

Be Ready for the Unexpected

S/V Alliance

Mary Martin and Eric Irwin



Photo by Alice Athay Croasdale

**J122 Alliance – 2024 Newport Bermuda Race
Lost June 23 due to flooding**

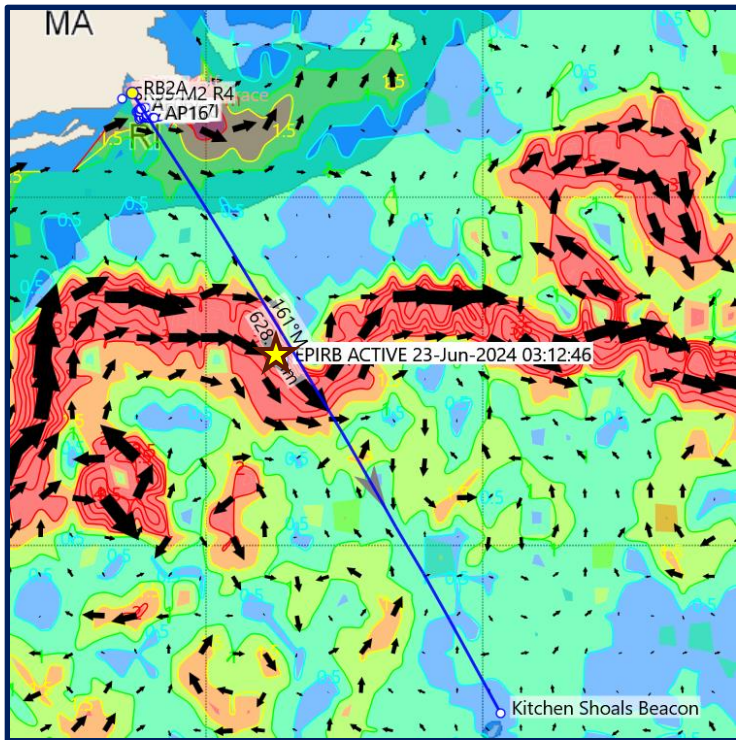
Conditions – 0248 23 June 2024

- 4 persons on deck tethered with lifejackets with 5 below sleeping
- Nearly full moon
- 5 hours into the Gulf Stream with 4 knots favorable current
- 18-20 kts of wind out of the SW with TWA about 80-90
- One reef with medium/heavy jib
- 6ft seas, making 8 kts through the water and 12kts over ground
- Rotating helmsperson every 30 to 40 minutes to minimize fatigue
- Conditions were not excessively challenging

The Unexpected

Collision with unidentified submerged object

Catastrophic damage and flooding



260 miles offshore
Water depth ~2.5 miles



Timeline - 23 June 2024

- 0248 - Loud metallic noise, “all hands on deck” and “hove to”
- 0250 - Damage assessment - Catastrophic steering system damage and flooding, distinct burning smell!
- 0251 - Mayday, DSC followed by EPIRP, call to NB24 using Iridium
- 0255 - 1K GPH electric pump followed by 3.7K GPH 10 mins later
- 0310 - Water level continued to rise
- 0330 - S/V Ceilidh followed by S/V Banter in visual proximity
- 0340 - Execute abandoned ship procedure
- 0406 - Life raft transfer completed to S/V Ceilidh
- 0530 - Alliance sinks



The Damage



The Rescue



Video Credit Ryan Mann

Enablers for Successful Rescue

- **Preparation - Team and the Boat**
- **Clear and calm command, control and communications...to the crew and externally to others**
- **Alliance Standing Plans**
 - Provided basis for duties and responsibilities
 - Command and control
 - Philosophy
 - Emergency procedures
- **Continuous Learning**
 - Safety at Sea
 - Storm Trysail Club online material
 - US Sailing incidents
 - Other SAS online content
- **Rescue boat response**