

ISC Seafarers' Log

The Official Newsletter of the International Seafarers' Center

"Meeting Seafarers' Needs Since 1982"

Inside This Issue

Thank You	1
A Note From The Executive Director	2
Odd Smoking Request filled	3
SGHS to the Rescue	4
Republic of Kiribati	5
Roses to the Rescue	5
Glovis Century	6
The Paul McLernan & Yankee Engineering	8
Nuptial Neverland	8
Bahut Khubas Khaana	10

ISC Calendar

(Date To Be Announced)

ISC Volunteer Training Hospitality
ISC Volunteer Party
Potential ISC Volunteer Breakfast and Tour
Maritime Day

THANK YOU...

The ISC volunteers and staff would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and extend our gratitude to all of the front line people in this Coronavirus fight.

To all of our **First Responders** who do such important work every day but especially at this time having to deal with the unknown when responding to someone in trouble. And of course our tremendous **medical staff**, in fact all hospital employees as well as **paramedics**, for keeping yourselves healthy and being the front line of defense against this terrible disease. Finally, let us not forget all of the **drugstore and grocery store employees** for being available to help satisfy our needs for the necessities of life.



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Vicki West



LIFE WITH COVID-19

As I was researching the number 19 I found something very interesting. The number 19 in the Bible represents FAITH! SO..... COVID-19 is an invisible enemy (covid) that is coming against FAITH (19) and Jesus is the author and finisher of FAITH (Hebrews 12:2) therefore this virus has to go in the mighty name of JESUS!!

We, at the ISC, believe in the TRUTH (Jesus) but are also submissive to the law of our great LAND. Being affiliated with Brunswick Port, we are considered an essential business but are putting safety measures in place. The seafarers are still coming into our ports, and after being vetted several times by the Coast Guard and

Customs, still have needs. We visit every vessel that berths at our three ports in Brunswick.

Many of the shipping lines (for precautionary measures for their crews), are not allowing them to disembark. This presents a dilemma because the seafarers still have need of hygiene products, vitamins and "essential" snacks with no way to get them. The ISC came up with a plan....a concierge service of our products in the store. Peter, our esteemed Volunteer Director, collaborating with Bonnie, our store manager, myself and our amazing volunteers, implemented this as of March 23, 2020. This includes getting an order from the ship, shopping for the items and then delivering the items to the vessel. There is no additional charge for this service. The seafarers have been so very appreciative of this additional "comfort" provided to them.

We cannot say a big enough THANK YOU to all of our volunteers and financial partners. We could in no way continue to be successful in this ministry without you!!!! Please go to our website, www.seafarerscenter.org, to donate or to sign up to volunteer. Reach out to a friend who may share your interest in the ISC, or let us know and we will contact them. And, as always, the phone is an option at 912-267-0631. We are "America Strong" and we will get through this. As you know this is an adventure and the BEST IS YET TO COME!!! GOD BLESS AMERICA!!

LIVE LOCAL-REACH NATIONS

Blessings to you,

Vicki



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ODD SMOKING REQUEST FILLED...

Sharon Hindery



As ISC volunteers, we are most often called upon to take our visitors shopping, to the doctor, to church and occasionally even to the beach. Our centers are a friendly face in a place where these men and women can stretch their land legs, visit with families on the WiFi, stock up on some familiar treats, and chat with someone other than their crewmates. Sometimes these interactions involve hearing about loved ones who are missed, but who are living a better life because of the seafarer's sacrifice, that of being away for many months at a time. Sometimes it's a spiritual need that we can address. Hopefully, only occasionally, it is a medical service we can help a seafarer obtain. However, not all our service needs to be of these high priority types.

