

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to

**AMY PALMER, MIREILLE DeBEUKELAER
& JACKIE BELL**

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

In March 1998 at the Hospitality Regatta at Jackson Yacht Club, MS, which is part of the Leukemia Cup series, on board a J/22 with an all-women crew wearing PFD's, the skipper, Jessica Lea Minter, fell overboard during a jibe in the 15-18 knot extremely shifty wind. The 54-degree water and 1-1/2' to 2' seas added to the peril.

Another crew took over the helm and the remaining two crew dropped the spinnaker before the boat had traveled 4 boat lengths from Jessica. They then headed into the wind, tacked, executed a slow approach, grabbed Jessica's hand on the first pass and worked her around to the transom. With the main flogging, and the temporary skipper controlling the boat, the other two crew hoisted Jessica's torso over the transom after several minutes of struggle with the boat being torqued around in the waves and breeze. The struggle on board combined with the waves and shaking of the boat, physically hoisting Jessica up the topside could have easily caused another crew member to be pulled in the water. PFD's for all was a good call.

The actions of Amy Palmer, Mireille DeBeukelaer & Jackie Bell reflected a high level of talent, determination and skill in testing conditions during this emergency. US SAILING is pleased to present the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal in recognition of this event.

John B. Bonds
Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee
By Direction

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Award was awarded to
Amy Palmer, Mireille DeBeukelaer & Jackie Bell**