



# The Marine Assistance Industry Journal

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## C-PORT MEMBERS' LOG:

### *In Memoriam*

**Joe Milton Beasenberg, April 22, 1942 – July 9, 2011**

Mr. Joe Beasenburg was owner and operator of Charleston Marine Services and formerly having done business as TowBoatU.S. Charleston, passed away on July 9, 2011. He was on vacation with his wife Cora when he suffered a fatal heart attack. Joe was a member of the James Island Yacht Club and served as Chief Quarter Master (SS) with the United States Navy as Navigator. Many of us knew Joe personally and our deepest sympathy goes out to Cora and his family.

### **Rescues Reported**

**July 7, 2011-** Capt. Robert (Bert) Lomax, Sea Tow Wrightsville Beach, received notification of a capsized vessel in Rich's Inlet, NC and subsequently rescued 3 elderly men. Already underway, Capt. Lomax was on-scene in 10-12 minutes, finding one man floating near the surf away from the capsized boat. After pulling the man aboard safely, Capt. Lomax was able to locate the overturned vessel and the other two men clinging to it. After successfully pulling the men aboard, Capt. Lomax navigated through sand bars and breakers to deliver the men to an awaiting EMS unit at a nearby boat ramp.

**July 5, 2011-** Governor de Jongh of the US Virgin Islands, praised the numerous emergency responders who heeded the call for assistance after the inter-island ferry, Royal Miss Belmar, became grounded on Great St. James while en route from Cruz Bay, St. John to St. Croix. "The efforts of these responders ensured the safe rescue of the passengers who were stranded on board the grounded ferry and through diligent and precise techniques, the injured, the other passengers and crew were brought safely to St. Thomas," he said, adding that "enough cannot be said about the fine job that each and every one responding to the scene did in ensuring the safety of the 102 persons on board."

"The fine work of the employees of VITEMA, Planning and Natural Resources, Emergency Medical Services, Virgin Islands Police, V.I. Port Authority Police Division, National Park Service, St. Thomas and St. John Rescue, V.I. Fire Services, Property and Procurement, Health, Tourism and the Office of the Governor was timely and expertly coordinated. The responders reacted as they are trained to and led a rescue operation that we are all proud of today," the governor said. De Jongh also acknowledged the work of the Sea Tow salvage company and other citizens who responded in smaller vessels to assist in Monday night's rescue. "Passengers who were on the ferry when it ran aground had the highest praise for the rescue operation that was launched last night."

**July 4, 2011-** Capt. John Gridley, Sea Tow Clarks Hill Lake helped to save the life of a man from a near-by vessel. While seeking safe harbor during an intense wind storm, Capt. Gridley was alerted to people in distress while in the water from a near-by house boat. After a 12 year old boy was blown overboard by the wind, a man from the vessel jumped into the water without wearing a life jacket. When Capt. Gridley and friend arrived on scene, the man was unconscious and floating face down. After pulling the man aboard his vessel and successfully performing CPR, the man was revived and delivered to EMS.

### **Comments from Captain Charlie Meyer, TowBoatU.S. Lake of the Ozarks-**

July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, the media briefly mentioned some "Boat Wake Injuries". It sounds quite routine; not too exciting. The Official News Release about one particular incident from the Missouri State Highway Patrol was, (as expected) pretty ho-hum and just the facts. Of course there were few witnesses to what really took place. The above incident was a little more than routine... As described in the release, a 43 year old woman was

injured from being thrown in the air on a deck boat and landing back down on the boat hard enough to injure her back. She had to have medical attention. The boating traffic was extremely heavy in the area causing large waves, confused chop and a small local thunderstorm was developing with winds in excess of 25 mph. Two State Patrol boats located the vessel carrying the woman who was in extreme pain and the officers were attempting to get the boat and woman to medical attention ashore as soon as possible. One of the officer's had to abandon his boat and be put aboard the deck boat to provide help to the woman. They were going to attempt to cross the lake to the Lake Ozark side where medical attention could get to the woman quicker. Due to rough water, they were unable to cross. We were about a mile away and proceeded to assist. On scene, we found the patrol boat, about 400 foot from shore in a 25 mph wind and drifting rapidly toward a rocky shore. We hooked up and took the Patrol Boat in tow, meanwhile the Troopers and the distressed vessel made it to a dock on the Sunrise Beach side and were attending to the injured woman while waiting for Fire Rescue and EMS to arrive. The location would require the woman be carried up the bluff over 100 ft on a backboard.

TowBoatUS. Crewman and Fire Fighter, Rick Anthony was dropped off to assist in getting the woman up the hill and to the ambulance. This whole scenario took nearly an hour, after which the Troopers came back to drop off our crewman and retrieve their boat. This was not the first time we have gathered up drifting Patrol Boats due to emergency situations. The Troopers are almost always first on the scene and don't think twice about jumping in the water to assist someone in trouble or jumping aboard a boat to perform CPR and first aid. It isn't exactly a "stellar" career move to abandon a rather expensive piece of equipment which may wind up being a beach ornament or a very costly "crappie bed", but when a life, safety or injuries to others are at stake they don't put themselves first. WELL DONE GUYS!!