

SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

FAYE ACKERMANS | *Board Member, Transportation Safety Board of Canada*

Faye Ackermans has 25 years of experience in the rail industry and over 15 of those years with senior positions in rail safety and regulatory affairs. Mrs. Ackermans began her career with Canadian Pacific Railway in 1982 as a mechanical planning analyst. She went on to work as the Director of Mechanical Regulations in 1991, and then as the Director General of Regulatory Affairs for Canadian Pacific from 1992 to 1995. Mrs. Ackermans then worked as General Manager of Safety and Regulatory Affairs from 1996 to 2008. Her tenure includes the only employee fatality-free year in Canadian Pacific's history. She has held several rail industry committee memberships over her career, including the Safety and Operations Management Committees of both the Railway Association of Canada and the American Association of Railroads. Mrs. Ackermans recently was a senior consultant with Behavioural Science Technology, Inc. from 2010 until earlier this year. Mrs. Ackermans received a Master of Business Administration from Concordia University in Montreal and an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Carleton University in Ottawa. Mrs. Ackermans was Appointed Member of the Transportation Safety Board of Canada in July 2014.



DAVE ARMITAGE | *Vice President, The Canadian Heartland Training Railway Services*

Dave has been in the railway industry for 36 years in a range of roles. His career path began in 1978 when he started with Canadian Pacific as a brakeman, promoting to conductor and on to Locomotive Engineer. Dave has worked some of the most challenging territories in Western Canada in these roles. He entered management in the early 1980s and remained in various operating positions until bridging into human resources in 1993. He was introduced to leadership training and quickly developed a keen sense of delivery style that maintains attention and promotes learning. After a brief stint in quality support he was promoted to Manager of Engineer Training with responsibilities for initial and requalification training across the company in both Canada and the US. In 2001, Dave left Canadian Pacific, and continued his passion for railway operations training, catering now primarily to the industrial sector. In 2004 he was a founding partner of The Canadian Heartland Training Railway Services Inc. His current position of Vice President and General Manager—Operations is focused on training delivery, program and instructor development.



TIM BENJAMIN | *President, Railserve Inc.*

Tim Benjamin is the President of Railserve, Inc., North America's largest third party switching company. Railserve is a Marmon Group/Berkshire Hathaway company with over 70 locations throughout North America, with sectors including switching and transloading, track maintenance and construction and Gen Set locomotive manufacturing. Tim has a BS in Management, and an MBA in Financial Analysis and Operations Control from the University at Buffalo (1986). After spending 12 years with Guardian Industries, the largest US owned glass manufacturer based in Auburn Hills, MI, Tim joined Railserve in March, 2001, as Controller, and was promoted to President in October, 2001. The Railserve team works to keep safety as the most important concept, with sustained, selective growth being the second goal, and Railserve has tripled in revenue since 2001.



LUC BOURDON | *Executive Advisor to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Transport Canada*

Luc joined Canadian Pacific Railway in 1981. He first completed a four-year electro-mechanic apprenticeship program, after which, he held a number of management positions within Mechanical Services, System Operations and Safety and Regulatory Affairs both in Montreal and Calgary. In 1999, he joined Transport Canada as Regional Director for the Québec Region in Montreal. In 2003, he was appointed Director General, Rail Safety at Transport Canada in Ottawa. As of January 2015, he is now the Executive Advisor to the ADM on rail safety. He holds a Post Graduate Degree in Ergonomics from l'Université de Montréal a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from l'Université du Québec à Montréal. He also completed an Executive Business Program at the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western in London, ON.



MICHAEL BOURQUE | *President and CEO, Railway Association of Canada*

Michael Bourque is the President and CEO of the Railway Association of Canada (RAC). The association is the voice of the railway industry, representing Canada's Class 1 rail companies, CN and CP; and, over 50 regional, local, commuter and tourist railway operators. The RAC also has more than 60 associate members who are suppliers and partners of the rail members. Michael joined the RAC from the Canadian Chemical Producers Association, the organization that pioneered Responsible Care® and programs like TransCAER. Michael started his career as a political aide during the Mulroney government and is a graduate of Toronto's York University, where he studied Public Administration and Economics.



