

# The Propeller Club of the United States Port of Los Angeles/Long Beach

May 2010

## MEMBER *Spotlight*



### **Chris Lytle**

Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer  
Port of Long Beach

Few people are better known in the maritime transportation industry than Chris Lytle, a thirty year veteran of the business and current Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer at the Port of Long Beach. Chris joined the Port in 2006 as Managing Director, Trade Relations and Port Operations and was promoted to his current role in 2008. Chris serves as the number two person at the Port, reporting to Executive Director, Dick Steinke.

Before joining the Port, Chris served as Vice President of West Coast Operations for CMA-CGM and held executive positions at P&O Ports, APM (Maersk) and Sea-Land Service, Inc.

Chris has been a Pacific Maritime Association Alternate Director and on the Board of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association. He has served as a Director for both the Steamship Association of Southern California and on the Board of our own L.A./Long Beach Propeller Club.

The son of a WWII and Korean War Air Force pilot, Chris lived all over the U.S. and the world growing up. He fully enjoyed his time in Asia, Africa and Europe, and living overseas as a child shaped his "global perspective" early on. His family eventually landed in Seattle where his dad started a second career with Boeing. As a boy, Chris was active with Boy Scouts, loved outdoor activities and eventually earned the Eagle Scout award.

Chris's maritime career was born in Seattle when he loaded containers and drove trucks part time for Sea-Land Service, Inc. He joined the U.S. Army and served as an infantry officer, attending Officer's Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA. He was eventually assigned to service in Germany and took advantage of vacation time to travel throughout Europe and learn about the people and history. After completing his Army service he returned to work at Sea-Land and was invited to join the management program there. While working, he completed his undergraduate degree from Central Washington University and his MBA from the University of Puget Sound.

During the mid 80's, Chris had the opportunity to venture south to Long Beach which was the epicenter of Transpacific

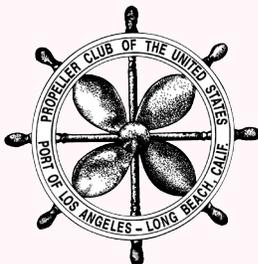
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trade. His career took him to Oakland, Charleston, New Jersey, Salalah, Oman, and finally, back to Long Beach. Chris has loved the advantages of experiencing new places and cultures throughout his career. "I've learned so much from seeing things from this other viewpoint", commented Lytle. "It helps us understand that there may be many possible solutions to a problem outside our normal paradigm. Working in other cultures overseas helps us better understand the meaning and implications of globalization."

Chris is a veteran skier (30 years) and you can see, enjoys time with his boys on the slopes. He's also an avid scuba diver and has dived all over the world at some of the most fascinating locations - Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Middle East, Mexico, Little Cayman, Hawaii, Palau, and many others. He's learning to golf and enjoys fine wines from all over the world.

Chris's wife Stephanie is Long Beach Native who attended U.C. Berkeley. She earned her C.P.A. which would serve her career well with the many transfers related to Chris's jobs. They have three sons, Jackson (13), Alex (12) and Matt (8) who are active in instrumental music and water polo. On living overseas when the boys were younger, Chris said, "It has been very satisfying for me to see how my own children have adapted to living overseas and how it has helped them better understand other cultures."



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