Often it is going a little out of your way to help with what at first seems a minor thing. On Thanksgiving Day, Rick and I worked at Colonel's Island when one of our "frequent flyers", the Victoria Highway, was in. There was a bit of disappointment among some sailors to find that most of the shopping at the mall would not commence until later in the day. We also warned them that it *would* be a bit busier than usual, so allow extra time. One fellow, however, only wanted one thing ... a *real* tobacco store. Since it was the holiday, we did not think we could find one open, but we called both the ones listed on my phone and left messages. Tobacco Palace called back, and no, they didn't have it but could get some ordered. It seems our new friend, First Officer Olesky, had been trying for months, in Europe, through the ship's agent and at other US ports with no success. He just could *not* get his favorite "Captain Black Cherry flavored little cigars". (Our new friend was *very* specific!). Now, I am no advocate of smoking, but I must admit that I do like the smell of burning cherry tobacco. So, we exchanged emails and arranged to make sure that when he next came to port, we would get four cartons of his favorite treat for him.

He promised to email us with a heads up when he expected to return to Brunswick so that we could arrange to pick up his order. Over the holidays, we even received a nice Christmas greeting with the information that he expected to arrive about the 3rd of January.

On Sunday evening, first week in January, the Victoria Highway returned, and we arranged to visit the crew, so that we could let our friend know that, although ordered, the shipment was apparently delayed with the holiday. The store manager informed us that he had two cartons that he could bring down from Savannah but it would, sadly, be after the Victoria Highway departed.

We went aboard to visit the crew alongside the port police and headed up to the ship's office, hoping to find Olesky to give him the news that he would have to wait a bit longer. It turned out that our friend was the officer who was to meet with the port police! We waited our turn until all the official business was complete. Then we informed Olesky that his special order was delayed until after his ship was leaving. Olesky then told us that they were going to discharge, go out to sea to "drift" for a few days and then come right back to Brunswick to load on Friday. Apparently, the cigars were not the only thing that was delayed. The happy ending is that on Friday, we were able to deliver two cartons to our new friend with the promise of two more in a month when they next return.

We enjoyed interacting with this personable young Ukraine officer. As the only Ukrainian in a crew of Indian and Pakistani, he now has his favorite treat to look forward to at the end of the day. He also has a positive and fun story, as do we, of offering a little something extra to our seafarer visitors. In February, we made the final delivery of two cartons, completing this fun little mission, thereafter everything went up in smoke!

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SGHS TO THE RESCUE
Vicki West



The Chipolbrok Moon berthed in Brunswick in late February, 2020. The crew was all Chinese. As one of our volunteers, Jo Scott, went on board, it was clear the crew was upset. The crew was not allowed off the ship, per the shipping line, and they were going back to China. This was at the beginning and height of COVID-19 in their homeland. They asked Jo for 250 masks to take with them, for themselves and their families, upon their return to China. After an extensive search on the internet Jo found nothing for them.

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The Southeast Georgia Health System came to the rescue. We were connected to Lynn Reynolds and she had 250 masks delivered to our Newcastle office the next day. When Peter delivered the masks...well a picture is worth a thousand words. Hats off to SGHS! Many thanks for a job well done!

REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

Peter Boyton



atolls and one raised coral island, Banaba. There are 21 inhabited islands in Kiribati, which is divided geographically into three island groups, the Line Islands, Gilbert Islands and the Phoenix Islands. Most of the land on these islands is less than seven feet above sea level.

Kiribati is a member of the Pacific Community (SPC), Commonwealth Of Nations, the IMF, and the World Bank, and became a full member of the United Nations in 1999.

Join the ISC, you will travel the world in Glynn County!

ROSES FOR A DRIVER

Doris Wadd

Why do we volunteer for ISC? For what we can get out of it? NO! NO! NO! What we give our seafarers is more important than what we receive. I was a volunteer for a couple years when I was offered the wonderful opportunity to become an employee of ISC. I love each and every volunteer. They have come to my rescue more times than I could count, and that is important to our mission, helping the seafarers, and letting them know there is an organization that cares.

I miss my time with the seafarers, so on weekends when I am in the office, I do the "on call driving" for our Newcastle center. I have a great time talking and listening to our seafarers. On February 8, 2020, I was driving for the "Rossana" crew. Like most trips, they had questions about where stores were. I got out one of our maps for shopping, pulled the van over, and we discussed where they wanted to go and where they were to be picked up. I dropped four seafarers off and drove back to the office. At the appointed time, I went to pick them up. I got out to open the back door. When I got back in the driver's seat, there was a beautiful bouquet of pink roses on the dash. If you know me, I love pink anything. I asked how they knew about my love of pink. They pointed to my pink safety vest. I thanked them for the thoughtful gift, and they said no, they wanted to thank me for what I did for them, and that I was a good "Mama".

