



Press Release

Date: July 5, 2011

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Amver participating British Antarctic Survey ship recognized for rescue of sailors, cat

NEW YORK – The Amver participating Royal Research Vessel James Clark Ross didn't just rescue four sailors on May 14, 2011 off the coast of Africa, they gave Fairy Faye, a 12 year old cat, one of her nine lives back.

The James Clark Ross was on a voyage from Port Stanley, Falkland Islands to Portsmouth, United Kingdom, having completed its annual scientific and resupply mission to stations on Antarctica when they were called to rescue four sailors from their sinking 57 foot sailing yacht, Ex Africa.

Rescue authorities from Morocco, using Amver information from the United States Coast Guard, requested the research ship divert to help the crew of the sinking sailboat. "We have damaged rigging, we're out of fuel and water, and we're drifting in bad weather and are abandoning the yacht," the crew reported to rescue personnel.

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.

When the James Clark Ross arrived on the scene another Amver participant, the Kate Maersk, was already talking to the stricken sailboat. Because the James Clark Ross has a lower freeboard the Kate Maersk turned search and rescue duties over to the Captain of the research vessel and was released from the scene.

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The James Clark Ross crew quickly hoisted the sailors and elderly cat aboard the Falkland Island flagged research vessel and left the Ex Africa to sink. All the survivors, human and feline, were in good health. They remained onboard the research vessel until it arrived in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Benjamin Strong, Director of Amver for the United States Coast Guard, boarded the James Clark Ross at the Portsmouth Navy Yard and presented a certificate of appreciation for the crew. Mr. Strong also presented a five year Amver participation pennant to the research ship for its faithful participation in the Amver system. "Every 33 hours an Amver ship saves a life, somewhere in the world. This partnership demonstrates the British Antarctic Survey's commitment to safety at sea," Strong announced.

With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center. Vessels then report every 48 hours 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 given day there are over 4,000 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.

Photos available at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/sets/72157627085548618/>

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