



Times Marine Surveys L.L.C.

Incorporating Aalmar Surveys 

Group Newsletter

December 31, 2011

www.timesmarine.com

Volume 1, Issue 15

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Ned...**

Group CEO's Message

"New Blood"

Happy New Year! We have some new guys onboard for 2012.

Bjorn Claeys, formerly a surveyor in Singapore and Panama, brings a wealth of ship inspection, cargo damage and P&I claims work experience to the Group. He has sailed on container, bulk and general cargo vessels and he will be working with the Aalmar team in the USA.

The Engineering team in the UAE welcomes Keith Thomason and Niran Sasidharan. Keith, now Assistant Engineering Manager, studied at Liverpool University and went on to work within the design team for the Eurofighter at BAE systems, UK. Niran, now Senior draftsman previously worked in the design department of a large ship repair facility in Dubai.

The staff and network surveyors at Aalmar USA in Houston goes from strength to strength, not only have their team been involved with Hull claims but recently successfully investigated a major oil cargo contamination claim for one of the IG Clubs; always interesting work and sometimes emotional for the parties involved. Times Marine in the UAE had one of its busiest survey months on record and the client base at Aalmar in London under the leadership of Carole Bryer just goes from strength to strength.

Alan Coleman, CEO, Times Marine Group

Times Marine

"What a Year"

Yet another Christmas has passed and by now I trust that you have all shed your excesses from the Festive Season! (The Pope commented that he felt that the true meaning of Christmas was being lost and that we need to remind ourselves about what it really meant).

Relentlessly though, work continues without a break as 'ships pass in the night' and carry on with their business 24/7.

I must thank all TMS Staff for their dedication to their responsibilities over the past year and in particular Michelle Megson, and her team of Surveyors who are prepared to attend to Client's needs anytime no matter where. We should also

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call out for P&I /
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Class Record Reviews**

mention that the work of Times Marine Naval Architecture and Design team during 2011, lead by Panayiota Triantafyllou; and the Ship Management team here at Times Marine have also had a fantastic year. The former recently completed their task on one of the largest mega yacht projects to be undertaken in the UAE, and the latter has been instrumental in the re-mobilization of one of our managed vessels for Halliburton. Well done all...a great year!

As we are aware, the past year has been one of many ups and downs with natural disasters, recession, Royal Weddings, sporting achievements, political upheavals, civil unrest and U.S.A. and Coalition forces withdrawal from Iraq, and soon Afghanistan.

We now look forward to another New Year, 2012, and can only hope that it will bring joy, happiness, good health and prosperity to everyone.

Jon Hewson, Managing Director



Times Marine - Survey Dept.

“Common Language used by mixed Nationality Sailors onboard”

Recently while attending a survey on board a general cargo vessel, with Pakistani and Indian crew and a Captain from Kazakhstan, the following conversation transpired between the attending Surveyor and the vessel’s Captain.

Surveyor : Captain to close defect No.12, I need to see your crane certificate.

Master : Not Ukraine, Kazakhstan, me I am from Kazakhstan.

Surveyor : Eh, sorry no Captain, I mean your provisions crane certificate.

Master : NO UKRAINE, my ticket from KAZAKHSTAN, not provisional, full term, I show you, I show YOU LAST TIME,..

Surveyor : HA HA, errr, sorry no Captain I mean your CEERRRAAIIIIINNN Certificate

Master : YES, yes.

(At this stage surveyor has been reduced to a crude form of Charades).

Surveyor : I need to see your C-E-R-A-I-N certificate, you know the T-H-I-N-G behind the G-A-L-L-E-Y, you use to L-O-A-D stores, like T-E-A, C-O-F-F-E-E, F-O-O-D.

Master : UUGGHHHH...I understand!! I understand!!

Master starts to yell down the telephone in Kazakhstani, Pakistani, who knows what.

A few minutes later, the steward steps into the Master’s cabin with a cup of coffee and a cup of tea for “Mr. SURVEYOR”.



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English is one of the SOLAS accepted working languages for onboard vessels with multi-national crews. Yet there is no means for confirming common language proficiency for seafarers. It should be remembered written proficiency is also required for the SOLAS accepted common languages onboard. The demands of the ISM code rely heavily on vessel documentation, checklists and reports submitted by the crews.

