



## Press Release

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### **Amver cruise ship rescues Atlantic rowers**

**NEW YORK** – Two Atlantic rowers were rescued by the Amver participating cruise ship *Crystal Serenity* after their rowboat capsized several hundred miles west of the Canary Islands Tuesday December 13, 2011.

The rowers, a Dutch and British national, were participating in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge from the Canary Islands to Barbados when their boat capsized.

The duo immediately activated their Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon alerting rescue authorities at MRCC Falmouth, United Kingdom. Rescue authorities in Falmouth also requested Amver information from the United States Coast Guard.

Amver, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea.

Using an Amver surface picture (SURPIC), the cruise ship *Crystal Serenity* was located 120 miles away from the rowers and asked to divert to rescue them. The cruise ship immediately changed course to assist the rowers. The rescue was complicated by winds in excess of 25 knots and 10 foot waves but the two rowers were taken aboard the cruise ship without injury. They had spent 10 hours in their life raft.

According to Captain Okland of the *Crystal Serenity* the survivors are in good health and will stay aboard the ship until it reaches St. Maarten on Sunday.

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The Bahamian flagged ship enrolled in the Amver system in 2003 and has earned 6 awards for participation.

With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Vessels send periodic position reports to the Amver center until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any day there are over 5,000 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit <http://www.amver.com> to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system.

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