



The Anchor

December 2020

Volume 7 Issue 13

“OF FILIPINOS’ FAITH AND RESILIENCE.....”

Back in November 14, 2020, in the aftermath of the flash flood that ravaged wide swathes of the province of Cagayan in Northern Philippines, following Typhoon Ulysses, our crew sent us an aerial photo released by their municipal gov't., showing the massive flooding in his town and the swelling Cagayan River that was happening a day earlier.

The house encircled is his, one that he built from his earnings as a crew since he started with Blue Manila (BMI) in 2014.

We were just on Messenger chat midnight of November 13 when he informed that the water in his house is already “above the knee” deep and “water continues to rise”. The flooding was caused by the release of excess water from the Magat dam. No one could imagine the enormity of the situation as it was unfolding until a group of concerned netizens called out for urgent help for Cagayan, via social media and posted images of distressed residents

A day later and as soon as cellular signal was restored in their town, our crew updated us that the water inside his house has started to recede.

As our crew is presently lined-up to join our manned vessel, he again communicated with us on November 16, 2020 informing us that he will report ASAP to our office as soon as the roads are passable. True to his word, he arrived in Manila on November 21, 2020. The following Monday, he underwent his medical examination and thereafter attended his refresher training. By December 4, he was happy preparing himself to head back home to his family in Cagayan.

In Ramos, Tarlac- another province up North, AB Johnny Suniga shared that the ferocious winds of Typhoon Ulysses and the chest deep flooding which swept through his agricultural land damaged the rice crop scheduled for harvesting already in November and uprooted the mango trees he planted since acquiring the property from his modest earnings as another BMI crew.

After the storm passed, he lost no time and called on his neighbors to help him remove and cut the uprooted trees since they cannot be re-planted anymore. He shared the trunk and other parts with his neighbors for making into firewood or to be processed as charcoals or for other purposes. They also started to till the land again and planted this time, vegetable seedlings. Few weeks later, he showed us how the vegetables seedlings have grown. He is hopeful that there will be no more destructive typhoons and he is looking forward to harvesting the produce soon, a big help during these pandemic times.



AB Suñiga started with BMI since 2001. He signed off from MV Nero last October 16, 2020. Off duty periods on board during Covid times would find AB Suñiga capturing the beauty of the sunset.

Our crew on board including those who were forced to extend their contracts and/or those who had to endure long months in anchorage due to the lockdowns continued to carry out their duties with the same fervor.

On the other hand, our lined-up crew ashore awaiting deployment who were stranded also had to endure the long wait before signing-on again due to the pandemic, but they patiently waited. Our salute to our Frontliners- our BMI Marinos! MABUHAY KAYO!

Active dialogue played a major role. Thanks to technology, it kept us connected with each other the whole time during lockdowns and calamities.

Thanks to our Principals for their unwavering support and assistance for both the crew on board and ashore especially during these times.

We welcomed babies of our BMI family (crew and employees) born these COVID times. We witnessed parents clinging on to their strong faith, praying for a safe childbirth and continuous good health for their babies, the mothers and other family members.

Thanks to all our BMI office staff for your continuous dedication.

We are a testament to all the extra hard work that everybody has exerted the past couple of months to be able to carry on what we do, to continue to be of service to others and provide for our respective families while we strive even harder to remain healthy and safe.

“Know that we are in this together in our fight against COVID-19”

We are hopeful that the vaccine will be first of all, proven to be safe and effective and will eventually be available to all.

Pandemic or not, Christmas will still be celebrated and let us celebrate by thanking our Almighty for the Gift of Life; of Family, of Health, of Livelihood and the Gift of our FAITH. Wishing everyone a Blessed, Happy Christmas and a Healthier, safer and grace filled 2021.

F.Arcellana



A/B Jigger B. Reodique assisting Technician up on the windmill tower - FOB Swath



A/B Marlon M. Pineda Working Aloft - Morgenstond II



Fob Swath working on Seamander Windfarm- Oostende, Belgium

I have always believed in the quote, "If you keep chasing your dreams, one day you will catch them."

