

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



Press Release

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COMMERCIAL SHIP SENT TO RESCUE CALIFORNIA SAILOR

NEW YORK – A German owned merchant ship, the Algarve, was diverted to assist Ken Barnes who encountered severe weather almost 500 miles off the coast of South America. Barnes is attempting to sail around the world in his sailboat, the Privateer, and experienced rough weather on January 2, 2007.

The Algarve, a participant in the United States Coast Guard's Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System, or Amver, is a 620 foot cargo ship that was already headed towards Chile when it was contacted by rescue authorities and diverted to Ken's location.

The Amver system is a voluntary, worldwide ship reporting system. 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 3,000 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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