The roses sit in a vase in my apartment reminding me that doing Christ's work is beautiful.

Doris Wadd,
Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

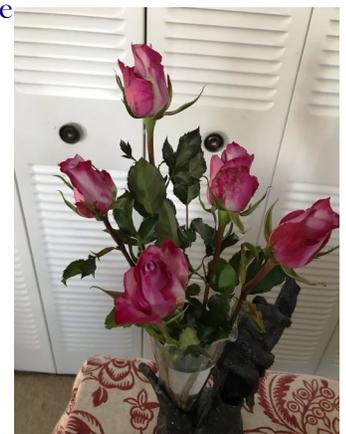
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You never know what you are going to learn being a part of the International Seafarers' Center. Recently the Nordcolorado docked at Logistec behind the office. When I did the crew visit the Captain informed me he had seven crewmen from the islands of Kiribati. I had never heard of them, so looked them up.

Kiribati, officially the Republic of Kiribati, is a country in the central Pacific Ocean scattered over all four hemispheres in an expanse of ocean equivalent in size to the continental United States. The permanent population is just over 116,000, more than half of whom live on Tarawa atoll. The state comprises 32



5 of the 7 crewmen graciously posed for a photograph...the missing 2 were with Captain Hook and Peter in Nevernever land.



www.seafarerscenter.org

GLOVIS CENTURY

Victor Peirce



On February 22nd, I was assigned the task of visiting the crews of two ships at Colonel's Island. My second visit of the morning was on the Glovis Century. After being escorted to the ship's office, I was joined by the Captain as well as the second and third officers. We had a pleasant conversation as is typical of crew visits. The officers and crew with whom we meet on these vessels are typically very welcoming; they are grateful for the services provided by ISC. The seafarers aboard these ships are often on board with the same 20 or so people for months, so they are happy to see a few new faces.

However, our conversation quickly turned to shopping and a trip to Walmart. The Glovis Century was scheduled to depart Brunswick that evening for South America, then to Africa and the Far East. This voyage would have them calling in many ports where shopping was not available or was very difficult to reach. This group of officers was looking to stock up on supplies before their long voyage. That's one of the things seafarers like about

the Port of Brunswick; the access and ease of shopping is among the best of all the ports where they typically call.

The four of us then headed over to the ISC facility at Colonel's Island and hopped into one of the ISC vans for the trip to Walmart. As we drove, the three officers talked about their families and their hometowns in Korea. One of the real benefits for me in interacting with the seafarers, is the ability to meet and talk with individuals from so many nationalities. As we crossed the Sidney Lanier Bridge, the conversation came to a halt as the three seafarers pondered the overturned hull of the Golden Ray. Lots of shaking heads and quiet conversation in Korean. We returned from our shopping trip to Brunswick with a van loaded with additional supplies for the ship.

Later that afternoon, I returned to the Glovis Century along with another ISC volunteer, John Samuelson and a friend of his, for a tour of the vessel. We spent a pleasant hour on the navigation bridge and touring the crew accommodations with the second officer. These tours are usually led by one of the officers who are very proud of their vessel and enjoy the opportunity to show non-seafarers what they do and what their life is like aboard ship. It makes them happy that someone is showing an interest in their occupation and they get to show off their expertise. John commented to me that he likes to watch the faces of the people we accompany on tours as they take in scenes on the bridge with all its unfamiliar equipment, as well as the view over the river, the marsh and the Colonel's Island facility from more than 100 feet above the water.

John and I have both commented how much we enjoy helping out the seafarers who are away from home for long periods of time. At the end of the day, it is a rewarding feeling to think you might have helped out another individual from a different country and shown some USA southern hospitality.



BTW- Obviously we weren't concerned **yet** about "Social Distancing!"

