporation. Mack works for PSC as a leadman at Occidental Chemical in Taft, LA. He has been working for PSC since January 2008.

The Connection: What were you doing before you took this job with PSC?

MW: I had been working out here at Oxy for about eight years total, working for another contractor. When PSC took over the contract out here, they offered me a job, and I accepted.

The Connection: What are your job responsibilities?

MW: As a leadman, it is my responsibility to make sure that the work gets done, that it gets done in a safe manner, and that all procedures are followed. We have two leadmen per shift - one that works on the ground, and one that

works as an engineer, and we swap up. Today I'm working on the ground, and tomorrow I'll be on the engine. The products we handle are chlorine and caustic soda, and every now and then we handle acid.

The Connection: What do you like most about your job?

MW: I like the responsibility that comes with the job, and I don't mind being a leader. I take that as a challenge, and I enjoy what I do. It's a constantly changing environment, with new challenges every day, but we're all just working together to make the customer happy and help everyone get home safely at the end of the day. It's also great exercise. We do a lot of walking, and so it helps me stay in shape.

The Connection: What do you enjoy doing when you're not on the job?

MW: I have five children. My daughter Angela is 31, and she lives in Memphis, TN. I have another daughter named Jalisha who is 16 and lives in Luling. My son Keith is 29, my son Bryan is 28, and then my youngest son Craig is 26. I also have two grandchildren. My granddaughter is five years old, and my grandson

was born just a few months ago. So, I enjoy spending time with them, and I also like to fish. I live in St. Charles Parish, and there are lots of places to fish. In fact, while I was off this past weekend I went on a fishing trip to Grand Isle. I caught a bunch of white trout and some channel mullet. My mom used to take me fishing, and I've enjoyed it ever since. So, when the work and chores are done, that's what I like to do. I catch fish, clean them, and give them away.

The Connection: Is there anything else you'd like your fellow PSC employees to know about you?

MW: I'm a hard worker and I'm happy to be working for PSC. It's one of the best companies I've ever worked for. They've made me feel welcome, shown me they care about me, and they treat me with love and respect. So, I'm just happy to be aboard. This company is growing and hopefully I can grow with it! ☐

This feature is designed to help you get to know more of the employees of our company. Please let us know if you would like us to profile one of your co-workers.

MARATHON WORK GROUP RECEIVES CONTRACTOR EXCELLENCE AWARD

Our work group at the Marathon Refinery in Garyville, LA, was presented with a Contractor Safety Excellence Award at the Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance (GBRIA) award banquet held in Baton Rouge on October 16th. Marathon nominated PSC for this award under the category of "Technical Support Contractors."

The GBRIA Contractor Awards program was established in 1996 in an effort to recognize excellent safety performance by contractors working in industrial facilities. The

winning companies have demonstrated a level of safety excellence that includes having worked without injury, a commitment by management to educate workers, and a culture where accidents do not happen.

We congratulate Site Supervisor **Mike Ellis**, Training and Safety Coordinator **Kevin Craft**, and all the PSC employees at Marathon for their hard work and commitment to safety and excellence.



Kevin Craft and Mike Ellis are shown accepting the Contractor Safety Excellence Award at the GBRIA Awards Banquet in October.

From Our Customers

- I'd like to give an "Eagle Eye" recognition to **Malcolm Whittington**...While loading a barge on August 16, one of our employees went to top catch a sample when a piece of slack broke off from the barge loading chute, plugging the chute. Malcolm [who was loading another barge nearby] noticed product spilling as a result of the plugged chute, and he notified our employee who was able to pull the trip cord to stop the belts. The spill was minimum and easy to clean. Thank you, Malcolm!

*Larry Hebert
General Relief Foreman
Mosaic Louisiana Operations
Faustina, LA*

- I just want to pass along how much I appreciate the job SGS-PSC does for us. On Tuesday, September 30, we were trying to get as much product loaded as possible. The guys on the dock did a great job! They were able to load one acetone and four caustic barges, and they also started off loading cumene. Special thanks to **Toby McDowell** for coordinating the barges, and to these guys for making it happen: **Kelly Bennet, James Todd Sr., Chris Holmes, Stanley Washington, and Jessie Warner**. I really appreciate their efforts. I know I ask a lot, but with a great group of guys, they always come through. Please pass this on to them.

