



Working Harbor Committee

For the heritage and future of the harbor of New York and New Jersey

ON THE HIP*

E-Newsletter of the Working Harbor Committee

June 2014

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Get Tickets Today for the First Hidden Harbor Tour® of the Season!
- Port Newark Port Elizabeth Tour - 14 June 2014



Images (c) Mitch Waxman

Summer is finally here...and so is the return of Working Harbor Committee's popular Hidden Harbor Tours®

Our first tour of the season will visit Port Newark & Port Elizabeth.

Enjoy an insider's view of how the working harbor really works and learn about what all those ships and tugs do. Enjoy a close up view of port terminals where giant container ships dock and unload their goods from around the world.

Saturday - 14 June

Boarding @ 10:30 a.m.

Cruising 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises

Pier 83, West 42nd Street and 12th Avenue

Adult Ticket - \$40

WHC members: \$35 (enter code WHCM5 in "Promotional Code" box)

Seniors - \$35

Children - \$26 (3-12)

Tour will be narrated by:

Capt. John Doswell, Executive Director of Working Harbor Committee and special guest speakers Billy Messina, APM terminals & Toby Pearce, Friends of Hudson River Park.

[Click Here for Downloadable flyer with all Summer Tour Dates](#)

If you would like a flyer offering the WHC discount to your place of business or an organization, please email the information to: workingharbor@aol.com

[Click Here for Tickets](#)

Or visit www.circleline42.com or come to the Circle Line Box Office at Pier 83. For more information on the tour, visit www.workingharbor.org

Gus Markou, President of New York Cruise Lines Inc., welcomes the Working Harbor Committee



Gus Markou - From Deckhand to COO: Climbing the (Rope) Ladder

Greek-American businessman Gus Markou, 52, knows a thing or two about boats. The modest but fast talking Chief Operating Officer of New York Cruise Lines, Inc. (parent company to Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises and World Yacht Dinner Cruises) has spent more of his life on water than on land. Literally.

No, he is not some Greek God half man-half merman. He's just a hard worker with a penchant for all things marine.

"I really liked the boating industry," Markou simply put it. And the boating industry likes him, too.

After fleeing Cyprus at the ripe age of 12 (by boat), Markou's relationship with nautical New York had only just begun. Beginning at a technical school on the (WWII vessel) SS John W. Brown around Christopher Street, Markou started learning the behind the scenes.

"I wanted to try it," he said earnestly. It was because of this vocational training that Markou got offered his first gig. "The owners of 'The Cabaret' asked the John W. Brown technical school for a few good kids," Markou explained.

And that was that. Markou became a deckhand, a maintenance guy, a jack of all trades tying up the boat, cleaning, ensuring regulations were met and finally, port engineer. World Yacht, LLC purchased the Cabaret around 1986 and as Markou puts it, "I came with the boat."

Shortly thereafter, Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises purchased World Yacht, LLC and Markou – well you guessed it – came with the boat again.

Markou's robust work ethic, passion for boats and operational knowhow sailed

him through promotion after promotion. By 1995, he was Port Engineer of New York Cruise Lines, Inc. in charge of all boat inspections, marine crews, maintenance and more. This was a time when boats were booming and the fleet at Pier 81 and Pier 83 was larger than life.

“It was a big job. A crazy job. We had trailers on the piers to fit our 1000-1500 person staff. We had the old Dayliner, a 2,000 person boat. We had two Beasts (speedboats) and eight Circle Line boats...” Markou recalled.

Markou moved on to Director of Marine Operations to Vice President of Operations to President and now Chief Operating Officer.

“I’ve done so much in this time. I’ve been able to build boats; I’ve restored three Circle Line boats. I’ve worked on some of the most classic boats in the United States. They’re WWII boats; they’re old, but incredible,” said Markou.

So what’s to come?

“The next big project will be to restore the other three Circle Line boats and we’re also looking to turn one of our WWII vessels into a historical museum for the ’15 season.”

Markou’s one word but of corporate ladder advice: “Patience.”

Markou is pleased to be teaming up with the Working Harbor Committee to present this summer's series of Hidden Harbor Tours®!

Profile on our Guest Speaker: Billy Messina, APM Terminals

Billy Messina, Vice President, Labor Relations
APM Terminals, North America



In 1988 William joined APM Terminals as an Assistant Manager in Marine Operations. During 1998 through 1999 he relocated to Houston to serve in the position of Terminal Manager.

After the acquisition, he became a General Manager in Houston. In 2005, William relocated back to New Jersey, as he was promoted to Managing Director, Terminal Operations for APM Terminals, Port Elizabeth, NJ. Currently, he is Vice President of Labor Relations for APM Terminals, North America.

William is a native of New Jersey and a graduate from SUNY Maritime College. He and his wife reside in Holmdel, New Jersey and they have three beautiful daughters.

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Working Harbor Committee Blog



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news and tidbits. If you want to get automatic emails on each new post, click on "Follow" and enter your email.

*For definition of "ON THE HIP" [click here](#)

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Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on a Hidden Harbor Tour® soon!

Capt. John Doswell - Executive Director - Working Harbor Committee -
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