

The Officers, Directors and Members of
US SAILING
are pleased to present the
ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL
to
THE RESCUING CREW ON WINDPOWER
for the rescue as follows:

On Lake Lewisville, TX, winds were blowing at 18 to 25 knots wind with steep waves. Windpower's crew was prepared for the conditions while competing in the 2011 Leukemia Cup regatta, hosted by the Dallas Corinthian Yacht Club.

Bridget Lane, who was keeping a lookout, spotted a person in the water who was not wearing a life jacket but was hanging onto a bright blue boat cushion. Keeping a close watch on the situation, Lane alerted her shipmates that no boat was returning to pick up the victim.

Luckily, the cushion made a good target. Jay Sacco, who was steering, sailed downwind of the victim, turned into the wind, and stopped next to him. Windpower's crew secured a swim ladder at the boat's stern and helped him on board. The victim was uninjured; however, he was suffering the effects of the 68-degree water, which he was in for over five minutes. The victim later explained that he had been attempting to recover the cushion from the lake when the boom on his boat hit him and knocked him overboard.

Windpower's crew hailed to his boat, Antioch, which came alongside and recovered him. Both boats continued to race the rest of the day.

"Bridget, Erik Slokers, and I had our PFD's on all day," said Sacco. "It was windy enough and the water was cold enough to warrant caution."

US Sailing awarded the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to Erik Slokers (Southlake, Texas) and the crew of his Catalina 22 Windpower, Bridget Lane (Austin, Texas) and Jay Sacco (Austin, Texas), for rescuing a sailor on May 7, 2011.

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

NOMINATION

Date 9/6/2011 11:07:21 PM

Date of Incident Saturday, May 07, 2011

What was the nature of this Incident? Man overboard in between races at Leukemia cup

What happened? While sailing between races, Bridget Lane aboard Catalina 22 Windpower saw a person get knocked off by the boom on another boat, Catalina 22 Antioch. She informed Jay Sacco, who was at the helm of Windpower at the time (Windpower is owned and normally helmed by Erik Slockers, who was taking a break off the helm in between races). Jay decided to stay in the area and to observe the actions of the other vessel to see if assistance was necessary. Bridget maintained a visual on the MOB, a couple of hundred yards away, roughly abeam, who appeared to be hanging on to a boat cushion. Jay sailed towards the MOB while observing the other vessel, which was luffing her sails but heading away from the MOB and did not appear to be in a position to affect a rescue. Jay immediately decided to go in for the rescue, reaching Windpower towards the MOB, dropping downwind of him, and then turning the boat upwind, stalling the boat head-to-wind with the MOB on the leeward side. Bridget and Erik established contact with the MOB on the starboard side, while Jay dropped the swim ladder at the stern of the boat. We worked the MOB to the stern, where he was able to climb up the ladder and get on board. The MOB was cold, but unharmed, and had a boat cushion, which he explained he'd been pulling out of the water when he was surprised by the boom, which knocked him off the boat. Jay hove-to while waiting for the other vessel to get organized and sailing again. We signaled to them, indicating we had the MOB, then sailed by the MOB's boat, and directed them to go head-to-wind. Jay approached the vessel on their port side, slowing WindPower into position to allow the MOB to step off and onto his own boat, whereupon Jay sailed away. Both boats continued to race the rest of the day.

Event Name 2011 Leukemia Cup

Sponsoring Yacht Club Dallas Corinthian Yacht Club

Event City Oak Point

Event State Texas

Body of Water Lake Lewisville, Texas

Day or Night? Day

Air Temperature approximately 75F

Water Temperature approximately 68F

Wind Speed 18-25 knots

Wave Height <1ft

Name and Home Town (City, State) Harrison Wicks

Boat Name Antioch

Boat Length 22ft

Boat Make & Model Catalina 22

What position(s) was/were the victim working before they went in? Unknown

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

Skipper's Name John J. Sacco Jr.

Boat Make & Model Catalina 22

Crew's Names and function each performed in the rescue: "Bridget Lane: spotter/establish and maintain contact at boat Erik Slockers (boat owner): spotter/ establish and maintain contact at boat"

Boat Name (41) Windpower

Boat Length (42) 22ft

What recovery method was used (Quickstop, Reach Method, Figure 8, etc)? Modified figure 8

Did the victim's boat lose sight of the victim? Unknown

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? Clothes weren't noticeable, blue boat cushion was
Was the victim able to help in the recovery? Yes
In what way? Able to hang on to Bridget/Erik and then able to climb swim ladder on his own
How did the victim get hoisted from the water level up onto the deck? Swim ladder
Was any injury sustained by the victim? No
Was a Lifesling aboard? No
Was it used? No
How much time did the victim spend in the water? Approximately 5 minutes
Did a Mayday call go out? No
Nominator's Name Bridget Lane
Do you give permission to have this story published? Yes
Can you provide copies of articles published about this event Y/N? No