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Crew of Sailboat Awarded Medal for Rescue of Singlehanded Sailor Overboard

NEWPORT BEACH, CA (November 15, 2021) - The US Sailing Safety at Sea Committee awarded the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to Carolyn Sherman, Sandra Sherman, and Brian Fritzges, all residents of the Newport Beach, California area. Bruce Brown, the Chair of the Safety at Sea Training committee made the presentation at a ceremony held as part of the Southern California Yachting Association's Centennial Celebration Dinner Dance the evening of November 5, 2021.

The prestigious award is for their quick response in saving Mike Dore, who fell overboard during the August 29, 2020 "Stephanie Jean Navirdes Memorial Race Your Own Household" race hosted by the Cortez Racing Association on Northern San Diego Bay.

These 3 honorees are the crew of "Sea Maiden", an Erickson 35. Mike Dore, a competitor in the Memorial Race, was single handling his Hunter 28.5 "Decoy" and fell overboard when a shackle pin on the lifeline came out when he was putting up the whisker pole.

Mike reported that he locked his helm, and stepped forward to the bow, and reached across the lifeline to set up his whisker pole. When he placed pressure on the lifeline the pin came out. When he went overboard, he hit his shoulder on a stanchion. He was able to hold on to the whisker pole for a short period of time while he was in the water. As he was holding onto the whisker pole, Mike tried to get to the ladder in the back of the boat and release it, but the ladder was secured. He estimated the boat speed was approximately 3.5 - 4.0 knots, making it difficult to hang on as he was being "dragged" by the forward motion of the boat. He eventually had to let go of the whisker pole. Mike was wearing a Type 5 life jacket (inflatable)

The skipper of Sea Maiden, Carolyn Sherman, with crew Sandra Sherman and Brian Fritzges were sailing abeam approximately 3-4 boat lengths away. Skipper and crew saw Mike Dore enter the water and came to his aid. Because Mike was sailing alone, not only was he in the water, but his boat was sailing unattended toward Harbor Island. Brian Fritzges dove into the bay to assist Mike. Carolyn and Sandra continued sailing toward Mike's boat to get it under control.

As Sea Maiden was able to overtake Decoy, Sandra jumped onto Mike Dore's boat and took control while Sandra returned to Mike and Brian. While Mike and Brian were in the water, Roy Mumma (Bolero) was sailing by and retrieved both individuals out of the water. When Sea Maiden returned to Bolero (Roy Mumma) all parties were transferred to Sea Maiden, then Mike was transferred to his boat and Decoy retired from the race.

Mike indicated that he was fortunate that all parties involved in this rescue were knowledgeable sailors and he was uninjured, acknowledging that otherwise the outcome could have been very different.

The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal is an award given to skippers of pleasure boats or race support vessels who effect rescues of victims from the water. The award is made for rescues in U.S. waters, or those which occur in races originating or terminating in a U.S. port. The purposes of the award are to recognize the significant accomplishment in seamanship which has saved a life, and to collect further case studies in rescues for analysis for the US Sailing Safety-at-Sea Committee which will eventually be incorporated into the extensive educational programs of US Sailing. Past recipients include Roy Disney and his crew from his yacht *Pyewacket*, who dropped out of the Transpac Yacht Race from L.A. to Hawaii to rescue the crew from a competitor's boat.

As the National Governing Body for the sport of sailing, US Sailing's mission is to provide leadership for the sport of sailing in the United States. The organization works to achieve this mission through a wide range of programs and events.