These considerations need to be taken by recruiting agencies and ship management personnel when manning vessels. Most seafarers claim to be proficient in English, but as the above scenario shows, this is often not the case.

Robert Kerr, Area Manager for Survey, Abu Dhabi

Times Marine - Naval Architecture & Design Dept.

“Ballast Water Treatment”

Contrary to popular belief, scientists were alerted for the transfer of species in the early 20th century, yet formal the review of the magnitude and possible consequences didn't start until the seventies. One decade later Canada and Australia brought the issue to the IMO's attention, as two territories strongly affected by the phenomenon. A major breakthrough was made in 1992 and the Rio De Janeiro Conference, where it was publically acknowledged as an international concern.



The second milestone was attained in February 2004 with the adoption of International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship Ballast Water and Sediment, which requires cleaning of the ballast water from foreign organisms. Since ships were not equipped to clean the ballast, merchant ships, carrying ballast, were required to go through water ballast exchange away from the shore and in deep waters, in accordance with the Convention's Guidelines. This method might have been beneficial for the environment but it adversely impacted ship safety and strength, as well as operational costs and timeframes.



Times Marine Naval Architecture and Design Department have the in-house capabilities and experience to produce Ballast Water Management Plans.

Panayiota Triantafyllou, Engineering Manager

Update from our Ship Management Dept.

"Issuance of Seaman's Visa in UAE"

~~UNITED~~ ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
NATURALIZATION AND IMMIGRATION
ADMINISTRATION



Att . The Head of Passport Section DUBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IMMIGRATION

Sub. : Seamen Application Form For ENTRY / EXIT Permit

I can remember the good times, when applying for the Seaman's Visa in UAE was not an issue. All you needed – for On –Signers was to just to send copies of the Passport and Seaman's Book to the Vessel's Agent. Off-signers could fly back home without any problem. For the On-Signers we were receiving the Visa copies within 1/2 days.

Now the procedure here is much more difficult.

The Port Immigration Authority requires the flight details of the On/ Off signer and they need 3 working days to arrange the Seaman's Entry Permit for an On-signer and 1 working day to arrange the Seaman's Exit Permit for an Off - signer. On Friday and Saturday all Government departments are closed.

According to the Immigration Rules and Regulations, crew arriving in Dubai on a Seaman's Visa has to leave the country or join the vessel within the allowed time frame of 1 day from the time of arrival. Any crew arriving under Seaman's Visa who do not join a vessel within 24 hours of arrival will be considered as violating the Immigration Regulations and will be penalised on a 24 hour basis (even if he has obtained a legal extension to his Visa).

When sending the request for the air tickets to the Travel Agency you are requested to provide them with the Visa copy. Deadlock! You have to explain the situation to the Travel Agency and finally, even when you have the necessary tickets in your hand, you realize that it's not the end of the story. In any case, if the Immigration Authority issues the Visa later than the 3 promised days, you will have to change the air tickets. But what if the Vessel sails before this time? (each case becomes a headache)

We send out an extra special "Happy New Year" greeting to all Crewing Managers and wish them the best of luck in resolving future "situations".

Anna Cebenko, Purchasing Officer

Aalmar (U.S.A.)

“Christmas in Houston”

The first Christmas and New Year for the Coleman family in Houston, USA.

Being an engineer it is at times sometimes difficult to appreciate just how big this continent really is. We have ‘rock dodgers’ – mariner types who work these kind of things out for us mere mortals... and Chile, only a couple of inches on a decent scale map, from Houston, I found during my recent trip is considerably farther in reality and has some very interesting modes of transport and security plans in place for the ardent surveyor traveler.



It would appear that everyone in Chile is connected in some way to the police or some other authority, and most have a weapon of some sort about their person. At the airport I was ‘assigned’ a lovely gentleman, who after plying him with a few beverages, informed me that he was not spying on me but in fact was there to protect me (and the tourists) from the banditos. He then proceeded to show me his Glock 9mm, dismantling and putting the thing back together several times for effect! Lovely place, and the survey went well, but I am not sure I will be putting Chile on the bucket list to revisit with the wife and kids for our annual holiday.

Christmas at the Houston (Kemah) boardwalk was extravagant. There were over 100 luxury yachts parading in the evening with Christmas lights shows that would put a council house in Wigan to shame! The competition was won by a ‘Sunseeker’ adorned with Santa, his elves and Rudolph and his pals, in their entire splendor. As Christmas light show competitions go, this one took some beating.



