

*Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System*  
**U.S. Coast Guard**



## Press Release

Date: January 24, 2013

Contact: Benjamin Strong  
(212) 668-7762 office  
(917) 545-6676 mobile  
benjamin.m.strong@uscg.mil

### **Cruise ship makes first Amver rescue of 2013**

**NEW YORK** – The cruise ship Orion made the first Amver rescue of 2013 in a treacherous rescue off the coast of Tasmania on Monday, January 21, 2013.

According to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, a 56 year old solo sailor spent 56 hours in a life raft in the Southern Ocean after his yacht was de-masted and hull damaged in rough weather on Friday, January 18, 2013 during a round the world journey.

Australian rescue personnel sent search aircraft that dropped survival and communications equipment to the sailor and contacted the master of the Orion. The cruise ship was 600 miles away from the sailor when rescue authorities requested the captain divert the 337 foot ship and embark the sailor. Once the Orion reached the life raft the recovery of the sailor took approximately one hour. The crew of the Bahamian flagged ship was assisted by better than expected weather conditions.

The sailor was in good health with minor injuries and was taken back to Hobart, Tasmania. “His hands are a little swollen and some joints a little stiff but he is walking around the suite,” expedition leaders Don and Margie McIntyre said, “he ordered a steak for lunch!”

The Orion, managed by Orion Expedition Cruises of North Sydney, Australia, enrolled in the Amver system on March 31, 2005 and has earned three Amver awards for participation.

-more-

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.

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.

Photo available at: <http://flic.kr/p/dPmU1b>

###