What is claimed is:

1. A gravel packing apparatus comprising:

first and second joints each including a sand control screen assembly having a filter medium positioned exteriorly of a base pipe and a slurry delivery subassembly positioned exteriorly of the sand control screen assembly, the slurry delivery subassembly including at least one transport tube extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the sand control screen assembly;

at least one jumper tube extending between and sealably coupled to the at least one transport tube of the first joint and the at least one transport tube of the second joint; and

a first locking assembly positioned between the at least one jumper tube and the at least one transport tube of the first joint and a second locking assembly positioned between the at least one jumper tube and the at least one transport tube of the second joint.

2. The apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein a first component of the first locking assembly is supported by the transport tube of the first joint and a second component of the first locking assembly is supported by the jumper tube and wherein a first component of the second locking assembly is supported by the transport tube of the second joint and a second component of the second locking assembly is supported by the jumper tube.

3. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein the first component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a groove.

4. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a collet assembly.

5. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a locking ring.

6. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies is operably positionable to the exterior of the first component of the first and second locking assemblies, respectively.

7. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies is operably positionable to the interior of the first component of the first and second locking assemblies, respectively.

8. A gravel packing apparatus comprising:

a first joint including a sand control screen assembly having a filter medium positioned exteriorly of a base pipe and a slurry delivery subassembly positioned exteriorly of the sand control screen assembly, the slurry delivery subassembly including at least one transport tube extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the sand control screen assembly, the transport tube including a first component of a first locking assembly;

a second joint including a sand control screen assembly having a filter medium positioned exteriorly of a base pipe and a slurry delivery subassembly positioned exteriorly of the sand control screen assembly, the slurry delivery subassembly including at least one transport tube extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the sand control screen assembly, the transport tube including a first component of a second locking assembly;

at least one jumper tube operable to be sealably coupled between the at least one transport tube of the first joint and the at least one transport tube of the second joint, the jumper tube including a second component of the first locking assembly at a first end and a second component of the second locking assembly at a second end,

wherein, axial engagement of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint operatively engages the first and second components of the first locking assembly; and

wherein, axial engagement of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint operatively engages the first and second components of the second locking assembly.

9. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the first component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a groove.

10. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a collet assembly.

11. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a locking ring.

12. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies is operably positionable to the exterior of the first component of the first and second locking assemblies, respectively.

13. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies is operably positionable to the interior of the first component of the first and second locking assemblies, respectively.

14. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein axial engagement of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises telescopically extending the at least one jumper tube.

15. A method for assembling a gravel packing apparatus, the method comprising:

providing first and second joints each including a sand control screen assembly having a filter medium positioned exteriorly of a base pipe and a slurry delivery subassembly positioned exteriorly of the sand control screen assembly, the slurry delivery subassembly including at least one transport tube extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the sand control screen assembly;

threadably coupling the first and second joints together;

axially engaging a first end of a jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint to establish a sealing and locking relationship therebetween;

telescopically extending the jumper tube; and

axially engaging a second end of the jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint to establish a sealing and locking relationship therebetween.

16. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein axially engaging the first end of the jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint further comprises engaging a first component of a first locking assembly supported by the transport tube of the first joint with a second component of the first locking assembly supported by the jumper tube and wherein axially engaging the second end of the jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises engaging a first component of a second locking assembly supported by the transport tube of the second joint with a second component of the second locking assembly supported by the jumper tube.

17. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein axially engaging the first end of the jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint further comprises engaging a first collet assembly with a first groove and wherein axially engaging the second end of the jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises engaging a second collet assembly with a second groove.

18. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein axially engaging the first end of the jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint further comprises engaging a first locking ring with a first groove and wherein axially engaging the second end of the jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises engaging a second locking ring with a second groove.

19. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein engaging the first end of the jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint further comprises disposing the first end of the jumper tube to the interior of the transport tube of the first joint and wherein axially engaging the second end of the jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises disposing the second end of the jumper tube to the interior of the transport tube of the second joint.

20. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein engaging the first end of the jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint further comprises positioning at least a portion of the first end of the jumper tube to the exterior of the transport tube of the first joint and wherein axially engaging the second end of the jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises positioning at least a portion of the second end of the jumper tube to the exterior of the transport tube of the second joint.

What is claimed is:

1. A gravel packing apparatus comprising:

first and second joints each including a sand control screen assembly having a filter medium positioned exteriorly of a base pipe and a slurry delivery subassembly positioned exteriorly of the sand control screen assembly, the slurry delivery subassembly including at least one transport tube extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the sand control screen assembly;

at least one jumper tube extending between and sealably coupled to the at least one transport tube of the first joint and the at least one transport tube of the second joint, the at least one jumper tube comprising:

a first tubular member defining first and second ends;

a second tubular member configured to slidingly engage within the first tubular member to telescopically extend the length of the at least one jumper tube from the first end of the first tubular member; and

a third tubular member configured to slidingly engage within the first tubular member to telescopically extend the length of the at least one jumper tube from the second end of the first tubular member;

a first locking assembly positioned between the second tubular member of the at least one jumper tube and the at least one transport tube of the first joint; and

a second locking assembly positioned between the third tubular member of the at least one jumper tube and the at least one transport tube of the second joint.