JOE BRACKEN | *President, The Canadian Heartland Training Railway Services*

Joe enjoyed a 30 year career at CPR starting out in marketing and sales. He held a variety of marketing positions where he developed an interest in training and education. When CPR relocated to Calgary Joe moved to take up a position in Regulatory Affairs leading the training function for Field Operations. In this capacity a relationship was begun with SAIT that culminated in the creation of the Centre for Railway Training and Technology (CRTT). In 2000 Joe became the Director of the CRTT and oversaw the start of pre-employment certificate and diploma programs for Railway Conductor and Rail Traffic Controller. In 2003, Joe ventured into his own consulting business which then evolved into the formation of the CHTRS in partnership with Dave Armitage. The CHTRS has since grown to a business enjoying its 10th year of operation serving over 200 clients in the industrial and short line railway sector. Joe holds a BA in Economics from Sir George Williams University (Concordia) in Montreal. Over his career he has participated in a variety of management and leadership professional development. Joe currently resides in High River, Alberta.



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JESSE CHALICH | *President, Northern Plains Railroad*

Jesse Chalich was appointed President for the Northern Plains Rail (NPR) companies in 2014. In this role, Chalich oversees the day-to-day operations of the company, helping to drive Northern Plains Rail company's strategies for safety, service, growth, and efficiency. He is accountable for the operations and marketing of 350 miles of railroad that connects with the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe. Chalich has over 18 years of railroad experience that began with the NPR. Railroading runs in the Chalich family, Jesse is a 4th generation railroader. Chalich attended the Railway Management Program at Michigan State University. Chalich was recognized as one of the "20 Rising Stars" in the rail industry in 2014 by Progressive Railroading. He is also currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Heartland Training Railway Services and American Association of Railroad Superintendents. Jesse and his wife, Julie, reside in Park River, North Dakota with their four children.



TY DRAGOO | *Kansas Director of Legislative Affairs, Sheet Metal Air Rail and Transportation (SMART)*

Ty Dragoo is a member of the Switching Operations Fatality Analysis working group. He was appointed to SOFA in 2008. Ty is a fourth generation railroader hiring out on the Union Pacific as a conductor. He is a member of the SMART-TD and currently serves as the Legislative Director for the state of Kansas.



MICHAEL FAVREAU | *Director of Business and Industrial Development, Canadian Pacific*

Mike Favreau is the Director of Business and Industrial Development for CP based out of Calgary Headquarters. Mike has been with CP since 2002, initially hiring on as a Rail Traffic Controller. Mike and his team of Business Development Managers are responsible for facilitating and onboarding business opportunities onto CP's rail network. Mike has been in his current role for three years and prior to that, Mike worked in the Network Restructuring group responsible for executing transactions of non-core railway lines. Mike has also worked in various design related roles including Network Capacity planning, train schedule development and track work block planning. Outside of work, Mike enjoys spending time with his wife Shari and their children, Madaleine and Kellan.



GÉRALD GAUTHIER | *Vice President, Public and Corporate Affairs, Railway Association of Canada*

Mr. Gérald Gauthier is the RAC Vice President Public and Corporate Affairs, since November 2013. Before occupying briefly this function on an interim basis he was Director, industry liaison for the RAC. He is responsible for communications (with the public, governments and other stakeholders), policy research and industry human resource planning. He joined the RAC in the fall of 2000, and quickly organized the first Canadian Short line and Regional Railway Conference, which led to the creation of the RAC Short line Committee that has been very active in promoting the interests of this sector of the industry. Prior to joining the RAC, he worked for Canadian Pacific Railway, initially in the Québec Law Department, then their General Solicitor office and finally for their Public Affairs Department. Mr. Gauthier holds a license in Law from the University of Sherbrooke in Québec, an MBA from L'École des Hautes Études Commerciales de Montréal, and is a member in good standing of the Québec Bar Association.



