

Karl Senner Opens Paducah Service Facility

Karl Senner LLC, the exclusive distributor of Reintjes gearboxes in the United States and a mainstay in the inland waterways industry for more than 40 years, has opened a new service facility in Paducah, Ky. Headquartered in Kenner, La., the company is also the exclusive North American distributor for Steerprop Azimuth Propellers (Z-Drives).

The new shop, located at 2401 Powell Street in a building it shares with Donovan Marine Inc., opened its doors and started overhauling gears this summer. The first big job was on a 4,500 bhp. Reintjes WAF 5555 gearbox.

"Based on our growing number of inland marine customers, it became readily apparent that we needed a more central point from which to provide prompt, excellent service," said Karl A. Senner, president and service manager. "Paducah is the hub for inland waterways and was the perfect choice.

"Additionally, as the brown-water market continues to evolve to include Z-drives, we will be able to provide the same excellent service to our Steerprop customers that we are currently providing our Reintjes customers," he said.

The 24-hour facility contains both office and shop space and has everything required to overhaul and service all equipment to the manufacturer's specifications.

"The satellite shop provides our technicians with a familiar, clean work space and all specialized tools needed to complete the job," Senner said. "This significantly reduces the number of outside vendors that we need to rely on, which allows us to provide more rapid service,

while still focusing on quality and safety."

The company's headquarters in Kenner stocks more than \$14 million worth of parts inventory for its customers' immediate use, including a large selection of both short-lead-time items such as seals, clutch plates, control valves and pressure switches, and long-lead-time items such as bull gears, pinions and housings. Additionally, Senner stocks bearings for all equipment and keeps more than 30 complete Reintjes gearboxes in stock with varying ratios and configurations. These gears are ready for immediate sale to support new constructions, repairs, and service replacements. Senner has made the same commitment for its on-site Steerprop inventory, keeping full gear sets and slewing bearings on the shelf to allow for quick repairs as required for both the inland and offshore markets. Future plans call for stocking even more parts inventory in Paducah to support customers as demand grows.

"Both my grandfather and dad [Karl A. Senner is the third generation in the business] pushed to always offer the best quality service in the shortest possible time. The investment we make in this parts inventory is one way we support our customers and separate ourselves from our competition. We don't want our customers waiting on the manufacturer for parts," Senner said. "Now with the shop in Paducah, we are taking it one step further and are servicing with the same quality standards, even more efficiently."

The new service facility's address is 2401 Powell St. Paducah, Ky., 42033; phone 504, 469-4050; email service@karlsenner.com.



Technician adjusts a Reintjes WAF 5555 gear at Senner's new service facility in Paducah.

August Catoosa Shipping Highest Since April

Inbound shipping to the Oklahoma Port of Catoosa was at its highest level since April, contributing to an increase in total tonnage volume in August, the port announced September 17.

For the month of August, total inbound/outbound shipping was 196,783 tons, 10,506 tons higher than the April figure. The increase was seen mainly because of higher inbound volumes of both steel and fertilizer.

The August total brings the 2014 cumulative tonnage to 1,661,766 tons.

The mv. Mississippi, flagship of the Corps of Engineers and the Mississippi River Commission, visited Oklahoma in early August. During that time, MRC members were briefed on the regional importance of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System to industry, agriculture, energy, and transportation. Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin also attended.

As Fallin stated, thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in domestic and international commerce depend on this waterway, and it is therefore imperative that we commit ourselves to making sure it remains viable for future generations.

David Page, chairman of the City of Tulsa-Rogers County Port Authority, agreed, saying, "Failure is not an option when it comes to preserving waterway transportation for future generations. It is important for all of us to be vigilant supporters of this method of transportation because of the benefits we derive from it."

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Missouri River Navigation Season To Be Extended By 10 Days

The Corps of Engineers' Missouri River Basin Water Management Division is increasing releases at the four lowest dams on the Missouri River following heavy rains last month. The higher releases will evacuate flood water stored in the mainstem reservoir system, preparing it to capture next year's anticipated runoff, thus lessening potential future flood risk.

The excess water will also allow the Corps to extend the navigation season 10 days and provide higher winter releases, which will benefit winter hydropower generation and reduce risks to water intakes during periods of ice formation this winter.

Runoff above Sioux City, Iowa, in August was 3.2 million acre feet (maf.), 241 percent of normal. The runoff forecast for the full year is 35.6 maf., 141 percent of normal. Average annual runoff is 25.2 maf.

"Rains in the upper basin have swelled tributary rivers and increased runoff into the reservoir system," said Jody Farhat, chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management Division. "August runoff was the third highest since 1898."

The Corps' reservoir system re-

mains within normal operating levels, but the higher runoff has resulted in the need to evacuate water from the system above the rate required for navigation, she said. The total volume of water stored in the reservoir system is 61.3 maf. Currently, 5.2 maf. of the 16.3 maf. combined flood control storage is occupied.

Gavins Point Releases Increased

The Corps increased releases from Gavins Point Dam from 38,000 cubic feet per second (cfs.) to 45,500 cfs. earlier this month, and is expected to keep them at that level throughout the fall.

"By evacuating the excess water from the reservoir system at the lowest possible rate for the longest period of time, the updated release plan will properly prepare the reservoir system for next year's runoff season, while reducing downstream flood risk this fall," Farhat said. "Although releases are higher than normal for this time of year, flows are expected to remain in the channel unless we experience a significant amount of rain." The Corps will carefully monitor downstream conditions and adjust Gavins Point Dam releases as necessary this fall to provide

flood risk reduction and continue evacuation of stored flood water.

Navigation Season Extension

Based on the September 1 reservoir system storage, there will be a 10-day extension to the navigation season, the Corps said. Navigation service at the mouth of the Missouri River will now end on December 10.

After that date, releases will continue at 20,000 cfs. through the winter. Normally, winter releases are near 17,000 cfs. Both the longer navigation season and the higher winter release will better serve downstream water users during the remainder of the year, the Corps said.

In late September, the Corps will post the 2014-2015 Draft Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System on its website at www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/aop.html. Fall public meetings will be held in five cities throughout the basin during the last week of October to discuss and take comments on the proposed operating plan. The public meetings will include a presentation from the Corps regarding 2014 operations and plans for regulating the reservoir system in 2015, followed by a question and answer session.

GPS Marine Adds Former Warrior & Gulf Towboat To Fleet

GPS Marine LLC, Houma, La., has purchased the mv. Tahome from River Salvage Company, Pittsburgh, Pa. The name has been changed to Capt. Vince Gambarella. It joins the mv. Capt. T.W. Boudreaux in the GPS fleet.

The sale was finalized September 15. The 85-foot by 30-foot, 2,150 hp. vessel

was built in 1982 by Hunt's Steelship Corporation, Pine Bluff, Ark. Previously part of the Warrior & Gulf Navigation fleet, it was bought by River Salvage earlier this year (see WJ, May 19).

GPS Marine was formed in December 2013 by Betty Gambarella, Antonio "Vince" Gambarella, Joey Pierce and Norman Schieffler. Vince Gambarel-

la, who manages the firm, has 52 years of experience in the marine towing industry. He started as a deckhand and worked his way up to captain. He left the river in January 1973 to form G&B Marine Inc. with Thadeus "Blackie" Boudreaux. He was president of G&B until he sold his fleet of 21 vessels in September 1998.