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THE PAUL MCLERNAN and YANKEE ENGINEERING

Doris Wadd

The Paul McLernan, an American ATB (Articulated Tug Barge) that brings in caustic soda, has been coming regularly for several years to Logistec Marine Port Terminal in Brunswick. The crew of about 10 seafarers usually do not request ISC services, except to transport the chef to the grocery store. On November 23, 2019, Elvin, the chef, needed to go to Winn Dixie for supplies. He told me that this is their last trip to Brunswick. The tug is going into a Texas shipyard for three months to be refurbished, and then it will be working the Texas coast.

When we got back to the tug, we could not get the van close to the barge gangway. So good ole' "Yankee Engineering" tackled the problem. With good conversation, a few ropes and a job well done, the crew had the groceries and Popeye's Fried Chicken on board. Elvin gave double the requested transportation donation.

Elvin stated he is going to miss Brunswick ISC because we have always been so friendly and accommodating. He said there are ports in the U.S. that charge \$250.00 per seafarer just to transport them to the gate from the ship, and they are not even friendly. He stated Miss Vicki and her people are the best and he is going to miss us. Elvin lives in Virginia, and if he ever comes through Brunswick, he will stop in to see us.



NUPTIAL NEVERLAND

Peter Boyton

At the beginning of February, a fellow called the Center with a request to take four people on a tour of the GPA Colonel's Island Terminal. He said he was giving this as a gift to his daughter and her new husband. We do not give random tours to strangers, and I was about to tell him this when he offered to make a significant contribution to International Seafarers' Center for the tour. We discussed payment arrangements and set a date.



Steve Yeager and his family arrived on time at the Port Police Station and I picked them up in the van. The Grand Duke, albeit an old and somewhat rusty fellow, acquiesced to a foreign invasion and we went aboard. Steve and his wife Patricia and the newlyweds, Stephanie and John, enjoyed the visit. We were taken to the bridge, met the captain and then went down to one of the car decks. Vehicles were being loaded and unloaded so there was a lot of action.

The boys then went down to the engine room and had a great visit with the machinery and staff in the bowels of the vessel. After leaving the Grand Duke, we drove over to the Wallenius processing facility. Matt took us around the body shop where we saw some Porsches being straightened out, and from there, we went into the main warehouse where workers were processing Subarus. We walked outside and laid lingering eyes on the Aston Martins parked under the trees. Unfortunately, no free samples today but a lot of fun enjoyed by all.

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*Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the
mighty waters; they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous
works in the deep. For he commanded and raised the stormy
wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. Then they cried to
the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out from their
distress; he made the storm be still, and the
waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were
glad because they had quiet, and he brought
them to their desired haven.*



Psalm 107:23-25, 28-30



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BAHUT KHUBAS KHAANA (Fantastic Food) Vicki West

It was just another day at work, around lunchtime, that volunteer John Samuelson came in and asked me if I wanted to go with him for lunch on the Federal Nakagawa. He had taken the chief cook to town the day before and was invited to lunch the next day. He did not have to ask twice as I have never had a bad meal aboard any vessel. The Federal Nakagawa was no exception. As the mess boy brought us our delicacies – spicy chicken and rice and Indian style green beans, YUMMY, we began to eat and his attentive eye was always watching. As the tiniest bare spot on the plate appeared, he was right there to add more food. An empty water glass, unheard of!! Periodically, the chief cook would pop in to see if we were happy with our food. To top it all off, a fruit custard was served for dessert. Such a deep yellow color and possibly the best I have ever eaten. This is just one of the “perks” of serving as a volunteer for the ISC. As I said in the title **Bahut Khubas Khaana!!!**

Here you see the captain in green, Vicki, and volunteer John Samuelson in blue.



For information about volunteering, call 912-267-0631, or stop by and see us at 307 Newcastle St. Let the adventure begin!!!

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ISC MISSION STATEMENT

The ISC mission is to provide seafarers with a safe harbor that they can call home. The ISC provides services that meet the spiritual, emotional, physical and material needs of seafarers who visit the Port of Brunswick.