

The Officers, Directors and Members of
US SAILING
are pleased to present the
ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL
to
THE RESCUING CREW ON RHODES 19

for the rescue as follows:

On August 25, 2010 Mike Hendrickson had been an instructor at the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center for over 10 years and was sailing with a group of Burlington YMCA instructors in a team building exercise. With about 30 minutes left to sail, he was considering taking the Rhodes 19 back to the dock. The wind was coming out of the North West at about 14 knots and waves between one to two feet high. He figured they would have a better ride back to the dock on a reach, so they sailed further west towards Juniper Island for another 10 minutes before heading to the docks. This fortunate decision, seemingly insignificant at the time, may have been a life saver.

When they jibed to head back east towards the shore, Hendrickson happened to look south and see someone appear over the crest of a wave, and then disappear behind it some 100 yards away. The swimmer, an 18-year-old, had set out for a three-mile swim from her grandparents' house in Burlington, Vt. to Juniper Island. The experienced swimmer became disoriented in the choppy conditions and change in weather.

Mike determined that there was no boat around that she had capsized and noticed she was not wearing a life jacket. Mike instructed two sailors on the starboard side to keep their eyes on the swimmer. Running before the wind, Mike had to briefly sail away from the swimmer before he could turn back and make a proper, safe approach, stopping the boat with the swimmer on the leeward side.

She appeared nervous when she saw them sailing away for a second and we constantly assured her that they were coming for her, to relax, and keep her head above water. Once they approached her, they pulled her in the boat. The swimmer was tired but conscious. They gave her a sweatshirt to wear and Mike put his life jacket on her for added warmth. They learned that she had been treading water for more than five hours.

They headed back for the docks and called the sailing center and Coast Guard to notify them of the rescue. They learned that the Coast Guard and other vessels in the area were already notified of her missing and had a search and rescue underway. They met with a Coast Guard vessel to pick her up and take her to an awaiting ambulance. She fully recovered from the incident.

Congratulations to Mike Hendrickson , Mike Paul, Shannon S., Alison S., and Joan M. for sharp lookout, and recovery of this swimmer in distress.

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

Hanson Nomination

WHAT HAPPENED?

Date of Incident Wednesday, August 25, 2010

What was the nature of this Incident? Rescued a lost swimmer on Lake Champlain

What happened? I was sailing a team building exercise with a group of YMCA instructors. I had decided to sail south west for an extra 10 minutes before heading to the dock. The wind was out of the north west and I wanted to sail down towards Juniper Island so we could jibe and sail on a reach back to the dock. I figured it would be a more exciting sail back to the dock for the sailors as none of them had any sailing experience. When we jibed the boat, I ducked the main, set my course, and trimmed the main. When I looked south and spotted a swimmer pop up over the wave crests about 150 yards away. I immediately steered downwind to make an assessment of the situation and get her out of the water. There were no capsized boats around her and when I determined she was not wearing a life vest I was concerned for her and that there may be others in the water that needed help. The first thing I did was to instruct one of the sailors to keep their eyes on swimmer and the rest to keep their heads low because I was going to maneuver the boat pretty fast as we got down to her. We were approaching from up wind and it was windy so I just waved at her at first, she wouldn't be able to hear me. As I was on a run, I had to sail by her to the east so I could jibe and head upwind to her. As we passed she was panicked and yelling for help, I kept saying to her, "keep your head above water and stay calm, we are coming for you." I instructed the one sailor who had been watching her to get in the water if she started to go under and couldn't swim anymore. Once we jibe, I sailed to her and stopped the boat to pick her up. As soon as we had her in the boat, we assessed her condition, luckily, the sailors with me are all educators, so they were a great help in engaging Anna and keeping her awake. I immediately radioed in to the Coast Guard and the Sailing Center to notify them that I had picked up a swimmer. I gave them her name, condition, my location on the water, ETA to shore, and then headed for shore. We made Anna take my life vest and sweat shirt so she could get warm. We were very happy to have picked her up. The coast guard, state police, and a border patrol helicopter had been looking for her for 5 hours. At the point when we picked her up she had been in the water for 8.5 hours.

Sponsoring Yacht Club Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center

Event City Burlington

Event State Vermont

Body of Water Lake Champlain

Day or Night? Day

Air Temperature 72

Water Temperature 69

Wind Speed 15 knots

Wave Height 1-2 feet

VICTIM(S):

---- Victim 1 ----

Name and Home Town Anna Geffken, Boston, Mass (City, State)

Boat Name Rhodes 19

Boat Length 19 feet

Boat Make & Rhodes 19

Model

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

She had tried to swim from shore, where her grandparents live, to Juniper Island. It is three miles each way.

Was a PFD worn by the victim(s)?

No

---- Rescuing Boat #1 ----

Skipper's Name

Mike Hendrickson

Crew's Names and function each performed in the rescue:

Mike P-spotter, hauled her in over the side Shannon S-spotter, hauled her in over the side Alison S-jib Joan M-condition assessment and keeping Anna alert and engaged

Boat Make & Model

Rhodes 19

Overboard Specific Questions

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

modified version of Figure 8

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

No not for a second

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?

navy blue cotton shorts and maroon cotton t-shirt

Was the victim able to help in the recovery?

Yes

In what way?

she stayed calm

How did the victim get

Mike and Shannon hauled her in by her arms over the starboard side of the boat

hoisted from
the water
level up onto
the deck?

Was any
injury
sustained by
the victim? No

What type
(hypothermia
included)? the paramedics indicated that she was close to early set hypothermia and that we picked her up at
the right time

Was a
Lifesling
aboard? No

Was it used? No

How much
time did the
victim spend
in the water? 8.5 hours

Outside Assistance

Did a Mayday
call go out? no

Who
responded? US Coast Guard

Nominator's Information

Name Mike Hendrickson