DAN HOVORKA | *GM Canadian Operations, Railserve*

Dan brings 28 years of railroading experience to Railserve. He started his railway career in 1987 as a Conductor in Revelstoke, BC with the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP). Dan held various positions within CP before accepting a management position in CP's Network Management Centre (NMC) in Calgary. During his time at the NMC, Dan strengthened his railway knowledge and experience by holding positions in a number of key areas including: transportation planning, service design, locomotive planning and customer service. Dan returned to Operations, working his way from Trainmaster to Assistant Superintendent in Western Canada. Dan's wealth of experience is an important asset to both our current and prospective customers as Railserve continues to grow in Canada.



TIM HUSEL | *President, Two Dons Resources*

Tim Husel is the President of Two Dons Resources, an Edmonton-based consulting company that specializes in rail logistics. Tim has over 40 years-experience in the Canadian railway industry, having began his career as a train order operator on the Canadian National, being promoted to Train Dispatcher, and being one of the first graduates of CN's operations trainee programs in the 1990s. In addition to his Class 1 experience at CN which included stints in Power Control in Montreal, in Service Design, and as Superintendent on the Alberta West district – he was General Manager of the Lakeland and Waterways Railway and Mackenzie Northern Railway in northern Alberta from 1997 to 2006. After his second tour of duty with CN, Tim supervised the rail operations and logistics for Standard General – being responsible for a large unit train aggregate transload west of Edmonton, and a carload facility in the Athabasca oilsands region. Tim is passionate about rail safety, and was an instrumental force in improving the safety records of his regional railway operations in northern Alberta.

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KAREN JENSEN | *Manager, Business Development and Real Estate, Canadian National*

Karen Jensen is the Manager of Business Development and Real Estate for CN Western Canada, based in Edmonton. Ms. Jensen joined CN in 2008, and has worked with existing and new rail customers across CN's Alberta network on site selection, preliminary rail layout plans, service options, and co-ordination between the customer and CN's sales teams. She has extensive experience working with shippers and industrial railway operators specifically within Alberta's Industrial Heartland, and across northern Alberta supporting CN's objectives. Ms. Jensen holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Alberta, as well as a Master of Business Administration degree. Prior to joining CN, Ms. Jensen worked in Business Development at EPCOR, and was involved in project management at AMEC.



REAN-MARIE KNIGHT | *HSE Specialist, Graymont Lamont County Terminal*

Rean Knight, is a Health, Safety and Environmental Specialist for Graymont Western Canada Inc.'s, Lamont County Terminal and Summit Plant. At Graymont's Lamont Terminal, Quicklime is brought in by railcar to be unloaded at a capacity of 200 Mt per hour. The Quicklime is either shipped out as is or processed into Hydrated Lime at 30Mt per hour. The Graymont Lamont Terminal is designated to have a second spur line added as well as two 800 Mt silos. Rean brings with her knowledge of new railway operations and the importance of having SMS documents.



RICHARD LANYI | *Rail Sector Lead, Stantec*

Richard graduated from the University of Waterloo in 1982 with B.A.Sc. in Civil Engineering and currently has over 32 years of engineering experience. He is a member of AREMA, founding member of Committee 10 Structures Maintenance and Construction and is registered to practice in Engineering in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. For the past seven years, Richard has been the Rail Sector Lead at Stantec, responsible for the freight rail business corporately, also leading an internal business initiative called *Energy on Rail*, involving various business Sectors such as Transportation, Industrial, Pipelines, Environmental and Project Development. Apart from providing leadership on the business side, Richard also provides technical leadership to design teams on numerous railway projects, as well as, client management services on Stantec's Master Services contracts with CN and CP. Previously, Richard worked for eight years at CN as the Senior Manager Engineering for Capacity Expansion in Western Canada, and as the Assistant Chief Engineer for Bridges and Structures. Prior to that he was the Senior Structural Engineer for CP Structures Planning and Design. Richard enjoys canoeing, camping, golf, tennis and playing his guitar.



