

# ISC Seafarers' Log

The Official Newsletter of the International Seafarers' Center

**"Meeting Seafarers' Needs Since 1982"**

**VEHICLE PARTS**

*Peter Boyton*



*Adam Plaskaty receives his package*

In 2019, Adam Plaskaty, the Chief Mate on the MV Alentejo, purchased a 1988 Chevrolet G20 van while his ship was in New York City. Adam shipped the vehicle home to Gdynia in Poland on a RoRo (roll-on, roll-off car ship). He has enjoyed driving his 'American' van when back home in Poland.

On 16 February, the Alentejo docked at Logistec Marine Terminal to discharge salt loaded on the ship in Brazil. Bad weather and annual inspections of the entire vessel delayed the offloading. When the crew discovered that the ISC would do shopping for them and that we would accept packages shipped to the Center, Adam looked at the discharge schedule and ordered some door seals and weather stripping for his van. Initially when he went online to make the purchase and saw how long it would

take to ship to Brunswick, he did not place the order. However, the weather was not conducive to emptying the ship and the next day, after calculating that the package would arrive before the unloading ended, he placed the order. Package arrived at the Center and Peter delivered it to the ship. Adam was very happy to receive his package!

Yet another seal of approval for how we treat visiting seafarers, and Adam will place that in his Chevrolet doors!



*Adam Plaskaty, boarding the MV Alentejo, with his order*

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**A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...***Vicki West***THE SUN IS RISING**

*Psalm 113:3 "From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised."*

As the "dark" cloud of the pandemic diminishes, the sun is breaking through!!!! As people are feeling more confident, for whatever reason, there is a form of normality emerging. This is also happening in the shipping community as well.

Over this last year, so many of our international friends have been held "captive" on board their vessels. It has been very hard on them. Even though they have shore passes, the shipping lines have, out of an abundance of caution, prohibited them from setting foot on land.

Fortunately, as the "sun" rises, the chains are loosening for the seafarers. More and more are able to come to our center on Colonel's Island as well as on Newcastle. Some are even going to town to shop and enjoy the day. It has been a privilege to be able to be a conduit providing a little hope and comfort to these mariners. We have been meeting the "comfort" needs with our concierge service, our blessing bags and even with our "feel good" small bag of Hershey kisses to each crew member that cannot get off the ship. These seemingly insignificant gestures have made a world of difference and given some hope for better days ahead for our seafaring friends.

As more and more restrictions are lifted, the "sun" will continue to rise higher and higher. Please pray daily for the seafarers aboard these ships that bring 90% of all goods used in the USA.

God bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you and give you rest in the days ahead.

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## BULKER TOUR - CONFINED TO QUARTERS 2

*Peter Boyton*

On 26 February 2021, I arranged a tour of the bulk carrier, MV Alentejo, and took our two newest volunteers along for the visit. Christine Howell and Alan Pethick both enjoyed the tour given by the Chief Mate, Adam.

The Alentejo is a bulk carrier built in 2013, sailing under the flag of Singapore. It can carry 36041 t DWT (dead weight tonnage) with an overall length of 591 feet and width of 98 feet.

The ship was at Logistec unloading salt from Brazil. Bad weather slowed the discharge and the ship was undergoing some annual safety inspections that slowed things down, the extended stay created an opportunity for the tour. We started on the main deck and were able to look down into empty, as well as full holds. It was interesting going into the bow area of the ship where large electric motors control the two large ship anchors. There is a workroom and storage area in the bow for ropes and other paraphernalia related to docking and securing a vessel when anchored or in port.

Next, we went down into the engine room, a very hot and noisy environment. After wandering around down in the cramped nether regions of the ship for a while, we headed up many steps to the bridge. The new captain of the Alentejo took his place at the wheel, fortunately none of the crew responded to his commands to head out to sea. Going onboard is always an adventure and an excellent way to get volunteers to sign up.

Not everyone enjoys or can even climb the steep stairs on or in a ship, but for those that do make the effort the twinkle in their eyes and the big smile on their faces hint at the joy of exploring a new world.



*MV Alentejo at Logistic*

MV Alentejo Photo Gallery continued on page 4....

