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Narrator: You're listening to the Quarter Deck with Benjamin Strong and coastguard admiral Jim Watson.
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Benjamin: Hi it's Ben Strong from Amver.com and welcome to another edition of The Quarter Deck, the Amver podcast. And this is our last Quarter Deck podcast for 2011. Also some big news in the Quarter Deck Amver podcasting world, is that my co-host and shipmate, admiral Jim Watson, has retired from the Coastguard, and was recently named the director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental enforcement. And I can tell you that this podcast The Quarter Deck probably wouldn't be what it is today if not for the support and the championing of this whole process. Using social media and reaching out to the mariners via this audio medium without the help and assistance of Admiral Watson. So a hearty thank you to our friend and shipmate Admiral Watson, we wish him fair winds and following sees. And I'm sure we'll hear from him in the future, perhaps we can even book him as a guest, and interview him in his new duties. But that's not all that's going on in the Amver world. As we wrap up 2011, we've had a recent rescue that really highlights the international nature of Amver, and how well we work with our international partners. On just this past Tuesday, what would be December 13th, there were two Atlantic rowers rescued by an Amver participating cruise ship. This is the Crystal Serenity, a Bohemian flagship. The cruise ship was making a trans-Atlantic voyage. The rowers capsized a couple hundred miles west of the Canary Islands. They activated their e-purb <sp>, they had the appropriate emergency equipment on board. The rescue coordination's center in Foundlith UK received the alert. Made an international request, an Amver surpic request, which can be made by rescue coordination centers on Amver.com, we'll have a link to that in the show notes. And Amver data was passed from our rescue professionals down in the Virginia area, our Atlantic area command center, over to the folks in Norfolk. Correction, over to the rescue professionals at Foundlith who then diverted the cruise ship. Two lives were saved, which brings to a total of 163 lives that were saved so far this year as we close out 2011. But as they say, wait there's more. So far this year, we've had record number of ships this year on-plot. And I think that's because of you, the mariners, who so strongly participate in the Amver program. In fact for October and November, we've had over, an average of over 5,000 ships on-plot. October we had 5,020 and in November we had 5,061 which is just incredible. For 2010, the on-plot average for the entire year was 3,815 ships. And because you've so strongly support safety at sea, you've helped raise our numbers to 5,000. Which should bring our annual, our yearly on-plot average to just about 4,500, maybe 4,600. The number of vessels that are enrolled in Amver. Last year we had 1,786. This year, this doesn't count our December numbers, 2,285. The support that the international community has shown the Amver system is just unprecedented. I've had the absolute honor of travelling the world this year. I've been to Norway, we've been to Russia, we've been to Shanghai, conducting Amver award ceremonies. In fact, across the world, there were over 20 Amver award ceremonies recognizing the significant contribution that all of you make to safety at sea and to ensuring that no call to help goes unanswered. So as we close out this holiday season, I hope that you're spending time with friends and family. If you're underway, I hope that you're spending time with your shipmates. That you understand the impact that you make on safety worldwide. I thank you very much for your help, and I look forward to a prosperous 2012 with you. I'm Ben Strong from Amver.com
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Narrator: You have been listening to the Quarter Deck. Learn more about the Amver program at Amver.com. The Quarter Deck theme song is called Botany Bay by the Blaggards. Available at Musicalley.com or follow the link in our show notes.

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