



Maritime Mobile Service Network

Press Release

“Where Emergency Communications is a Commitment”

Maritime Mobile Service Network
For Immediate Release, 5/27/18
Prepared by Jeff Savasta, KB4JKL, Net Manager

On Wednesday, 5/23/18 at approximately 1530 UTC, Maritime Mobile Service Network Net Control Operator Harry Williams, W0LS, heard a Maritime Mobile requesting assistance with an urgent medical condition on 14.300 mhz.

The distress call was made by Timothy D Henning, KE7WMZ aboard the vessel “Victory Cat” located about 200 nautical miles south of Ensenada, Mexico. Tim reported that he had a severe vision problem that developed in his right eye and was seeking immediate medical attention and advice. W0LS contacted the United States Coast Guard in Alameda, California and relayed all information concerning the medical problem and stayed on the air for several hours with KE7WMZ.

The United States Coast Guard in Alameda relayed the information to the on-duty flight surgeon who advised that KE7WMZ should seek immediate medical attention at the closest port of call. It was decided that KE7WMZ would continue on to Ensenada, Mexico for possible treatment. The United States Coast Guard arranged to have someone meet Tim at Ensenada and transport him to the Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego while his wife manned the sailboat at dock.

Tim was ultimately diagnosed with a severe detached Retina and was transported to Phoenix, Arizona for immediate surgery which was completed.

KE7WMZ communicated to the net members via email and stated “I Appreciate, beyond words, that the Maritime Net was able to help us get in contact with the USCG and simply be at the other end of the HF radio helping us through a challenging time. Especially want to thank Harry, W0LS. He was extremely professional and invaluable linking us effectively with the USCG. We were just completing our 10 years round the world sail voyage.”

The Maritime Mobile Service Net operates daily on 14.300 MHz from 1700 UTC to 0200 UTC and is no stranger to emergency situations. In this 50 th anniversary of the organization's existence since 1968, they have assisted with multiple high seas emergencies. This service is relied upon daily by sea going amateurs to provide routine and emergency traffic. As these operators have said on more than one occasion, “it's our lifeline”.

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