*Cathy Cazes
Marine Service Representative
Georgia Gulf Corporation
Plaquemine, LA*

- The US Coast Guard performed a routine security and oil spill preparedness inspection at our wharfs on 10/7/08. All equipment and documentation was found to be in good order. There were no adverse findings...Congratulations and THANK YOU to SGS Petroleum Service Corporation for a job well done!

*Mark J. Koslicki
Environmental Manager
Motiva Refinery
Convent, LA*

- The ISO auditor and I just completed our round at the Caustic load rack. I wanted to take a moment and communicate that **Charles Bergeron** did an EXCEPTIONAL job responding to the auditor's requests. He communicated very well, provided documentation with ease, and made it apparent that a tight ship is run out there. He had a polite and confident demeanor that made the auditor feel very comfortable with the practices currently in place. I would really like to see some recognition for Charles. The auditor had nothing but positive comments.

*Dana Meyers
Caustic Operations Leader
The Dow Chemical Company
Plaquemine, LA*

- I would personally like to thank **Al Jagielski** with SGS Petroleum Service Corporation for his effort in preparing for our 2008 Coast Guard Annual Audit. The SGS-PSC employees under Al's direction prepared our docks for this inspection. The docks were cleaned and ready for inspection on September 30. It is nice to know that the people working on our dock take pride in helping prepare for this very important inspection. Their efforts definitely showed when the Coast Guard made their inspection.

*Brett (Junior) Cowart
Safety Department
Placid Refining Company
Port Allen, LA*

Editor's Note: The note below was sent to acknowledge the assistance of PSC tankermen in offloading an acid barge that had been pushed on top of a sunken flat deck barge during Hurricane Ike. The tankermen involved in this lightering operation were **Jason Herrera, Howard Maddox, Luis Mena** and **Danny Sharp**, who worked under the supervision of **Mason Dela Cruz** and **Robert Franks**.

- On behalf of Rhodia, I wanted to write to you to thank all the SGS-PSC employees who helped and responded to our problem of having a barge grounded which needed to have the product pumped out to other barges in order to free it from it grounding. PSC was ready to respond to our call for assistance at a moment's notice. We were delayed several times for one reason or another, and PSC had to reschedule each time. They commented to me that when I was ready, they would be ready. This type of service and true partnership is just what Rhodia needs and gets from SGS Petroleum Service Corporation. Please tell everyone what a great job they performed. Your employees worked safely and professionally, and this job in my mind could not have gone better with PSC and Rhodia working together side by side.

*Jerry Byrd
Barge Fleet Manager
Rhodia Eco Services Enterprise
Houston, TX*

LATE BREAKING NEWS . . .

The IRS has increased the following limits for 401(k) plans for 2009:

- The individual amount that a participant may defer will increase from \$15,500 to \$16,500.
- For participants over age 50, an additional "catch up" deferral has increased from \$5,000 per year to \$5,500 per year. Total deferral, therefore, for participants over age 50 will be \$22,000 in 2009.

See the "HR Hotline" on the back cover for more information regarding 401(k) and insurance plan enrollment for 2009.

OUR NEWEST TANKERMAN GRADS

We're pleased to recognize the newest graduates of our Tankerman Career Academy, pictured below. They were honored at a dinner in Baton Rouge on October 9th in celebration of the completion of their four-month training program. We wish them much success in their new careers with SGS Petroleum Service Corporation.



Our new TCA graduates are (l. to r.) **Aaron Taylor, Nicholas Lamonte, Jose Herrera, Derek Deere, Christopher Schimmeck** and **Gary Ray**.

PRECIOUS CARGO ARRIVALS

It's a Girl! Jonathan Leigh (Georgia Gulf - Plaquemine, LA) and his wife Ali are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Olivia Grace. She was born on June 26 weighing 7 lbs 1.6 oz.

It's a Girl! Terry Sibley (Rubicon - Geismar, LA) and his wife Christina are the proud parents of a daughter born on September 6. Andrea Gayle weighed 9 lbs 8 oz.

