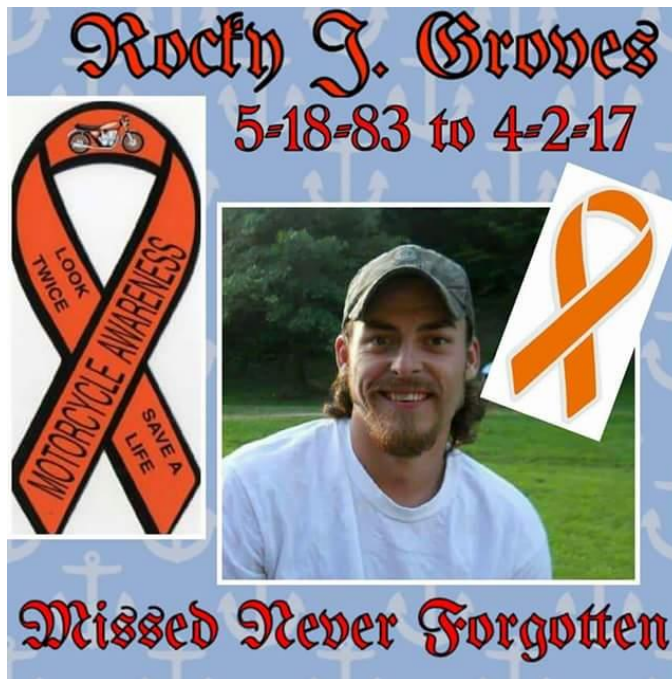


# C & B Newsletter

Issue 52

Special Edition 2017 – Rocky Groves



## Ed Eichhorn

C&B Marine Senior Captain

Back in April of 2003, I was working for Carlisle/Greater Cincinnati Marine running Captain on the M/V Wayne C. We were just starting up the Hilltop run from Patriot to Cincinnati for the year, when Rocky Groves, my new green deckhand, stepped foot on the boat for the first time. You could tell there was something special about Rocky from the very beginning. Rocky was no different than most green deckhands in as after a few days he wanted to know when he could start to pilot the boat and he already had the confidence that he could. Rocky was always a confident young man, all the years I've known him I can't remember him ever saying that he couldn't do something. He also had a little stubborn streak as well, for whenever he did fail at something he wouldn't give up until he got it right or figured out how to get it done. Confidence and a stubborn streak sounds like good building blocks for a pilot!

Rocky was good natured and I have never known anyone as open as he was. If you were lucky enough to be around him for no more than a couple of days you would already know all about him and what he...

was about. Rocky always talked about his family and you could tell how much he loved them. He was also fun to be around and he could always make you laugh no matter what was going on at the time. And some of the stories he would tell would have you rolling on the deck laughing. It seems like everyone that was around Rocky has a story to tell about him.

For a time, Rocky and I worked at Silver Grove fleet. Though he'd done some steering for me here and there, at Silver Grove he started steering for me full time. They always say that, "pilots are born not made." Well, Rocky was born to be a pilot and I knew it from the beginning and I didn't have to make him a pilot, only refine his natural ability and instincts. After steering for about 8 months, Rocky got his pilot's license and began running boats at Silver Grove fleet where he spent the majority of his piloting career and most recently was Captain of the M/V William B.

Rocky Groves will be missed by all, but he will not be forgotten, for his name will carry on in the stories we tell and through the Rocky Groves Memorial Fund set up at the Seaman's Church Institute. <https://donate.seamenschurch.org/give>. So far, \$1045 has been contributed for flowers, plus \$435 in cash donations. 750 will go towards the flowers and \$730 to Rocky Groves Memorial Fund at the Seaman's Church.

Captain Ed Eichhorn – Rocky's "Sea Daddy"



**Mike McNelly**

C&B Marine Silver Grove Deckineer

Being a towboater the men you work with become more than work colleagues, you become brothers. So when you hear of the passing of someone, it hits you hard. Rocky was one of my brothers! I will miss our talks – the crazy ones and the deep one's as well. Thank you for everything that you have shown me and I will pass on all the lessons you have shared with me throughout the years. I hope you know how much you were loved and how much you will be missed. The impact you have made in people's life will continue to echo. Goodbye for now until we meet again!

**Chris Bayless**

C&B Marine Silver Grove Deckineer

Rocky and I would joke a lot about how I was his "River Son" and how I was one of his redheaded step-children. Rocky loved talking! He would talk about the good old days when he was a deckhand and how much respect he had for Ed Eichhorn – how that was his sea daddy. We talked about how we were going to one day open our own pool hall. Above all, he said that he was going to make me into a real deckhand and how proud of me he was that I became a deckineer. When my grandma was dying he pulled me to the side and told me everything was going to...

