

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to the crew of

SNOW GOOSE

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

Retold by Robert Sellers 2/27/04

Description of the Rescue by "Snow Goose," August 1, 1992

At approximately 6 PM we were sailing on Grand Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan in 15-20 knots of Northwest breezes heading on a northerly course (close-hauled) about 5 miles south of Northport, MI and about 3-4 miles offshore in 62-62 air and water temperatures, 24-knot wind and 3'-4' seas. On board were John and Peggy Woodhouse of Grosse Pointe, MI. My boat, Snow Goose, is a Bristol 38.8

We saw a small sailboat reaching downwind towards us, under mainsail only. The 17' Thistle, with a gray-haired man and woman luffed in front of us. We luffed up and they yelled to us that they were lost and looking for Northport. They were going in the wrong direction and I offered to stop sailing and tow them in. They declined and I asked them to follow us.

I asked John and Peggy to keep an eye on them. We had gone about a mile when they capsized. We immediately sailed back. Both were wearing PFD's. The Thistle had turned turtle and the couple, Jim and Carol Stoecklin from Cowan Lake, OH, new to Cincinnati were clinging to the bow ring. We dropped main and furled the jib and dropped our swim ladder and John went down and pulled them up into our boat. We had them out of the water in about 8-10 minutes.

They were cold and tired. Mr. Stoecklin had had recent heart surgery and both were probably over 65-years old. They were used to small lake sailing and this was their first day on Lake Michigan. We gave them some warm clothes and hot liquids and provided blankets.

The next step was to save the Thistle. We towed it into the shore and got it righted with the assistance of two young men who came out from a cottage. Once righted, we towed the boat to Northport, arriving at about 8 PM. The whole rescue took about 2 hours. During that period, there were no other boats in the area. It was our opinion that Mr. and Mrs. Stoecklin would not have survived due to hypothermia and health conditions. They were very fortunate to have been sighted by the "Snow Goose."

I told Dave Irish of Harbor Springs the story. He recommended the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal be awarded. I appreciated the award but the greatest satisfaction was saving the lives of two people.

Nominator: David Irish

History of the name "Snow Goose" – there is a book by the name of "The Snow Goose" by Paul Gallico. It is a story of a snow goose who helped save the lives of soldiers on the beach at Dunkirk at the start of World War II. One of the lines in the story was, "If you were seen by the Snow Goose, you were saved." The Stoecklins gave me an illustrated copy of the book.

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal was presented to
the crew of Snow Goose for this meritorious rescue.**