



**The Working Harbor Committee of NY/NJ  
with Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises  
present the  
18<sup>th</sup> Annual Great North River  
Tugboat Race and Competition**

Contacts: Capt. John Doswell  
Working Harbor Committee  
212-757-1600  
[john@workingharbor.org](mailto:john@workingharbor.org)  
[www.workingharbor.org](http://www.workingharbor.org)

Danielle Pagano  
Quinn & Co.  
For Circle Line Sight Seeing Cruises  
[dpagano@quinnandco.com](mailto:dpagano@quinnandco.com)  
212-868-1900 x238

**PRESS ADVISORY**

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Great North River Tugboat Race and Competition  
Sunday, 5 September, on the Hudson River**



***The event will kick off at 10 a.m. with a tugboat parade on the Hudson River starting near West 44<sup>th</sup> Street. The race, nose-to-nose pushing contests, line-throwing, spinach-eating and tattoo competitions will follow immediately.***

**Space for working press is available on the spectator boat and on a photo boat that will follow the on-the-water action.**

For your convenience copy of this release is also attached as a word document.  
Photos available on request

## **Event Description**

### **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Great North River Tugboat Race and Competition**

Fifteen to 20 tugboats, the maritime 18-wheelers that normally dock ships and push barges, will roar down the Hudson River Sunday morning as they vie to be named the fastest boat in their class.

The race typically draws thousands of spectators, which is one of the reasons the tug companies enjoy participating. “New Yorkers sometimes forget they are surrounded by water and that there is a whole maritime industry working here. This tug competition is the one time a year people can really see what we do,” explained Craig Rising of McAllister Towing and Transportation, one of the largest and oldest tug companies in the country. It is also a field day for the tug crews, many of whom bring their families aboard. “It is a great change of pace for us,” said Captain Brian Fournier, who will be running the *Andrew McAllister*, “and it is great fun to show off for our wives and kids.”

The race is not the only opportunity for the tug crews to do some showing off. Immediately following the race, the tugs challenge each other to nose-to-nose pushing duels—the nautical version of arm wrestling—to find out who is strongest. Then in what is the toughest test of all, captains steer close to the pier while deckhands attempt to lasso a bollard on the pier. The task, which makes horse wrangling seem tame, is something working tugboat crews perform daily, but it requires incredible coordination between captain and crew.

After the on-the-water competition, the boats will nose up to Pier 84 where crews will come ashore for lunch while judges select the best-looking tug, the best crew tattoo and more. There will also be maritime exhibits, food, children’s activities and a spinach-eating contest for all would-be Popeyes.

The race is organized by the Working Harbor Committee in collaboration with Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. The WHC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating people about the rich history, current vitality and future potential of the New York/New Jersey Harbor. The organization also provides Hidden Harbor Tours® and runs an extensive youth educational program.

Sailing since 1945, Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street has hosted more than 60 million passengers in New York City. Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises is New York’s oldest and largest provider of scheduled and chartered sightseeing and special function cruises. Cruises are not only designed to provide the best viewing opportunities, but to also be informative, comfortable and entertaining as well. Today, the company is recognized as one of the most famous boat rides in the entire world and is one of the oldest 42nd Street landmarks.

### **Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises Spectator Boat**

Best viewing will be from The Circle Line Manhattan, one of the newest vessels in the Circle Line fleet. The Circle Line Manhattan will follow the race and all on-the-water activities. The spectator boat will depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp; the tugboat parade and race will begin at 10. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at: [www.WorkingHarbor.Org](http://www.WorkingHarbor.Org).

## **Intrepid Sea\*Air\*Space Museum additional viewing.**

Free viewing of tugboats crossing the finish line with sound is available on Pier 86 as well as the Intrepid's flight deck for Museum customers. For further information visit:  
[www.intrepidmuseum.org](http://www.intrepidmuseum.org)

### **Schedule of Events**

## **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Great North River Tugboat Race and Competition**

**Date: Sunday, 5 September 2010**

**Location: Pier 84/West 44<sup>th</sup> St. & Hudson River**

### **Time of Events:**

- **9:30 a.m. - Spectator Boat departs (boarding begins at 9 a.m.); advance reservation necessary\***
- **10 a.m. - Parade of Tugboats starts at Pier 84**
- **10:30 a.m. - Race begins near W.72<sup>nd</sup> Street & Hudson River**
- **11 a.m. to Noon - Nose-to-nose pushing contests and line-toss competition**
- **Noon to 1 p.m. – Tugboats and crews gather at Pier 84**
  - Spinach-eating contest – kids & adults**
  - Amateur line toss**
  - Tubboat model raffle**
  - Food/beverages available**
- **1 p.m. Awards**

\* The spectator boat will depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Circle Line's Pier 83 at 42<sup>rd</sup> Street and the Hudson River. The boat will join in the tugboat parade and provide the closest view of the action as the tugs race down the river at full throttle and then go nose-to-nose in the nautical version of an arm-wrestling contest. Tickets are \$30 (free to members of the press on assignment). Advance tickets can be purchased online at [www.workingharbor.org](http://www.workingharbor.org) or by calling: 212-757-1600. Admission to the Pier 84 events is free.