Summary of the Bering Sea Rescue Presentation:

In the Fall of 1982 crab vessels were capsizing and sinking at an alarming rate. Even more alarming was the extensive loss of life of the crew members. In March of 1983 a MAYDAY was relayed to the Coast Guard that the fishing vessel Seahawk was missing and may have suffered the same fate. Through a series of fortuitous circumstances one Coast Guard cutter patrolling the Bering Sea in blizzard conditions was able use her unique capabilities and high level of training to rescue the crew just barely clinging to life after 13 hours in thirty-degree water. A video taken at the time of the rescue will aid the audience in understanding the conditions on-scene as well as the special circumstances of this rescue.

Further video will let you hear the personal stories of the rescued fishermen after their delivery to Dutch Harbor. Twenty-five years later the captain of the cutter and the last remaining survivor got together again. A video news clip from KOMO channel 4 news documents this reunion as it happened. This survivor may be available to log into our Zoom presentation and answer our members questions.

In Peter Joseph’s words:

“This rescue while not necessarily heroic, was so unique that both parties were invited to make a presentation to the entire corps of cadets at the United States Coast Guard Academy, which is an unheard-of honor.”