Alan Coleman, President

[Aalmar \(U.K.\)](#)

"Spot the Duck"

Aalmar's websites featured a Spot the Duck competition from September to end of November 2011 to celebrate the opening of our Houston office.



The lucky winner of an Amazon Kindle was Graciela Martinez of Antares Naviera in Argentina.

Thank you to all who entered the competition and if you want to know where the duck was hiding, see the picture below.

Watch out for another chance at a prize early in the New Year when we will feature a new Spot the Duck competition on the website.

Carole Bryer, Managing Director

Event Update



"Volvo Ocean Race" Januray 1-14, 2012 Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.

Volvo Ocean Race 2011-12 starts from Alicante, Spain in October 2011 and concludes in July 2012 in Galway, Ireland after taking in eight other ports in four continents, including Abu Dhabi.

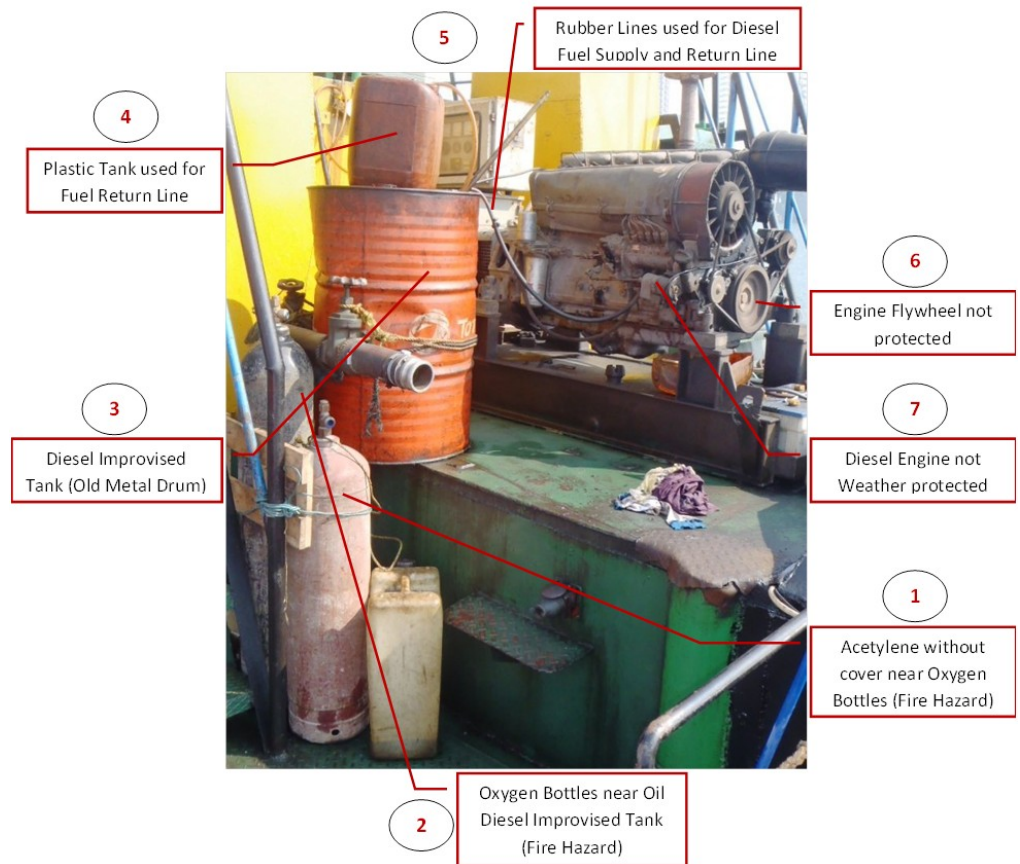
Be in Abu Dhabi as we celebrate the turn of the year against a backdrop of awe-inspiring racing yachts and among sea hardened sailors and more than 100,000

fans of the 39,000 nautical mile round-the-world race, widely regarded as 'The Everest of Sailing'.

Survey Surprise of the Month

"Karl Benz would be impressed!"

Spot the Defect



Finally a note from Nautical Ned.....



"Swallow the Anchor"

A very old phrase meaning to retire from the sea. The idea seems to be that once swallowed, it is of no further use.