

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

PAUL MURPHY, JEFF GOFF & SHANE VOWELS

for the rescue as follows:

On September 9, 2001 during the second race of the Frank Heyes Regatta, the Farr 40 Virago rounded the weather mark in second place, with southwest winds 17-20 knots and seas at 1-1/2' to 3'. With the spinnaker set, the jibe angle approached quickly for the leeward mark and they started to jibe. Being short one crew, there was no one available to flip the boom over. So the skipper over-steered the jibe to get the wind to do the job. This started the boat into a slow broach. Michael Eggly, a newcomer to the Farr 40's, was working the cabin roof grinder on the new leeward side and was standing in water. As the boat continued to rotate, Eggly lost his grip and fell backwards, clearing the lifelines. He grabbed for a stanchion, then the pushpit each for a few moments, appearing to take water. Virago threw multiple flotation devices at Eggly.

With third and fourth place, Contentious and Inferno close behind, Virago shouted to those boats to avoid hitting Eggly. They missed. All three Farr 40's went into rescue mode. Virago assigned a spotter, dropped its spinnaker and sailed back under mainsail. Contentious, with two spotters, dropped only its spinnaker and motored upwind only to have their mainsail shred, while Inferno dropped both sails and motored back. Contentious made it back first and threw Eggly a horseshoe and he weakly reached for it. Paul Murphy jumped off Contentious into the water seeing that Eggly was becoming unresponsive and going underwater. When Murphy arrived at Eggly's position, he had to dive down three feet and pull Eggly back to the surface. Eggly wore a manually operated inflatable PFD, which was not inflated. Jeff Goff and Shane Vowels dove off of Virago to assist holding Eggly up, while the remaining crew deployed the Lifesling. Goff and Vowels swam the Lifesling over to Murphy and Eggly.

With Virago still under sail, and Inferno coming up, it appeared that Inferno was going to go over the floating Lifesling line, Virago quickly untied the line so the rescuers and victim would not be pulled under Inferno. The crew of Inferno then grabbed the free-floating line. Murphy had the Lifesling in one arm and grabbed Eggly in the other, the tether became taught as the Inferno crew pulled, the rescue swimmer was under great strain, yet held on to both. When they got along side, hands grabbed Eggly and lifted him on board Inferno. Murphy was pulled aboard too. Eggly had been in the water for three to five minutes. Contentious picked up Goff and Vowels.

An emergency room doctor from Cook County Hospital, Dr. Stuart Feldman on board Inferno, immediately started CPR with other crew assisting. Eggly expended a small amount of fluid as Inferno rushed for shore. Inferno radioed the Race Committee and the Coast Guard of their status. Firemen and Paramedics were waiting at the end of Navy Pier as Inferno pulled up. Eggly was transferred to the ambulance and taken to Northwestern Hospital. Northwestern Hospital doctors were able to get Eggly revived, only to have Eggly pass in the early evening. The following day, the Cook County coroner declared that Eggly had drowned.

US SAILING recognizes the extraordinary effort exerted by Paul Murphy, Jeff Goff and Shane Vowels in placing their own lives at risk to save a fellow sailor and safely delivering the victim to medical assistance. US SAILING is pleased to present the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal in recognition of this event.

Ralph Naranjo, Chair
Safety at Sea Committee

By Direction

Safety at Sea Note - When rescuing an unconscious victim, the choices of recovery are limited. One option is to deploy a rescue swimmer. The rescue swimmer should be tethered to the boat, and wearing a PFD. The rescue swimmer should carry the Lifesling and affix it to the victim independent of their own tether and PFD. A second option is to use a gaff hook to pull the victim closer to the boat so that the crew can get a hold of the victim. It is best to gaff in the leg or arm, as any resultant injury is less of a problem than an injury elsewhere on the body.

The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal was presented to Paul Murphy, Jeff Goff and Shane Vowels on January 31, 2002 at Sail America's Strictly Chicago Boat Show, by US SAILING Secretary Sarah Alger on behalf of US SAILING.

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L to R: US SAILING Safety at Sea Committee Member Glenn McCarthy, Aaron Houston, Kathryn L. Kessel, Jeffrey Shuert, US SAILING Secretary Sarah Alger, John McLellan, Dr. Stuart Feldman, Christopher Williams, Scott Payant, Shane Vowels, Jeff Goff

US SAILING Secretary
Sarah Alger

Front Row: L to R, Jeffrey Shuert, John McLellan, US SAILING Secretary Sarah Alger, Dr. Stuart Feldman, Christopher Williams, Shane Vowels, Jeff Goff.
Back Row: Kathryn L. Kessel,
Paul Murphy, US SAILING Safety
at Sea Committee Member
Glenn McCarthy, Scott Payant, Aaron Houston.

