



Press Release

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Amver ship rescues three sailors from the Atlantic

NEW YORK – Three sailors were rescued by an Amver participating container ship after their 38 foot sailboat, Shunpiker, lost power 245 miles east of Savannah, Ga., on November 4, 2011.

U.S. Coast Guard rescue personnel received two Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) alerts for the sailboat which had departed Washington, N.C. on a voyage to Marsh Harbor, Bermuda. Coast Guard personnel sent a rescue aircraft from Air Station Elizabeth City and requested the Amver participating container ship, E.R. Albany, divert to the last known location of the Shunpiker.

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 aircraft used their direction finding capability to quickly locate the sailboat location but were unable to see it because of the dangerous sea conditions. Winds were greater than 30 knots and waves were more than 10 feet. The E.R. Albany was only three hours away when they turned to offer assistance.

The E.R. Albany came alongside the Shunpiker and the crew lowered a pilot ladder. All three yachtsmen were able to quickly climb aboard the 659 foot ship and were in good health with no injuries. The sailboat was left adrift.

The Liberian flagged container ship will take the survivors to its next port of call in Aljezier, Spain where the survivors will be met by U.S. State Department personnel and return home.

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The E.R. Albany, managed by ER Schiffahrt GmbH of Hamburg, Germany, enrolled in the Amver system in April, 1996 and has earned 6 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 available at: <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjwW1vXb>

Please credit photos: crew of the M/V E.R. Albany

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