

WW Patterson Reports Results Of "YoYo" Winch Field Test

A four-year field test of the new YoYo Winch from WW Patterson Company produced significant benefits, Patterson said.

AEP River Operations has used more than 400 of the winches on its barges, and the testing shows that the YoYo is 75 percent more efficient than old-style

ratchets at making up and breaking tow, Patterson said.

The company said the new winches are designed to prevent two of the most dangerous and unstable conditions for deckhands: the snarling of tangled rope or wire that results when lines gets kinked

or snagged on old-style winches, and the threat of injury from snapped cables.

The YoYo Winch design contains several patented safety improvements. Over time, knots and snags in wires reduce their strength and can cause cables to snap unexpectedly under loads and jolting back at speeds of more than 100 miles per hour. On a sudden loss of tension with a YoYo, the wire is enclosed in the drum with safety guards, protecting operators from injury.

For AEP, the safety features decreased rigging-related injuries by 66 percent last year.

"We have not received a single report of injury related to these winches," said Mike Weisend, manager of safety and health at AEP River Operations. "The YoYo requires minimal amount of pull to take the wire off the drum and can never get fouled on the drum like traditional winches. It is the way of the future for crew safety, and AEP River Operations will equip our fleet with another several hundred YoYo Winches in 2010."

Tow winches are extremely powerful and dangerous equipment for deckhands. When lines release or tow wires are moving around the deck, the result can be a severe injury. Patterson developed the YoYo to reduce and/or avoid these types of injuries and keep crews safer as they do their jobs. In addition to safety, the YoYo saves operator time and cuts down on wire wear and replacement, Patterson said.

"The winch is ergonomic and well-built," said Paul Peoples, manager of vessel construction and purchasing groups at AEP. "It's such a simple design, but it is so easy to use and our crews are really happy with it."

Forthcoming Events

The Waterways Journal will be glad to list the city, date and place of your meeting in this column, provided it is of interest to the barge and towing industry or allied businesses, is national or regional in scope, and is received at least three weeks prior to the meeting date. Address your announcement to Forthcoming Events Editor.

May 6-7, 2010. Warrior Tombigbee Waterway Association, Annual Meeting, Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Ala. Contact: WTWA, 251, 431-9055; e-mail warriortom@aol.com.

May 3-12 and 17-21, 2010. Christian Mariners Gospel Tent Meeting. Hickman, Ky., May 3-12, and Mayfield, Ky., May 19-22, 7 p.m. each night. Contact: John Morgan, 314, 409-1952, or Warren Daniels, 662, 255-7009.

August 11-13, 2010. Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association, 2010 Annual Convention, Westin New Orleans Canal Place, New Orleans, La. Contact: GICA, P.O. Box 16268, Galveston, Texas, 77552; phone 901, 490-3312, info@gicaonline.com.

August 24-26, 2010. Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Opportunities Conference and Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council Annual Meeting, Marriott's Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Ala. Contact: Agnes Zaiantz at P.O. Drawer 671, Columbus, Mississippi 39703; phone 662, 328-3286 or 888, TENNTOM; e-mail azaizantz@tenntom.org.

September 17-18, 2010. Sons & Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen, annual convention, Lafayette Hotel, Marietta, Ohio. Contact: Jeffrey Spear, 740, 373-4068 or 740, 374-4176.

September 19-23, 2010. American Association of Port Authorities, 2010 Annual Convention, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Contact: Internet www.aapa-ports.org.

September 22-24, 2010. National Waterways Conference, 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting, InterContinental Hotel, Boston, Mass. Contact: NWC, 703, 243-4090; Internet www.waterways.org.

Obituary Notices

Burdette Schiehl, 71, died of cancer at her home in Orange Beach, Ala., April 25. The wife and business partner of Mike Schiehl of M.J. Schiehl & Associates, she handled customer service for the marine surveying firm, and was well-known by the firm's clients. "She was the only one who answered the phone," her husband said. They started the firm after Mike Schiehl retired from the Coast Guard in 1978. They worked in Louisiana for 15 years, and then moved to Orange Beach in 1993.

BARGE GRAIN MOVEMENTS (1,000 tons)

River/Lock	Week Ending 4-17-10				Week Ending 4-18-09					
	Corn	Wht.	Soy.	Other	Total	Corn	Wht.	Soy.	Other	Total
Miss./15	69	0	14	0	83	69	3	50	2	125
Miss./25	161	0	49	0	210	241	5	90	2	337
Miss./MP	336	5	66	0	406	514	22	100	2	639
Miss./27	285	5	65	0	354	511	22	108	2	643
Ill./8	129	5	5	0	138	125	16	18	0	160
Ohio/52	101	2	31	0	134	50	5	48	15	118
Ark./1	0	6	6	4	16	0	14	21	3	38

Cumulative to date for Miss./27, Ohio/52 and Ark./1:

Year	Corn	Wheat	Soybeans	Other grains	Total
2010	5,445	299	3,175	136	9,055
2009	6,223	347	2,950	126	9,646

*Other grains include barley, sorghum and oats. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, Transportation & Marketing Division/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SOUTHBOUND BARGE FREIGHT RATES

Rate	Date	M/SP	MM	III. R	StL	Cinc	L. Ohio	C/M
(actual)	4-20-10	307	275	275	193	220	220	182
	4-13-10	331	293	275	198	226	226	180
(future)	May	307	275	275	222	213	220	182
	July	338	300	298	228	243	243	225
\$/Ton	4-13-10	19.00	14.63	12.76	7.70	10.32	8.89	5.71
	4-13-10	20.49	15.59	12.76	7.90	10.60	9.13	5.65

Current week percentage change from same week:

	Last year	3-yr. avg.
M/SP	1	-18
MM	3	-18
III. R	6	-9
StL	-2	-17
Cinc	1	-17
L. Ohio	1	-17
C/M	1	-16

Notes: M/SP: Minneapolis/St. Paul MM: Middle Mississippi C/M: Cairo/Memphis Rate = percent of 1976 tariff benchmark index. Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/U.S. Department of Agriculture

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