



Pushing the Envelope of Advanced Technology

When it comes to technology that makes life easier for our clients, ACMA has made a commitment to be at the cutting edge. Recently we upgraded our server and significantly expanded its networking capabilities in order to remain at the forefront of industry technology. By capitalizing on the speed and efficiency available through our virtual private network (VPN), ACMA can offer clients unparalleled response time and accessibility.



Our new server: big capabilities in a small package.

ACMA's Senior Naval Architect, Lars Ronning, notes that ACMA's VPN is based on a firewall router with software policy. That means it remains secure, yet flexible. According to Lars, ACMA can now securely access our network from anywhere, as long as we can connect to the Internet. And, because the VPN uses the Internet rather than dedicated cable, it is extremely cost-effective.

Another advantage – ACMA now can develop client-specific areas within its network for use in future projects. Clients will be able to remotely access the ACMA network and sign on with a password, giving them immediate access to relevant project files, diagrams and spec sheets.

As an added convenience, the ACMA office also supports wireless connectivity, giving clients and associates with laptops and other wireless devices easy Internet access while they're at ACMA.

ACMA's tech advances are now at the cutting edge. But just as important, this upgrade gives us the ability to adapt to future innovations over the next several years. As a matter of fact, ACMA is preparing to push the envelope even further with more advanced technology capabilities being added as early as this summer.

The Ride of the ACMA Knots

Nobody said it would be easy when the alarms began to buzz at 4:30am on Saturday morning, April 12, 2003. It was the beginning of the first day of the MS 150, a two-day charity cycling event, which covers over 150 miles from Houston to Austin, Texas.

It promised to be a challenging two days for more than 10,000 cyclists who volunteered to lend their support to vital research being conducted to find a cure to multiple sclerosis. Team ACMA Knots raised over \$6000 in pledges and contributions.

ACMA's team consisted of Scott McClure, Doug Ottens, Faris Guirguis, Andrew Bohlin, Emily Rather, Michelle and Mark Hargrove and Dusty Hardin, along with support crew members Darrel Harvey, Jonathon Eccles and Beau and Linda Toll.

Our riders launched from various locations early Saturday morning. Scott and Doug began their journeys from their homes. The rest of the



From the Top

This spring ACMA participated in the MS 150, a 2-day bike ride from Houston to Austin, Texas, that's an annual fund-raiser for multiple sclerosis research. It's a special event for all of us at ACMA because it allows us to focus on two very important aspects of our business – our work as a team and our responsibility as corporate citizens.



First, I'm gratified that those who come together as a team every day at ACMA also enjoy working together as a team after hours in pursuit of a worthwhile goal that extends beyond our office walls.

Secondly, I'm proud that we all believe in being involved in our community and that we are willing to donate our time and money to help those who are in need.

So, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved this year - to all of our generous sponsors and to all of our riders and their support crews. Your contribution does make a difference and you can be proud that you've touched somebody's life in a positive way.

Scott C. McClure
President

McNotes is published by Alan C. McClure Associates.

Founded in 1975, Alan C. McClure Associates, Inc. (ACMA) is one of the industry's premier naval architecture and engineering firms. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, we've provided advanced design and engineering services to our international clientele in offshore exploration, production and marine transportation for over 28 years.

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pack started peddling west at 7:30am from Rhodes Stadium, an official starting line.

Although it was cold, damp and foggy at the beginning of Day 1, the first 40 miles were relatively easy as our crew glided across the flatlands at an average of 20 mph. As the road led deeper into the Hill Country, the undulations of the highway began to hint at the increasing challenges that lay ahead.

Day 1 ended in LaGrange where huge tents had been constructed to house weary road warriors. On arrival, the ACMA Knots carb-loaded on potatoes and beer, and then headed for the relative luxury of sleeping in the team's R.V. Lights were out, along with our team, by 9:00pm.

Day 2 began early for the support team who assembled at 4:30am to fix a full-course breakfast. By 8:30am, our team



The ACMA Knots...ready to saddle-up for the MS 150

was back on the road with Austin in their sights. By mid afternoon, the ACMA Knots began arriving at the finish line. Within a few hours, the whole team had completed the ride.

A few days after this challenging event, sore muscles and bruised backsides were already beginning to fade in memory. What won't be forgotten... the team's camaraderie and their contributions to a worthwhile cause.

Doug Ottens – Experience Counts

When Doug Ottens joined ACMA in December 2001 as a Senior Project Manager, he was a welcome addition to the ACMA team. With a track record of success that spanned over two decades, Doug brought the experience of a seasoned professional that every company hopes to have on board.

Doug's career began in Tacoma, Washington, where he spent a summer internship designing marine systems for an Alaskan king crab boat builder while attending the University of Michigan. Following his graduation from Michigan in 1979, with a B.S.E. in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Doug worked in San Diego designing marine systems for a tuna boat building company.

In 1981, he joined Marathon LeTourneau Marine Company in

Houston, where he spent the next 8 years designing various marine and industrial systems, including the propulsion system for the series of "Gorilla" jack-up MODUs. While working at LeTourneau, Doug also attended the University of Houston, where he earned his M.S. in Petroleum Engineering and Business Administration.

Over the next 12 years, Doug worked for some of the industry's most respected companies and in 1993 he received his license as a State of Texas Professional Engineer.

Today, in his current position of Principal Marine Engineer, Doug adds his expertise to virtually every ACMA project. After all, experience counts.



Doug Ottens (right)
Darrel Harvey (left)
and Faris Guirguis