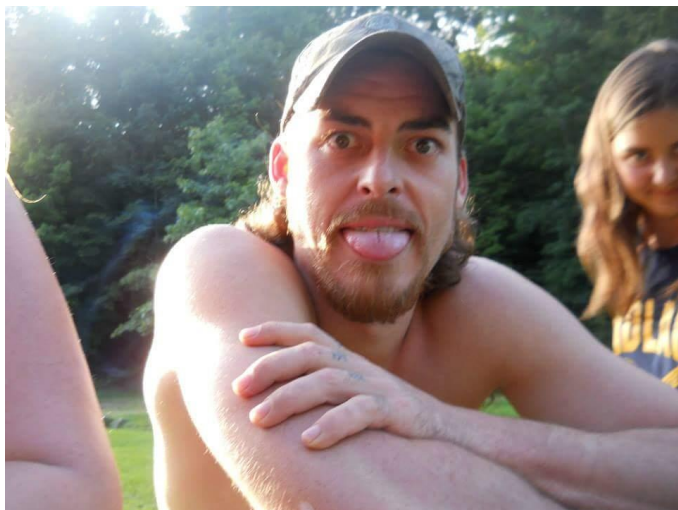
be fine and that he would be here if I needed anything.

**Jason Smith**

C&B Energy Spot Operations Supervisor

Rocky started out working with me at Kellogg unloading barges. He was a great worker and great person. Very fun to work with and be around. After a few months of working with him unloading, I suggested to him that he needed to get on a boat and work his way up to pilot. He was too good to stay working just docks. That's just what he did, working on the rock run and in the harbor, he worked his way up quickly thanks to Ed Eichorn and many other great pilots at GCM. Rocky turned into a great pilot, one of the best I ever had the pleasure to work with. He was a good friend and I will miss him forever.



**Randal Lapikas**

C&B Marine Hebron Harbor Manager

I worked with Rocky for about 13 years. Within that time, we grew closer and became friends and could talk about anything, even things I did not want to talk about. Rocky had a way of bringing those things out of a person. Rocky worked most of his younger years on the run boats at GCM along with me and several other employees. He was very dependable and you were always sure to get a laugh from him, which in turn always made my day better.

I have very fond memories of working with Rocky. I have one story that I will never forget. We had been on the boat for the better part of a week and we were all down in the dumps and wanted to see our families. Every watch we had to go out to check and tighten tow. We were towing 6 sand barges from Nugent sand. While we were checking tow Rocky said "I am bored, how about you?"

I said "yes I am Roc"...but before I could get the words out of my mouth he jumped into the sand barge and started climbing the mound of sand. So at this point, I was laughing hysterically and I jumped into the sand barge also. We climbed to the top of the sand and he pushed me down the hill and then from there we proceeded to play "king of the mountain." That made my week and it helped me finish the hitch.

Rocky was also like a brother, my river brother I should say. On the river you may have people that you're around for a week or a year. But I was around Rocky for several years and in this industry you are around the people at work more than at home. He was also the first person I decked with. I will never forget him and he will always hold a special place in my heart. I want to thank him for always bringing a smile to our faces. May he continue to smile from above!

**Larry Cox**

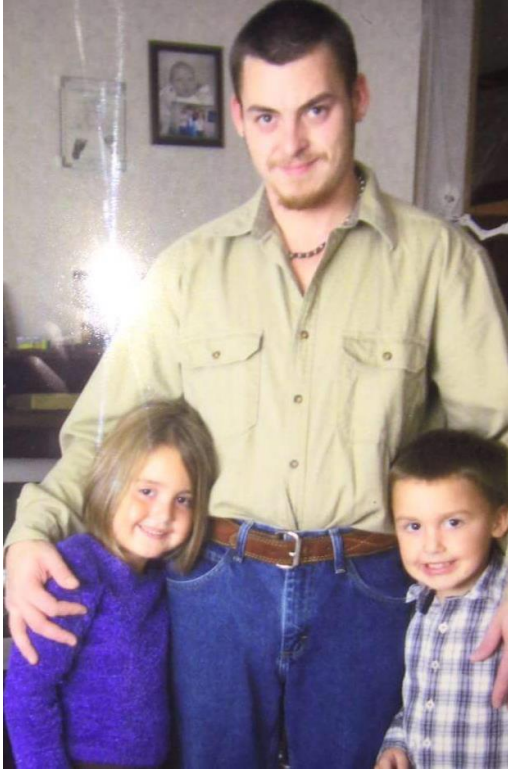
C&B Safety, Training and Compliance Coordinator

Some of my fondest Memories of Rocky come when we worked together at Sliver Grove. A great guy with a great sense humor, easy person to talk to, and great pilot that knew how to take care of his crew. One time, while getting off the boat at Hilltop, I dropped my phone in the river right at the edge of the river bank. Without hesitation, Rocky kicked his boots off and went and got it. I told him not to worry about it, that it was an old phone and I was due for a upgrade, but he would not give up till he found it.

