



## Press Release

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### **Four sailors rescued by Amver container ship**

**NEW YORK** – Four sailors were rescued by an Amver participating container ship after their sailboat lost steering 160 miles northwest of Bermuda on Sunday November 6, 2011.

The Elle, a 46 foot sailing yacht, was participating in the North American Rally to the Caribbean, from Newport to Bermuda, when they encountered gale force winds greater than 40 knots and 30 foot seas.

Rescue authorities in Bermuda received the initial distress call and U.S. Coast Guard rescue personnel agreed to assist in the search and rescue case. U.S. Coast Guard rescue personnel launched a Coast Guard rescue aircraft from Air Station Elizabeth City and diverted the 387 foot Amver participating container ship; Oleander.

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 Marshall Island flagged ship, on a voyage to Bermuda, was near the distress and Captain Jurszo agreed to divert and assist the sailboat.

“The Elle had lost her steering and we were helplessly adrift in the gale. In 30 to 40 knot winds and 30 foot seas Captain Jurszo expertly maneuvered the Oleander next to the Elle gently touching her side,” stated Elle survivor Mr. Brian Finn. “Further complicating matters was the fact our mast was swinging wildly near his [Captain Jurszo] outside steering station, almost hitting him in the head,” Finn added.

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The rescue operation was not without its challenges. “Things got even more challenging when I plunged into the ocean,” Finn recalled in an email to the Amver office. “The crew reacted perfectly. They threw me a line that I tied onto my safety harness and they hauled me over the side. They successfully got us all on board,” he wrote.

The Oleander, managed by Bermuda Container Lines of Hamilton, Bermuda, enrolled in the Amver system in 1990 and has earned 12 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. 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 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.

Photos of the rescue are available here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/sets/72157628128200650/>

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