



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

John Oldham

For the rescue as follows:

On May 17, 2025, the J105 Maverick competed in the Elite Keel Regatta on San Francisco Bay.

In sustained 25-30 knot wind with 3-4 foot seas, crewmember Bethany Windle moved forward to assist with the spinnaker when a powerful gust caused the boat to round up. She fell hard backward, hit her head, and was rendered unconscious. Windle slid under the lifelines near the shrouds and disappeared beneath the water's surface.

John Oldham, the main trimmer, watched for Windle to surface, understanding her lifejacket would bring her to the surface behind the boat. Despite her lifejacket's buoyancy, she remained submerged for 5-10 seconds until she passed the stern. Without hesitation Oldham, himself also wearing a lifejacket, performed a lifeguard's stride-entry into the water. His estimation of where his shipmate would surface put him a short distance away from her when he jumped in.

Oldham swam to her, noting she was still unconscious and not floating fully face up. He repositioned her, holding her head in one hand and lifejacket in other, then cleared her airway and assessed her breathing. She regained consciousness about 5 minutes later, but didn't know where she was, nor who John was.

In the 55-60 degree waters of the Bay, punctuated with occasion breaking waves, Oldham took waves on his back to protect Windle for approximately 15 to 20 minutes after they separated from Maverick until they were found and picked up by the race committee RIB. Brittany was taken to a hospital where she received two staples for a head laceration and was treated for her concussion.

For his situational awareness, courage, and immediate actions resulting in the rescue of a crewmate, US Sailing is pleased to award the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to John Oldham.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard W. York".

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