

ISC Seafarers' Log

The Official Newsletter of the International Seafarers' Center

"Meeting Seafarers' Needs Since 1982"

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ISC VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019

Sherry Conner

Once again the International Seafarers' Center's board members and staff had the privilege of celebrating the holiday season with the many wonderful, invaluable volunteers who so selflessly serve the many seafarers who pass through the port of Brunswick each year.

On Thursday, December 12th, we gathered together at the First United Methodist Church of Brunswick and even though the weather was a little nippy, nearly 80 volunteers turned out for the annual Volunteer Christmas Party.

Bill Dawson, Chairman of the Board, and Vicki West, Executive Director of the International Seafarers' Center, welcomed guests and wished everyone a Merry Christmas! After praying for God's blessing on the evening and the meal, all those in attendance feasted on brown sugar glazed and smoked ham as well as a plethora of side-dishes which included some of the best salads, veggies and desserts you have ever tasted – our volunteers are also some of the best cooks around! YUM!

continued on page 6...

ISC Calendar

Volunteer Drivers Training 12:30 to 2:00 PM	2/7/2020
Pasta Party/Bridge Run	2/14 & 2/15/2020
Board Retreat 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM	2/28/2020
Volunteer Party TBD	4/2020



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...*Vicki West***Hello 2020!!!!**

Welcome the year of “perfect” vision. 2 Chronicles 16:9 says “For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.” WELL...we here at the ISC are evidently doing something right as the Lord just keeps pouring out His Glorious Blessing.



In reflecting back over 2019, we certainly have seen His strong support through divine intervention, as things have needed to be replaced, donors have stepped up to provide what is needed before we even ask. The refrigerator at our Colonel’s Island location decided its years of service were over. Even before we decided what to do, one of our amazing volunteers donated a brand new one. The pool table, also at CI, (I think it was the original one) became so damaged from constant use over the years, we needed to do something. BAM! Before we could make a decision, someone called and wanted to donate one and pay to have the old one taken away. The eagle eye of the Lord is certainly on the ISC and His strong support is truly over the top for us.

Even in what appeared to be a horrific tragedy, God came through and took what the enemy meant for harm and turned it into good! I am referring to the overturning of the Golden Ray in the St. Simon’s Sound on Sunday, September 8, 2019. On Sunday, after 20 of the 24 crew had been checked out by SGHS, they were brought to the ISC. What a privilege to work with the community, both individuals as well as corporations, to make things happen so quickly to take care of these precious souls with nothing but the clothes on their backs. The community went above and beyond my wildest expectations. It truly was a miracle that all the seafarers were rescued alive and that the ship tipped over in the shallows and did not block the channel. Topsy McSway’s did a 50/50 with dates that you could pick as to when the ship would be gone, any date from mid-September through May of 2020, with the ISC as the beneficiary of 50%.

Since I took over as Executive Director of the ISC, my goal was and is to make the International Seafarers’ Center a household name. The Golden Ray, after everyone was safe, helped to propel the ISC into the limelight. News coverage was extensive and with all the community re-sponse, people who had no idea of who or what ISC is, are now very aware of us and spreading the word. Thank you Lord! I was also privileged to speak to St. Simon’s Rotary Club, the ladies group at St. James Lutheran Church and the PEO Sorority group. These three groups were ones that I had never had the good fortune to speak to before.

Last but not least, our wonderfully generous anonymous donor from the Atlanta area blessed us with another \$20,000 to complete renovations at our Newcastle location. Please stop by, we would love to show you what has been done over the last 2 ½ years by the miraculous Hand of God.

Wonderful things are truly on our horizon and now is a PERFECT time to become a monthly donor. No amount is too small. We would like to also extend an invitation for you to become part of our ISC Volunteer family. WE NEED YOU!! Call 912-267-0631 or stop by 307 Newcastle St. to see us.

We here at the ISC wish you all a very prosperous new year and “perfect” vision in all your endeavors.

**Love in Christ,
Vicki**

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THE FATE OF THE GOLDEN RAY

John Samuelson

Bill Dawson, General Manager of the Port of Brunswick, treated ISC volunteers and staff to a talk about the accident of the Golden Ray, the cleanup efforts and plans for dismantling the ship.

The 656-foot long auto carrier rolled over on its side on September 8, 2019. The cause of the rollover is unknown, the “black box” detailing the ship’s movements and commands has been recovered, but the contents have not been made public. What is known is that it took only 22 seconds from when the ship began its turn in the St. Simon’s Sound until it flipped on its side.

The Golden Ray is 118’ wide and positioned on the southern edge of the shipping channel and is about 60% out of the water. That area of the Sound is subject to a very swift flow of water washing in and out with the 6 to 8 foot tides scouring the area. The ship was actually starting to buckle as the sea floor was washed away from under the ship so 8,000 tons of rock was placed around the ship to keep it from moving and possibly breaking up. The initial goal of the Unified Command under the direction of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port was to mitigate any pollution emitted by the ship by removing all fuel and other liquid contaminants. Some 150-200 people were engaged in that process plus placing oil absorbing booms at key points in the St Simons Sound.