DOUG LARSEN | *President, West Coast Loco-Motion*

As a third generation railroader, Doug has spent most of his life around trains. Doug's career began in 1982 as a Trainman in Vancouver with Canadian Pacific. Over time, he was promoted to a Conductor and then a Locomotive Engineer. Doug has worked on all of Canadian Pacific's track west of the Rockies. In 1988, Doug entered the training arena as an Instructor in Coquitlam, B.C., rolling out caboosless train operations for the Vancouver to Kamloops corridor. Doug also worked with Pitch & Catch for the Vancouver and Coquitlam Yards, and conducted numerous qualifying classes during his time as an Instructor with Canadian Pacific. Doug also focused on crewless coal unloading at Neptune Terminals and Roberts Bank, with automated technology at the end of his tenure. After his departure from Canadian Pacific in October of 2013, Doug started his own consulting company, West Coast Loco-Motion Inc., and worked with Bombardier in commencing West Coast Express commuter train operations between Mission and Vancouver. Most recently, Doug has enjoyed working for Toronto Terminal Railways Delta Port Division, the Southern Railway of British Columbia (SRY) and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) to assist with the re-routing of unit coal trains from the port of Roberts Bank to the USA port of entry at Sumas Washington, USA.



BRAD MARTIN | *Manager SMS, Canadian Heartland Training Railway Services*

Brad retired from Canadian Pacific Railway in January 2010 after 39 years of continuous service. During his career at CPR, Brad worked in many areas of the railway: Operations, Marketing and Sales, Seminar Leadership, Strategic Planning, Business Development, Executive Support, Service Design, Safety, Regulatory Affairs and Contingency Planning. Currently Brad works with the CHTRS, and is responsible for scheduling and organizing SMS and GROI (General Railway Operating Instructions) documents, SMS Audits, Risk Assessments, and SMS Self-Audit and Incident Investigation courses. Brad is also often directly responsible for the creation and delivery of those documents and services for Industrial Railway companies, on behalf of CHTRS. In his spare time, Brad enjoys curling, golf, fastball, snowshoeing, working out, puzzles and technology! Brad and his wife reside in Calgary, Alberta.



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GARRET MATTEOTTI | *Manager of Business Dev., Alberta Industrial Heartland Association*

Alberta's Industrial Heartland is the largest hydrocarbon processing zone in Canada and Garret is the lead representative in helping facilitate new developments into the area. Garret joined the Alberta Industrial Heartland Association (AIHA) team in November 2012. Previously, Garret worked for both Sturgeon County and Lamont County which are both members of the AIHA. As Manager of Business Development, Garret's main responsibilities focus on business attraction in the hydrocarbon processing sector. This involves marketing the region in cooperation with representatives from both the Provincial Government and municipal partners. Garret has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alberta. He has also taken numerous courses that have greatly expanded his knowledge in the petrochemical industry.



PAUL MCGUIRE | *Associate, Canadian Heartland Training Railway Services*

Paul has over 32 years experience in the railway industry working as a Trackman, Bridge and Building Foreman, Conductor, Terminal Co-Coordinator, Trainmaster, Rules Instructor/Coach for both Management and Unionized employees, and then Rules Specialist with a large Class 1 railway. He is a graduate (2006) and Certified in Adult Education (CACE) program through the University of Manitoba. Paul is located in London, Ontario with his wife JoAnne, has two grown children, and a beautiful granddaughter.



