



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

Tim Roche

For the rescue as follows:

On Saturday, May 9, 2026, the YRA Duxbury Lightship race was being held in the Gulf of the Farallons, outside of San Francisco Bay. Andy Newell was racing his Santana 35 *Ahi* in this 32-mile coastal race. The windspeed built to 25 knots, and waves averaged 6'. The crew put in a reef and discussed going to a smaller headsail.

Suddenly, two much larger waves hit the beam of the boat in quick succession, knocking it down. None of the crew were tethered in, but all were wearing lifejackets as local yacht racing regulations require. Andy was thrown overboard over the lifelines and swept away from the boat. Two other crew members also went overboard but were able to hang onto the boat and eventually were pulled back on board. During this time, the boom and tiller broke. The crew on board started the engine but the prop fouled, disabling it. Andy's lifejacket had inflated, but he was unable to tighten his crotch straps, causing him to struggle even more in the large waves and cold water. He was soon exhausted.

J92 Zaff, skippered by Tim Roche, was competing in the race and had just experienced the same increase in wind and waves. They saw Andy go overboard and *Ahi* in distress.

Zaff immediately went to the rescue and was able to locate Andy in the water. They used a Lifesling to make contact with him and pull him to their transom. Then they successfully met the challenge of getting the exhausted survivor safely on board their boat. Zaff returned Andy to shore, and he made a full recovery.

For their situational awareness, watchkeeping, and outstanding seamanship resulting in the rescue of a competitor overboard, US Sailing is pleased to award the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to the rescuing crew of S/V Zaff: Owner/skipper Tim Roche, and crew members Rebecca Hinden and Rowan Fennell.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard W. York".

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