Now that the ship has been stabilized and pollutants removed, the next problem is what to do with the overturned ship which still has 4,200 Kias on board each with about 2 gallons of gas plus other pollutants.



***Bill Dawson speaking to the ISC volunteers
about the Golden Ray***

The most likely scenario will be to place a coffer dam around the ship, pump the water out of the enclosed area and cut the ship into sections for ‘on shore’ disposal. This procedure was used on the Wallenius Wilhelmsen ship “Tricolor” which sank after a collision with another ship in the English Channel. T&T Salvage of Galveston, Texas has been hired to remove the wreck. The total cost of the entire process will probably be about \$1 billion and last well into 2020. That cost is being borne by the shipping company, Hyundai Glovis, and its insurer Lloyds of London.

Due to the actions and quick thinking of the coast pilot, the effects to the Port of Brunswick have been minimal. Initially inbound/outbound ships were required to enter and exit the channel from 6:00 PM to 7:00 AM causing a delay to shipping overall. That restriction has now been lifted; future dismantling may cause some further disruptions to port activity.

The Colonels Island facility is the # 2 auto port in the country and has the capacity to hold 93,000 cars. A fourth berth at a cost of \$40 million is being considered, but final approval is still pending. A photograph of the Golden Ray, taken by Peter Boyton, can be seen on the top of the following page.



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Crew Visitor Training Session held on 11/15/2019

Peter Boyton

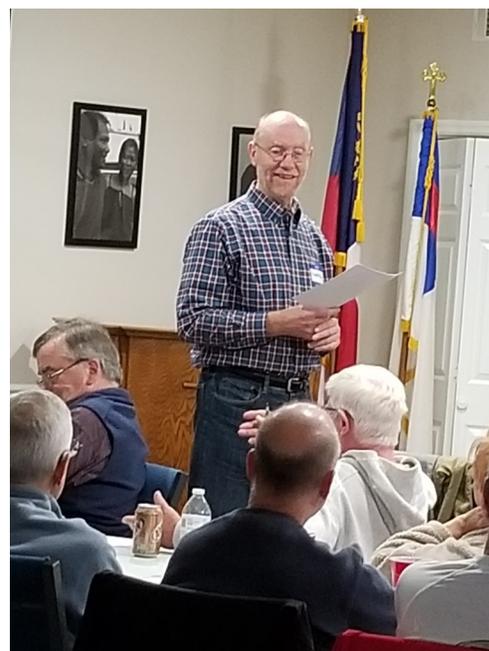
***“We are going to feed all the crew visitors lunch and then hold a training session here at the main office on Newcastle in Brunswick. A yummy desert will be served to all who stay until the end!”
So said an email sent out prior to the event.***

A tremendous turnout took place and we had a great afternoon together. Why so many showed up, we don't rightly know. Perchance it was the new kid on the block doing the training, or perhaps it had been so long since the last training, maybe the offer of a FREE lunch and a “yummy dessert” had something to do with it. No matter, many showed up and took the Test administered at the beginning of the training. A date, time, and picture of a ship at Mayor's Point appeared on a screen in front of all the ‘crew visitors’, who then had to complete a crew visit log sheet.

An enlightening and engaging discussion then transpired about all the information needed to complete the crew visit log accurately. Some of the main points emphasized are:

- Take everything you need with you when you first go aboard:
Visit Log Packet, an Information Card in different languages, card with after-hours number on it.
- Wear a hardhat and yellow vest.
- Please physically go on board the ship to do the crew visit; DO NOT fill the sheet out in the Center.
- Keep your eyes and ears open to the morale and spirit of the crew.
- Complete all fields on the sheet. Find out when the shore leave ends for the crew.
- Write legibly, this is not a pharmacy with a trained hieroglyphics expert to decipher the scribbles.
- Shore Pass and Ship's ID, NO PASSPORTS, to leave the port.
- Smile, be happy and courteous, this is a fun activity we engage in.

Everyone stayed until the end! Kudos to the persuasive powers of the mysterious dark Klondike!



ISC Volunteer Christmas Party continued from page 1...

Many thanks to Dan Battles for entertaining us with a variety of traditional and contemporary Christmas favorites, which added to the relaxed, warm and festive atmosphere that was the hallmark of the evening.

A great big thank you to Linda Haines, Doris Wadd and Bonnie Waldrip for the beautifully decorated tables and to all the volunteers, board members and staff who made clean up after the event a breeze!

