

The Officers, Directors and Members of  
US SAILING  
are pleased to present the  
ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL  
to  
American Youth Sailing Force  
for the rescue as follows:

Members of the American Youth Sailing Force, the Bay Area's the Red Bull Youth America's Cup was attending a fundraiser Golden Gate Yacht Club when a minivan drove off the nearby Green parking lot and into the Bay at a speed estimated at 20



entry in  
at the  
Marina  
mph.

“We were getting ready for a party when we heard some from over the seawall,” said team supporter Vince Casalaina. “We didn’t know what was going on at first, but then we saw the van as it started to float out away from shore, at which point my team got into our boat.”

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“We  
van as

The van was settling lower into the water when the six sailors got into their team powerboat. Team captain Ian Andrewes (23, Seattle, Wash.) was steering. “The van was going down at the nose, and the roof was just submerging when we got to it,” said Andrewes. “Before we even slowed down, three of our guys were in the water with tools. They were able to get on the car and start smashing the window, but unfortunately they couldn’t get the window to break completely. They were pounding the windows as hard as they could.

Team members David Liebenberg (21, Livermore, Calif.), Tommy Pastalka (22, Belvedere, Calif.), and Evan Sjostedt (20, Long Beach, Calif.) had jumped off the boat, swam to the van, and attempted to break its rear window and open a door. Mikey Radziewski (21, Berkeley, Calif.) served as spotter on the Protector and team videographer Nick Andrewes (27, Seattle, Wash.) served as deckhand.

The driver in the van was pleading for help as the van sank. Divers later located the van in approximately 20 feet of water about 150 feet off shore. The driver did not survive the accident.

San Francisco police recovered the van and the body the next day.

The only injury to the rescuers during the incident was suffered by Tommy Pastalka, whose hands were cut while he tried to break through the windshield.

The six sailors were honored by US Sailing with the Hanson Rescue Medal for having risked their lives in an attempt to rescue a woman from a minivan that drove into San Francisco Bay on June 21, 2013.

Chuck Hawley  
Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee  
By Direction

## NOMINATION

Date 6/23/2013 12:55:40 PM

Date of Incident Friday, June 21, 2013

What was the nature of this Incident? Minivan Drives into San Francisco Bay

What happened? "On June 21, around 1700, a minivan with a woman inside drove off the Marina Green parking lot just across from Golden Gate Yacht Club. It stayed afloat for a few minutes, then sank. The incident was covered extensively by the local TV stations, live with helicopters overhead.

The American Youth Sailing Force -- the Bay Area's entry in the Red Bull Youth America's Cup that will be raced here 1-4 September -- were at the yacht club preparing for a fundraiser. They were all in their nice clothes getting ready for the event. When someone noticed a car in the water, some 300 yards away, the whole crew ran to their tender (motor boat) and were the first to reach the floating van. Three young men, all around twenty years of age and very fit, jumped into the bay (in just their shorts) and tried to break into the back end of the sinking vehicle. They were not successful. About the time the van disappeared underwater, the Police RIB showed up, with a diver, and took over.

These sailors were the only people of the dozens of onlookers who tried to help before the police boat arrived."

Event Name

Sponsoring Yacht Club

Event City San Francisco

Event State CA

Body of Water San Francisco Bay

Day or Night? Day

Air Temperature 75

Water Temperature 60

Name and Home Town (City, State) Unknown 60 Year Old Woman, San Francisco, CA

Boat Name Gold Minivan

Boat Length Approximately 18'

Boat Make & Model Looked like a Chevrolet

What position(s) was/were the victim working before they went in? Driving the van through Marina Green at approximately 20 mph

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

Skipper's Name Ian Andrewes

Boat Make & Model Protector

Crew's Names and function each performed in the rescue: "The sailors in the water trying to break into the sinking minivan were:

Tommy Pastalka

David Liebenberg

Evan Sjostedt

Nick Andrewes - filmed the incident from the boat on his iPhone

Mikey Radziewski"

Boat Name Courageous

Boat Length 28

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

What search pattern was used? Sonar

Was GPS or other electronic MOB function used to track or help locate the victim? Yes

Was a rescue swimmer put in the water Y/N? Yes

Was the victim able to help in the recovery? No

Was any injury sustained by the victim? Yes

What type (hypothermia included)? Death/drowning

Did a Mayday call go out? Yes, 911 called by one of the sailors mothers.

Who responded? SF Fire Department and Police

Nominator's Name Kimberly Paternoster

Do you give permission to have this story published? Yes

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