It's a Girl! Chris Escamilla (Solutia - Alvin, TX) and his wife Tracey have a new daughter born on September 24. Jayden weighed 1 lbs 10 oz.

It's a Girl! Jody Scott (Baton Rouge Office) and her husband Wade are the proud parents of a daughter born on September 24. Maggie Byrd weighed 8 lbs 2 oz.

It's a Girl! Rodney Avant (Houston Tankerman Group) and his wife Amanda are pleased to announce the birth of Abigail Michelle on November 16. She weighed 7 lbs 14 oz.

THE SGS-PSC SPORTS SECTION

If you have a photo and/or brief story you'd like to share, please forward it to Jody Scott, SGS Petroleum Service Corporation, PO Box 3517, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or via email to jody.scott@sgs.com.

We're pleased to recognize **Heath Knight** from our Dispatch Department who recently completed his third LiveStrong Challenge cycling event in Austin, Texas on October 26th. He rode 65 miles through the Austin Hills in about five hours!

"Although the ride was tough, I was proud to ride in honor and memory of those whose lives have been impacted by cancer," said Heath. "I am very thankful to the SGS-PSC family and all who donated, encouraged me, and covered my shifts so I could make the ride and continue the fight against cancer. I am especially thankful to my wife who cared for me and encouraged me to become a survivor. Caregivers are true angels."

A highlight of the event for Heath was the opportunity to hear famed cyclist and Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong speak. He ended his speech with a memorable quote: "Failure is not an option. Winning is less important than not losing."



Pictured with Heath are his wife Koty and his sons Kason and Kade.

ANNIVERSARIES

30 YEARS

Jefferson Harris – CF Industries, Donaldsonville, LA
 Scott Medine – Occidental, Convent, LA
 Eric Morris – Terra Mississippi Nitrogen,
 Donaldsonville, LA
 Donald Spencer – Marathon Petroleum, Garyville, LA

20 YEARS

Garry Drinkard – MS/AL Tankerman Group
 Allen Wingert – Occidental, Convent, LA

15 YEARS

Michael Lewis – Georgia Gulf, Plaquemine, LA
 Lawrence Rhew – Dow Chemical, Texas City, TX

10 YEARS

John Dickerson – ExxonMobil Chemical,
 Baton Rouge, LA
 Roman Firmin – Pasadena Office
 Todd Messina – Georgia Gulf, Plaquemine, LA

5 YEARS

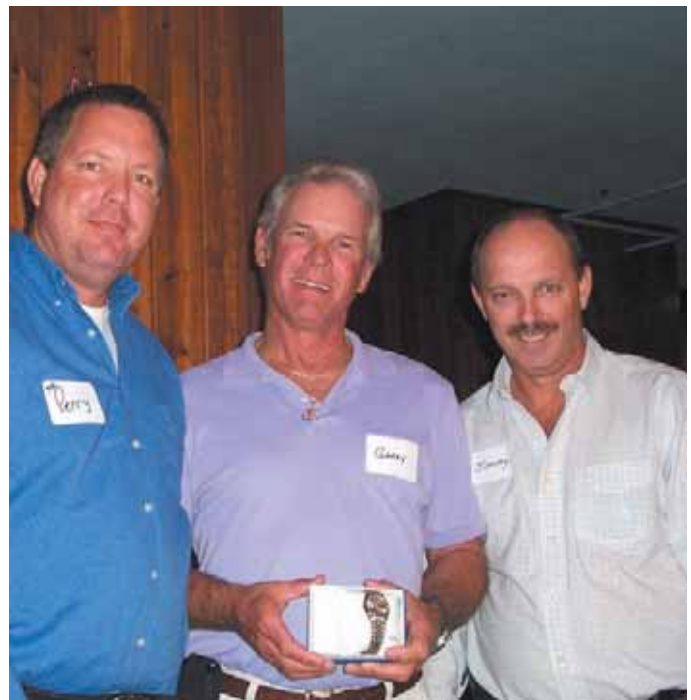
Chuck Catoire – Marathon Petroleum, Garyville, LA
 Johnell Celistan – Dow Chemical, St. Charles
 Operations, LA
 Herbert Foster – Mosaic Louisiana Operations
 Marcus Kenworthy – Kirby Dow Tankerman Group,
 Plaquemine, LA
 Mark Purkapple – St. Louis Tankerman Group
 Daniel Rudd – CITGO, Lake Charles, LA
 Garry Wheeler – Louisiana Tankerman Group
 Eric Winstead – CITGO, Lake Charles, LA