I am 3rd Officer Joel Jimenea Genzola Jr., born and raised in Negros Occidental, province right in the middle of the archipelago, known to many as the Sugar Capital of the Philippines. I am the youngest in the family and I have two siblings who are both nurses.

Once we start our high school years, our parents would send us to Bacolod City, a city 2 hours away from our home. We stayed with our grandparents but we will be on our own to do our studies and be responsible with our education. In college, I chose to study in John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University – Arevalo which is located in Iloilo, a neighboring island of Negros in the Visayas. This perhaps is my early training in developing responsibility, independence and determination.

After my graduation, I applied at Blue Manila Inc., as recommended by my uncle, Capt. Roy Salamat Albay. In Blue Manila, I started to be a part of the Communications Team as one of their Utilityman/ Cadet for 4 months starting in July 2012. It's one of the simplest job one can start into but I take pride in my contributions to the company because it is as important as all the other tasks and more than that, the experience motivated me to work hard and focused to my goals.

By November of 2012, I was fortunate to be lined up to join MV Atlantic of Global Seatrade as a Deck Cadet. To any beginner, this made me feel excited and at the same time nervous thinking of what will happen aboard. My first contract lasted for 12 months. The ship is of general cargo and most of the time, we are loaded with windmill equipment traversing within Europe.

While on board, I learned deck works such as lashing cargoes. With the opportunity and training imparted to me by my seniors, I started learning to operate the crane and load some cargoes. After 8 months as a cadet, I was promoted to Ordinary Seaman.

Next contract I joined MV Oceanic as an Ordinary Seaman for 4 months and was promoted to Able Seaman continued the remaining 5 months of my contract with their sister vessel, MV Atlantic.

For five years since I first embarked with them, I remained loyal to the Global Seatrade moving between their vessels MV Atlantic and MV Eendracht as an Able Seaman. These years were spent gaining firsthand experiences not just on cargoes, but other important knowledge that helped me as I prepare for my examination to become an Officer-In-Charge of Navigational Watch. The company was also generous to me and I was able to save enough funds for my review, trainings and exam.

In 2019, while I was in the Philippines, I complied with all the trainings and requirements to get the license. By God's grace I was able to pass the examination for Officer-in-Charge despite losing both grandmothers with just a week apart.

In October 2019, I returned to MV Eendracht, and this time as a Bosun and was given a 7-month contract. While onboard, I was promoted to 3/O in March 2020. Being in this new chapter of my career I would take a great responsibility, work hard, be motivated and be a good model to my fellow crew. I am thankful to God for this blessing, to my Blue Manila and Global Seatrade family for the opportunity and trust to serve in this industry.

I would have signed-off by May 2020 but due to the COVID 19, everything stopped but not for us seafarers who chose to stay onboard to help fight the deadly virus by moving the essential goods, medical supplies and products around the world when most transportation halted. I too, being the Filipino that I am, chose to stay and serve.

We sailed through countries like China, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Africa and Australia – and there is only one common denominator in all of these countries – and while they are just relatively near the Philippines, and going is just a few hours away, I have to forego leaving the ship because of each country's stricter border control. Hence, I was on board for 12 months. It was tough being away from loved ones while we all fight against COVID 19 but I am thankful that I was with supportive and united team onboard.

Finally, after several attempts, I and three of my fellow Filipino seafarers were able to sign off in Egypt.

This time of pandemic is very challenging to us seafarers because we have to stay on board a little longer for the reason that the crew change is difficult, and we respect protocols that ensure the safety and health of every citizen of the world. We must remain focused to our duties and be positive that we still work and are compensated well by our companies and principals.

When all of these will be over, after we have won this fight against the virus, we will find solace in the thought that we, seafarers are also considered frontliners.

As for my personal journey, I know I still have a lot of things to learn from everyone I will meet along the way. I am truly grateful that out of the thousands of seafarers around the globe, I was given the opportunity to work in a reputable company and I am supported by my captains whom I look up to. I endeavor to serve my purpose while I also achieve my personal dreams, help my family and use my God-given gifts to be of service.

I am yet to catch all of my dreams, but at least for now, I have started the chase.



