AMVER

Press Release

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Amver ship saves sailor off coast of North Carolina

NEW YORK – A routine voyage between Jamaica and New York turned into a daring rescue mission for the Amver participating cargo ship Algol early Thursday morning October 21st. The Singapore flagged ship radioed United States Coast Guard rescue personnel in Hampton Roads, Virginia alerting them they had received a distress call from a lone sailor on his 36 foot sailboat off the Carolina coast.

Matthew Eliason was on a voyage from Hampton Roads, Virginia to Florida when the boat suffered engine failure. As the weather deteriorated Mr. Eliason decided his best move was to activate his private distress beacon and make a distress call out via VHF radio. It was Captain Johnny Sueta Deraper, on the bridge of the Algol, who heard Eliason's distress and turned his 529 foot ship towards the stricken sailor.

The Algol was only two miles away from Mr. Eliason's location and arrived on the scene quickly. The Algol's crew helped Mr. Eliason aboard the cargo ship and tried to take his sailboat in tow. The weather conditions were rough with winds howling over 45 knots and waves cresting at six to ten feet when the tow line broke. The crew of the Algol were forced to abandon the sailboat.

The Algol, managed by Navylloyd AG Reederei of Switzerland, enrolled in the Amver system on November 23, 2006. This is its first rescue.

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.

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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 3,700 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 of the M/V Algol:
http://flic.kr/p/8LV7W3

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