A special celebration was held in late October to honor four PSC employees on the occasion of their milestone anniversaries. Shown (l. to r.) are John Leerkes, Vice President of Operations; Allen Wingert, Supervisor of our Oxy work group in Convent, who was honored for 20 years of service; Eric Morris, Site Leader of our Terra work group in Donaldsonville, who was honored for 30 years of service; David Webre, Louisiana Operations Manager; Scott Medine, Assistant Supervisor for Oxy-Convent, who was honored for 30 years of service; and Jefferson Harris, Product Handler for CF Industries, who was honored for 30 years of service.



Donald "Duck" Spencer from our Marathon work group in Garyville, LA, recently marked his 30-year anniversary with PSC. In honor of this occasion, he was presented with an assortment of cooking gear by LA Dock Operations Manager Terry Montz and Marathon Site Supervisor Mike Ellis.



Garry Drinkard from our MS/AL Tankerman Group was presented with a 20-year anniversary watch at an recognition dinner held recently. MS/AL Supervisor Perry Schipper and Marine Operations Manager Jimmy Horn made the award presentation.

CHICO AND THE MAN

Pete Budo, a dispatcher in our Baton Rouge Office, got his "15 minutes of fame" when his pet Chihuahua helped the Baton Rouge City Police Department nab a couple of bank robbery suspects. This case of dumb criminals versus little guard dog was just too funny not to share with the PSC family, so here are a few more minutes of glory for Pete and Chico.

Chico has been Pete's sidekick and protector for the past seven years. When Pete let him out in the backyard on an



otherwise quiet afternoon in late August, Chico immediately sensed something was wrong and began running in circles and barking near a section of the fence. So, Pete took a peek over the fence and found a pair of pants and shoes lying there, with no owner in sight.

Since he had heard about a bank robbery in the area, Pete called the police. Turns out the pants belonged to one of the suspects who had cut through Pete's yard as he made his escape. He had ditched his pants and shoes after a dye pack exploded that had been put in the bank bag with the stolen money. He also left behind the bank bag containing about \$2,500.

It wasn't hard to catch the owner of the pants because he had also left behind his driver's license! A prompt arrest was made, and the police commended Pete and Chico for their help in solving the crime.

"I like to say that it's Chico who deserves the credit," added Pete. And we think that little hero deserves a big bone!

AN OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIST, IN SPIRIT & DEED

In recognition of his volunteer work to make Baton Rouge a better place to live, **Cordell Haymon** was honored recently as the recipient of the 2008 "Outstanding Philanthropist Award." The award was presented by the Greater Baton Rouge Association of Fundraising Professionals at a luncheon held on November 11th.

We extend our congratulations to Cordell for this outstanding honor. We're proud of you!



Cordell is shown with his wife Ava at the National Philanthropy Day awards luncheon.

ANOTHER GRAD IN THE PSC FAMILY



Micah Johnson

B.S. in Finance
University of Houston - Clear Lake
Son of Phil & Shirley Johnson
Pasadena Office

Congratulations to Micah upon his graduation this month. He received a \$100 gift from PSC in recognition of his academic achievements. We wish him much success in his future endeavors.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

**Georgia Gulf –
Plaquemine, LA**

Matthew Boyd
Larry Hudson
Brennan Lyons

Louisiana Tankerman Group

Shannon Aucoin
Thomas Tarver

**CF Industries –
Donaldsonville, LA**

Bryant Cedotal
Bobby Daigle
Matthew Johnson
Clifford Kliebert
Jason Martin

Pasadena Office

James Berry
Megan Woods

Motiva – Convent, LA

Neil Hoover
Bobby McClung

**Dow Chemical - St. Charles
Operations, LA**

Robert Baker
Luis Cabrera
John Campbell
Charles Cancienne
Kristi Doby
Chris Fine
Warren Gilbert
Ryan Graffia
Alexander Green
Brian Koontz
Jacob Kraemer
Alexis Lee
Leonard Lee
Chase Livingston
Travis Mitchell
Ronald Robichaux
Brandon Sassin
Christopher Smith
Ryan Tassin