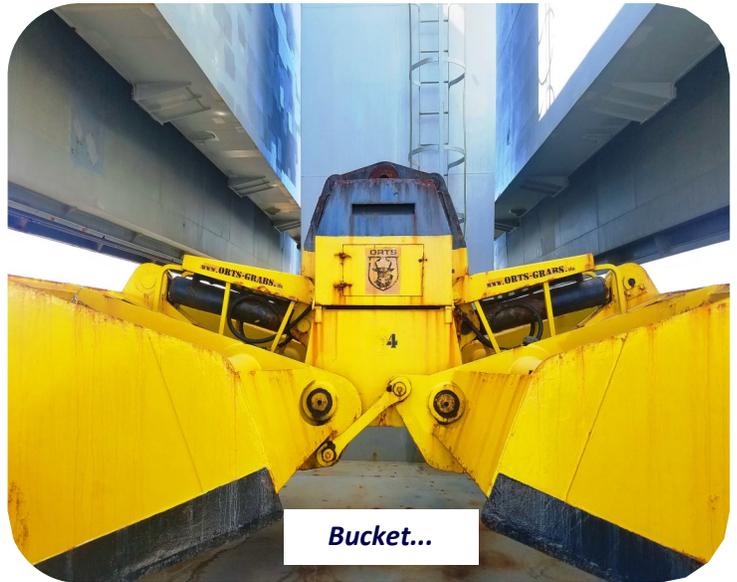
*MV Alentejo Photo Gallery continued...*



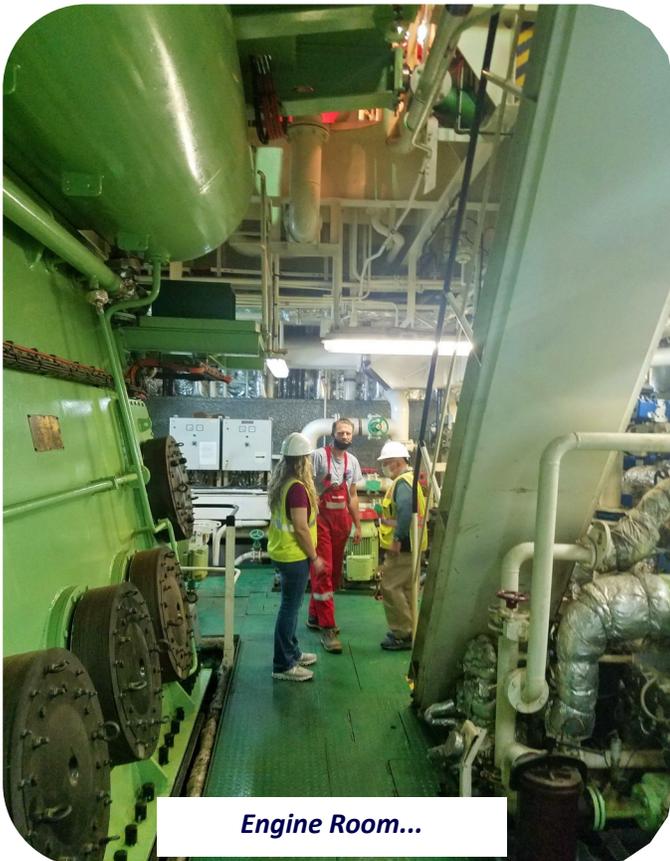
*Looking aft from the bow of the ship...*



*Anchor Motors...*



*Bucket...*



*Engine Room...*



*Captain Pethick on the Bridge ...*

# Christ Church, Frederica is proud to sponsor the International Seafarers' Center!

*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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**SOUTHEAST GEORGIA  
HEALTH SYSTEM**

## CONFINED TO QUARTERS

*Contemplations by Doris Wald*

When you hear the dimensions of the ships that come into Brunswick, approximately 200 meters (665') long and 32 meters (105') wide, you envision a very large space, 6400 sq. ft. per deck. Now think of the inhabitable area of the ship, about 2750 sq. ft. Now put 20 people in that area and keep them there for a year. What if this was your world, work and home? Imagine going to work in the morning and never leaving the office. You cannot visit with family and friends, can never even set foot on land and cannot go shopping for your favorite snacks or items you need. This, unfortunately, is the world that many seafarers now live in.

