

The Officers, Directors and Members of
US SAILING
are pleased to present the
ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL
to the crew of

VIOLETTA de le MARE

for the rescue as follows:

On Saturday, March 20, 2004, The Violetta, a.k.a. "The Pink Boat," was participating in the 66 Series/Angelman Race at Balboa Yacht Club, the 18 plus knot breeze was building, with gusts of 22 to 25 mph. Crewman Dale ShROUT saw a man clinging to two red seat cushions and yelled, "Man Overboard!" Skipper Roy Reineman immediately tacked to close the gap with the victim. Sandy and Tomidan kept constant track of the man's position. After one attempt to reach the victim, Tomidan grabbed the spinnaker line and tossed the end to the man, and hit his mark. After getting the victim to the boat, Tomidan pulled the man on top of him in order to get him onboard. With the boat underway, the man was passed down below to Suzanne. Chuck called 911 to let the Harbor Patrol know that we had a severely hypothermic man aboard, in need of medical assistance. Tomidan helped Suzanne get the man out of his wet clothes and into some dry things. After about 10 minutes, the crew learned that his name was John and was 71 years of age. As John began to warm up, he kept repeating, "I've been saved! I'm going to live!"

They rounded the end of the jetty and were met by a fireboat with paramedics aboard. A paramedic quickly came aboard to assess John's condition and prepare to transport him to Hoag Hospital.

Congratulations to of Violetta de la Mare for coming to the aid of a fellow mariner in distress, tending to his immediate medical needs and saving the victim. US SAILING is pleased to present the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal in recognition of this event.

Bill Munster
Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee
By Direction

**The Hanson Medal was presented November 13, 2004 to the crew of
VIOLETTA de le MARE (aka "The Pink Boat")
at Balboa Yacht Club's Annual Awards Banquet
by Balboa Yacht Club Race Chair Doug Campbell
on behalf of US SAILING.
Nominator: Howard Neff, Commodore of Balboa YC**



From left to right: Dale SchROUT, Chuck Iverson (BYC),
Sandy Collum, Roy Reineman, Tomidan Jordan,



From left to right: Carl Carver, Roy Reinemen, Dale
ShROUT, Suzanne Schuler, Tomidan Jordan, Sandy Collum,

Suzanne Schuller.
Photo provided by Balboa Yacht Club.

Chuck Iverson.
Photo provided by Tomidan Jordan.

THEIR STORY:

On Saturday, March 20, 2004, 1500 hours, while participating in the 66 Series/Angelman Race, organized and conducted by BYC, the crew of Violetta de la Mare dropped out of the race to rescue a man overboard.

Owner: Anthony Delfino, Crew: Carl Carver, Sandy Collum, Chuck Iverson, Tomidan Jordan, Roy Reineman (skipper), Suzanne Schuller and Dale Shrout.

The Violetta, a.k.a. "The Pink Boat," was participating in the 66 Series/Angelman Race, and had completed the first half of the course. The 18 plus knot breeze was building, with gusts of 22 to 25 mph, and there was a 3 to 5 foot chop. We were in the fourth of seven legs of the race and about 3/4 of a mile off the Huntington Beach Power Plants. We had a reefed main, we were flying our #3 jib and we were still overpowered.

Tomidan was going below to change into his last pair of dry clothes when Dale yelled, "Man Overboard!" Dale, to his disbelief, saw a man clinging to two red seat cushions. Roy immediately tacked to close the gap with the floating person. On our first attempt to pick up the person, a big gust of wind blew the boat away as we approached him. There was an incredibly desperate look in his eyes as we sailed away and told him, "We will be right back." As we moved away, Sandy and Tomidan kept constant track of the man's position. We tacked back and after what seemed to be forever, we sailed back to his position and were able to come within 15 feet of him. As we drifted by, Tomidan attempted to grab the man, but a wave separated them. Tomidan then grabbed the spinnaker line and tossed the end to the man, and on the second try, he hit his mark. The man held on as the line went tight, and he put his head down. Tomidan pulled him to the transom in three pulls. Amazingly, the man was able to hang on! (Thank goodness for Violetta's 6" freeboard at her transom).

Tomidan pulled the man on top of him in order to get him onboard. At that same moment, Sandy was knocked down on the deck. Tomidan rolled the man off him and onto Sandy, but the three of them were tangled in the running backstays. Without backstay control, Roy continued to luff the boat towards the beach as Dale and Carl untangled the three from the lines. The crew went to work on getting the boat moving again, and the man very slowly inched his way from the open transom. With the boat underway, the man was passed down below to Suzanne. Chuck called 911 to let the Harbor Patrol know that we had a severely hypothermic man aboard, in need of medical assistance. Tomidan helped Suzanne get the man out of his wet clothes and into some dry things. As soon as he was dry, Suzanne and Tomidan moved him back onto the deck so he could be in the sun to aid in raising his body temperature. Meanwhile with the boat surfing downwind, the rest of the crew shook out the reef in the main and pressed on to the committee boat and the harbor.

After about 10 minutes, we learned that his name was John and that he was alone in the water. Soon John was getting a little color back into his lips as Dale and Suzanne massaged him to get his blood circulating again. We learned that John was 71 years of age, and we were shocked because he appeared to be much younger.

We immediately informed the Race Committee of our circumstances. Shortly after we passed the Newport Pier, the Harbor Patrol boat came alongside and asked if John could step aboard their boat. We informed them that John

could not move on his own, and we would have to transfer him to them once we were in the harbor entrance. As John began to warm up, he kept repeating, "I've been saved! I'm going to live!"

We rounded the end of the jetty and were met by a second fireboat with paramedics aboard. We started up our motor and dropped our sails as the fireboat came along side of us. A paramedic quickly came aboard to assess John's condition. Soon John was strapped to a backboard and transferred to the fireboat. While some of the crew helped move him, others answered questions from the firemen. Within minutes, they were ready and took off for the hospital with lights flashing, sirens blaring, and leaving a 2-foot wake. We learned that they were taking him to Hoag Hospital. After answering a few more question from the other patrol boat, we headed back to our dock.

As we put away the boat, the entire crew was in shock at what had just transpired. We all wondered at the luck that enabled us to pick up this man out of a dire situation. Wow!