

The Officers, Directors and Members of
US SAILING
are pleased to present the
ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL
to
The Rescuing Crew on *Second Chance*
for the rescue as follows:

US Sailing has announced that Philip Sauer (Honolulu, Hawaii), the owner of *Second Chance*, a 44-foot sloop, and his crew will be awarded a Hanson Rescue Medal. The crew of nine rescued a kayaker as their boat was approaching the finish line of the 2011 Transpacific Yacht Race in Diamond Head, Hawaii on July 19. The *Second Chance* crew consisted of Sauer, skipper Harry Krum, Charles Clark, Mary Howard, Curt Ingram, Thomas Andrews, Graham Paine, Edward Atwell, and Randall Alcorn.

After 2,225 miles and two weeks of hard racing at sea, *Second Chance*'s crew was looking for the red finish line buoy when they spotted a red object in the water. As they approached the object, it became clear this was no buoy but a kayaker. Guy Wilding, the USA Canoe/Kayak National Coach, had broken his paddle on the back of a sea turtle, fallen out of the kayak, and been swimming for four hours.



As *Second Chance* crew member Mary Howard observed, "It's a good thing he was wearing red. We were looking for a red buoy."

Sauer and his crew were not about to give Wilding a wave and sail on to finish the race. *The Racing Rules of Sailing* are in full conformance with the best traditions of the sea. Rule 1 states, "A boat or competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger."

The crew was well prepared to handle this situation. "Several of our crew attended a Safety-at-Sea seminar in Long Beach the day before the race," said Clark. "Harry, our skipper, assigned each crew member specific positions and responsibilities for the 'battle stations' and 'man overboard' commands."

A spotter was posted to point at Wilding. The sails came down and the engine was started. A life buoy was thrown, and in a timely manner, Wilding was safely on board *Second Chance* and on his way to a reunion with his wife on shore, who had been trying to get local authorities to begin a search.

“What I learned from this incident is how important it is to include safety precautions with kayaks or PWCs,” said Clark. "At a minimum, the victim should have had a PFD and some sort of signaling device. I saw, first hand, how easy it is to lose visual contact with a person or object in the water when a boat is traveling over six knots in heavy seas. By the time we dropped the spinnaker pole and came about, we briefly lost visual contact with the victim. Fortunately, we had several spotters pointing in his direction and, consequently, we were able to regain visual contact very quickly.”

Second Chance got a second chance in the race. After hauling Wilding on board, the crew found the red buoy and crossed the finish line. After the race committee gave them redress for the time they had spent saving a life, they finished sixth in the Transpac’s Aloha Division.

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

NOMINATION:

Date 7/20/2011 7:41:34 PM
Date of Incident Tuesday, July 19, 2011
What was the nature of this Incident? An at-sea rescue of a kayaker by a Transpac racer
What happened? The 44-ft sailboat "Second Chance" was at the tail end of the 2,225 mile Transpac race. As they were looking for the red finish buoy, they spotted something red floating in the water, and headed to it - only to see that it was a kayaker. They would have ignored it, except one of their crew happens to be an avid kayaker, and he recognized that something was wrong. Turns out the kayaker, Guy Wilding, had lost his paddle (having broken it on the back of a sea turtle), was out of his boat, and unable to get back into it. He had been floating helplessly out to sea for four hours. The boat immediately forgot the race and initiated man-overboard procedures, throwing him a life preserver, dropping sails and firing up the engine while one crew member stood on deck and kept eyes on the man in the water. They performed a textbook man-overboard procedure, and saved his life. They brought him back to the marina, where his wife and young daughter had been unsuccessfully trying to get authorities to begin a search operation. Mr. Wilding was reunited with his family in a tear-filled, emotional scene on the dock. The entire crew deserves this award for quick thinking, fast acting, and executing a perfect at-sea rescue of a man who, without their heroic actions, may never have been found.

Event Name Transpac
Sponsoring Yacht Club Transpacific Yacht Club
Event City Honolulu
Event State Hawaii
Body of Water Pacific Ocean
Day or Night? Day
Air Temperature unknown
Water Temperature unknown
Wind Speed unknown
Wave Height unknown

Name and Home Town (City, State) Guy Wilding, Honolulu, Hawaii
Boat Make & Model Swan 441
Crew's Names and function each performed in the rescue: "Philip Sauer - boat owner
Charles Clark
Mary Howard
Curt Ingram
Thomas Andrews
Graham Paine
Edward Atwell
Randall Alcorn"
Boat Name (41) Second Chance
Boat Length (42) 44
In what way? Details will have to be obtained from the crew
Was the race sailed under the International Sailing Federation Special (equipment) regulations
Governing Offshore and Oceanic Racing including US SAILING Prescriptions?
If so, which category? 1
Name LeeAnne Clark
Do you give permission to have this story published? Yes
Can you provide copies of articles published about this event Y/N? Yes