



The Marine Assistance Industry Journal

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C-PORT MEMBERS' LOG:

Testimonial from Captain Charlie Meyer, TowBoatU.S. Lake of the Ozarks – We had a salvage/recovery back in August of 2008 that involved the State Water Patrol, (they requested we remove the vessel as it was polluting the waters of the State), an owner who filed for bankruptcy, and an insurance company that had us jump through some hoops. The insurer paid only for the preservation of the motors on the vessel and then denied our claim, the lien holder on the vessel backed away as it was being held in Chapter 13 Bankruptcy and the "Trustee" of the Bankruptcy would only send us "endless" amounts of court generated paperwork. Though our initial recovery bill was not that much (just under \$7000), we felt we were being "jerked" around by the insurance company. I spoke to Doug Schultz (a C-PORT member) from Maritime Salvage Recovery during our last conference and he said he would look in to it. We provided all our information to Maritime and contracted with them to take over. Although we had a weak case, they went to work on it.

About two weeks ago, we received a check from Maritime Salvage. They were able to recover 100% of our original salvage fee plus interest. We were not able to recover any storage and we are stuck with the worthless hull, but even after they held back their fee, we were able to pay our crews. A fair percentage of "something" is way better than 100% of nothing! We would highly recommend Doug and his team at Maritime Salvage Recovery. We called them in at the end of a very poor and weak case nearly 2 years later; imagine what they could do if you bring them in at the START!

**News article – Competitors working together -
Sailboat slams into Hens & Chickens - Skipper and boat plucked from rocks off Westport**
By Bruce Burdett, EastBay RI.com

He was bound for Westport, Conn., but a boater made an abrupt stop in Westport, Mass., instead on Sunday, May 30. Assistant harbor masters Jim Perry and Gary Tripp were on duty when a Mayday call was radioed in at 11:38 a.m. from a boater who said his sailboat had struck rocks at Hens & Chickens south of Gooseberry Neck.

They responded in the harbor master boat to find the 40-foot sailboat Legacy hard on the reef. Owner Michael M. Wiseman of Westport, Conn., who was alone on board, was unable to free his 2002 C&C Express. Also responding, according to Harbor master Richie Earle, were a Sea Tow boat from Padanaram, a TowBoatU.S. boat from New Bedford and a Coast Guard boat. While one of the commercial tow boats leaned the sailboat over by pulling on a halyard, the other pulled it backwards and free from the rocks. A pump was put aboard to keep up with leaks that had developed. Mr. Earle said it was an unusual sight to see the sailboat coming into the harbor with the two competing towboats (Sea Tow out front pulling and TowBoatU.S. astern) helping it along.

At FL Tripp & Sons boatyard, Harry Tripp used the travel-lift to hoist the sailboat out of the water. Out of the water, damage was evident to keel and rudder. Mr. Earle said it was not clear how the well-equipped boat happened to hit the well-marked reef in clear weather.



C-PORT member stars in Film Shoot - Captain John Aydelotte, Vessel Assist Anacortes, stars as Blackbeard, the pirate, in a new documentary called *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Real Story*, produced by UK-based Blink Films. The *Lady Washington* was the set for this documentary on the golden age of piracy in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. No air date yet.