

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

Mastromarco and his crew of three, with two young children sleeping in the cabin below, were sailing back to Annapolis aboard Inishowen, a Catalina 400, after an overnight sail was abbreviated due to forecasted thunderstorms and overcast conditions. While sailing in southerly winds at approximately 11:00 p.m. in gusts exceeding 20 knots, Inishowen was entering Whitehall Bay when they heard loud, shrill cries for help.

Unable to spot the victim in the dark, Mastromarco and crewmember Nicholas Provenzo shouted to the swimmer requesting that he splash in the water to improve visibility. They quickly located the swimmer and acquired a compass bearing on him. Mastromarco had his crew douse the sails and steered toward the victim under engine power. A crewmember deployed the boat's Lifesling rescue device astern of Inishowen and the boat circled the victim until he grabbed the line. The boat was then stopped and the victim pulled the Lifesling over his head and under his arms.

Provenzo pulled the victim to the boat, where he and Mastromarco hoisted him on deck. The man was dried off and wrapped in blankets. When he complained of cramps, the crew radioed for medical help as Mastromarco steered to his home port, where fire department personnel were waiting.

The victim told the Annapolis Capital Gazette that he had been out in his kayak without a life jacket and the kayak took on water. "I figured I'd just swim. I swam pretty hard and realized I couldn't get anywhere. I kayak all the time. I'm a strong swimmer. I was always really confident," he explained. He floated for several hours with his muscles cramping and jellyfish stinging him. He was passed three times that evening by power boaters by the time he saw Inishowen's masthead tricolor light. His first thought was that a helicopter was searching for him.

"I'm just extremely happy we were in the right place at the right time," Mastromarco said. US Sailing presented the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to The Rescuing Crew on Inishowen from Annapolis, Md. for rescuing a swimmer from Chesapeake Bay on July 31, 2010.

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

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NOMINATION

Date 11/6/2010 12:07:36 PM

Date of Incident Saturday, July 31, 2010

What was the nature of this Incident? Near Drowning / Rescue in the Chesapeake Bay

What happened? "On the night of July 31, 2010, Dan Ralph Mastromarco (Annapolis, MD.) and his crew of three in Inishowen, a Catalina 400, were sailing home from Dobbins Island, having decided to forego an overnight sail because of potential thunderstorms and overcast conditions. On board the vessel with Mr. Mastromarco were Angela Duffy, his wife, Nicholas Provenzo, an accomplished sailor, and Siobhan Esposito, his fiancé. Also on board were Conor Duffy Mastromarco (aged 3.5) and Madeline Esposito (aged 7), who were sleeping below deck. Close-hauled with southerly winds from 15 gusting to 20 knots (<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/buoy/2010/7/31/44063.html>), at about 10:55 p.m. they turned North to enter Whitehall Bay, with full sails on a reach. The vessel had its tri-colors illuminated atop its 65 foot mast.

To the south of Hackett's Bar, to the North of the vessel, the crew heard distant but shrill cries for help. As the crew, including the skipper had their young children aboard, the skipper's first reaction was to check on their well-being. Upon being assured the smallest members of the crew were sound, he and Mr. Provenzo focused to the Bay and on the faint cries, which appeared to be emanating from the water several hundred yards away to the East.

Messrs. Provenzo and Mastromarco responded to the victim, shouting not to unnecessarily exert energy, and reassuring the victim they would not abandon him. The victim was asked to make quick splashes so that his direction and range could be estimated and marked, and constant visual contact with that point at seas was maintained. After the range and direction were established to the satisfaction of Mr. Mastromarco and Mr. Provenzo, the crew was given instructions, and the engine was engaged (which dampened the sound of the victim). The boat was rounded to the wind, the sails doused by the crew Ms. Duffy, and Mr. Mastromarco set the course towards the victims last known location.

As the vessel approached that point, communication were established and maintained between the victim and the spotter, Mr. Provenzo, and once the location of the victim was positively identified, the skipper, due to winds and waves, passed to the leeward. Coming back into the winds, now off the port bow, the skipper turned the vessel so that the victim was windward and ahead of the port bow.

A life sling attached to the stern was thrown in advance to let out the line to the fullest extent (and away from the prop), the vessel turned around the victim and the ladder dropped to open the

transom. The victim was asked if he had enough energy to find the yellow floating line, instructed that the life sling was attached 80 feet behind the vessel, and again instructed not to exert unnecessary energy. Once the victim was secure on the life sling, Mr. Provenzo pulled the line to the boat, whereupon he and Mr. Mastromarco pulled the victim by hand onto the deck. Provisions were made for towels, blankets and hydration. The victim recovered to a sitting position, although experiencing cramps, while the skipper returned the boat to port. Calls were made to emergency medical help, which arrived shortly after the vessel reached its home port.

The victim later stated that he had been afloat for three hours without a life vest, had lost his kayak, and was taking on water. He stated that he had been passed three times that evening by power boaters, and when he saw the tricolor light he at first thought it was a helicopter searching for him.