DONALD OBOROWSKY | *CEO, Waiward Capital Ltd.*

Donald Oborowsky is the Co-founder, past President and CEO of Waiward Steel Fabricators Ltd., an industrial steel fabricator, employing more than 700 employees, specializing in the oil and gas, pulp and paper, transportation and petro-chemical industries. Waiward Steel, currently celebrating 43 years in business, is a Platinum Member of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies and regarded as one of the largest privately-owned automated industrial steel fabrication facilities in Canada. Don is also the Co-founder, President and CEO of Waiward Construction Management Inc., involved in excavation services including water, sewer, and commercial site prep, light industrial site prep, and hydrocarbon contamination clean up. Don serves on numerous industry, business, and community focused organizational boards and committees and he is also recognized for his philanthropic work. He is a strong supporter of the trades and apprenticeship, further exemplified in his commitment to employment of apprentices in his own businesses.



KNUT OHM | *Rail Safety Officer, Alberta Transportation, Government of Alberta*

Knut has been a Rail Safety Officer with Alberta Transportation for the last 12 years. In this capacity he has worked with industry to develop the current Alberta railway safety management system and audit protocols. Before this, Knut had a lengthy career in aviation that spanned 28 years in a project manager role and then in aviation safety including flight and ground safety, environment, security and dangerous goods.



BRENT ORB | *Rail Project Manager, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, Government of SK*

Brent Orb's impressive background in agriculture and transportation includes an Environmental Systems Engineering Degree from the University of Regina. As the current Rail Project Manager in the Rail Services Unit of the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure he enforces railway authorization and safety provisions of the Railway Act. As well, he gives guidance to Saskatchewan's regulated railways. As a designated provincial railway inspector, he has been a part of the development of numerous provincial short line railways. Brent also reviews and approves applications to construct new railway operations, expansions, crossings and alterations to existing railway operations. He conducts and manages various inspection and audit programs on provincially regulated railways to ensure ongoing compliance with requirements under the Railway Act and compliance industry standards and operating practices. Various committees, ministries and stakeholder groups are benefiting from his specialized knowledge and he is working with other western provinces to improve rail safety, as well as, to harmonize aspects of the provincial rail safety regimes.



W.J. (BILL) SALMOND | *Vice President-Operations Development, Dominion Railway Services*

Bill has 45 years of experience in the North American railroad industry. He has held operating, supervisory, training, and senior operations planning positions at Canadian Pacific Railway during his career. He is an experienced train dispatcher and transportation planner, and has an extensive network operational background. Since 1999, Bill has been involved in the detailed planning and implementation at a senior level of rail network capacity projects and industrial development projects at Canadian Pacific. Following his retirement from CP, he spent time at AECOM working on a host of rail-construction projects, and in 2013 he joined Dominion Railway Services. Since joining DRS, he has worked extensively with energy companies, agri-industry, and transloaders – implementing conceptual designs, operating plans, and capacity assessments. Bill is well-respected in the industry for his unique technical expertise, and has excellent relationships with rail operators and DRS clients. Bill and his wife Joanne reside in Calgary, Alberta.

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ERIC SAMUELSON | *Railway Safety Manager, British Columbia Safety Authority*

Eric currently holds the position of provincial Railway Safety Manager in British Columbia. Eric began his 33 year railway career in 1982 with CP Rail as a Carman in Revelstoke, BC. After an absence to attend university to achieve degrees in both science and business, he returned to the railway industry in various capacities; which include Station Operator, Train Dispatcher, Chief Train Dispatcher and Network Operation Manager. His final operational role was with BC Rail at the port at Roberts Bank. In 2006, Eric became the provincial Railway Safety Manager for the British Columbia Safety Authority (BCSA), an organization that has the legislative mandate to deliver technical and operational oversight for provincial railways, including public rail transportation. Under his stewardship, the provinces Railway Safety Program has grown steadily from 56 railways to 143. Eric currently sits on the board of directors for the BC Common Ground Alliance and is a member of the Advisory Council on Railway Safety of Canada. He currently resides in Maple Ridge, BC, with his wife and two children.