Enter International Seafarers' Center volunteers. Up your gangway comes a smiling face with an offer to go shopping for you. Really? Yes! Electronics, snack food, chocolate and nuts, clothing items, gifts for your family back home, donuts and burgers, shakes and fries, and personal health items, the volunteers try to fill any and all requests. We jump in our vehicles and go to the store for the seafarers, helping to make their lives just a little better.

Some of the requests we receive seem normal to us, but really do make their lives more bearable. One ship wanted an order of 22 hamburgers with fries and a coke each. Thank you Jeff, who filled that request. A gallon of fresh milk, easy for us, thanks, Richard. Baby gifts for a baby the dad has not met, yet. Favorite tobacco from the convenience store just down the road. Two birthday cakes for one ship really were a big hit, thanks, Sharon and Rick. Lots and lots of chocolate and a swimming pool, thanks, Kimm. Phew, swimming pool was over budget, so she did not purchase it. The latest Apple iPhones, unlocked of course, from Jacksonville, thanks Donald. Donated clothing items from our clothes closet, yes, no charge. SIM cards to access the internet and call home. Plumbing items for the ship, paint to change the name of the ship. We also permit sailors to order items online that ship to our Newcastle Center before their vessels arrive in Brunswick. Upon arrival we load and deliver the packages – Santa is aboard!

Christmas-at-Sea is always a great success – with many seafarers in 2020 receiving their only gifts for the season from us – thanks to the generosity and support of our community. The looks of gratitude and wonder on the faces of the receiving seafarers when they heard we had a gift for each crew member would bring tears to the eyes of the toughest volunteers, who all have big, soft hearts!

When someone becomes a volunteer with International Seafarers Center, the time and attention given to the seafarers is an appreciated gift, but the feelings each volunteer experiences in their own hearts is incredible and hard to describe. Personally, I feel that we, as volunteers, receive a lot more than we give.



## FOREIGN VICTUALS

*Peter Boyton*

The MV Morning Charlotte arrived at Colonel’s Island on 3 February 2021. The crew were allowed off and Andre came into the Colonel’s Island Center. Andre was the only Russian amongst 9 Indians and 11 Ethiopians on his vessel.

I was there when he came in. Andre told me other members of his crew might be coming in later. His English was very good, but the accent was still strong. I asked him about life on board and he said all was fine. “Except the food?” I asked. He laughed and said yes, the food was a challenge and his stomach was not very happy.

“Every chance I get I am off the ship and looking for a place to eat or to buy some sausage,” he told me. Food can be a challenge for a seafarer, especially when you are the only one of your culture amongst 21 others. Think about your own gustatory predilections and then imagine being stuck eating truly foreign food on a daily basis, often for weeks on end. Part of the adventure of being a seafarer. You want to sign up as a cook on board a vessel sailing the world?



*The MV Morning Charlotte...*

**GSA**

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• SHIP • THRU • GEORGIA'S • PORTS • AND • SAVE •

*A smooth sea  
never made  
a skilled sailor.*

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

## TIMELESS MOMENTS

*Rick & Sharon Hindery*

Sharon and I used our new TWIC badges for the first time two weeks ago. The couple in the new pictures seem to me to look happier and maybe just a bit more youthful than we did five years ago. Time marches on and the years must have taken their toll, but I really feel that all those Sunday mornings and late evenings at the port have given us enough laugh lines to offset the weight of those added years.

I know that it cannot be that almost every day would hold in it a miracle, but it seems that there has been more to reward us than these two people deserve.

I will always remember driving a Filipino captain to almost every clothing resale shop in Brunswick. As we went from place to place, he shared his life's story. He was approaching his retirement and his years at sea would allow him to return home and purchase a small shop that he and his wife would run. Years of sacrifice had allowed him to provide for the education of his children, his daughter is an accountant, his son a doctor.

He spent three fourths of his life at sea – periods of nine months at a time away from home. Hearing that his children were now adults, I asked him who he was purchasing the used children's clothes for. "Oh," he said, "we are going to Havana. The children there have nothing, so we always try to give them what we can."

Our center offers used books and informational pamphlets. On a particularly hectic night, with the center filled with seafarers buying treats and necessities for their trip across the ocean, a young Swedish cadet held back shyly. When I finished ringing up a sale, she quietly asked the price of a little book on faith and finding the Lord. The book of course, was free. "You would give this to me?" she literally gasped. As I often think about that moment, I cannot comprehend how such a tiny gift could mean so much. Something she read in our little store touched her heart, and my heart was forever touched seeing her reaction.