**Dow Chemical –
Plaquemine, LA**

Kevin Baker
Michael Boudreaux
Mark Bourgoyne
Lynwood Brown
Daniel Carbo
Kyle Comeaux
Mark Lake
Norman LeJeune
Chris Milnar
Donavon Williams
Tony Young

**Marathon Petroleum –
Garyville, LA**

Tait Duhon
Brandon Foret
Ron Webber

**Mosaic Louisiana
Operations**

Demond Bell
Joshua Johnson
Martell McKarry
Tiffany Owens
Josh Truax
Ernest Williams

Houston Docks

Joseph Chapa
Paul Nash

**Flint Hills Resources -
Corpus Christi, TX**

Frank Campbell
Santos Casas

LA Dock Group

Theodore Griffin

**Shell Chemical –
Geismar, LA**

Zachary Canady
Erick Hamilton
Terence Jones
Chris McCardle
Robert Woolley

**ExxonMobil BRPO –
Baton Rouge, LA**

Eric Chaney
Kirkland Criss
Steve Keel

Valero – Texas City, TX

Cary Rouse

Rubicon – Geismar, LA

Larry Aguiard
Lex Landry

**Dow Chemical –
Texas City, TX**

Javier Quinonez

Honeywell - Geismar, LA

Tyrone Catchings
Kourtney Hatch

**Georgia Gulf -
Aberdeen, MS**

Benton Coggin

**Total Petrochemicals –
Carville, LA**

Travis Shivers
Colbea Williams

ExxonMobil – Baytown, TX

Searle Ash
Amy Jones
Candelario Magallon

Houston Tankerman Group

Robert Lussier

**ChevronPhillips Chemical
Cedar Bayou – Baytown, TX**

Ben Clayton
Matthew Fowler
Hector Garza
Billy Gaskey
Win Greenaway
John Gurka
Aaron Hollaway
Michael Miller
Christopher Minks
Phillip Nance
Kenneth Williams
John Zuluaga

**OxyVinyls – Deer
Park/Pasadena, TX**

Larue Johnson
Lorenzo Pina
Joseph Ripper
Paul Walker
Ambrose Williams
Derrick Wilson

ExxonMobil - Chalmette, LA

Anthony Pizzotolo
Sean Ryan

**Corpus Christi
Tankerman Group**

Christopher Bostwick
Chris White

Celanese – Pampa, TX

Cody Bickerstaff
Manuel Garcia
Wade Mitchell
Kevin Shackett

Celanese – Clear Lake, TX

Gaylan Hester

**Occidental Chemical -
Taft, LA**

Justin Clement
Paul Maxie

**ChevronPhillips Chemical –
Orange, TX**

Richard Walters

**ChevronPhillips Chemical –
Pasadena, TX**

Dwayne Benoit
Simon Escobedo
Shelton Guidry
James Hall
James Hodges
Toddrick Jones
Stacey Lindsey
Alejandro Medellin
Jeffrey Silva
Dallas Thurman
Donald Washington



Shown presenting Charlie Marks (center) his Find-A-Name prize is PSC Site Supervisor Chris Myers and Leadman Randy Gerfers.

OUR FIND-A-NAME CONTEST WINNER

Charlie Marks from our ExxonMobil work group in Baytown, TX, was the lucky winner of our “hidden name” contest in the last issue of *The Connection*. He received a special prize for his attention to detail. Another name is hidden in this issue – could it be yours? If you find your name printed in lowercase *italic letters* (in parentheses), please contact the Human Resources Department in Baton Rouge to claim your prize. □

SNAPSHOT GALLERY:

Shown below are photos taken at the TCA graduation dinner and at employee recognition events held over the last few months for employees of the AL/MS and Louisiana Tankerman Groups, Louisiana Dock Group, CITGO and Mosaic work groups.



