

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to

NEAL O'CONNELL

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

On January 19, 2007 Neal O'Connell recalls the rescue.....

The first was on Friday of a Spring Off Soundings Race. Late in the afternoon, on our way from Nebraska Shoal (a buoy in Block Island Sound off the south shore of Rhode Island near Pt. Judith) to the finish (located just off Block Island north shore near the entrance of Great Salt Pond), we were approaching the North Light of Block Island, when we needed to tack. As it will in the afternoon, the wind and seas had increased from the moderate beginning of the day.

We were very close to the Island (high bluffs - typically racers try to get in really close to shore for a better wind slant and/or more favorable current, can be scary with the building SW breeze trying to lay you on the beach and the waves getting steep because of the shallow water) and the crew was all ready for the tack. We tacked and as we did, a member of the crew slid across the deck and through the leeward lifelines. Immediately, the person sitting behind me said that she would not take her eyes off the lost crew member. After finishing the tack, we dropped the jib and headed back towards our target. We then jibed and came up to our swimmer and grabbed her and pulled her onboard with very little sea room left between us and Block Island. After ensuring that she was alright, we reset the jib and finished the race.

As a result, Neal O'Connell was awarded the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal.

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal was awarded to
Neal O'Connell for this rescue event.**