

## **THE ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA**

### **AMVER Award**

**2012**

#### **Presented to:**

M/V OLEANDER

Four sailors were rescued by an Amver participating container ship M/V OLEANDER 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.

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.

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.

