

The Officers, Directors and Members of  
US SAILING  
are pleased to present the  
ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL  
to  
Jodee Carvalho and Adam Carper  
for the rescue as follows:

76-year-old Richard Dreyer, was flying his recently restored vintage single-engine airplane to the Eastern Shore when a mechanical problem forced him to try to land at a small airport. He ended up making a crash landing in the South River. The crash was observed by many local people who flooded telephone lines with 911 calls.

As emergency responders were summoned, local residents Carvalho and Carper were already on the way to the crash site from Liberty Marina in Carvalho's outboard-powered inflatable dinghy.

"Thankfully, I had my raft handy and the motor started quickly," said Carvalho.

By the time they reached the accident scene, the plane was almost completely submerged in the 42-degree water, with no survivors visible. Carvalho recalled seeing a piece of debris and the pilot's head.

"He knew what he was doing. He got the plane down safely, and he was already out of the plane by the time we got there," said Carper.

Carvalho and Carper pulled him into the raft. Carvalho returned to the site of the accident and rescue and tied a rope and a marker to the plane so officials could locate it under water.

"Training on the job as a commercial fisherman for 20 years taught me a lot," said Carvalho. "It's important to be aware of your surroundings, quick on your feet and sharp in your mind. You never know what can happen at sea."

US Sailing awarded the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to Jodee Carvalho and Adam Carper for rescuing the pilot of a crashed airplane from a river in Edgewater, MD on March 26, 2010.

Dr. Gino Bottino, MD  
Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee  
By Direction

Date 12/22/2010 2:11:21 PM

Date of Incident Friday, March 26, 2010

What was the nature of this Incident? Pilot 76, Walks away from South River Plane Crash

What happened? "Thanks to the quick actions of 2 men, JoDee Carvalho and Adam Carper, a 76 year old Pilot Dr. Richard Dreyer walked away from a South River plane crash. The plane made a crash landing Into the river just west of the South River Bridge. JoDee and Adam Jumped into JoDee's dinghy and went to the pilots rescue. The plane was almost completely submerged by the time the men got to Dreyer With just his head sticking out of the water. They pulled the man into the dinghy. Carvalho said the man was in shock and not moving much. Then they took the pilot to shore. But Carvalho's quick thinking Didn't end there. After the pilot was safely onshore he returned to the plane and tied a rope and a marker so officials could locate it under water."

Event Name South River Plane Crash

Event City Edgewater Md

Event State Maryland

Body of Water South river on the Chesapeake Bay

Day or Night? Day

Air Temperature 53'

Water Temperature 42'

Wind Speed Not sure

Wave Height 2ft ?

Name and Home Town (City, State) Retired Dr Richard Dreyer flying airplane

What position(s) was/were the victim working before they went in? The pilot was flying east on the South River

Was a PFD worn by the victim(s)? No

Skipper's Name 1. JoDee Carvalho

Boat Make & Model Brigg Raft

Crew's Names and function each performed in the rescue: "2. Adam Carper was in the Dinghy with JoDee too. Both men saved his life. JoDee and Adam both pulled the pilot into the raft from the water.

Boat Length (42) 11.8 ft

Did the victim's boat lose sight of the victim? no

What search pattern was used? visual method

Was GPS or other electronic MOB function used to track or help locate the victim? No

Was a rescue swimmer put in the water Y/N? No

Did the victim have a strobe light, a light or whistle? no

What color clothes were visible above the water? white hair

Was the victim able to help in the recovery? No

How did the victim get hoisted from the water level up onto the deck? By the seam of his pants and underneath shoulders

Was any injury sustained by the victim? No

Was a Lifesling aboard? No

What type (hypothermia included)? possible? Cold water

Was it used? No

How much time did the victim spend in the water? 9 to 15 minutes

Did a Mayday call go out? no

Name Jeannie Miller

Do you give permission to have this story published? Yes

Can you provide copies of articles published about this event Y/N? Yes