



Press Release

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

Greek Amver boxship saves Canadian sailor

NEW YORK – A 72 year old Canadian sailor, on a voyage from Maui to Vancouver, was plucked from the sailboat Turicum by a Greek boxship on Tuesday August 7, 2012, 1040 miles north northeast of Hawaii after experiencing a condition that required medical attention.

The 72 year old Vancouver resident was returning on the 44 foot sailing vessel when a medical condition worsened and he became dehydrated. The crew of the Turicum notified U.S. Coast Guard rescue authorities in Honolulu who began querying the Amver system for commercial ships that could assist.

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.

The M/V Hanjin Vancouver initially agreed to divert and assist the sailor but the Greek flagged Navarino was closer and agreed to divert towards the sailboat and help the ill yachtsman.

“We’re 320 miles from the Turicum’s last reported position,” stated the Captain of the Navarino, “we expect to meet in 12 hours. Please pass to the vessel to maintain 150 meridian.” The Captain rendezvoused with the Turicum ahead of schedule and maneuvered the 1,000 foot containership within 4 meters of the sailboat, providing a lee from the wind. The crew of the Navarino then used a tether to transfer the sailor through the pilot entrance. The sailor was uninjured in the transfer.

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A U.S. Coast Guard flight surgeon instructed the crew of the Navarino to assess the sailor. The crew reported the gentleman was still experiencing some health issues, but had normal vital signs and was resting comfortably. The Navarino will bring the sailor to its next port, Los Angeles, Calif. on August 10, 2012.

The Navarino, managed by Costamare Shipping Company of Athens, Greece, enrolled in Amver on June 8, 2012 and has earned two awards for participation.

The Navarino provides its vessel position through an agreement with Pole Star which gives commercial ships the opportunity to report to the Amver system automatically and free of charge as part of its Fleet Management system.

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.

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