2. The apparatus as recited in claim 1,

wherein a first component of the first locking assembly is supported by the transport tube of the first joint and a second component of the first locking assembly is supported by the second tubular member of the at least one jumper tube; and

wherein a first component of the second locking assembly is supported by the transport tube of the second joint and a second component of the

second locking assembly is supported by the third tubular member of the at least one jumper tube.

3. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein the first component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a groove.

4. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a collet assembly.

5. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a locking ring.

6. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies is operably positionable to the exterior of the first component of the first and second locking assemblies, respectively.

7. The apparatus as recited in claim 2 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies is operably positionable to the interior of the first component of the first and second locking assemblies, respectively.

8. A gravel packing apparatus comprising:

a first joint including a sand control screen assembly having a filter medium positioned exteriorly of a base pipe and a slurry delivery subassembly positioned exteriorly of the sand control screen assembly, the slurry delivery subassembly including at least one transport tube extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the sand control screen assembly, the transport tube including a first component of a first locking assembly;

a second joint including a sand control screen assembly having a filter medium positioned exteriorly of a base pipe and a slurry delivery subassembly positioned exteriorly of the sand control screen assembly, the slurry delivery subassembly including at least one transport tube extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the sand control screen

assembly, the transport tube including a first component of a second locking assembly;

at least one jumper tube operable to be sealably coupled between the at least one transport tube of the first joint and the at least one transport tube of the second joint, the at least one jumper tube comprising:

a first tubular member defining first and second ends;

a second tubular member configured to slidingly engage within the first tubular member to telescopically extend the length of the at least one jumper tube from the first end of the first tubular member, the second tubular member including a second component of the first locking assembly; and

a third tubular member configured to slidingly engage within the first tubular member to telescopically extend the length of the at least one jumper tube from the second end of the first tubular member, the third tubular member including a second component of the second locking assembly;

wherein, axial engagement of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint operatively engages the first and second components of the first locking assembly; and

wherein, axial engagement of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint operatively engages the first and second components of the second locking assembly.

9. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the first component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a groove.

10. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a collet assembly.

11. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies further comprises a locking ring.

12. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies is operably positionable to the exterior of the first component of the first and second locking assemblies, respectively.

13. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein the second component of the first and second locking assemblies is operably positionable to the interior of the first component of the first and second locking assemblies, respectively.

14. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein axial engagement of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises telescopically extending the at least one jumper tube.

15. A method for assembling a gravel packing apparatus, the method comprising:

providing first and second joints each comprising a sand control screen assembly having a filter medium positioned exteriorly of a base pipe and a slurry delivery subassembly positioned exteriorly of the sand control screen assembly, the slurry delivery subassembly including at least one transport tube extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the sand control screen assembly;

threadably coupling the respective base pipes of the first and second joints together;

providing at least one jumper tube to be sealably coupled between the at least one transport tube of the first joint and the at least one transport tube of the second joint, the at least one jumper tube comprising first, second, and third tubular members;

axially engaging the second tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint to establish a sealing and locking relationship therebetween;

slidingly engaging the second tubular member within the first tubular member to telescopically extend the length of the at least one jumper tube from a first end of the first tubular member;

slidingly engaging the third tubular member within the first tubular member to telescopically extend the length of the at least one jumper tube from a second end of the first tubular member; and

axially engaging the third tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint to establish a sealing and locking relationship therebetween.

16. The method as recited in claim 15,

wherein axially engaging the second tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint further comprises engaging a first component of a first locking assembly supported by the transport tube of the first joint with a second component of the first locking assembly supported by the second tubular member of the at least one jumper tube; and

wherein axially engaging the third tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises engaging a first component of a second locking assembly supported by the transport tube of the second joint with a second component of the second locking assembly supported by the third tubular member of the at least one jumper tube.

17. The method as recited in claim 15,

wherein axially engaging the second tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint further comprises engaging a first collet assembly with a first groove; and

wherein axially engaging the third tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises engaging a second collet assembly with a second groove.

18. The method as recited in claim 15,

wherein axially engaging the second tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint further comprises engaging a first locking ring with a first groove; and

wherein axially engaging the third tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises engaging a second locking ring with a second groove.

19. The method as recited in claim 15,

wherein engaging the second tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint further comprises disposing the second tubular member of the at least one jumper tube to the interior of the transport tube of the first joint; and

wherein axially engaging the third tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises disposing the third tubular member of the at least one jumper tube to the interior of the transport tube of the second joint.

20. The method as recited in claim 15,

wherein engaging the second tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the first joint further comprises positioning at least a portion of the second tubular member of the at least one jumper tube to the exterior of the transport tube of the first joint; and

wherein axially engaging the third tubular member of the at least one jumper tube with the transport tube of the second joint further comprises positioning at least a portion of the third tubular member of the at least one jumper tube to the exterior of the transport tube of the second joint.