

# *tie lines* – May 2005

The Port of Long Beach's monthly newsletter

## AROUND THE PORT . . .

**Facing major infrastructure, environmental and security projects, the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners voted preliminary approval for a general tariff rate increase of 5 percent effective July 1.**

The proposal is expected to go back to the Board of Harbor Commissioners in May for final approval. The increases to the Port of Long Beach's shipping services fees would include hikes in wharfage, dockage, storage and demurrage rates.

The board acted after the California Association of Port Authorities authorized its member ports to increase tariff charges, citing infrastructure, environmental and security needs. During the next five years, the Port of Long Beach plans more than \$1 billion in infrastructure improvements including environmental programs, and tens of millions of dollars more for tighter security.

**With Chinese New Year slowing imports, the total number of cargo containers shipped through Long Beach in March rose to the equivalent of 466,019 twenty-foot-long container units, a modest 3.9 percent gain compared with the same month a year ago.**

Imports fell 10.8 percent to 210,093 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). Chinese New Year was Feb. 9, shutting down much of China for a week, and reducing imports at the end of February and early March. The March import total was the weakest since February 2004, which was slowed by last year's Jan. 22 Chinese New Year.

Amid a weakening dollar, exports climbed 10.2 percent to 104,519 TEUs, the second highest export total ever for Long Beach – after a high of 106,556 TEUs in March 1997. The number of empty containers, nearly all headed overseas, rose 28.2 percent to 151,407 TEUs.

**Citing the Port of Long Beach's exceptional work and commitment to protecting the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has presented the Port with a 2005 Environmental Achievement Award.**

In naming the Port as one of this year's environmental heroes, the EPA detailed the Port's efforts to reduce the impacts of port activity on public health and the environment. The EPA recognized the Port's Healthy Harbor Initiative, the Green Port Policy Resolution, Air Quality Improvement Plan and its joint effort with BP to "cold iron" oil tankers so they can plug into clean shore-side electricity.

The Green Port Policy set guiding principles for the Port's environmental efforts. Healthy Harbor Long Beach is a multi-program initiative to enhance air, water and soil quality and wildlife habitats. The Port's Air Quality Improvement Plan has reduced emissions by more than 14 tons of diesel particulate matter and 43 tons of nitrogen oxides annually.

**Nearly 2,000 people are expected to experience the sights and sounds of the Port on Saturday, May 7, when the City of Long Beach Harbor Department offers free harbor**

### **cruises to the public.**

Ninety-minute narrated tours will be offered every half hour from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The cruises will depart from a new location, Rainbow Harbor's Dock No. 2, in downtown Long Beach, near the Aquarium of the Pacific.

Free, time-specific tickets are offered on a first-come first-serve basis and no reservations are taken. Tickets for each cruise will be handed out beginning at 8:30 a.m., May 7, at the Port's information booth at Rainbow Harbor's Dock No. 2.

Tickets for the entire day are often gone before noon so visitors are encouraged to arrive early.

### **The Port of Long Beach's economic impact extends throughout the region and across the country, supporting 1.4 million jobs and \$47 billion in wages nationally, according to a study by the Port.**

As one of the area's key employment sectors, Port cargo-handling operations accounted for nearly 30,000 jobs – roughly one in eight – and more than \$1.54 billion in wages in Long Beach, according to the Port report based on 2001 port data.

For the five-county Southern California region, Port of Long Beach activities supported nearly 316,000 jobs and \$14 billion in wages.

### **Port officials celebrated a major air quality milestone in March with the completion of a two-year \$2 million program that fitted nearly 600 diesel-power utility tractors, forklifts and other terminal yard equipment with pollution control devices.**

Port Planning Director **Robert Kanter** awarded environmental achievement trophies to the participating terminal officials: **Ron Neal** and **Mike Lingerfelt** of California United Terminals (Pier E), **James Kwon** of Total Terminals International (Pier T), **John DiBernardo** and **Bob Kelly** of SSA Marine (also **Paul Gagnon** at Pier C, **Pieter Suttorp** and **Matt Wypynski** at Pier A and **Sal Ferrigno** and **Chuanmin Li** at PCT at Pier J), **Anthony Otto** of Long Beach Container Terminal (Pier F) and **Ed Mitchell** of International Transportation Service (Piers G and J).

Kanter honored two individuals for their contributions: **Ken Pope** of Marine Terminals Corp. and Port Environmental Specialist **Thomas Jelenic**.

Chevron Engine Control Systems, Donaldson Filter Supply Co., General Petroleum and Lubrizol were also recognized for developing and providing the technology.

### **The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has voted preliminary approval for a nearly \$5.9 million contract with Sequel Contractors Inc. of Santa Fe Springs to build a new truck gate for the California United Terminals facility at Piers E.**

Sequel, a small business enterprise, was selected after submitting the lowest of six bids, which ranged as high as \$6.1 million.

The contractor will build an automated 12-lane receiving gate and eight-lane delivery gate, trouble parking area, scales, and other infrastructure for optical character recognition systems and radiation portal monitors.

