



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

Louis Meyer

For the rescue as follows:

On June 10, Alex Khandros was sailing a Pogo2, *Mini829* in the solo portion of the Bermuda 1-2 race, which starts in Newport, Rhode Island and finishes off St. George's Bermuda. He was about 300 nautical miles into the race; and in the Gulfstream. He was hit by a 30-knot squall with his full main up. After exiting the squall, he went below to take a short nap.

When he returned to the deck, his mast was gone below the boom.

At about 0500, after assessing the damage, cutting the rig away, and deploying a drogue and salvaging antennas, Khandros contacted the race committee to alert them to the dismasting. They in turn contacted Louis Meyer on *S/V Strummer*, about 20 miles away. By 0625 he reported being on his way to pick up Khandros, though slowed by rough conditions. His autopilot had also stopped working. It took about 6 hours to get to the last known location of *Mini829* and find it. The sea state became increasingly choppy with winds around 30 knots. At about noon, the two boats made visual contact and were able to communicate via VHF.

Khandros abandoned ship into his life raft and cut it from his boat while Meyer maneuvered under power. A throw bag was used to make a connection between *Strummer* and the raft as it neared, but it was difficult to bring the two craft together and for Khandros to climb the high freeboard of the rescue vessel. Meyer passed Khandros a halyard to attach to his harness, then winched him aboard. At 1537, the race committee received the text, "Alex from the *Mini829* is safe onboard *Strummer* and in time for Cocktails."

For his watchkeeping, responsiveness and outstanding seamanship resulting in the rescue of a fellow single-handed sailor, US Sailing is pleased to award the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to single-handed sailor Louis Meyer of *S/V Strummer*.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard W. York".

Richard W. York
Chairman, US Sailing Safety at Sea Committee