

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to

CAI SVENDSEN and Crew

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

From Cai Svendsen 9/3/02, Hanson Medal Recipient:

During the Red Lobster Regatta in Sanford Florida, it was a sunny afternoon with a shifty breeze blowing across the lake. Back side of a December cold front.

The victim had been trying to gybe their lightning from the bow position. I believe they went by-the-lee and capsized causing his foot to get twisted between the upper and lower shrouds. This was an older wood boat and the chainplates are closer together which allows this type of entanglement. My boat passed by the overturned hull and I noticed something out of sorts. Too many people yelling and hanging on the centerboard. Cold water inducing them to do so.

I felt that my US SAILING instructor training may be helpful so I had a nice brisk swim over. Lots of panic going on by now with many rescue boat propellers and little leadership. I saw little future in trying to tell anyone else what to do, so I just decided to grab the mast and try to turn the boat upright so that we could get to his tangled ankle. The wire cutters were about useless. There was a trained FA/CPR guy on the rescue boat. His original job was cameraman. He and I made eye contact and we went to work.

It soon became obvious that we could not prevent a drowning and the victim succumbed. Quickly we lifted the mast and my new assistant found his ankle near the surface so he removed the shoe and pushed his foot free. We then dragged the now lifeless body up on the bow deck of the rescue boat and we began to administer CPR. The driver now heading for shore at a rapid pace and calling frantically on the radio for help. The victim did gurgle back to life on the way - we cleared his mouth and throat and delivered him with a faint pulse to the paramedics on the beach. I believe he recovered in a few days and returned to work.

Nobody told us about the alligators that live in the lake!

**The ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL was awarded to
Cai Svendsen and crew for this rescue event.**