DETAILS:

Nominator: Glenn McCarthy

On September 9, 2001, the Farr 40's were sailing as a section. In the second race of the day, Virago did a bear-away starboard chute set at the weather mark in 2nd place. After sailing some distance, they needed to jibe to make course for the leeward mark. They performed their jibe, being one crew short, did not have someone to throw the boom over to the starboard side. The helmsman steered more to port to get the boom to jibe itself. When the boom came over, the forces started the boat into a broach. With the wind somewhere between 17-20 true out of the Southwest, and waves 1-1/2' to 3'.

Michael Eggly, 31, had purchased into a partnership in a J/29 recently. He had sailed on J/105's and Tartan-10s. He was a quick learner and more than eager to learn more about sailing. In 1998, he succeeded in the US SAILING Basic Keelboat program. On this day, Michael was a first timer on Virago. He took the grinder position on the cabin trunk being a fit 5' 8", 150-pound sailor. Grinding on a Farr 40 on a day with conditions like this is grueling, surfing the waves requires constant easing and grinding of the powerful chute off-wind. He was working hard building his sailing resume, so he could hit the Florida Circuit and sail Key West Race Week in January 2002.

As the boat broached, Michael found himself on the low side and to gain balance stepped backward and found his feet in water. The rest of the crew climbed to the weather rail. During this rather slow wind-up, Michael lost his grip on the winch handle, falling backwards into the water. He hit nothing on the way in. He grabbed at one stanchion and it looked like water was being forced into his mouth and nose and possibly let go to get a breath, then as the pushpit

neared, he grabbed and held it for a few seconds, then lost his grip again. Virago threw flotation devices toward Michael, including Paul Murphy who threw his PFD.

The immediate danger was that Virago was passing across 3rd and 4th place starboard tack Farr 40's right on their heels. The Virago skipper hailed to Inferno and Contentious to miss Michael. Virago assigned a spotter, and started to recover their chute. In the mean time, Inferno and Contentious dropped their spinnakers, one dropped their main, and both started motoring upwind, back to Michael. The Farr 40 with the main still up shredded their mainsail performing this maneuver.

Contentious made it back first to find Michael unresponsive and going underwater. One rescue swimmer, Paul Murphy, jumped in the lake off of Contentious, when Virago pulled up under mainsail only (no motor). Virago deployed their LifeSling. Two people, Jeff Goff & Shane Vowels, off Virago, jumped in the Lake to help support the unconscious victim. None of the rescue swimmers wore a PFD. The swimmers were supporting the unconscious victim with Virago and Contentious were 30 feet apart with Michael in the middle. Virago could not hold the head to wind position, when Inferno pulled up. There was concern that Inferno's bow had gone over the floating LifeSling line, and could pull the victim and swimmers under Inferno, so Virago untied their end of the LifeSling. At which point, Inferno picked up the free line. Paul Murphy grabbed the Lifesling with one hand, and grabbed Michael with the other, when the tether became taught as the crew pulled them over to Inferno, the rescue swimmer was under great strain, yet held on to both. When they got along side, hands grabbed Michael and lifted him on board Inferno. Michael had been in the water for three to five minutes.

An emergency room doctor, Dr. Stuart Feldman, on board Inferno from Cook County Hospital immediately started CPR with other crew assisting. Michael expended a small amount of fluid. Firemen and Paramedics were waiting at the end of Navy Pier as Inferno pulled up. Only Inferno ran aground, parallel to the pier 6' away. Paramedics tossed the medical supplies across the chasm and the ER doctor continued the administration of the medical devices. A police boat pulled alongside Inferno and pushed the boat against the pier where Michael was transferred to the ambulance and taken to Northwestern Hospital. Northwestern Hospital were able to get Michael revived, only to have Michael pass in the early evening. The following day, the Cook County coroner declared that Michael had drowned.

On Friday, September 14, 2001 a memorial was held at Chicago Yacht Club honoring Michael's life. Fellow crew, competitors and sailors turned out. With airflights grounded nationwide with our second tragedy of the week, Michael's family drove from the East Coast to Chicago for this service.

Remarks were made that Michael was more intense about achieving in sailing than the most intense sailors in the room. Sailing lost someone who would be one of our highest achievers and a huge contributor to his sport.

The Cook County Coroner reports that there were a few scratches on the head, and an abrasion on the chin, not possible to determine cause of unconsciousness, not able to determine if it happened going into water, coming out of water or when transferred to land.