

By **George Backwell** | Thursday, July 17, 2014

Response Firm Coordinates Indian Ocean Rower Rescue



Rescue of injured rowboat crew member: Image courtesy of 'K' Line

Global Rescue, a crisis response firm providing medical, security, evacuation, and travel risk management services, says it has coordinated the rescue of a rower from the middle of the Indian Ocean after he sustained severe burns.

Ocean Row Events (ORE) crew member Shane Usher was successfully evacuated to the 590-foot K Line bulk carrier Nordic River on the morning of July 11, 2014. Earlier in the week, Usher had accidentally scalded himself while preparing food on the ORE rowboat, Avalon.

Global Rescue's medical team confirmed that Usher's burns were significant enough that an evacuation was necessary to secure proper treatment. The six-man and one woman Avalon crew was rowing non-stop across the Indian Ocean, from Geraldton, Australia.

The company coordinated with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and the Australian Rescue Co-

ordination Centre to identify a vessel in the vicinity of the Avalon; then led the operation from its operations centers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Thailand.

The Nordic River responded to the request to go to the aid of the rowboat, reached the Avalon successfully and transferred Usher by launching a rescue boat. The challenging operation, which was conducted in the open ocean, lasted nearly two hours.

Once Usher was on board the Nordic River, Global Rescue's medical team managed the treatment of his burns, liaising with the Nordic River's crew to oversee his care. The ship is expected to reach Australia on July 18.

The current Ocean Row Events mission is to row from Western Australia to Durban, South Africa, through nearly 5,000 miles of open ocean. The Avalon sustained only minor damage after the rescue and Global Resucue say it is continuing towards Africa.

By **Marcus Hand** from Singapore | Thursday, July 17,

To The Rescue.



Rescue of injured rowboat crew member: Image courtesy of 'K' Line

A Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K Line) ammonia carrier Nordic River came to the rescue of an injured crewman on a rowboat in the Indian Ocean.

In a rescue operation secured by insurers Global Rescue the Nordic River responded to a request from the Australian Rescue Coordination Centre to go to the aid of the rowboat Avalon on 11 July. The Nordic River reached the Avalon at 1115 hrs local time a rescue boat (pictured) was able to successfully reach the injured crewman Shane Usher who had burned himself while preparing food.

In blog entry Ocean Row Events, owner of the Ava-

lon said “the difficult and terrifying transfer operation” took about two hours.

“Once the crew was onboard, the vessel crew treated his burns and his condition was reported as stable,” K Line said.

The injured crewman will be disembarked in Dampier, Australia on 18 July.

“Our thanks and gratitude to the Captain and crew of Nordic River, to Global Rescue, to Rossiter Rowing Boats and to Shane,” Ocean Row Events said.
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Bulk Freight Carriers Again Come to the Aid of Vessel Crews as Typhoon Glenda and Accidents Strike



A launch from the Nordic River manoeuvres around the Avalon. it is continuing towards Africa.

Maritime Rescues are a Regular Feature of Merchant Shipping Life

PHILIPPINES – INDIAN OCEAN – A regular feature of freight and logistics news, and one that all too often gets bypassed as a result, is the contribution made, often on a daily basis, which merchant shipping makes to the safe passage of others, usually suffering as a result of accident or illness. This week it is the terrible devastation caused by Typhoon Glenda (Rammason) and she rages on toward mainland China after leaving dozens dead and half a million displaced in the Philippine archipelago which has caused problems for seafarers.

Four fisherman out of Oriental Mindoro to fish off Busuanga in Palawan were swamped by huge waves on Tuesday, tearing off the tiny vessel's outrigger and leaving the men clinging to tie planks and bamboo with no radio or means of communication, even the transistor radio aboard was not working ensuring the crew had been unaware of the approaching storm.

By a miracle a passing vessel, reportedly the 42,000 dwt bulk carrier MV Pacific Pioneer flagged in Hong Kong and en route to Mindoro to take shelter from the typhoon, spotted the wreckage and its pas-

sengers who had been clinging on for over a day and were able to effect a rescue of the four Filipinos who were relatively unscathed and passed to the care of the Philippine coastguard.

Less than a week ago a crewman taking place in an Ocean Row Events mission to row from Western Australia to Durban, South Africa, over nearly 5,000 miles of open ocean, was severely scalded in a cooking accident and was rescued and treated by the Nordic River, a 26,000 tonne ammonia carrier owned by K Line after an alert from the Australian Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC).

The injured man, Shane Usher, was from the specially built rowing boat Avalon whose six-man and one woman crew was taking her non-stop across the Indian Ocean, having only departed Geraldton, Australia, on June 11, the day of the accident. The accident response was coordinated by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and Global Rescue, a crisis response firm providing medical, security, evacuation, and travel risk management services to corporations, governments and individuals.

After treatment by the bulk carriers crew the patient is due to be discharged, with his burns reported as stable, to medical authorities in Dampier on July 18.