He was that type person – just a really good person! He was more than just a coworker, he was a friend and the best kind of friend that would do anything he could for you no questions asked. If he had it to give, it was yours. You will be forever missed!



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**Ed Lapikas**

C&B Marine General Manager

As you all know, we suffered a great loss April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 with the passing of Captain Rocky Groves in a motorcycle accident. I would like to take a few minutes of your time just to share my memories of Rocky.

Most of the people that we have start as “green” deckhands, and are often inexperienced. Rocky was no exception. It is the time in a person’s life when they’re trying to figure out the direction that their lives will take. Rocky was a kid when he started – full of fun and adventure – but he grew up before our eyes, ultimately deciding to become a pilot. He became someone I could count on to fill in when needed and to always take his job seriously. I feel that all our veteran employees, myself included, had a part in helping Rocky “grow up” to the man he was. We had an opportunity to be a mentor to him and, to me, that is the best part of the job that I do: seeing the growth and transition that our guys make each day in the field.

I will miss the employee that transitioned into a great pilot, but I will also miss the man that never lost his zest for life, or sense of adventure. Regardless of the kind of day I was having, Rocky could always make me laugh. He had the ability to always look at the brighter side of every situation. I will miss our friend Rocky dearly.

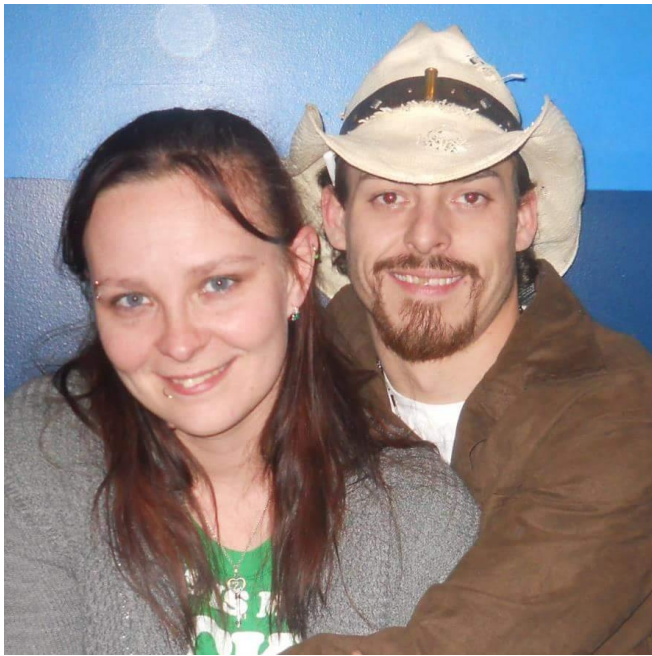


**Carlos Hooks**

C&B Marine Zimmer

Rocky started working for GCM a short time before I did. Over the years Rocky and I became closer than co-workers, we became close friends. When we started our company motto was “Whatever It Takes.” Every time I think of that motto, I think of Rocky. When it came to work, Rocky was a “whatever it takes” kind of guy. He didn’t have very many excuses or complaints, he just got the job done the best he could. Rocky was like a brother to me and he will be missed. But he will not be forgotten!





**Dave Westrich**  
C&B Port Engineer

As I sit and reflect on all the memories that I have with Rocky, I cannot recall any that don't make me laugh looking back on them. I started working on the river as a young man just as Rocky did and we pretty much grew up in the business together. I can remember the very first time I met Rocky was on the Rock Run and I was working at Hilltop (Patriot) where they would bring the empty barges and pick up the loads. I could tell when Rocky put the empty barges together because he would put the wires extra tight and throw a couple extra lines on just so I would know he did it when I was cussing about it. It soon became a game to see who could put the most messed up lines over the wires just to aggravate one another. We loved the challenge! There are so many different stories I can recall throughout the years of having fun while working with Rocky. I am grateful that Rocky was a part of our river family and I know that Rocky will be forever missed!



### ***A Towboater's Prayer***

*Lord, are there any riverboats in Heaven  
Where this old riverman could abide?  
If so, may I come aboard for that final ride?  
Is there a long gleaming river for me to run  
When my engines are silent and my trip is done?  
Lord, where will I find that glorious fleet...  
Where I can cast my line,  
Where old rivermen meet?  
Lord, only you can tell if I may come to stay,  
For sometimes I am lost and lose sight of my way.  
But if I steer a true course, may I please have a berth,  
When my last river is run and I leave this old  
Earth?*

