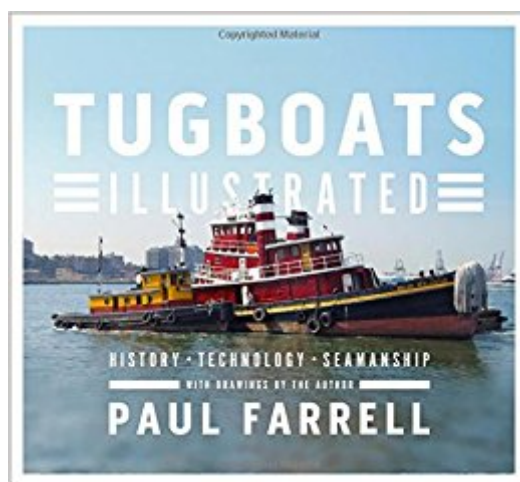


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# Tugboats Illustrated: History, Technology, Seamanship



## Synopsis

A gorgeously detailed guide to the evolution, design, and role of tugboats, from the earliest days of steam to today's most advanced ocean-going workboats. From river to harbor to ocean, tugboats are among the most ubiquitous but underappreciated craft afloat. Whether maneuvering ships out from between tight harbor finger piers, pushing rafts of forty barges up the Mississippi, towing enormous oil rigs, or just delivering huge piles of gravel to a river port near you, tugs exude a sense of genial strength guided by the wise experience of their crews. We can admire the precision of their coordination, the determination in their movements, the glow of signal lights at night, silently communicating their condition and intentions to vessels nearby. It is nearly impossible not to be intrigued and impressed by the way tugs work. In *Tugboats Illustrated*, Paul Farrell traces the evolution, design, and role of tugboats, ranging from the first steam-powered tug to today's hyper-specialized offshore workboats. Through extensive photographs, dynamic drawings, and enlightening diagrams, he explores the development of these hard-working boats, always shaped by the demands of their waterborne environment, by an ever-present element of danger, and by advancements in technology. Whether making impossible turns in small spaces, crashing through huge swells, pushing or pulling or prodding or coaxing or escorting, we come to understand not only what tugs do, but how physics and engineering allow them to do it. From the deck layout of a nineteenth-century sidewheel tug to the mechanics of barge towing—whether by humans, mules, steam or diesel engines—to the advantages of various types and configurations of propulsion systems, to the operation of an oil rig anchor-handling tug/supply vessel, *Tugboats Illustrated* is a comprehensive tribute to these beloved workhorses of the sea and their intrepid crews. 300 color photos and drawings

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Paul Farrell, an architect with a lifelong enthusiasm for tugboats and the working waterfront, has spent twenty-five years writing and researching his first book. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

I found this book as engaging as it is delightful and informative. One might expect a book on the life of tugs to offer only quick diversion, but *Tugboats Illustrated* provides a deep dive into a fascinating and surprisingly rich subject. Having spent time near the oceans, harbors and river ports throughout my life, unanswered musings about working boats & ships that have floated around my head since childhood, and this book gives them satisfyingly coherent form and context. While many of the specific boats featured are in the northeastern US, the scope of the book is more global, helping to explain the visual characteristics of tugs, and why they look the way they do. The many tasks that tugs perform are beautifully described, and both the universal similarities and the local peculiarities that shape the design and development of tug design and operation are brought vividly to life. The photos and illustrations are effective at introducing and describing individual topics within the chapters, and the text provides lucid and occasionally poetic reinforcement for the graphics. But the illustrations are the real stars. The drawings are consistently clear and communicative of the point being explored, whether in a simple drawing of a "boot-heel pilot-house", or in sophisticated cut-away views of propulsion systems. The drawings are not showy or elegant, but (like tugs themselves) they are pragmatic and charming, and express the author's great skill in explaining great complexity with graphic aplomb. If you ever suspected that tugboats were cool, this book will confirm your suspicions, and let you know why!

I have been hoping for a book such as this for years. With the notable exception of *On the Hawser*, most books about tugs focus on the UK and Europe. But this gem of a book is about tugs in the US as well as elsewhere. As an introduction to the tug boat industry it is about perfect. Lots of photos, lots of details on the mechanical aspects of the modern boat, information about the historical development of tugs. The book presents how the design of a contemporary tug is a logical step as operators try to increase efficiency but letting the functional purpose of the tug dictate the design. I

highly recommend it, particularly for young people (I am only 77 years young} who are curious, as many of us are, about the tugboat.

This book was not what I expected, when I placed my order. I thought it would be similar to other transportation related books by this publisher and consist of a large number of well-composed high quality photos of tugs and their operations with substantive supporting text. Instead, the preponderance of the illustrations are made up of the author's sketches of tugboats, selected associated components and systems, and key functions. The photographs, most of which are in color, depict very few tugs in their entirety thereby not providing a very good overview of how tugboats evolved and how those used by different companies differed. The book presents itself as a high-level overview with a somewhat whimsical slant. My real question is who is the intended audience for the book. It almost appears that it is meant to be a book for juveniles instead of a serious work for people with an interest in maritime subjects. For example, one page consists of a reproduction of a NEW YORKER magazine cover depicting whales docking a cruise ship, while another has sketches comparing a tug looking like a house with a house looking like a tug. It does not compare well, in my opinion, with previous books on the subject published in the UK. Having said this, the author has created some good explanatory sketches, which along with the text are generally accurate. I believe it would appeal to younger readers or an adult with a passing interest in maritime matters.

This book goes into more detail regarding tugboat operations than any other book I have run across. If you want to know the nuts and bolts of tugboat operations this is the book for you. Five star rating.

I purchased this book for my father-in-law as a Boat-Warming (is that a thing?), and he loves it! The images are awesome, and it's chock-full of information about tugboats. Definitely a niche audience, but if you're into tugboats, go for it!

Very good coffee table book for the tugboat fan! My 4 year old son loves flipping through it looking at the pictures.

some of the print is awful small.

Great book; great seller! Highly recommended!

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