ROB SAWCHUK | *Manager, Sales and Marketing, Northern Platforms Ltd.*

Rob Sawchuk has been the Manager of Sales and Marketing at Northern Platforms for the past 13 years and has recently taken over as General Manager. Rob has a vast knowledge of the challenges that come with designing railcar loading and unloading facilities. Having been on hundreds of different loading racks over the years, Rob uses his experience to help clients spec the right equipment for their particular project. With a passion for loading arms, Rob is one of the most knowledgeable people in North America when it comes to designing the right loading or unloading arm for their loading rack. Rob and his wife, Jamilee, currently reside in Beaumont, Alberta, where they are raising their four young children.



GEORGE SGOUROMITIS | *Manager, Corporate HSSE, Gibson Energy Inc.*

Ephimios "George" Sgouromitis, CRSP joined Gibson's Energy Inc. in 2010 and holds the role of Corporate Manager, HSSE. Gibson Energy is one of the largest independent midstream energy companies in Canada, and an integrated service provider for the oil and gas industry in the USA. George sits on the Board of Directors for the Alberta Association for Safety Partnerships (AASP). He has been a Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP) since 2010. Previous to his time with Gibson's, George was responsible for HSSE with Baker Hughes Canada as their Northern HSSE-Safety Professional for all business units in their service portfolio. George moved into HSSE fulltime during his tenure with Hexion Chemicals (formerly Borden Chemicals) where he carried portfolios that included Technical Sales/Service, Canadian Accounts Manager, Canadian Research and Development Manager and Canadian-Product Steward Industrial Hygiene.



SHAWN I. SMITH | *President, Dominion Railway Services & VP, Northern Plains Rail Services*

Shawn has over 30 years of experience in the North American railroad industry. He began his career with Canadian National Railways, serving in both operations and marketing/customer service positions. He has maintained a lifetime interest in railroading and is a member of the American Association of Railroad Superintendents, the Canadian Railway Club and the Lexington Group. He currently serves on the boards of Alberta Midland Railway Terminal Ltd., the Canadian Heartland Training Railway Services Inc., Alberta Prairie Railway and serves on the management team at Northern Plains Rail Services. He spent 18 years in the regional and shortline industry in both Canada and the United States as an operating employee, supervisor, and senior executive. Prior to starting Dominion Railway Services in August 2012, he spent six years at Canadian Pacific – most recently in the executive position of General Manager, Strategic Network Development and Interline Management. Shawn, his wife Karen, and their two boys reside in Camrose, Alberta. Shawn enjoys baseball and football and is a member of the Edmonton Eskimos Grid Iron Gang.



DARIN STUCKEY | *Director of Terminal Operations, Keyera Energy*

Darin Stuckey has worked for more than 25 years in the Petroleum industry. He holds a Diploma in Petroleum Management along with a Health and Safety certificate from the University of Alberta. For the last 15 years he has been an employee at Keyera Corp. He is currently the Director of Terminal Operations at Keyera Corp which includes the majority of Keyera's rail and truck facilities.



DAN WATSON | *Superintendent Industrial Switching, Northern Plains Railroad*

Dan Watson began his railroad career 19 years ago with the Duluth Missabe and Iron Range Railway (DMIR) from 1994 to 2004 working several positions in the mechanical department. From 2004 to 2012 Dan worked for the Canadian National Railway (CN) who purchased the DMIR in 2004. During this time he transferred to the transportation department and held several positions including Assistant Trainmaster, Trainmaster and Divisional Manager for the iron ore industry in northern Minnesota. In 2011 Dan was awarded the CN "Presidents Award of Excellence". He was also Co-Chair of the Transportation Department Safety Committee, Certified Locomotive Engineer, Conductor and Hearing Officer for all Disciplinary Investigations held in Minnesota and northern Wisconsin. In October 2012, he joined the team at Northern Plains Railroad as Manager Industrial Switching and most recently has been promoted to Superintendent Industrial Switching. Dan oversees industrial switching operations in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin. Dan and his wife, Barb, have two children and reside in Hibbing, Minnesota. Dan is a hockey fan and enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with family.