Loading of containers in India



Navigational Watch



Greasing the cranes with A/B Milky C. Galvan

Mask is a Must

WEAR A MASK TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS



Painting the whole steering gear room - Ankie (Ab/Ck Nestor M. Daguplo, A/B Joel B. Aquino & A/B Dan Dan A. Bazar



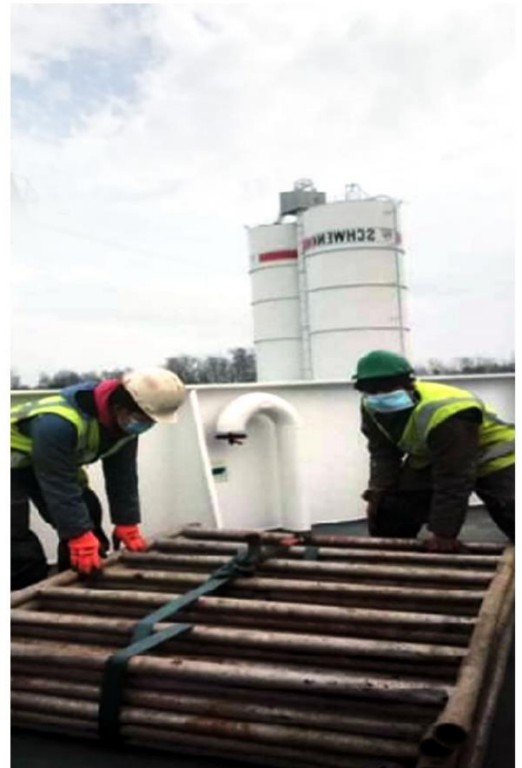
Happy Faces behind the masks of offsigners - MV Audax crew change in Manila



Standby for mooring Operation in Pattaya, Thailand



Smile as reflected in the eyes of Offsigner Elect. Fuedan F. Gavino from manned oil tanker in Jamaica



A/B Romeo S. Mangabat and A/B Joraen D. Fegidero - MV Andrea

CREW AT WORK



CREW AT WORK



Cookie Corner

Ingredients

3 kg prime ribs beef roast
5 garlic cloves smashed
fresh rosemary and thyme, roughly chopped
salt and freshly cracked black pepper
olive oil
2 carrot cut in chunks
2 potatoes, peeled and cut in chunks
1 onion cut in half
2 cup cabernet sauvignon
=pinch sugar
1/4 cup water or beef dripping
2 tablespoon chopped parsley
Direction

Standing Rib Roast Au Jus



Preheat oven to 325 degrees F

Place the roast rib side down ,in a large roasting pan in a small bowl mash together garlic, rosemary, thyme, salt, pepper and olive oil to make a paste smear the paste generously over the entire roast scatter the vegetables around the meat and drizzle with olive oil roast for about 1 1/2 to 2 hours or approximately 20 mins per pound for medium rare, check the internal temperature of the roast in several places with an instant, read thermometer, it should register 120 125 degrees F for medium rareremove the beef to a carving board and allow to rest for 20 mins to last the juice settle.

Note: The internal temperature of the meat will continue to rise about 10 degrees remove the vegetable and set aside, pour the pan juice into the separator so you can use the broth for Yorkshire pudding, place the roast pan over medium high heat add the cabernet and scrape up the brown bits in the bottom of the pan add sugar, water/beef dripping season with salt and pepper continue to cook until the wine is reduce by half about 5 mins strain the sauce through a sieve to remove the solids before serving

Cook Samson prepared the cakes for all the birthday celebrants on board



Maroff Auke Birthday



CK J. Samson-27.05.20 Birthday



Capt. Martus Birthday



D/C H. Chua - 20.11.20 Birthday



3/O W. Chua - 31.08.20 Birthday



Cook Joselito Samson, 50 yrs old, married and is a father of three. He has served on board BMI manned vessels under different shipowners since 2005, successfully completing all contracts.

He is presently on board on MV Oceanic for a 9 months contract as AB/Cook. He shares with us his favorite recipe for Christmas dinner.

Ship to Ship cargo transfer

MV Saipem was positioned along side MV Oceanic to transfer four (4) "Reels". Both of the MV crew are busy lashing the chains for the unloading and loading of the said reels. After several hours of cargo transfer operation, all reels were successfully transferred for delivery to Norway.

