

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

JETSTREAM

for the rescue as follows:

On May 20, 2001 Scott Livingston, Assistant Director of Baltimore's Downtown Sailing Center, was embarking on teaching rescue drills with an adult class in eight J/22's in Baltimore Harbor. In the fresh 15-20 knot winds, one-foot seas, 60-degree air and water temperature, Scott and his crew of Kelly Pittlekow, Steve LeGendre and Michael Erdek were tailing the fleet on Jetstream, when a 19-foot water-ski boat came up from behind, frantically crying that they were sinking.

Practice was now reality.

Scott ordered the jib dropped and a fender placed over the side, then eased the main to a luff, to slow the boat, when this was accomplished by the crew, they waved the ski-boat to come alongside. With a father and an eight-year old daughter on board the ski-boat, they came alongside, then the father threw his daughter into the water shouting for her to swim to Jetstream. Jetstream was still moving, and distance was quickly placed between the PFD clad daughter and Jetstream.

Scott performed a Quick-Stop, then a Figure-8, and approached the panic stricken girl. Two of Scott's crew lifted the girl over the stern quarter in less than a minute from when she hit the water. There were mild signs of hypothermia setting in. The crew then placed spare dry clothing on the girl.

The ski-boat still needed assistance, Scott called 911 on his cell phone and the emergency Marine Police and Fire Department's Rescue team responded in under 7 minutes. The Marine Police towed the boat to safety, while the Fire Department picked up the little girl and reunited her with her father.

Congratulations to Scott Livingston, Kelly Pittlekow, Steve LeGendre and Michael Erdek for rescuing a mariner in distress, calling in outside assistance to have a second mariner rescued and the safe rescue of a sinking boat, clearing the waterway of a hazard. US SAILING is pleased to present the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal in recognition of this event.

Ralph Naranjo,

Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee
By Direction

The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Award was presented at the Baltimore Museum of Industry at 6:00PM January 10, 2002, by US SAILING Past President James P. Muldoon on behalf of US SAILING.

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US SAILING Past President James P. Muldoon reading the citation

Skipper Scott Livingston receiving the Hanson Rescue Medal.

Photos by Steve Gross

DETAILS:

Nominators Name: Kirk Culbertson
Event Name: Adult Education Class
Sponsoring Yacht Club: Baltimore's Downtown Sailing Center
Event City: Baltimore
Event State: MD
Date of Incident: May 20th, 2001
Body of Water: Baltimore Harbor
Victims Boat Length: 18'
Victims Boat Make Model: motor boat (standard ski boat)
Rescuing Skipper: Scott Livingston
Rescuing Boat Make Model: J/22
Rescuing Boat Name: Jetstream
Rescuing Boat Length: 22
What was the nature of this incident: Motor boat was sinking.
Did a Mayday call go out: 911 cell phone call.
Who responded: Fire and police marine units.
Was any injury sustained by the victim: n
Was a PFD worn: Y
What type: Type 3
What position was the victim working before they went in: Standing on bow
Was this day or night: day
Wind speed: 15-20 knots
Wave height: 1 foot
Water temperature: 60
Air temperature: 60
How much time did the victim spend in the water: Less than a minute.
What recovery method was used: figure 8
Did the victims boat lose site of the victim: o
Was a rescue swimmer put in the water: n
Did the victim have a strobe light or whistle: n
What color clothes were visible above the water: Color PFD
Was the victim able to help in the recovery: N
Was a Lifesling aboard: Y
Was it used: N
What type hypothermia included: Close to hypothermia
How did the victim get hoisted onto the deck: 2 Adults over quarter stern side
Rescuing Crews Names: Kelly Pittlekow, Steve LeGendre, Michael Erdek

What happened: ***Baltimore's Downtown Sailing Center Class Saves Little Girl !***

On Sunday, May 20, 2001, the Downtown Sailing Center embarked on a routine adult education class. As the eight J/22 keelboats passed the Broadway Pier in Fells Point, a distressed father and young daughter, on a 19-foot motor boat, rushed up to the last sailboat and frantically cried out that their boat was sinking.

Ironically, Scott Livingston, Assistant Director for the DSC, was preparing to instruct his students in the "man over board drill", which is part of the normal adult curriculum. The DSC promotes safe boating practices by preparing students with step-by-step procedures to handle many emergency situations. However, it is difficult to simulate panic situations and the importance of remaining calm, cool, and deliberate.

Livingston's students were now placed into a real life situation. During this 15-20 knot day, the students followed Scott's instructions perfectly, dropped the jib and placed the boat in the safety position. In this position, the boat is flat and the boom is luffing controllably in a beam reach, outside of the boat. As the crew placed the fender over the other side of the boat, they waved the motor boat to safely come along the side.

But during the excitement of the situation, the father's protective instincts overrode his rational thought. He stopped the motor boat, grabbed his 8 yr. old daughter, who thankfully was wearing a personal floatation device, and THREW her into the water. Perhaps he saw the "Titanic" too many times. He then yelled for her to swim to the sailboat.

Unfortunately, a sailboat, unlike a motor boat, has difficulty stopping immediately in the water, and Kate could not swim fast enough to catch the sailboat. Livingston did a textbook example of the Quick Turn Recovery recommended by the United States Sailing Association. Scott focused on controlling the sailboat and keeping his crew calm, cool and collective, so that no other problems would complicate the situation. By safely tacking the boat, and coming up to Kate slowly, the crew was able to pick up the young girl, who was scared to death.

Fortunately, Livingston's crew included Kennedy Krieger's, Kelly Pittelkow, who comforted the girl, dried her off, and got her into warm clothes. Meanwhile, the motor boat still needed assistance, and the father did not have a radio or cell phone on board. Livingston proceeded to call 911 to alert the Marine Police and Fire Department's Rescue team. 'I was amazed at the speed in which they responded' said Livingston. In less than 7 minutes, the marine and fire department had two pilot boats and the large Fire Department tanker on the scene. The tanker would have been pivotal if the boat really sank. However, the Marine Police was able to tow the sinking boat to safety, while the fire rescue team returned Kate to her father.

Fortunately the Downtown Sailing Center was there to help, but things could have turned out much differently if a trained instructor and knowledgeable DSC members hadn't helped. Livingston says that all boaters should take the Department of Natural Resource's Boat Safety Certification course, which is only 8 hours long. People born after July 1st, 1972 are required to take this class, but it highly recommended for everyone, so that they are prepared to handle situations like these. People interested in taking this class should call the Department of Natural Resources at
410-974-2040 410-974-2040.

The Baltimore's Downtown Sailing Center is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) volunteer-run sailing organization which offers the community affordable access to quality sailing programs, education, and water safety skills, for all levels and ages. For more information about Downtown Sailing Center, call (410) 727-2884 (410) 727-2884 or visit their website at www.downtownsailing.org.