

# Kings Pointers in Action

A life-saving operation off of the coast of Long Island involved two 2007 graduates.

By John McCarthy '07

On January 15, 2014, at around 1600, the 183' Pilot Boat New York (P.B. New York) of the Sandy Hook Pilots Association received a distress call from the tugboat SEA LION. The P.B. New York stands watch outside of New York Harbor 24/7, 365 days a year in all weather, embarking and disembarking pilots from ships.

**Mark Wanderer '07**, the Mate on watch, heard the distress call from the tug SEA LION. He checked the position of the vessel in distress and determined it to be around six nautical miles from the pilot station.

Mark had the P.B. America (a transport vessel for Sandy Hook Pilots) begin working up to the SEA LION that had crew and one Sandy Hook Pilot on board. Mark then proceeded to awaken the Captain of the P.B. New York, **John McCarthy '07**.

The two then continued to work up to the SEA LION at full speed. During the trip up to the SEA LION, they were in constant communications with the Coast Guard, relaying positions and descriptions of the victims aboard.

When the P.B. America arrived on scene, they saw the SEA LION on its side with four men hanging on. The men on the pilot launch saw that the tug was sinking and told the men to swim through the debris to the P.B.

America. Three men went into the water and were recovered by the P.B. America using the life sling and the boats retrieval basket on the stern.

The fourth man with possible broken ribs and chest pains remained on the tug until it went under and the New York Media RHIB recovered the fourth man and transferred him to the P.B. America. While the PB America was operating in the debris field of the SEA LION, both of its propellers were fouled with the lines from the tugboat.

John had the crew onboard the P.B. New York prepare the starboard RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) to be deployed. Upon arriving on the scene with the P.B. New York, John decided not to use the RHIB and instead maneuvered the P.B. New York alongside the P.B. America. The crew was able to get a head line on and secure the P.B. America alongside.

The four crewmembers were safely transferred onto the PB. New York and brought to the pilot lounge for first aid care. The last man off the SEA LION was in the most critical condition, complaining of possible broken ribs and chest pains; he also told the men that he had a stroke in the past.

The crewmembers provided the rescued men with blankets, clothes, and oxygen as needed. After treating the victims



**Mark Wanderer '07 and John McCarthy '07**

onboard the P.B. New York, they secured the U.S. Coast Guard boat on their starboard side.

The crew of the P.B. New York safely transferred all four men to the C.G. vessel. The C.G. vessel pulled off the side and headed to shore. After transferring the victims off the P.B. New York, they had the disabled America alongside their port side and had to work down south to deeper water, away from Atlantic Beach.

All operations were conducted in zero visibility and the crew of the P.B. New York did an outstanding job throughout the entire operation.



**P.B. America**



**P.B. New York**



**Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat**