

Bill's session intro:

On February 17, 2010, while en-route from Recife, Brazil toward Montevideo, Uruguay, the class-A sail-training school vessel the SV Concordia capsized and subsequently sank while approximately 300 NM off Rio de Janeiro. All sixty-four people aboard successfully abandoned the ship into three 20-person and one 8-person Zodiac inflatable life rafts. They were picked up about 42 hours later by two bulk carriers which had been transiting the area and were directed to the scene by Brazilian and Canadian search and rescue authorities. Captain Bill Curry was master of the SV Concordia at the time of her loss and he has since made himself available to the international sail training community with the goal of helping the crews of other vessels extract what lessons they may to avoid and/or survive catastrophe at sea.

During my ten minute presentation I would like to touch on the following subjects, with lessons drawn directly from the SV Concordia:

- Abandon Ship: How We Can Prepare
 - Choice of raft manufacturer
 - What goes into the raft
 - Auxiliary supplies and equipment
 - Mounting and location

- Drills and Procedures: What We Can Practice
 - Musters
 - Individual assignments and redundancy
 - Collecting equipment
 - Abandon ship: the real thing won't be the same

- Taking To The Rafts: What We Can't Practice
 - Getting clear
 - Getting (and staying) together
 - Getting organized

- Life in a Raft: What You Must Imagine
 - Finding things
 - Making things work
 - Eat? Drink? At least be merry.
 - Endurance, moral, fatigue and fear
 - Effects on the body

- Rescue: Don't Blow It Now
 - Signalling
 - Fatigue and decision making: beware
 - Rescue by big ships
 - Rubber rafts are easily damaged

- Some Final Take-Aways
 - What you buy matters
 - How you prepare and practice will make a difference
 - How you stow your equipment may be critical
 - Knives are useful things
 - Make heroic efforts to stay together (easier said than done)
 - You are not rescued until you are safe on deck
 - Who knows you are missing?