ISC VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019
Photo Gallery



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CHRISTMAS AT SEA 2019

Peter Boyton

ISC volunteers visited 53 ships, delivered 1134 gifts, and gave birth to hundreds of heart-felt happy smiles during the 41 days from Thanksgiving in November 2019 until 7 January 2020. We sent out 350 letters earlier in the year requesting help putting the undertaking together and had a 15.4% response to our mailing. 98 deliveries on behalf of individuals, clubs or churches were made to Newcastle.

The number of female seafarers we see is still very low; we only delivered 12 packages to female crew and officers on 11 ships. East River Terminal (Logistec) and Mayor's Point Terminal accounted for seven ships visited with 111 gifts delivered to crews from nine countries, no female crew. Colonel's Island had 46 ships visited with 1023 gifts delivered to crews from 18 countries, all female crew were at Colonel's Island.

One of the ships visiting Logistec was the ATB (Articulated Tug Barge) Scott Turecamo delivering chemicals. This was the first visit by the ATB to Brunswick on a new route. The American crew were very surprised by and appreciated the visit of the jolly fat fellow with his gifts. They also appreciated the help given by the ISC in restocking their larder, especially saving over \$200 when the volunteer driver used his Rewards Card!

ISC gifts went to seafarers from the following 22 countries: Bangladesh, Bulgaria, China, Finland, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Montenegro, Myanmar, Pakistan, Panama, Philippians, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam and Yemen.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all our contributors and volunteers for helping our small community here in Glynn County reach out across the globe to the world!



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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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HAPPY AND BLESSED

Kern Baker

I have been a volunteer at the International Seafarers’ Center for about two years and I did not recognize the ship when I arrived at the port. It was the evening shift and there was only one ship’s crew to visit. The ship was the Hoegh St. Petersburg.

When I arrived in the store some of the crew was busy buying snacks etc. and seemed very happy to be visiting us. They were very friendly and seemed quite excited to be in port.

Their ship was close to the store, in berth one, but since I had Christmas presents to deliver, I drove to the ship but parked across the street. I welcomed them to Brunswick and they said it was their first time here. Cars were moving out of the ship, it was quite busy and when I finished up with everything, I told them I had some Christmas presents. They seemed surprised but quite pleased. I asked if someone could come out to the truck and retrieve them and someone quickly volunteered to help. (I must add at this point, I have delivered my share of Christmas gifts to ships in my 2 years of volunteering, but these gift bags were the heaviest I have ever delivered.) He couldn’t begin to lift the box. I suggested I would move the truck to the side of the ship and he could go and get a helper.

They both seemed very surprised that we were giving them Christmas gifts and must have said “Thank You” and “God Bless You” four or five times. They struggled to get the box up the ramp, but they were smiling the biggest smiles. I yelled up for them to stop and I took a picture, you can see the smiles as they carried the heaviest box of Christmas gifts I have ever delivered.

If anyone who puts these gift boxes together ever wonders, “Is it worth it, do they appreciate getting them?” these smiles say yes!



An advertisement for Logistec. The top half shows a black and white photograph of a worker in a hard hat and safety vest walking on a ship's deck. Below the photo is the slogan 'Looking Out for Each Other' next to a house icon. Underneath, it says 'means that we are making safety very personal and are accountable for creating a safe and healthy workplace for our people and our communities.' At the bottom, the Logistec logo is displayed along with the website 'VISIT US AT LOGISTEC.COM'.

An advertisement for J.D. Moore Oil. The background is black with a yellow border. At the top, the text 'J.D. MOORE OIL' is written in large, bold, yellow letters, with a black oil drop icon replacing the letter 'O'. Below this is a logo consisting of concentric yellow circles with a black dot in the center, resembling an eye or a drop. Underneath the logo, it says '“PETROLEUM PRODUCTS SINCE 1950”' in white. At the bottom, the phone number '912-265-7190' is displayed in large, bold, black letters.



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VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!

Have a passion for the maritime life? Enjoy learning about world cultures? Like making new friends?

Call us at 912-267-0631 to find out how you can be involved in our mission.

Volunteer or Donate, we need your support. Please call 912-267-0631 today!





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WHEN IS A VOLUNTEER NOT A VOLUNTEER? WHEN HE IS A BRUNSWICK FIREFIGHTER

Doris Wadd

On December 7, 2019, one of our seafarers became confused and ended up at the Walmart Market instead of the Super Walmart. Due to language limitations, the seafarer was confused and alone, with no way to contact us, he had misplaced his wallet. Enter Justin Jordan, firefighter, from the downtown station. Justin called the ISC and relayed the problem.

The van was out picking up other seafarers, so it took several phone calls and time to get the seafarer picked up and back to his ship. While the seafarer waited, Justin's shift ended, but Craig Jacobs, another firefighter, stayed with the seafarer until the ISC van came to pick him up. Craig called the office to let the Center know that the ISC van had picked the seafarer up.

So when you see a firefighter, remember they not only rescue people and things from fires, but also step up to help anyone who is in need.

A great big THANK YOU to Justin and Craig from ISC!



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.