Leslie and Aaron Taylor



Dennis Johnston, Glenda Lyssy and Shane Herrington



Johnny and Dawn Saucida



Andrea and Martin Kirumba



Martell and Lekiesha McKarry



Joel Gandy



Jessie and Bryant Hollier

Kayla Bourg with
Charles and Deborah Bennett



Ronnie Hill



Christopher and Katie Schimmeck



Ashley, Ryan and Audrey Young



Cheryl Randall and Columbus Milligan



James Daigle



Chuck and Jennifer Desormeaux



Warren and Jessica Nichols

OUR 2008 PECAN RECIPE SWAP

Giving the gift of pecans is a long-standing holiday tradition at PSC, one that was started more than 40 years ago by our founder D.H. Haymon after a visit to the Bergeron Pecan shelling plant in New Roads, Louisiana. This year, over 3,300 boxes of pecans will be delivered to employees and friends of SGS Petroleum Service Corporation across the country. In case you can't decide how to use your pecans this year, here are a few tasty recipes provided by your fellow employees and their family members. Enjoy!

SWEET POTATO PECAN PIE

Submitted by Lernetta Patterson, Pasadena Office

(Makes one 9-inch pie)

- 1 9-inch unbaked pastry shell
- 1 lb (2 medium) sweet potatoes/yams, cooked & peeled
- 1/4 cup margarine or butter
- 1 14-oz can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk, (NOT evaporated milk)
- 1 teaspoon grated orange rind
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- Pecan Topping

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In large mixer bowl, beat hot sweet potatoes with margarine until smooth. Add remaining ingredients except pastry shell and Pecan Topping; mix well. Pour into pastry shell. Bake 30 minutes. Remove from oven; spoon Pecan Topping evenly over top. Bake 20 to 25 minutes longer or until golden brown. Cool. Serve warm or chilled. Refrigerate leftovers.

Pecan Topping: In small mixer bowl, combine 1 egg, 3 tablespoons dark corn syrup, 3 tablespoons firmly packed light brown sugar, 1 tablespoon margarine or butter, melted, and 1 teaspoon maple flavoring; mix well. Stir in 1 cup chopped pecans.

CHERRY SALAD

Submitted by Trent Becht, Total Petrochemicals in Carville, LA (his mother Carol's recipe)

- 1 14-oz can sweetened condensed milk (I use light, as much as I can)
- 1 can cherry pie filling (light, if I can find it)
- 1 15-oz can crushed pineapple, drained (if you can't find the 15-oz can, use 20-oz)
- 1 can mandarin oranges, drained
- Chopped pecans
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 small container Lite Cool Whip
- 3 sliced bananas (optional)

PECAN PRALINES

Submitted by Lernetta Patterson, Pasadena Office

(Makes 15 to 20 pralines)

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup half-and-half
- 1/3 stick butter
- 1/8 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/2 cups whole pecans

Combine all ingredients except the pecans in a heavy saucepan. Over medium heat stir mixture until it comes to a boil. Turn heat down to medium-low and continue to stir. Spoon mixture up on sides of pan to melt any sugar that hasn't melted. Cook until mixture reaches 238 to 241 degrees Fahrenheit on a candy thermometer. Stir in the pecans. Remove from heat. Stir until the mixture begins to thicken and becomes creamy and cloudy. Drop onto parchment paper, buttered pan or buttered marble slab, using a spoon or ice cream scoop. Let cool.

CREAM CHEESE AND PINEAPPLE FINGER SANDWICHES

Submitted by Trent Becht, Total Petrochemicals in Carville, LA (his mother Carol's recipe)

- 1 8-oz package cream cheese, softened
- 1 8-oz can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 loaf white sandwich bread

In a mixing bowl, combine the softened cream cheese and pineapple. Add the sugar and pecans to the mixture. Trim the crust from the bread slices and make into sandwiches. Place the sandwiches in a tray and cover with plastic wrap. Yields 20-25 servings.

OATMEAL CHOCOLATE CHIP CAKE

*Submitted by Trent Becht, Total Petrochemicals in Carville, LA
(his mother Carol's recipe)*

- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1 1/2 cups boiling water
- 1 stick oleo
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon cocoa
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 1 bag chocolate chips (I put about half in mixture and another half on top)

- 1 cup pecans

Pour boiling water over oatmeal. Let stand 5-10 minutes. Add oleo. Stir until melted. Add both sugars. Add soda, salt, cocoa, and flour. Mix well. Add half bag chocolate chips. Pour into 9 x 13 pan. Sprinkle other half bag chocolate chips on top. Bake 40 minutes at 350 degrees.