### **Hong Kong remained the world's busiest container port in 2004 handling nearly 22 million TEUs, slightly ahead of Singapore, according to totals reported by the individual ports.**

The world's Top Five was unchanged, with Shanghai at No. 3 followed by Shenzhen, China, and

Busan, South Korea. The Port of Long Beach held steady at No. 13.

With the extraordinary growth at the Chinese ports of Shanghai and Shenzhen, the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles – if combined – slipped from No. 3 and now rank as the world's fifth busiest port complex.

**The Department of Homeland Security has awarded \$450,000 in an Urban Area Security Initiative grant to the Port of Long Beach to improve communication systems.**

The funds will be used for an All Hazard Alert Broadcast System, a low-power AM radio broadcast system to provide traffic information; a field deployable multidirectional public address system for the entire port; and a radio frequency interoperability link between the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles.

**Two new gantry cranes ordered by SSA Terminals from Shanghai's Zhenhua Port Machinery Co. will be passing under the Gerald Desmond Bridge in early May in a move to Pier A.**

With the new cranes, Pier A will have a total of 10. The 170-acre Pier A terminal operated by SSAT is the home for Mediterranean Shipping Co., Zim Integrated Shipping Services and CMA CGM.

**On April 19, Port officials welcomed Orient Overseas Container Line's 8,000-TEU OOCL *Tianjin* on its maiden voyage plaque to Long Beach Container Terminal's Pier F facility.**

The OOCL *Tianjin* joins the Grand Alliance's Super Shuttle Express (SSX) Service between Long Beach and the Far East. With the addition of a sister ship in May, the SSX Service will become the first at the Port of Long Beach (and the United States) made up of all 8,000-TEU vessels.

**While speeding rail cargo between the San Pedro Bay ports and the rest of the nation, the Alameda Corridor also has produced significant air quality benefits since opening in 2002, according to a study commissioned by the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority.**

By consolidating rail operations from four 10-mph lines to one 40-mph route, the Alameda Corridor ended traffic jams at 200 rail crossings and eliminated 3,863 tons of pollutants including 49 tons of particulate matter.

The number of trains using the Corridor has increased by 12.5 percent in the first three years to more than 16,000 in 2004, with the number of containers jumping 33.9 percent to 5,514 a day – eliminating a comparable number of truck trips from roadways.

**OOCL (USA) Inc. is moving from its Long Beach office. Beginning May 9, the company will operate at 17777 Center Court Drive, Suite 500, in Cerritos. The telephone number will remain the same, (562) 499-2600.**

**Sea Launch Company has successfully delivered DIRECTV's Spaceway F1 satellite into orbit, completing the launch of the heaviest commercial satellite to date.**

The Boeing-built satellite, Spaceway F1, weighing 13,376 pounds, is one of four that DIRECTV

has scheduled for launch over the next three years in a major expansion of its programming capacity.

**Cosmo Perrone, the Port of Long Beach's new security director, will be a speaker at the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals' Southern California Roundtable dinner May 10 at Cal Poly Pomona.**

The event at the Kellogg West Conference Center is held in conjunction with the Distribution Managers Association, Warehousing Education and Research Council and Los Angeles Transportation Club. For more information, call (562) 434-7393, ext. 4.

**Andy Robinson of Taylor Guitars will be the speaker at the International Business Association's World Trade Week luncheon May 13 at the Hilton Long Beach Hotel.**

The IBA also will present its achievement award to Mort Stuhlbarg of Sisco, and award more than \$100,000 in scholarships. For information, call (562) 432-8128.

**The Propeller Club will host the 56th annual Steamship Ball on May 14 at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. For information, call (818) 951-2842.**

**The Foreign Trade Association's World Trade Week luncheon will be held May 26 at the Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. For more information, call (323) 730-1011.**

**The Harbor Transportation Club is hosting its annual golf tournament on May 27 at the California Country Club in Whittier. For more information, call (562) 434-7393.**

**The ILWU and Propeller Club have scheduled their 18th annual Seafood Feast for June 15 at Berth 54 at the Port of Los Angeles.**

Proceeds go to scholarships for harbor-area students. For tickets, contact the Propeller Club at (818) 951-2842, or ILWU Locals 13, 63 and 94

PORT PEOPLE . . .

**Long Beach Harbor Commission President John R. Calhoun has advised Mayor Beverly O'Neil that he does not plan to seek a second six-year term on the port governing board after his term expires June 30.**

Calhoun, appointed in 1999, says he wants to spend more time with his family. Before joining the Harbor Commission, Calhoun was Long Beach City Attorney for 13 years. In total, he has served the City of Long Beach for more than 40 years.

**The Port of Long Beach's marketing manager, Donald B. Snyder, has been promoted to the position of Director of Trade and Maritime Services.**

Snyder came to the Port in 2003 from Mattel Inc., where he served as the toy giant's manager of import/export logistics for six years. Prior to Mattel, Snyder spent a decade working for the shipping line Sea-Land Services.

**Heather C. Morris, the former City of Irvine public information officer, has been named the**

**Port of Long Beach's Director of Communications. She succeeds Yvonne Smith who retired in December.**

Morris also has worked as the public information officer for the City of Brea, the public information manager/assistant director of recreation for the City of Norwalk and the community services director for the City of Signal Hill.