

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to

GREG FERRARA, MIKE LYNCH, MITCH O'HARA, JR.,

BARRY BURGESS, CHRIS BURGESS, KAREN SCHMIDT,

CHUCK CORBIN and DICK CORBIN

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

On October 11, 1998, the Candlewood Lake Regatta, Brookfield, CT, was being sailed in Hobie 20's. It was a typical fall day, windy with gusts and clouds moving rapidly across the sky. The wind was N-NW approx. 20 knots with gusts up to 25. The water on Candlewood Lake was flat and dark. Visibility was very good and the water temperature was approximately 60 degrees F. The air temperature was about 65 degrees F.

On the upwind leg of the second race of the day, Bill and Kate Shea were approaching the shore and tacked. In the middle of the tack, a puff hit them causing the boat to capsize. Bill was at the leech of the mainsail and his trapeze harness got hooked on the boom. As they were attempting to right the boat, another puff hit turtling the cat. The weight of the hull, sails and water pulled Bill underwater. Kate could not see how he was pulled under and climbed on top of the boat and waved and hollered for rescue. Bill was unseen and drowning. First a fishing boat came over and then a Race Committee Safety boat arrived to assist. Barry Burgess on a Safety boat borrowed Kate's rigging knife, jumped in and cut Bill loose from his harness and brought him up and onto a rescue boat. Aboard another Race Committee rescue boat, Chuck Corbin a volunteer fireman, joined in and recognized that Bill had a heartbeat, but had stopped breathing. Chuck administered rescue breathing and shortly Bill started breathing on his own, yet was unconscious. The Race Committee used a cell phone to call an ambulance which met the rescue boat that took Bill to the shore. Bill regained consciousness at the trauma center. All in all, there was a fishing boat who arrived first to help, 2 Race Committee safety boats and the Race Committee boat, each who played a part in making this a successful outcome. What a superb team effort. Kate Shea said, "It is teams such as this Race Committee that make our sport possible".

Congratulations to Greg Ferrara, Mike Lynch, Mitch O'Hara, Jr., Barry Burgess, Chris Burgess, Karen Schmidt, Chuck Corbin and Mr. Corbin. US SAILING is pleased to present the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal in recognition of this event.

Ernie Messer
Chair, Safety-at-Sea Committee
By Direction

The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Award was awarded at Roton Point Sailing Association on September 25, 1999 by US SAILING Safety-at-Sea Committee Member Peter Millard.



Back Row Left to Right: Mike Lynch, Chuck Corbin, Dick Corbin, Karen Schmidt, Barry Burgess, Peter Millard (US SAILING Safety-at-Sea Committee), Chris Burgess, Greg Ferrara. Front Row Left to Right: Bill Shea, Kate Shea.

DETAILS:

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