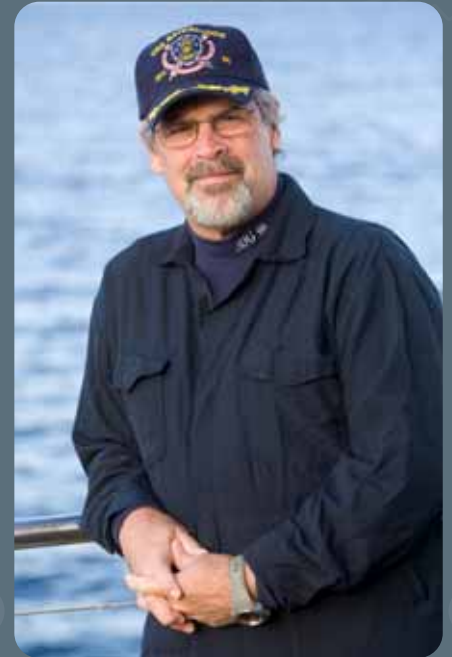


KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CAPTAIN RICHARD PHILLIPS

- HERO OF THE HIGH SEAS
- CAPTAIN OF THE *MAERSK ALABAMA*, HIJACKED BY SOMALI PIRATES
- AUTHOR, *A CAPTAIN'S DUTY: SOMALI PIRATES, NAVY SEALs, AND DANGEROUS DAYS AT SEA*

For five days in April 2009, the world was glued to their TV screens as Captain Richard Phillips became the center of an extraordinary international drama when he was captured by Somali pirates who hijacked his ship, the first hijacking of a U.S. ship in more than 200 years.



The hostage drama began on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, when a small band of pirates swung grappling hooks and climbed ropes from their skiff onto the *Maersk Alabama*, a container ship ferrying food aid to East Africa. Firing into the air as they leapt aboard the ship, many of the crew members scrambled into a designated safe room aboard the vessel.

On the bridge, the pirates held four sailors at gunpoint, but the crew of 20 outnumbered the four attackers. They managed to wound the apparent leader of the pirates in the hand with an ice pick and regain control. The crew demanded the other pirates leave the ship, but the pirates had scuttled their own small boat. They demanded an escape boat, fuel and food.

To protect his crew, Captain Phillips made a conscious decision to put himself directly in harm's way, knowing full well that he might pay the ultimate price for his decision. Amid the standoff, he offered himself as a hostage.

Once the pirates settled into one of the ship's covered lifeboats, the crew attempted to trade the pirate they had captured for Captain Phillips. After they released their captive, the pirates refused to honor the agreement and fled with nine days of food rations and Captain Phillips. Held hostage as a human shield in a small lifeboat with three pirates, he had little to hope for or cling to—except the knowledge that he had done absolutely everything he could to save the lives of the 20 sailors aboard his ship.

The U.S. Navy responded to the scene, and negotiations were ongoing between the pirates and the captain of the USS *Bainbridge*. On April 10, Captain Phillips jumped out of the lifeboat and managed to swim a few yards toward the nearby destroyer, but the pirates went in after him and managed to haul him back in. The standoff dragged on until April 12, when Navy SEAL snipers saw one of the pirates aim his AK-47 machine gun at Captain Richard Phillips's back and concluded he was in "imminent danger."

President Barack Obama, who spoke with Captain Phillips by phone after he was freed, said, "I share the country's admiration for the bravery of Captain Phillips and his selfless concern for his crew. His courage is a model for all Americans."

Captain Phillips is the author of *A Captain's Duty: Somali Pirates, Navy SEALs, and Dangerous Days at Sea*, which shares his experience and remarkable rescue. This dramatic story was also transformed into an Academy-Award and Golden-Globe nominated film, *Captain Phillips*, which hit the big screens in fall of 2013.

Captain Richard Phillips is a graduate of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy a member of the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots Union, and a licensed American merchant mariner. He became Captain of the *MV Maersk Alabama* in 2009. Captain Phillips married Andrea Coggio in 1987. They have two children, Mariah and Danny and reside in Underhill, Vermont.