This top cover story from the Capital Gazette was by Liam Farrell, Staff Writer, of the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, MD and fairly describes the event. See, <http://www.hometownannapolis.com/news/top/2010/08/03-36/Boaters-save-man-who-abandoned-kayak-in-bay.html?ne=1>

Boaters save man who abandoned kayak in bay

By LIAM FARRELL, Staff Writer

Capital Gazette Communications Published 08/03/10

Dan Mastromarco first thought something was wrong with his kids when the cries for help came out of the dark around Whitehall Creek east of Annapolis and swirled toward his boat.

The Arnold resident had spent Saturday sailing with family and friends and was heading for shore that night. Even though storms were forecast, the conditions had been "every sailor's dream," Mastromarco said yesterday.

But a nightmare was coming true near them - a kayaker afloat in the water, unable to get to land.

"It just rattles your soul to hear that at night," Mastromarco said. "It sounded like a child, it was such a weak sound."

Witnesses on the boat and the 38-year-old Kent Island kayaker, who spoke to The Capital on the condition of anonymity for fear of legal or personal repercussions, yesterday detailed a good Samaritan rescue filled with harrowing details but short on an official record with public safety agencies.

The kayaker said he originally started out across the Chesapeake Bay from Kent Island toward Highland Beach south of Annapolis, but had underestimated the strength of the currents. When he abandoned his kayak, he also wasn't wearing a life jacket.

"I figured I'd just swim. ... I swam pretty hard and realized I couldn't get anywhere," he said. "I kayak all the time. I'm a strong swimmer. I was always really confident."

With muscles cramping and jellyfish stinging him, he said he essentially was condemned to floating on the current "like a bottle in the water" from sundown until around 11 p.m.

After checking maps, he estimated yesterday that he drifted about three miles before seeing the sailboat.

"I thought I was going to die two or three times," the kayaker said. "I just started yelling."

After hearing the cries, Mastromarco and Nick Provenzo, a friend on board the 40-foot boat, Inishowen, sprang into action and threw a yellow, U-shaped buoy out to rescue him.

"It was not looking good for him," Provenzo said. "Life is precious, and when you are able to, you want to protect that."

According to county fire records, units were dispatched to Burley Road after a 911 call for possible cold exposure around 11 p.m., but treatment was refused. The water temperature at that time was estimated to be in the low 80s.

The kayaker said his vital signs had improved, and he was given a ride back home by Provenzo.

"I feel like God heard my prayer," he said. "It was pretty much a miracle that we crossed paths."

That feeling of providence is shared by his rescuers.

"I'm just extremely happy we were in the right place at the right time," Mastromarco said. "And there must have been a reason for that.""

Event Name Sailors Were Cruising Late at Night  
Sponsoring Yacht Club Skipper is a Member of the Annapolis Yacht Club  
Event City Annapolis  
Event State Maryland  
Body of Water Chesapeake Bay  
Day or Night? Night  
Air Temperature 85 F, 29.5 C  
Water Temperature 81 F  
Wind Speed 18-20 knots gusting  
Wave Height 2 - 3 ft  
Name and Home Town (City, State) James Leslie, Stevensville, Maryland  
Boat Length app. 10 feet  
Boat Make & Model Sea Kayak  
Skipper's Name Dan R. Mastromarco

Skipper's Phone Number 202.285.9097

Skipper's Email Address argusgroupdrm@aol.com

Boat Make & Model Catalina 400

Crew's Names and function each performed in the rescue: "Dan R. Mastromarco. Also heard cries for help. Organized and supervised plan of action and crew. Piloted vessel towards victim, threw over life-sling, and assisted Nicholas Provenzo in pulling victim aboard.

Nicholas Provenzo. Heard cries for help, spotted the victim, maintained communication with victim, directed boat to location, pulled victim aboard.

Siobhan Esposito. Assisted in dousing sails, provided provisions, and watched children. Angela Duffy.

Doused sails, helped spot, and tended to victim. Madeline Esposito. Kept sleeping and therefore out of the way. Conor. Kept sleeping and therefore out of the way."

Boat Name Inishowen

Boat Length 40.6 ft

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

Did the victim's boat lose sight of the victim? Yes. Victim's boat abandoned and not recovered.

What search pattern was used? Location and spotting.

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? None

Was the victim able to help in the recovery? Yes

In what way? Victim had enough residual strength to grab lifesling line.

How did the victim get hoisted from the water level up onto the deck? The victim was pulled onto the deck by Messrs. Provenzo and Mastromarco.

Was any injury sustained by the victim? No

Was a Lifesling aboard? Yes

What type (hypothermia included)? Emergency services were called.

Was it used? Yes

How much time did the victim spend in the water? 3 plus hours.

Did a Mayday call go out? No, but 911 was called.

Who responded? Emergency Services.

Name Dan R. Mastromarco

Do you give permission to have this story published? Yes

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