We have watched young seafarers on their first arrival in America almost dance down the long gangplanks at the port. We share a view of our country through their eyes and in so doing understand, in some small way, what America means to people from across the world. Seafarers often tell us, "Everyone wants to see America!"

And so it goes – little moments where we share a smile or seafarers sincerely thank us for doing things that seem so small to us, yet mean so much to them. We joke with wives and children from half a world away when seafarers share their cell phones and ask us to say hello to their loved ones. Our visitors ask if they can take a picture of "sir" and "madam".

It is a strange and wonderful world that we visit each week, where gestures that seem trivial to us mean so much. Five years have passed since our first ship visit. Perhaps our steps are a bit slower as we hustle up the gangplanks of the ships that visit Brunswick. Our bodies may be a bit more tired at the end of the day, but our hearts often soar. The view from atop those thirteen story roll-on, roll-off car ships is amazing and on a beautiful Sunday, it seems that you can almost glimpse eternity.



## MV DRAWNO

*John Samuelson*

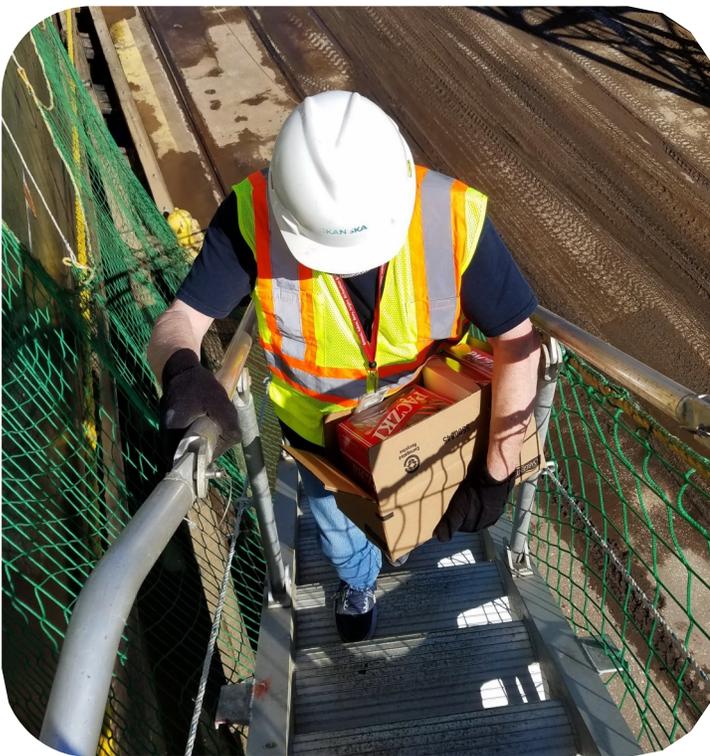
I had the privilege of visiting the MV Drawno, a bulk ship berthed at Logistec Marine Terminal on the East River, on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. To my surprise, the crew consisted of 15 Polish sailors. As I was chatting with the crew, I thought how much they would appreciate having Paszkis (pronounced **pun-skis**) on **Fat Tuesday**. As it happened, Publix sells genuine Paszkis for Shrove Tuesday and on Tuesday 16 February, I made the trek to the local Publix, where I picked up 20 Paszkis for the crew. I then delivered them with the help of Peter Boyton.

For the uninformed, the Paszki is a Polish tradition. It is a doughnut, usually filled with Bavarian crème or jelly, enjoyed on Shrove or Fat Tuesday. Since I lived in Detroit for most of my life, I am very familiar with the Paszki tradition among our Polish friends. These doughnuts are enjoyed before Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, with the idea of giving up something yummy, like pastries, for the Lenten season.

The crew really seemed to enjoy the treats, which I hope brought a little reminder of home.



*A surprise for the Drawno Crew*



*Paszki delivery service  
coming up*



*Drawno crew member  
accepting the Paszkis*

# Kisses, Crew Quarters, Music in the Center and orders on board !





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**A-OKAYS AND THUMBS UP TO THE ISC FROM THE SEAFARERS**



**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.