

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to the crew of

MAJIC

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

On May 30, 1999 during the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club Olympic Cup, the Tartan 10 *Jaws* was approaching the leeward mark with southwest winds of 12-15 knots, smooth seas, on a tight reach with the spinnaker up. The jib was raised and it was time to douse the spinnaker, while the boat heeled 30-degrees. Bruce Kennedy grabbed the spinnaker sheet for the recovery, gives a yell and does a perfect one and one-half gainer out of the boat while still holding the spinnaker sheet. Kennedy was not wearing a PFD when he hit the 59-degree water. He held tight onto the spinnaker sheet and was being dragged alongside at 7 knots. *Jaws* captain, Todd Hildwein, turned the boat into the wind using the "Quickstop" method. Being short-handed, Hildwein released the helm to assist getting sail down. The spinnaker was wrapped around the mast and the main and jib were lowered. Kennedy let go of the sheet and Hildwein threw a Horseshoe life ring for Kennedy to hold. Then Hildwein helped clear lines and sails, started the engine and head back towards Kennedy.

Another competitor, *Majic*, was behind *Jaws* and watched this happen, as they approached, all looked to be in control and safe as Kennedy had one leg up on deck. They sailed past, rounded the mark and headed up wind watching the event develop. When it became clear that Kennedy became separated from *Jaws*, *Majic* turned, dropped their jib, turned on their motor and raced over. Being short-handed, *Jaws* gladly turned over the rescue to *Majic*. *Majic* turned off their engine and lifted Kennedy out of the water by raw muscle power. Kennedy spent approximately 5 minutes in the cold water. The crew of *Majic* with first-aid knowledge checked Kennedy out and determined he had mild hypothermia. They stripped Kennedy of some of his clothing and put him in dry fleece.

Redress was requested by *Majic* for their time spent off of the racecourse, which was granted to them by the protest committee and earned a 1st place in the race.

For rendering assistance to another mariner in distress, US SAILING is pleased to award the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to the Crew of *Majic* in honor of this event.

Ernie Messer
Chairman, Safety-at-Sea Committee

**The Hanson Medal was awarded by Glenn T. McCarthy at the
Chicago Yachting Association Yachting Ball, November 13, 1999.**

THEIR STORY:

During the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club Olympic Cup on Sunday May 30, 1999 the T-10 *Jaws* was approaching the leeward mark with southwest 12-15 knots of wind, smooth seas, on a tight reach with the spinnaker up. The crew consisted of the owner, Todd Hildwein, two women (one a doctor), and a 49-year old, Bruce Kennedy, a bricklayer from Canada. Another crew had called at 7:00 AM and said that he could not make it that day. The jib was raised and it was time to douse the spinnaker, while the boat heeled 30-degrees. Kennedy grabbed the spinnaker sheet for the recovery, gives a yell and does a perfect one and one-half gainer out of the boat while still holding the spinnaker sheet. Following the ORC Regs, Kennedy wore a foam Type III PFD at the start, inflatables were available on board, but ditched the device after the start since the weather didn't seem threatening. When he went in the lake, he was not wearing a PFD. Air temperature was in the mid-70's and the water temperature was 59F. He held tight onto the spinnaker sheet and was being dragged alongside at 7+ knots. Just "like don't let them bricks go." He pulls himself alongside of the boat as the boat is heading up in to the wind doing a "Quickstop" and the order is given to release all halyards. The centrifugal force of the turn makes it extremely difficult for Kennedy to hang on and the sails come partially down. The spinnaker rapped around the mast.

Kennedy could not pull himself aboard and Todd signals that he's going forward to help get the sails down, Kennedy motions that he's letting go, so Todd throws him the Horseshoe and Kennedy swims for it and hangs on to it. Todd helps clear things, starts the engine and heads towards Kennedy. With the sails partially up, *Jaws* could come to a stop in the water. No radio calls were made.

Another competitor, *Majic*, was behind *Jaws* and watched this happen, as they approached, all looked to be in control and safe as Kennedy had one leg up on deck. They sailed past, rounded the mark and headed up wind watching the event develop. When it became clear that Kennedy became separated from *Jaws*, *Majic* turned, dropped their jib, turned on their motor and raced over. *Majic* observed that 3 to 4 other racers apparently sailed by *Jaws* without making any offers to help. On the way over, they developed plans and alternate plans of recovery. *Jaws* gladly accepted the assistance recognizing that there were more able-bodied crew on *Majic* to lift Kennedy out of the water. *Majic* turned off their engine and lifted Kennedy out of the water by muscle power. Kennedy spent approximately 5 minutes in the cold water. They stripped Kennedy of some of his clothing and put him in dry fleece. Crew of *Majic* with first-aid knowledge checked him out and determined he had mild hypothermia. Todd had two ladders on board in preparation for such an event, but didn't get them in use. After *Majic* rejoined and completed the race, Kennedy was then transferred back aboard *Jaws*.

Ironically, on May 19, 1999 prior to this event, Todd had purchased the block and tackle necessary for hoisting a victim aboard in combination with the Lifesling. With the short handed nature and three sails to bring down and stow, there was not time to rig the device.

Todd Hildwein advises:

Don't race undermanned.

Practice your overboard recovery techniques as early in the season as you can.

Crew of *Majic*: Dorsey Ruley, owner, Jim Calto, Dan Thom, Kevin Brown, Eric Steele, Fred Kowitz, Mike Kruze, Nicole Radek and Dave Anderson.

Majic applied for a redress of 13 minutes 50 seconds and received it. This earned *Majic* a first in section

and a first in fleet.