AUNT D'S MINIATURE PECAN PIES

Submitted by Cindy Hill, Baton Rouge Office

Pie Crust:

- 1 3-oz package cream cheese
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup flour

Mix ingredients by hand and refrigerate for a half hour. Make small balls about the size of a marble. Should make about 30. Place each ball into small muffin tin and press along bottom and sides to form shell.

Filling:

- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup pecans, chopped fine
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 dash salt

Combine ingredients and fill into shells in muffin tins. Bake at 350 degrees for about 25 minutes. Let cool and remove from pan. Store in airtight container. Can also freeze.

ITALIAN FIG COOKIES

Submitted by JoAnn Fridge, Baton Rouge Office

Filling:

- 2 lbs dried figs (cut stems off)
- 1 lb raisins
- Zest from 1 large orange (or 3 small ones), 3 teaspoons
- 2 cups pecans (chopped)
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons allspice (powder)
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 cup fig preserves and juice (cut stems off)
- 4 tablespoons vanilla

Mix all spices together, coat fruit well. Put all of the above through a grinder, making sure all ingredients are mixed well.

Dough:

- 7 cups all purpose flour
- 1 3/4 cups Crisco shortening
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups water
- 1/2 cup milk (4 oz PET Milk)
- 3 egg whites (no yolks)
- 5 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon anise oil/extract
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 teaspoon butter extract

Combine flour, baking powder and cut in shortening. Set aside. Warm the rest of the ingredients until the sugar dissolves (not hot). Pour above in flour mixture and knead until ball is formed. Note: if too sticky, add 1/4 cup flour.

Making Cookies:

Divide dough into 4 parts or more. Flour area to roll dough out in 1/4-inch thickness. Roll fig filling into a long slender tube and place on dough, rolling over to close. Cut into desired size and place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for about 15 minutes, or until lightly brown.

Icing:

- 3 cups powdered sugar
- 4 tablespoons PET Milk
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 teaspoon butter extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla



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HR HOTLINE

WATCH FOR YOUR OPEN ENROLLMENT PACKAGE TO ARRIVE SOON

By Terry Pennison, Benefits Administrator and Linda Thibodeaux, HR Assistant



Insurance Plans: With the end of the year approaching, it is time once again for the annual enrollment for all insurance plans to be effective January 1, 2009. The open enrollment period in December is the only time that you can enroll in or cancel your insurance coverage without having a qualifying event (marriage, birth of a child, gain/loss of other coverage).

SGS Petroleum Service Corporation's voluntary life insurance also falls under open enrollment guidelines. If you are considering adding additional life insurance for yourself, your spouse and/or your dependent children, you will need to sign up for this coverage before December 31, 2008.

An insurance package describing our various health plans and their costs was mailed out to all employees in late-November. December is the month to make any changes to your coverage. If you need additional enrollment forms or have questions, please contact Terry Pennison at (800) 264-8222 ext. 274 or via email to terry.pennison@sgs.com.

401(k) Plan: The open enrollment deadline for our 401(k) plan is also January 1, 2009. To participate in the plan, you

must be employed by PSC for at least three months. Open enrollment for the 401(k) is now held four times a year on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Under our automatic enrollment feature, Fidelity Investments will contact new employees to advise that they will automatically be enrolled in the 401(k) plan unless they waive participation. If Fidelity automatically enrolls a new employee, the contribution amount will be 4%, and the funds will be invested in Fidelity's Freedom Fund. Employees can change their investment choices at any time by contacting Fidelity at (800) 835-5097.

SGS Petroleum Service Corporation matches dollar for dollar the first 4% contributed and the next 2% at 50 cents on the dollar. This is a great way to build your retirement fund and supplement it with PSC's added contributions. Nearly 80% of eligible employees participate in the plan. Are you taking advantage of this benefit?

For additional information or questions related to the 401(k) plan, contact Linda Thibodeaux at (800) 264-8222 ext. 245 or via email to linda.thibodeaux@sgs.com. You may also contact Fidelity at (800) 835-5097.